

Spring 2022 Open Gardens

[Campaign Preview](#)[HTML Source](#)[Plain-Text Email](#)[Details](#)

Spring 2022 Newsletter

Dear << Test First Name >>

Your membership expires on << Test Membership Expiration >>

In this email:

- [President's update](#)
- [Spring Open Gardens - save the dates](#)
- [Attending an Open Garden](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Volunteering at Open Gardens](#)
- [What's it like having your garden open?](#)
- [Tom's Tips - Wet Tropical Rainforests. what has it to do with us?](#)

President's update

Spring Season

Spring has now arrived after a wet and cold winter and we are happy to provide a full spring garden program for you this year. We have an interesting and diverse range of gardens over five consecutive weekends starting on 15 October. Full details follow.

We are asking non members to book and pay to attend an open garden through Eventbrite. Please see our website for details.

Members can continue to attend an open garden without a booking. If you haven't

renewed your membership now is the time to do so.

Open Gardens Canberra AGM 2022

The next Open Gardens Canberra AGM will be held at 6:00pm on Tuesday 20 September 2022 in the Boardroom of the Canberra Southern Cross Club in Jamison. All current members are encouraged to attend.

As a number of our Committee members will not be seeking nomination again this year we would welcome nominations to fill the ordinary Committee member roles. We are seeking people who can assist with tasks such as garden selection, publicity coordination, newsletter editing, website editing, social media, etc. This is a great opportunity to undertake some voluntary work in an active, cooperative and friendly group.

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. If you would like more information about the Committee send an email to president1@opengardenscanberra.org.au

Open Gardens Canberra Grant

Open Gardens Canberra called for applications for a grant in our Autumn newsletter. We allocated \$2,500 from our budget for this grant and received three applications for funding, all requesting the full \$2,500 towards their projects. As all applications met the objectives of Open Gardens Canberra and were considered worthy by the Committee we offered each applicant a portion of the funds available. The following projects received funding:

- Canberra High School Gardens. \$1,000 towards the design and development of three gardens within the school grounds including a vegetable garden, a herb garden and a small fruit tree orchard.
- St Dominic's Garden, Holy Rosary Church. \$1,000 towards plants for this commemorative garden.
- A verge garden in Bonner. \$500 towards the materials to set up the garden.

We will report on the progress of these projects in our next newsletter. We plan to call for the next round of grant applications in the Autumn 2023 newsletter.

Open Gardens Canberra Scholarship

Our Scholarship was awarded to Elke Rose who is undertaking studies in horticulture at CIT. She has successfully completed most of her studies towards a Cert 3 in Horticulture and been paid the first instalment of \$1,000 of her \$2,000 scholarship.

Thank you afternoon tea

The Open Gardens Canberra Committee were pleased to host an afternoon tea at Cuppacumbalong on 21 August 2022 to thank our volunteers and garden owners for their assistance over the last three years. Forty two people enjoyed the old homestead, gardens and lovely refreshments. Ali Waas, one of the owners gave an interesting talk on the

history and future of Cuppacumbalong.

Merryl Bradley - President

Spring Open Gardens - Save the dates

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

15- 16 October 2022

[Gini's Garden](#)

4 Tamar Street, Red Hill

A pretty established cottage garden on an awkward sloping block which has evolved over many years. In spring, the dogwoods are a picture; in the autumn deciduous trees and vines add colour. Year round interest is maintained through the variety of plantings, and your eyes are drawn to sculptures and arbours as you wend your way around the garden.



22- 23 October 2022

[Vasey Garden, Campbell](#)

46 Vasey Crescent, Campbell



This large garden on a steep north facing slope, is a treasury of over 500 species of flowering and non-flowering native trees, shrubs and groundcovers, presenting the range of colours and textures of our vegetation across Australia.

