

A message from the President

Spring has certainly sprung with snow, rain, wind, warmer days and Floriade! I can't recall a better show of blooms with the street trees just beautiful as are the gardens you can see from the streets. The recent reasonable rain just topping everything off.

Just a week till our first spring open garden. There is a wonderful array of gardens coming up. However we could fit in a couple more gardens in our Autumn program, so if you know any gardens that might be suitable please let us know through the [website](#).

The AGM went smoothly with one of our valuable committee members (Jane Vincent) not seeking re-election. Thank you to Jane for her excellent "Publicity" work and helping select a number of lovely gardens through her connections. We have welcomed three new committee members, Lyn Alder, Valerie Bigg and Judy Massey. Welcome to our new committee members and I look forward to working with you all.

We had a thank you afternoon tea for our many volunteers on 28 September at the Scented Rose Garden and Tea House which was enjoyed by all. We could still use some volunteers for our Spring gardens so if you were meaning to do so and have put it off, now is the time.

We would love to have more submissions concerning funding of suitable "Garden" projects, so if you know of an organisation that might need our support please alert them that funds have been set aside and we would welcome worthwhile ideas. See below for details.

Our [website](#) and Facebook sites are attracting plenty of attention and are a great source of information.

Chris Lord, President

Spring 2019 Open Gardens

The season opens on 12-13 October and will finish with a bang on 23-24 November when four gardens will open in Bungendore. Opening times are 10 am to 4 pm both Saturday and Sunday. Entry for members of Open Gardens Canberra is free (membership \$25/year) and for non-members is \$8. Visitors can see all four Bungendore gardens for an entry fee of \$15, members are admitted free.

12-13 October 2019

[The Garden Cottage](#)

87 Schlich Street, Yarralumla, ACT

This pretty and romantic garden features seven open areas, each containing a different sort of ornament, seating or gazebo. These areas are connected by paved paths lined with English and Japanese box, which offer no-step access to the whole block. The garden has grown out of the owners' love of history, and is filled with many



useful, often rare, plants. Every garden bed brims with ground covers, bulbs and perennials offering interest throughout the year and a burst of colour in spring. The garden is a source of supplies for craft, dying, fibre art, and cooking and is an inspiration for the owners' historical costume, dance and music hobbies. Dancers from Earthly Delights will perform at selected times.

The Millers' Garden

42 Couvreur Street, Garran, ACT

Miller's Garden is a deciduous woodland of maples and eucalypts, with a dense understory of azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias and numerous other shrubs and groundcover plants. A series of paths traverse wooded terraces which have been carved out of the very steep, westward facing granite slopes of Red Hill. Carefully placed mirrors, water features, rest areas and art add interest. The dense plantings set in the rocky slopes have created massive natural cooling for the house and garden. Please note: The garden is very steep and is not suitable for wheelchairs. Children must be closely supervised.



19-20 October 2019

The Woodland Walk

12 Laver Place, Melba, ACT

This 1200m² garden was redesigned six years ago and features attractive stone retaining walls with a variety of plants including some natives. The garden includes some lovely Forest Pansy trees and a Gleditsia tree in the front with Daphne, Hydrangeas, Magnolias, Crepe Myrtles and Maples in the rear. Bird baths and other garden ornaments complement the plantings.



16-17 November 2019

Terroux

88 Rochford Road, Wallaroo, NSW

This is an evolving garden with water features, a labyrinth and quirky pieces of art which will delight children. This garden of discovery includes gravel paths revealing diverse plantings such as hedges of flower carpet roses, callistemons, conifers and photinias. There are 3 dams each of different design and plantings: one flows to a wetland; another has a terraced garden; while the third features a large dry creek bed surrounded by natives. The gardens' park-like setting is enhanced by a backdrop of the Brindabellas.



Bungendore Weekend 23-24 November 2019

Four beautiful and diverse gardens will be opened.

- The Old Stone House,
- Fox's Folly,
- Fieldstone, and
- Thornleigh.

