



Autumn 2022 Newsletter

President's update

Autumn Season

After some difficult times and uncertainties for us all we are looking forward to bringing you an interesting and diverse group of open gardens this autumn. There will be five gardens opening from late March. Full details are below.

Attending an Open Garden

We have undertaken a review of our processes, as a result of feedback we received and the changes to the ACT Government's Covid 19 restrictions **members will now be able to attend an open garden without a booking**. Non members will still need to book and pay through Eventbrite. See below for full details.

Open Gardens Canberra Committee

At the AGM in November there were a number of changes to the committee. These were necessary to accord with the Open Gardens Canberra Rule that limits the number of consecutive years a person can be in a particular executive role. As a consequence Chris Lord stood down from his role as President and Sue Freeland stood down from her role as Secretary. We would like to thank them both for their amazing contribution over the past four years. They have both continued on the committee and will stay actively involved in Open Gardens Canberra.

The Executives of your committee are:

- President – Meryll Bradley, previously Treasurer and then Vice President
- Vice President - Ian Davenport, who also remains our membership officer
- Secretary – Deirdre Kiorgaard, who also remains the garden selection coordinator
- Treasurer – Maureen Davenport – continuing in her role.

Some of the roles within the committee have also changed with Martin Wright, a new committee member becoming volunteer coordinator, Sally Stephens undertaking coordination of this newsletter together with volunteer Lynne Audsley, and Sue Freeland looking after our website and Eventbrite listings.

Information about the committee, its roles and current membership is on our [website](#). We meet once a month on a Monday morning during our open garden seasons. Each committee member has designated tasks so the work of running the association is spread throughout the committee. We

currently have two vacancies on the committee and would welcome any interest in joining us. If you are interested send an email to president1@opengardenscanberra.org.au

Call for applications for an Open Gardens Canberra Grant

Open Gardens Canberra remains in a good financial position and would like to continue to fund some projects that meet our core values. We have allowed \$2,500 in our budget for the remainder of this financial year for such a project and are calling for applications from individuals, community groups or small incorporated associations. Your project should meet the criteria on the [application form](#). Please submit your application to president1@opengardenscanberra.org.au by 30 March 2022. We will assess the applications and enter into an agreement with the successful applicant with a view to the funds being paid by 30 June 2022.

Types of projects that could be considered include but not limited to:

- Projects that will enhance a streetscape
- Projects that will improve the garden experience for the disabled
- Garden education projects
- Making open gardens available to a wider audience through technology.

Attending an Open Garden

Members

Attendance at an open garden for financial members is free. You are a financial member if your membership renewal date is on or after 30/6/2022.

Financial members no longer need to book to attend an open garden. When you attend an open garden, go to reception where the volunteers will check your membership status and mark your attendance on the membership list. We need a record of the number of members who attended as we use this to calculate the payment to the garden owner.

Non Members

All non members or members who have not renewed their membership will need to book and pay to attend an open garden through Eventbrite. Entry continues to be \$10.00 for each open garden. We are maintaining this process as it is easier for our volunteers on reception and, we believe, easier for attendees. Attendees will be able to book for either Saturday or Sunday, there will be no time slots.

To book your ticket, click on the Eventbrite link for each of the 26-27 March open gardens below. We will let you know when bookings are available for future gardens.

The link will take you to the booking page, select the date and time you would like to attend. Enter your details and online payment.

Don't forget to bring your tickets with you to the open garden. Either print them out or use the Eventbrite app.

You can join Open Gardens Canberra or renew your membership through [Join It](#) our membership management system.

Membership

The revised process for attending the Autumn Open Gardens is well detailed above. In a nutshell, if you are a financial member just go to the garden(s) of your choice.

You can check your membership status on [Join It](#) and make your payment on line before you go to the garden if not financial to the 30 June 2022 at least.

The volunteers at the gate will have a current financial members list as at around 48 hours before the 10am Saturday opening. If you renew inside this period please bring proof of payment with you either on paper or your smartphone.

Autumn 2022 garden openings

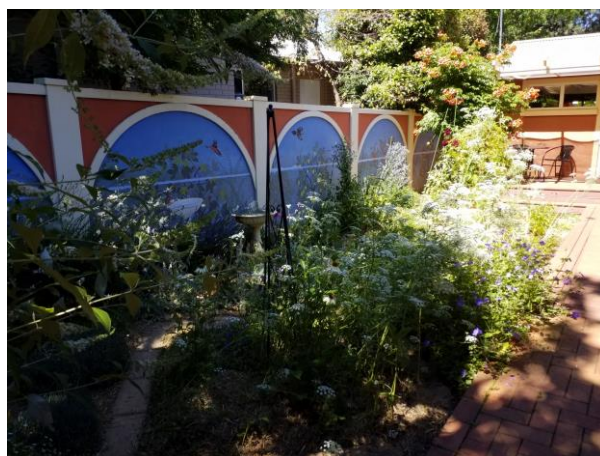
Our next season will soon be under way, and details of the gardens are on the [Open Gardens Canberra](#) website already. Eventbrite bookings for non-members only will open at least a month before each open garden.

26 - 27 March 2022

[Mediterranean Garden](#)

37 Malloy St, Cook, ACT

Set well back from the street this garden combines a sustainable productive vegetable garden (with automated wicking beds and a very special chicken run) and a hedged cottage garden. The garden rooms include a lovely shaded front courtyard complete with pizza oven constructed by the owner, who has also painted several murals of the birds which frequent the garden.



