



Summer 2024 Newsletter

Dear <<First Name>>.

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President's Update

Since our last newsletter we've been busy seeking feedback through surveys, firstly interviewing non-members at last spring's gardens and then recently a short online survey of members, which closed on 7 February. Thank you to the many who completed the survey.

While we are currently crunching the results, already it is clear that we need to respond better to the ever-growing variety of communication channels that people use today. With that in mind we are adding two extra newsletters to our traditional autumn and spring editions – this one for summer and another for winter. On top of that we are working improve publicity and expand our presence on a range of social media platforms.

Autumn season

We are kicking off 2024 in two bites for your enjoyment. First an exciting 'Summer Special' at Terroux in Wallaroo on 24-25 February, with lots happening over both days. Then for autumn proper, in late April / early May we have a pair of country gardens at Burra making a lovely day trip and a pair of fascinating Kambah gardens, all set for autumn colour. See details below. Some of the gardens have opened years ago and they are keen to do so again. Check them out to see how the gardens have evolved and changed.

We are always on the lookout for new gardens. If you see a prospective garden in your neighbourhood or have a friend who might be interested, please let us know and we will take it from there. And it doesn't have to be just in autumn or spring: some gardens are looking really good in summer or winter.

Open Gardens Canberra Committee

The AGM in November saw a healthy number of new faces joining the committee, bringing it to its maximum of fourteen. That's extra hands, extra energy and new ideas that will see innovations in 2024. The AGM also sadly marked the retirement of founding members Chris Lord, Ann Lord and Sally Stephens, all of whom were awarded Honorary Membership for their outstanding contributions to the establishment and development of Open Gardens Canberra.

Because of our rule that limits the number of consecutive years a person can be in executive roles, Meryll Bradley stood down as President. We would like to thank Meryll for her outstanding contribution over many years.

Information about the committee, its roles and current membership is on our website. We currently meet once a month on a Monday morning, but we are investigating options more suitable for full-time workers to attend. Each committee member has designated tasks so the work of running the association is spread throughout the committee.

Len Dowling
President

Call for Applications for an open Gardens 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 budgeted \$5000 for the remainder of this financial year for such projects 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@opengardescanberra.org.au by 30 March 2024. We will assess the applications and enter into a short agreement with the successful applicant with a view to the funds being paid by 30 June 2024.

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.

Previous projects include verge gardens, new commemorative gardens, creating school edible gardens, seating at wetlands, and restoration of urban bushland. There's lots of opportunity for your idea - we take a wide view!

'Summer Special' open garden

24-25 February 2024

[Terroux](#)

88 Rochford Rd, Wallaroo, Hall



This very extensive garden and parklands includes many hedges of flower carpet roses, callistemons, conifers and photinias as well as a large dry creek bed with natives. There are three dams, each of different designs and plantings; one flows over to a wetland, another has a terraced garden. There are several memory gardens, including one with a labyrinth. The garden has many lovely water features as well as pieces of art, many of these

will delight children. The "Grand Canyon" is a large gully erosion, a long term rehabilitation project.

[Terroux Garden Notes 2024](#)

Activities include:

- Free escorted garden tours at 11am and 2pm each day, weather permitting.
- Home-made morning and afternoon tea, or light lunch available for purchase.
- The work of artisans, including sculpture and pottery will be featured.
- A plant sale.
- A children's search activity.

To get there

Please DO NOT use GPS or Google maps – they will lead you astray.

- Coming from Canberra on the Barton Highway, turn left into Wallaroo Road.
- After 7.5 km turn right into Oakley Creek Road.
- After 1.5kms turn right into Rochford Road (dirt road).
- After 0.88 km (after going down through a small gully) turn right through an open gateway (nos 88 and 90 on corner gatepost), come over two cattle grids, turn left though a brick entrance at number 88 and Terroux is on the top of the hill.
- Allow about 15 minutes from when you turn into Wallaroo Road.
- Drive slowly up the last part of the journey as the road is rough dirt. It looks like a dirt road but is actually the shared drive for the properties along the way after you turn into the gate.

Wallaroo Road is about 15 minutes from Civic. Terroux is about 30 minutes' drive from Civic.

There will be Open Gardens Canberra signage along the route at each turn.

Paddock parking will be available.