Visitors can see all four gardens for an entry fee of \$15, members are admitted free. Members and visitors will start at either Fox's Folly or Fieldstone and will receive a map and ticket which provides entry to all four gardens.

Fieldstone

64 Ellenden Street, Bungendore, NSW

The owners have landscaped this simple, semi-formal garden over the last four years, in keeping with the heritage 1860 gneiss stone dwelling and the pre-existing, large trees. A very long pergola-covered driveway features sentinel pears, wisteria and viburnum shrubs. Fencing, building structures, sandstone pathing and a large collection of French and English outdoor antiques are all designed to add to the charm of this garden. The 'Cobblers Cottage' next door, also constructed in 1860, contributes to the heritage landscape.



Fox's Folly

52 Molonglo Street, Bungendore, NSW

This is a large cottage garden in a relaxing woodland setting. There is a diversity of plantings to be seen throughout the very deep half acre block. The garden has been developed over the last 30 years since the stone cottage was finished. The garden has progressively taken over a paddock, starting with trees, followed by many groundcover plants, the rose garden, bulb beds, perennial beds, fruit trees and many potted plants. The large grassed areas under the trees provides a foil for the garden rooms.



The Old Stone House

41 Molonglo Street, Bungendore, NSW

One acre of semi-formal gardens lies behind the 19th century restored two storey house. The gardens have been restored and developed during the last 20 years using original plants and material where possible. Ramps and steps lead down to large lawns dominated by a very large central arbour, supporting roses and weeping cherry trees. The property boundaries are dominated by very large trees, mainly English elms and cypress (up to 140 years old) and a lilac hedge at the rear, all providing a microclimate and a private atmosphere. Other features include a Japanese garden, gazebo, tea house and more than 200 roses.



Thornleigh

21 Forster Street (cnr Ellendon St), Bungendore NSW

A heritage cottage garden surrounding the 1880s house with walled secret garden incorporating the owner's sculptures and potager. The current owner has made every endeavour to replicate the type of plantings which were common to homes built in the era of Thornleigh's construction, not only in respect of a residential garden of the period, but a garden as a source of produce for home use. The cottage garden has hundreds of bulbs, annuals, herbaceous perennials as well as heritage trees and roses.



Volunteers and Garden Owners

'Thank you' afternoon tea

Once again, we invited all the volunteers and garden owners from the previous two seasons (spring 2018 and autumn 2019) to a celebratory afternoon tea, to thank them for their generosity and hard work.

On a beautiful spring afternoon 32 garden owners, volunteers and OGC Committee members enjoyed Devonshire Tea followed by plenty of time to wander around 'The Scented Rose Garden' near Bungendore on Saturday 28 September.



Gabrielle, one of the owners, welcomed us to the garden and teahouse, which have been open to the public since 2003. The garden sits on about half a hectare of ex-paddock and is formally arranged, with parallel walkways separated by neatly clipped hedges. Garden beds included a flowering Weeping Cherry, Azaleas, Iris and Japanese Maples with highlights of English box clipped into neat balls.

The roses weren't flowering but many gorgeous pink Crabapples lined the path leading to the teahouse and a large Wisteria arched over the entrance.

Three small timber sheds housed a potting area, a variety of chickens and several song-birds and a miniature pony took interest in us through the gate.

Many thanks to all the volunteers and garden owners, even if you weren't able to attend this afternoon tea.



Photos:

1. Chris Lord thanks our volunteers and garden owners
2. Chicken enclosure in the Scented Rose Garden

Would you like to help?

Our garden openings are drawing increasingly large crowds. There is a core group of very dedicated volunteers who keep us open and running. But we do need more people.

Two volunteers are based at the entry table to welcome visitors, take payments, receive or renew memberships and hand out garden information as available. Shifts are morning or afternoon and volunteers can do as many or as few as they choose. New volunteers are

placed with experienced people to show them the ropes. Most seem to enjoy it greatly (they must as they keep coming back!).

