



Winter 2021 Newsletter

Dear Member

Welcome to the Winter 2021 Newsletter. This newsletter includes:

- A message from the President
- Instructions on renewing your membership. Particularly important for those members whose membership expires on 1 September 2021.
- Early information on our spring open garden season
- An update on Eventbrite
- A call for volunteers
- Tom's Tips

A message from the President

In memory of Shirley Pipitone

We received sad news last week that Shirley Pipitone, our founding President has passed away. Shirley almost single handedly set up Open Gardens Canberra 6 years ago, which was a Herculean task and unfortunately had an adverse effect on her health, forcing her to resign from the Presidency after the first year of operation. She however maintained a strong interest and visited as many gardens as her health permitted. She will be sorely missed. Our sympathy is extended to her family.

Notes on our autumn season

Our wonderful Autumn collection of gardens commenced with the Demonstration Garden of the Horticultural Society of Canberra in Bruce. Unfortunately this coincided with a Raiders game on the Saturday which made parking problematic, however the garden was well attended and many of the Horticulture Society were present to answer any questions. There was a successful plant stall too. A lovely display of Dahlias was the highlight for me.

The Mitchell Community Garden was open on the same day and was again very well attended with several "plot" owners available to answer queries. This was an interesting experience for all and a great example of the "Community" at work. Plants and produce were sold on the weekend.

There were then two gardens opened in reasonable proximity to each other (easy walking distance) with a single entrance fee experiment. The first was Christine's in Gowrie which has been opened before and is always well attended. Attendees particularly appreciate the many plants for sale which Christine propagates. The garden is well presented and quite beautiful.

The second garden was "The Blended Garden" of one of our wonderful Committee Members and showcased many mosaic pieces which, if you were early, you could purchase. This was a contrast to Christine's garden with lovely front and back yard features. The combined gardens worked extremely well and we may well try and repeat this in future.

We move on to the Baker Garden in Griffith which was one of the highlights featuring many sculptures, birdbaths and artefacts collected during the owners travels overseas. Beautifully laid out with extensive vegetable garden area and some unique plants. This was extremely well attended.

The last two gardens were in Kambah on the same weekend. The Enchanted Garden featured many diverse surprises including lots of ceramic artwork along with some fascinating "Bird's Nests" and more sculptures. Children were well catered for with a lovely list of treasures to find handed out at entry.

Lastly and definitely not least was the Wright Place with lots of "Garden Rooms" within the overall

garden. This was beautifully presented with Japanese Maples, water features, fern area, silver birch forest, an area of lawn and many wonderful very large pots including one containing an Olive tree as a feature. There were several succulents and many plants for sale.

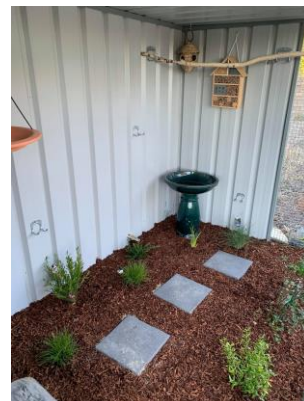
Overall a wonderful Autumn display with in excess of \$3000 donated to the respective charities.

Funded projects

This year we also saw a couple of successful submissions for financial assistance come to fruition with a table and chairs for the Canberra City Farm and a completed "Recovery" aviary for small birds by Wildcare(See photo).

Annual General Meeting

Our next Annual General meeting is planned for 29 September at 6:00 pm in the Southern Cross Club, Jamison. We encourage members to attend and consider nominating for the Committee.



Chris Lord, President

Membership Renewals

In previous years we have not asked members to renew their membership as this would usually occur in person when you attended the first open gardens of Spring.

As you are aware we now require bookings to attend gardens and to be able to make a booking for a free ticket you must be a financial member. You must also be financial to participate in the Annual General meeting set for September 29 2021.

You can renew at any time by logging in to our Membership system in Joinit. See instructions below.

After logging in, details of your membership will be displayed including the Expiration Date alongside which is a link to Renew Membership.

Click on that link and you will be invited to pay by entering card details.

While you are at this page you can also update any changes to your details as they are shown at the same time as making your payment or at any time throughout your membership.