Cook's Garden, Evatt

24 Fitzharding Street, Evatt

Sloping garden with extensive plantings maintained by the owner. Contains many peonies, camellias, tree ferns, and features a beautiful climbing rose (Pierre de Ronsard) at the front, and a pond and extensive vegetable garden in the rear. Down the shaded side, several more camellias and daphnes thrive



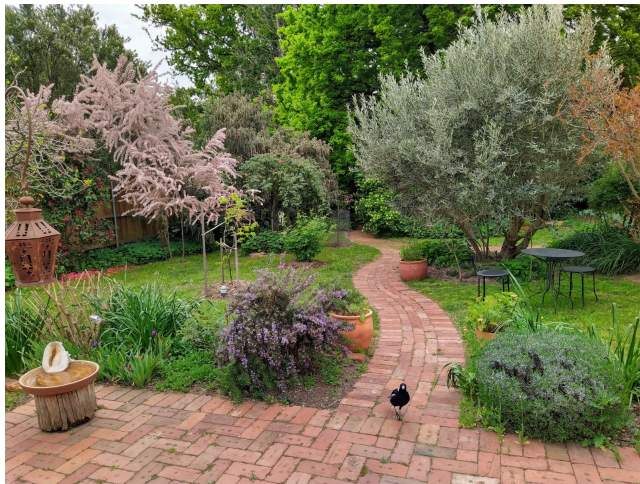
29-30 October 2022

Triple Treat, Barton, Kingston:

These three gardens will be opened together for an entry price of \$15:

Tigminou

9 Gipps Street, Barton



Tigminou ('my home' in South Moroccan Tachelhit Berber language) is a house and garden inspired by countries the owner's family call home: Morocco, France and Australia. Located in a heritage precinct in Barton, the streetscape features majestic trees. There is magnificent English oak at the rear of a 'rescue garden' featuring many familiar garden favourites – mostly unwanted and unloved plants migrated

from neighbours' and friends' plots. Tigminou is an untamed work in progress.

Janet's Garden

14 Young Street Barton

Around the corner from Tigminou is



another heritage cottage. This traditional cottage garden surrounds one of Barton's Federal Capital Commission homes, Type No 2, 1927. Features include many mature fruit trees, vegetable beds, traditional ornamentals and special floral interests including irises and peonies. A number of the ornamentals and fruit trees date back to the original gardens. Respecting the original plantings, the owners have been inspired by family visits to China and Japan to create a garden of beauty and harmony with both flowers and food production.



Kingston Organic Community Gardens

11 Currie Crescent, Kingston



improve the garden.

Also nearby is a community garden with more than 250 square meters of communal and private plots, drawing water from a 25,000 litre water tank. The KOCG has over 60 members and working bees are held every few weeks to continue to

5-6 November 2022

Christine's Garden, Gowrie

48 Weathers Street, Gowrie

It has been five years since this ever-popular large suburban garden with its amazing variety of plants has opened in Spring. Rock walls allow for built up garden beds with improved soil and drainage. English box hedges divide areas including a parterre garden. Large mirrors on the boundary fences create illusions of depth. There will be plenty of plants for sale.



Sarah's Garden, Gowrie

45 Middleton Circuit, Gowrie



Living in Canberra's winters and summers is made joyful and easy in this wonderful solar passive house and garden. The garden's 40 year history is present in the old fruit trees, remnant pine trees, an old camellia, Alister Clark roses, and the curved pathways, steps, and rock structures. New courtyards, garden beds, steps and paths follow the

original template. New plantings include local indigenous species, annuals, pollinators, and seasonal vegetables, and a 'guerrilla' garden out into the urban 'park' planted with mainly local grassland species.

12-13 November 2022

Pillan's Garden, Jerrabomberra

30 Aspen Rise, Jerrabomberra

Planting of this all-native garden began in 2003. Today the garden features over 1000 individual species, including more than 70 acacia species and more than 70 grevillea species, making for a spectacular spring display. An increasing range of bird species frequent the garden. Existing mature eucalypts are complemented by plants sourced from a wide variety of local, regional and far-flung sources, including some not normally grown in the Canberra region. One section of the garden has been developed as a dry 'rainforest' gully using species with glossy, dark green leaves.



Deirdre Kiorgaard - Secretary and Garden Selector (with other garden selectors)

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 30/6/2023.

Financial members do not 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 should book and pay to attend an open garden through Eventbrite. Entry continues to be \$10.00 for each open garden, except for Triple Treat, where \$15 covers entry to all three gardens. 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 Saturday or Sunday.

