

# GARDEN NOTES LANGDENE QUEANBEYAN



## HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

On 11<sup>th</sup> April 1836 Charles Campbell received a Crown Land Grant of 1057 acres to the south of the Duntroon Estate owned by his father Robert Campbell. The land was subdivided on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1888 and lots 3 to 14 of Section 23, Deposited Plan numbered 1892 composed of 28 acres 1 rood and ¼ perch was sold to Henry O'Malley Wood. Mr Wood was a District Surveyor and a major pastoralist and was appointed President of the Advances to Settlers Board. In 1907 he was appointed Commissioner on the board of the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales and became president of the bank board. The property was sold to Sidney Longden Richardson, the first Australian born doctor to practise in Queanbeyan on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1890. The property became known as Langdene and was first mentioned as such in the Queanbeyan Age on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1894 when Mrs Richardson advertised for "a good general servant able to milk a cow".

Langdene has passed through a number of owners till John Malcolm McIntosh bought it on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1914. He and his wife were among Queanbeyan's most esteemed citizens. Mr McIntosh was on the Pastures Protection Board, the Hospital Board, the Pastoral & Agriculture Association, the P & A Association, the Recruiting Association for WW1 and the Win the War League. Mrs McIntosh was president of the Red Cross Association and a judge of needle and fancy work and geraniums at local shows. Their patriotic efforts led to a number of social events with a royal theme whereby Mrs McIntosh was reported in the Queanbeyan Age as both the Duchess and the Countess of Langdene. On 29<sup>th</sup> February 1916 she was crowned Queen of the Allies Day.

Following the death of Mr McIntosh in 1922 Langdene was further subdivided into 120 building blocks, reducing Langdene to about 2 acres. The final subdivision by Stan Reid occurred in 1963. Langdene was advertised for sale by L J Hooker in 1972 when it was described as a pise house built by Gilbert McInnes in 1865 sitting on an area of 1900 square feet.

## FEATURES

Ten years ago, it was decided to refurbish both the interior and exterior of Langdene. The backyard was a large area of grass ideal for backyard cricket and helped produce two ACT Cricket representatives. However, after many broken windows, the Insurance Company declined to continue the insurance. This together with rising water rates prompted a limitation of the lawned area to the front and one side of the house. The back yard changed to a four boxed area for a vegetable garden and the remaining area was planted with shrubs, perennials and various bulbs. To assist with watering requirements tanks totalling 32,000 litres and a watering system were installed.

The aim of the garden is to provide colour and interest for most of the year. We started with miniature and medium sized conifers and a rose garden. Now the garden has a selection of plants from perennials, climbers, ground covers, bulbs succulents/cacti, ferns and fuchsia and hydrangeas. A number of the plants are not readily available at local nurseries. There are a small number of native plants and of course there is the vegetable garden.

A list of the plants grown will be available for those interested together with photos of the property prior to redevelopment.

## GARDEN OWNERS

Peter Renshaw