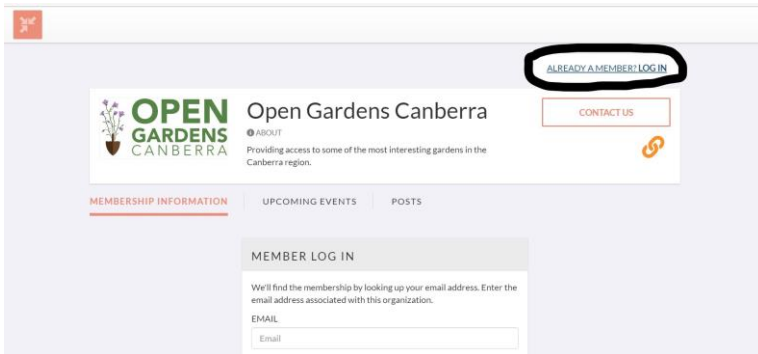
We will send out a reminder to members having the 1 September 21 Expiration Date who have not renewed by that date.

Instructions

If you have not yet logged onto our membership management system and set your password please complete the following steps.

Step 1: Click on the following link to go to the Open Gardens Canberra membership system.

[Open Gardens Canberra Memberships - Membership Management Software \(joinit.org\)](https://joinit.org)

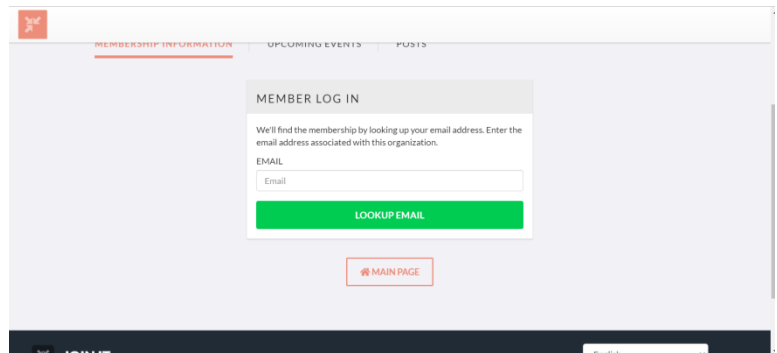


Step 2: Click on LOG IN next to the question ALREADY A MEMBER? (See circled above). This will bring up a modal prompting you to enter your email address.

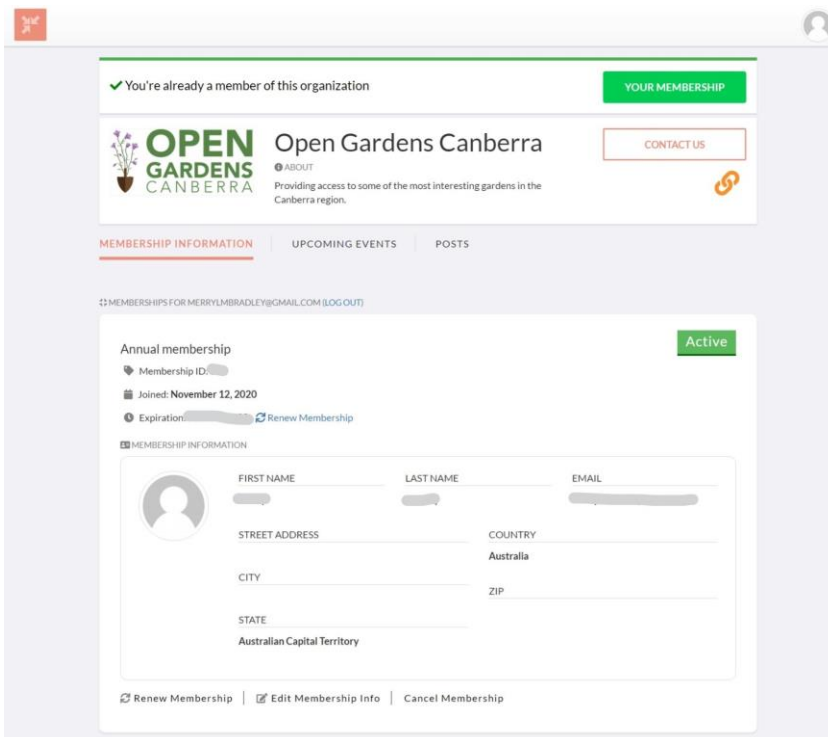
Step 3: Enter your email, and click on **LOOKUP EMAIL**. Join It will check to see if you have a password set.