Your offer to help will be much appreciated!

Contact Sally Stephens at info@opengardenscanberra.org.au

Membership

The Spring open garden season is almost upon us and your highly valued membership may have become due on 1 September 2019.

You may pay your membership via bank transfer, cheque or in person at any of our open gardens. The volunteers who greet you at these locations will have a record of membership and will be able to quickly advise you of the status of your membership and accept payment if required.

We no longer issue Membership cards as the process is too costly and time consuming. If you renew at an Open Garden please retain your receipt to admit you to the rest of the gardens on that weekend. We endeavour to update our member lists in the week between Open Garden weekends thereby having you listed on the records at the gate asap.

Finally, our membership database is only as good as the information you supply to us so if you change your postal address, phone number or email address please let us know promptly either via info@opengardenscanberra.org.au or complete a Change of Details Form at an open garden.

Payment can be by:

1. Direct deposit

BSB: 633-000

Account Number: 155187628

Account Name: Open Gardens Canberra

Reference: Your name

2. Cheque by mail to:

Membership Officer

Open Gardens Canberra

PO Box 344

Jamison Centre ACT 2614

3. Cash or cheque at an open garden.

Open Gardens Canberra – Funding Support Program

Open Gardens Canberra currently has funding available from our operating surplus to assist not-for-profit community organisations with the establishment of a garden project.

This program is part of our commitment to supporting local charities and encouraging gardening related initiatives. If any member knows of a local organisation, school or charity that is interested in establishing a garden or needs financial support for a gardening related project (such as establishment of a compost facility, or a worm farm, garden seating, etc), please let us know as we are compiling a list of potential candidates for funding in the ACT and surrounding areas of NSW. Inquiries or proposals should be sent to secretary@opengardenscanberra.org.au.

The upper limit of funding is \$2,000 per project. There is no limit on the number of project proposals per member. Please note, this offer includes financial support only and does not include any provision of labour.

Toms Tips

Thinking of Opening your garden?

The open Gardens Canberra Management Committee includes a small number of Garden Selectors who contact and visit garden owners who are considering opening their gardens to the public. After an inspection, a series of decisions are made as we go through a simple form.

Open Gardens Canberra also has a *Guide for Home Owners* to provide much advice, including garden preparation, our publicity system, insurance and risk, choosing a charity to support and what happens on the opening days.

We also have a *Guide for Garden Selectors* which includes specific criteria for selecting gardens. What Selectors look for is a combination of garden charm, design, good plant range, good handling of the site and maintenance, convenience, safety and sense of place. Historical interest is a bonus. Many garden owners also like to organise other activities, such as refreshments in pleasant surrounds, plant sales, guided walks or sometimes entertainment. All this adds up to the sum total of the visitors' experience. No garden can satisfy all these criteria.

As a broad guide, a garden needs to have at least 30 minutes worth of interest, including contemplation, resting and taking refreshments. For small gardens, or groups of unit gardens, this criteria is relaxed.

Selectors are also looking for variety, with small and large gardens, native or exotic or mixed, and urban or rural. Our surveys show what visitors are looking for and we are currently lacking native gardens.

Garden owners can change their mind about opening or seek to find another suitable weekend. We find that owners invariably go forward and enjoy the process. If you are interested in opening your garden, you can contact Open Gardens Canberra through our [website](#) or via email to info@opengardenscanberra.org.au

We are also looking for new garden selectors and volunteers.

Tom Baker

Newsletter editor wanted

Loved reading the Newsletter? You could be our next newsletter editor. Open Gardens Canberra emails a newsletter to members and subscribers up to four times a year, and we are never short of contributions. Let us know if you'd like to take on the editor role. We use Mailchimp to design and distribute the newsletter. You will need to have moderate computer skills including email, word processing, and spreadsheets. Full training will be provided. Send an email to treasurer@opengardenscanberra.org.au if you are interested in undertaking this role.