To book your ticket, click on the Eventbrite link for each of the open gardens on the website: <https://opengardenscanberra.org.au>

Membership

Joining or Renewing membership

To join or renew, go to the [Open Gardens website](#).

Our membership program 'Join It' throws us some curly ones at times but we can almost always resolve any matters that arise.

There is a statement on one of the membership renewal screens which reads “*By providing your card information, you allow Open Gardens Canberra to charge your card for future payments in accordance with their terms*”. Rest assured that the only charges to be applied to the card you use will be initiated by you, the member. Open gardens **will not** apply any charges. We are investigating having this note on the screen deleted.

Thank you to all those members who have renewed their membership already. You are now primed to be able to register for attendance at the upcoming array of Spring gardens.

Ian Davenport - Membership Officer

Volunteering at Open Gardens

At the 'thank you' afternoon tea noted in the President's Update, Martin addressed the group. The following is an extract of his talk.

“While today is an opportunity to say thank to those who have volunteered in the past by

either opening your garden or spending a few hours welcoming visitors to those gardens it is also an opportunity for me to put in a plug for volunteers for our upcoming Spring Season of 9 Open Gardens commencing on 15 October and running through to 12 November.

I will soon be contacting the 104 volunteers on my list, checking in guests at the gardens. As there are always at least two volunteers on the desk per session at each garden and there are two sessions per day for two days a bit of arithmetic will show you that I am going to be looking to fill a total of 72 slots for the season. 104 sounds a lot but as typically fewer than half that number actually commit I will again be struggling to find enough people – so don't be bashful. I am hoping that as in seasons gone by you will continue to be able to give up a few hours to help make the program a success.

If you are a watcher/listener or reader of ABC media, you will have heard recently that organisations Australia-wide are struggling with a reduction in numbers of volunteers in the last couple of years and OGC is similarly afflicted.

As well as seeking volunteers on checking in at the open gardens we (the Committee) are also seeking volunteers to assist by joining us on the Committee come 20 September when the AGM is held. We have been operating with a couple of members down during 2021-2 and this situation will get worse for 2022-3 as a couple of current members are retiring.

I have only been on the Committee for less than a year having joined at the last AGM and taking on the role of Volunteer Co-ordinator. It has been challenging but worthwhile role and I am glad that I took the opportunity to put my hand up and volunteer. I call on you here today to consider joining us and helping Open Gardens Canberra to continue providing enjoyment to Canberra gardening enthusiasts.

It is not necessary to be a gardener to join us as there are many positions that need filling – perhaps you are good with computers – a skill that unfortunately escapes me.

Volunteers are very important people as without you there will be no Open Gardens Canberra in the future. So I urge you to consider joining us, not just on open days but all year round on the committee for a rewarding experience.”

If you would like to volunteer, email info@opengardenscanberra.org.au

Martin Wright - Volunteer Coordinator

What's it like having your garden open?

In March this year, Robyn Spencer and Jeremy Gregson, opened their garden

in Cook. Here is her reflection of the experience:

"In March this year, we opened our garden in Cook for the first time - the 'Mediterranean Garden'. We had no idea of what numbers to expect, with Covid and the chancy weather, but in the end it was around 500. We built our garden as a series of garden rooms, with an overall Mediterranean feel, inspired by our trips to Europe. On our block (913m²), we designed spaces for entertaining, parking, growing food and enjoying flowers. Although it looks well established, much of the garden is only a few years old - and we did it all ourselves.

The Open Gardens Canberra team did a great job organising promotion with the Canberra Times and ABC radio, providing useful advice, and managing the gate so we could focus on the visitors. People loved the different garden rooms, with a common aesthetic and flow. The most common questions were about the raised wicking beds, the huge mulberry tree, the cloister garden and painted murals, the espaliered fruit trees and the chicken palace.

Getting ready for the Open Garden was more work than we anticipated - but much of that was because we used it as the deadline to get several projects finished off, plus some overdue maintenance.

The teas in the front courtyard and jam stall were a big hit - worth the extra organisation and effort (we borrowed extra sets of cafe tables from several neighbours). Many people commented how lovely a space it was to relax in.