If you have a password, Join It will prompt you to login immediately.

If you do not have a password, Join It will automatically send you an email with a password reset link.



Step 4: Check your email for a password reset link then click on the link to take you to set your password. Once a password is set, you will be redirected to your membership record which will display your membership expiration date.



Step 5: If you need to renew your membership for the spring 2021 season, click on [Renew Membership](#).

The following screen will be displayed for you to record your payment, update your details and see options for how you can help Open Gardens Canberra.

The screenshot shows the Open Gardens Canberra membership renewal interface. At the top, there is a logo and navigation links. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Membership Summary:** Shows 'Annual membership' with a subtotal and total of \$30.00. A note states: 'This membership does not automatically rebill and it will expire on [redacted]'.
- PAYMENT DETAILS:** Includes a 'RENEW MEMBERSHIP' button and a link to 'Switch to Offline Payment'.
- MEMBER INFORMATION:** A form with fields for 'First Name*', 'Last Name*', 'Email*', 'Phone', and 'Address' (Street Address, City, Postal Code, State, Country). Below this is a section 'I can help Open Gardens Canberra by' with checkboxes for: 'Opening my garden', 'Helping at an open garden', 'Assist with administration', 'Assist with the Newsletter', and 'Join the committee'.
- Logged in as:** merryimbradley@gmail.com. Log out

If you would prefer to pay by Direct Deposit or cheque, select Switch to Offline Payment (Under **Renew Membership**). Your membership renewal will be marked as pending until we receive your payment.

Direct Deposit payment details are:

BSB: 633000

Account No.: 155187628

Account Name: Open Gardens Canberra

Reference: Include your name

Cheques payable to Open Gardens Canberra should be sent to:

Membership Officer

Open Gardens Canberra Inc.

PO Box 344

Jamison Centre ACT 2614

Ian Davenport - Membership Officer / Committee member

Spring Open Gardens - Save the dates

Our next season will soon be under way with the following openings during September, October and November.

More details will be on the [Open Gardens Canberra](#) website soon. Eventbrite bookings will open at least a month before each open garden.

25-26 September 2021

Le Dardarepdep, Gordon

Using terraces, a garden has been created from an almost vertical backyard.

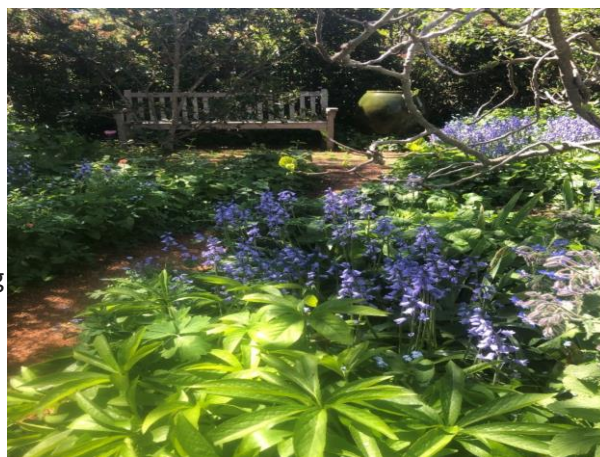
16-17 October 2021

Gini's Garden, Red Hill

Pretty established cottage garden on an awkward sloping block.

Garran Gem, Garran

Private, bird attracting, and family-friendly garden.



23-24 October 2021

Nevertire, Queanbeyan

A large naturalistic garden with hardy natives around an 1880s cottage.

Kathleen, Queanbeyan

Japanese style garden, dominated by the canopy of deciduous trees.

23 October 2021 Single day opening

Railway Park Organic Community Garden, Queanbeyan

Organic community garden on the old railway goods yard.

30-31 October 2021

Yellow Box, Spring Range

Native garden on an elevated rocky knoll with views of the rural countryside.



6-7 Nov 2021

Gubler Garden, Lyneham

Delightful, mature, large and well-maintained garden with lots of shady spots to sit.