Sunset Soirée

The garden owners are also organising a sunset soirée on Saturday 24th 5pm till 7pm with music by local duo Stage 3. Bookings are essential. Tickets are \$35 per person including refreshments and can be purchased at www.trybooking.com/CNUFE. This is NOT an Open Gardens Canberra event.

Full details of the soirée are available on their website at <https://terroux.com.au>. All proceeds from the soirée will be donated to BIGHART.

Autumn open gardens

Save these dates for our autumn open gardens. Full details will be in our Autumn 2024 Newsletter.

27-28 April 2024

Two gardens in Burra, NSW:

- Woolwoolahara
- Lavender Hill

4-5 May 2024

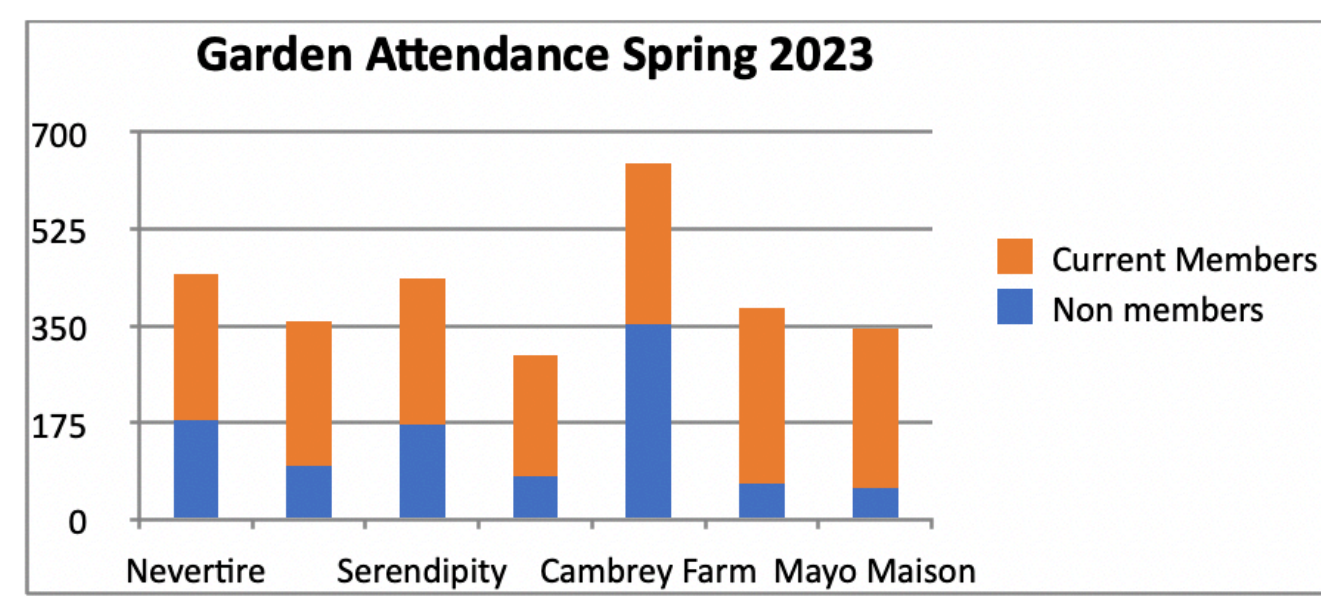
Two gardens in Kambah, ACT:

- The Wright Place
- The Enchanted Garden

Report on Spring 2023 open garden season

Open Gardens Canberra opened seven gardens over six weekends from 9 September to 19 November 2023. As with previous seasons this was an interesting and diverse range of gardens.

The following graph shows attendance figures for each of the open gardens. Cambrey Farm was the most visited with a larger proportion of non-member visitors than member visitors. The proportion of ticket sales were also high for Nevertire and Serendipity but at the end of the season member visitors were a much higher proportion of the attendance.



The spring 2024 season saw a return to good visitor levels with an overall increase in average visitor numbers over previous years excluding the bumper year in 2019.

Feedback

We took the opportunity during the Spring 2023 Season to undertake a short survey interview with non members visiting the open gardens. The aim of the survey was to see if our communications were effective and what visitors liked about the gardens they were visiting. It was also an opportunity to promote Open Gardens Canberra to potential new members. All 50 people who participated in the survey enjoyed their time in the gardens. People commented on the layout and design, the different sections/garden rooms, the variety of plantings and the dedication of the owners.

We determined that a range of communication methods was needed to attract non-member visitors to open gardens including social media, local press and radio.

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.

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