In all, it was a tiring but very successful event. We loved sharing our garden with so many enthusiastic people, and we raised almost \$3,000 for St Johns Care (helping Canberrans in need). And yes - we will do it again!"

Robyn Spencer, Garden owner

Tom's Tips: Wet Tropics Rainforests. What has it to do with us?

Australia can be proud to be finally protecting the 890,000 hectare mostly rainforest Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1988. This followed the massive clearing of tropical rainforest on the coastal plains and tablelands for timber, sugar cane and other crops from early settlement. Management of this estate, including all tenures, is now single-mindedly protecting its scenic, scientific and biological values. This is partly because it has become a world visitation hotspot, supporting the region's major

industry, Tourism. There are lessons here.

The Wet Tropics rainforest encapsulates a relatively intact, living record of evolution dating back to Gondwanaland 100 million years ago. It has 3,000 native vascular plants, many endemic to this region, 368 birds, 107 mammals, 113 reptiles and 51 amphibians - David Attenborough's favourite place on earth – like one big garden. Our eucalypts and other temperate climate species evolved from this rainforest system as most of our continent became dryer.

Now that the estate is protected, the main emerging threat to these values is climate change and biosecurity. Tree mortality has doubled since the 1970's, leading to changed species mix (1). Climate change threatens large declines in the range of nearly all the vertebrates. This is why the Mossman Botanic Garden is being created on 55 acres of old cane paddocks in Mossman. It will be a "research staging ground that will host living collections of Wet Tropics plants". This will be a world class scientific botany facility having many partnerships, including biosecurity protection and training. Preparations are under way for Stage 1. It will ultimately provide edible gardens and orchards, social/tourism facilities and nurseries.

www.mossmanbotanicgarden.com.au. Membership is \$50 per year.

While Australia's tropical and wet temperate and sub-tropical rain forests are largely protected, the same cannot be said for rainforests globally. The rate of loss is appalling, with an estimated 150 species disappearing daily, many not even discovered or assessed for their values to humanity and ecosystems. Alan and Susan Carle of *The Botanical Ark*, have devoted 40 years of their lives transforming cane fields into a tropical paradise on their property near Mossman, travelling the world for rainforest plants, promoting the ecological and usage values of rainforest plants and providing educational opportunities. There are over 3,000 species of plants at The Botanical Ark, including an incredible variety of fruits, nuts and flowers.

www.botanicalark.com. (2)

The rainforests are by far the richest ecosystems, with thousands of species of plants, animals, fungi and all important micro-organisms. A staggering number of tropical plants are already providing hundreds of fruit species, vegetables, timber, fibres, spices, medicines, fuels, dyes, oils, resins, waxes, tools, ornamentals and clothing. To name a few common ones, there are rubber, turmeric, coffee, tea, sugarcanes (and super sweeteners which could replace sugar), chocolate, vanilla, medicinal and food gingers and bananas. There are many yet to be discovered.

Rainforests continually store carbon from the atmosphere. Rainforests have, over geological time, absorbed carbon from the air and deposited stupendous amounts of this

underground as coal, transforming our atmosphere to an aerobic one that animals and humans can survive. We are now trying to reverse this of course.

So what has it to do with us? Everything.

1. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-05-25/dying-rainforests-tropical/101079776>
2. The Botanical Ark, Alan and Susan Carle 2002

Tom Baker - Committee member, Garden Selector and tips generator

MailChimp

You will notice that we use MailChimp to distribute emails to members. Using MailChimp ensures that Open Gardens Canberra is treated nicely in the internet world. Without it, our emails would be treated as spam simply because we send emails to a lot of people – more than 1000 members. To continue to receive member notifications, please don't unsubscribe from our Mailchimp list.

Copyright © 2022 Open Gardens Canberra Inc, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you are a member of Open Gardens Canberra or you have subscribed to this Newsletter.



Our mailing address is:

Open Gardens Canberra Inc
PO Box 344
Jamison Centre
Macquarie, ACT 2614
Australia

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

This email was sent to  Test Email Address 

This email was sent to [Test Email Address](#)

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Open Gardens Canberra Inc · PO Box 344 · Jamison Centre · Macquarie, ACT 2614 · Australia