A Bright Idea: Introducing Eventbrite

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted many aspects of daily life and sparked a wave of innovation. For Open Gardens Canberra it has meant finding ways to make our garden openings COVID-safe for garden owners, volunteers, and garden visitors.

The Eventbrite booking system was first trialled in our Spring 2020 season to enable us to:

- limit the numbers attending the open garden at one time, reduce queuing and facilitate social distancing,
- eliminate cash handling by volunteers to improve hygiene, and
- to record contact details if there was a need to contact attendees in the future.

From the very first garden opened that season we were thrilled with the enthusiasm of members and visitors for continuing to visit open gardens. Our volunteers were equally thrilled with the change in their role. They were now able to meet and greet members and visitors, rather than be pre-occupied with the cash box and receipts.

While implementing Eventbrite we were very aware that our members and visitors had a variety of skill levels in using online booking systems. So, we responded by providing extra help online and in our newsletters. We even trialled providing a phone-in Help Desk to step you through the process.

Our efforts have been rewarded as members and visitors have successfully navigated their way through the booking process and visitor numbers have returned to pre-COVID levels. We thank you for your continued patience and adaptability. We will continue to tweak our use of Eventbrite to make the booking process as easy as possible for all. And soon, with the use of Join-It for memberships, it will be even easier for members to book for open gardens.

Volunteers at open gardens – you are needed!

Volunteers are the foundation of Open Gardens - without them we couldn't function. Some of our older volunteers have finally decided to properly retire - so we need some new blood! And despite Covid, our garden openings are increasingly popular.

Please consider helping out at the entrance table to an open garden. Two volunteers are based at the entrance table to welcome visitors and provide basic information. Most visitors will have pre-booked Eventbrite tickets, so there is minimal handling of money.

OGC has a CovidSafe plan which can be found on our website and volunteers will be given all instructions needed. 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!

To volunteer to help at an open garden, LOG IN to your membership record in Join It, click on 'Edit Membership Info' and select 'Helping at an Open Garden'. See screen examples above under Membership Renewals.

Contact Sally Stephens on info@opengardenscanberra.org.au

Tom's Tips

Gardening to Beat the Heat.

Around the world, communities are starting to adapt to a changing climate. One of the priorities is coping with the intensification of 'heat islands' in urban areas.

The ACT Government on 30 March this year released its ACT Urban Forest Strategy, aiming to maintain the quality of life in our urban areas and to enhance biodiversity habitat and amenity values. A 30% urban canopy is aimed for 2045, certainly for public areas. Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council is developing its own Heat Adaptation and Cooling strategy, again through enhanced urban vegetation cover and also promoting the re-think of design and materials used for infrastructure and buildings.

What does hotter urban conditions mean for landscapers and garden lovers? We will be challenged to think more smartly about choice and placement of trees, shrubs and groundcovers, in order to deflect heat radiation, to reduce drying winds and even reduce fire hazard. We still want sunlight in winter so it will often be a balancing act.

There may, hopefully, even be plant giveaways and financial incentives for this one day, such as tax breaks for investing in the new standards. Many now living in leafy suburbs with more than 30% canopy that are already benefitting may need some encouragement to collect and mulch valuable leaves, while avoiding blocked gutters and drains. Check out leafcollective.com.au and [f @theleafcollectiveACT](https://www.facebook.com/theleafcollectiveACT)

I can see deciduous arbors making a comeback. There will be a more urgent need to conserve water in the soil. Shrubs and climbers will need to shade house walls (but not to shade solar cells). Rock gabions can replace heat radiating concrete structures, while providing more comfortable and safe habitat for the

myriad garden critters we share this world. Dr Kim Pullen has already catalogued 2,100 invertebrates on Black Mountain, see ACT Nature Map. Where research has been undertaken, eg Europe, insects are starting to disappear as a response to many factors including changing climate.

There are already very good databases for selecting appropriate plants that are 'future ready', and these will be promoted as part of climate adaptation strategies.

The following link dealing with the creation of urban micro-forests is an inspiring development in Downer, Holt and elsewhere.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-08/act-micro-forests-in-canberra-offer-hope-against-climate-change/100274670>

Tom Baker