Davenport Garden

31 Bainton Cres, Melba ACT

The owners have established this large mature suburban garden over the last 25+ years. It is designed to provide colour and interest all year round. Natives and exotics combine to create a gardener's garden. Entry is up a battleaxe driveway to a sloping ¼ hectare block which backs on to Mt Rogers Reserve in Melba. A large Yellow Box tree is a drawcard for many bird species living in the area. There are a number of bird baths, fountains and sculptures. The owners will be delighted to discuss their garden, features, and systems with visitors.



9 - 10 April 2022

G and J's Garden

2 Raoul Place, Lyons ACT

Set on a large sloping block with spectacular views this garden has been developed over more than 20 years. Initially designed as a formal garden of stone terraces and hedges of box and camelias, the garden is transitioning to a more relaxed style as the owners incorporate native plants into the mix. A paved area near a pond provides a pleasant place to sit and view a series of weeping cherries which burst into blossom in spring. In the autumn the garden is filled with colour from deciduous trees.



Garran Gem

2 Richardson St, Garran ACT

Planting almost everything from tube stock, in around 10 years the owners have created a garden that is as private as possible, bird attracting, and most importantly family friendly for three growing boys to use and enjoy. Enclosed by an "awabuki viburnum" hedge, the garden includes pear trees, hebes, azaleas, crepe myrtles, lavenders, and many other ground covers and bird attracting shrubs as well as herbs for cooking.



Garden statues, art, sitting areas, fire pit, stepping stones, and a hand painted feature wall by a local artist Jon Voir, entice the visitor to explore the grounds.

30 April - 1 May 2022

Kathleen

21 Downey St, Karabar, Queanbeyan, NSW

This older, traditional cottage garden has been transformed over the last 9 years into a Japanese style garden, dominated by the canopy of deciduous trees. Interest is stimulated by the series of walks and constructed traditional features which provide changing views of the mix of species, emphasising foliage, colour, form and textures. There is also the productive zone on the east side of the house, 'Ned's Garden' (owner's German Shepherd) featuring leafy greens, herbs, fruit trees and a wicking bed. The tree fernery is close by.



Volunteers - a new face

Sally Stephens is handing over the coordination of the volunteers at open gardens to Martin Wright. These volunteers are the backbone of the organisation and their praises cannot be sung loudly enough! We always need new volunteers, as some move away or retire!

Here are some words from Martin:

G'day Open Garden enthusiasts and in particular Open Garden Volunteers. I joined the OGC Committee this year and put my hand up to take over as Volunteer Coordinator from Sally, who has been doing the job admirably for a number of years.

I have compiled a list of 81 current Volunteers from the membership list and have recently e-mailed you to request your presence at one or more of the upcoming 5 open gardens, which are detailed elsewhere in this newsletter. 81 might sound like a large number but I have been informed that it is usually the same small group of faithfuls who actually turn up on the day.

Don't be bashful about volunteering if this will be your first time as you will be given written instructions and be paired with a seasoned volunteer who will be able to show you the ropes on the day.

I look forward to being inundated with requests to help out.

If you wish to add yourself to the volunteers list, contact Martin on info@opengardenscanberra.org.au
Calling Former Volunteers - You are a valuable resource to Open Gardens Canberra and we would

hate to lose you from our books. If you have renewed your membership for this year but didn't indicate on the form when renewing that you would like to be a volunteer could you please contact me by email on info@opengardenscanberra.org.au and confirm that you would like to continue.

Tom's Tips: My Virtual Garden

One can get on a computer and happily build virtual gardens forever. However, there is another type of virtual garden, the myriad natural areas that we have, as well as the public parks and horticultural institutions.

This is worth considering if one starts to question the effort required to maintain our domestic garden. Luckily, most of us are fully committed and love the work involved in maintaining and developing our gardens. However, the ornamentals, vegetables, lawns, fruit trees and the landscaping require near constant attention to maintain. If left to own devices, plants quickly out-grow their site or disappear from drought and weed invasion. For lots it becomes a chore in our busy lives.

We all need interests and luckily there are other 'garden' options that still provide that feeling of ownership, creativity and satisfaction, once you have simplified your own garden.

There are many and varied opportunities to join others, who are working and learning as groups to explore and care for a unique park or bushland 'garden' that doesn't rely on your continual attention. They are often surprisingly close.

ACTLandcare.org.au 'Care for your Patch' is a good starting link to these dozens of volunteering opportunities.

Canberra's Parkcare system comprises a very large and growing number of groups engaged to manage conservation reserves throughout the city and beyond – [Parkcare Hub](#). There are also opportunities to work with Rangers, such as Ranger Assist. Urban parks and Places provides volunteering opportunities to adopt parks and even the city attractions and lakes.

While one develops a sense of ownership in conservation or park volunteering, you can still go home knowing that you are not on your own, and that you can return at your convenience. One of the most important feature of volunteering are the countless deep friendships that have been made.

Groups such as [Friends of Grassland](#) have ongoing projects and educative expeditions in our region. [Friends of Australian National Botanic Gardens](#) and [Friends of the National Arboretum](#) are just some of the other options. The three catchment groups in the ACT Region, the [Molonglo Conservation Group](#), [Ginninderra Catchment Group](#) and the [Southern ACT Catchment Group](#) provide more opportunities. [Greening Australia](#) provides a popular volunteer group to raise seedlings for conservation. [Seechange](#) provides community connection for sustainability. The list goes on.

Those who have limited ability to physically 'garden' can fulfil lots of other critical tasks in each project.

Tom Baker