



Autumn 2024 Newsletter

Dear <<First Name>>,

President's update

Autumn season

Welcome to our autumn newsletter. Since our summer newsletter we've had a successful opening at Terroux in beautiful February weather and we are now busy preparing for four great autumn gardens happening over the next few weeks in Burra and Kambah. Please note your diaries - details below.

It's all Tap and Go! We are excited to announce that we've finally found a viable EFTPOS system that we can use at open gardens as an alternative to cash. In fact we trialled it at Terroux with great success. It works like a mobile phone, using 4G, and doesn't rely on wifi or Bluetooth. And it accepts all major cards, Apple Pay, Google Pay and Samsung Pay - plus we won't apply any surcharge. So now you can just "tap and go" - with card, smart phone or smart watch! Of course current members continue to have free entry.

The clouds parted for us and we held a successful "Thank You Event" at the beautiful and historic Lanyon Homestead on Sunday 7 April. This was a morning tea for all the volunteers and garden owners from the gardens we have opened since the last such event at Cuppacumbalong in August 2022. That means 19 gardens attracting about 7,300 visitors!

We used the occasion to demonstrate our new EFTPOS terminals to volunteers. A highlight of the morning was awarding Tom Baker, founding Committee member of Open Gardens Canberra, with the prestigious Garden Clubs Australia (GCA) President's Award. Lorraine Emerson, President of GCA, travelled from Sydney to present the award. Tom is well known as an outstanding advocate of all things gardening and environment.

At Lanyon it was also our great pleasure to present Merryl Bradley with a Certificate of Appreciation and Honorary (Life) Membership. After stellar service on the Open Gardens Canberra committee since 2016 - 4 years as Treasurer, 1 year as Vice president and 2 years as President - Merryl has now made the difficult decision to retire from the Committee, but we can still look forward to seeing her volunteering at Open Gardens in the future. Merryl is well known as a familiar friendly face at open gardens and has had a

career of innovation and achievement, always a wise head in leading Open Gardens Canberra forward.

Len Dowling

President

Volunteering with Open Gardens Canberra

The next best thing to owning a beautiful garden is to sit in someone else's! According to Barbara and Peter Hamburger, volunteering will give you that.

When Open Gardens Canberra was established in 2015 and Barbara and Peter Hamburger signed up for the new organisation, they were pleased to receive membership cards numbered 9 and 10. They were delighted that a group led by the late Shirley Pipitone had taken the initiative after the closure of the national open gardens scheme to give Canberra garden lovers access to the best local private gardens. They have volunteered to work at the gates of one or two gardens in each season of opening ever since.

The maturing of the organisation under successive voluntary committees, supported by a corps of dedicated volunteers, have continued to inspire them, they said, while they enjoy their occasional interludes welcoming interesting people to beautiful gardens.

“We love helping on the gates of the gardens”, Barbara says. “People who come to see the gardens are excited to be able to see such diversity and are a really happy group of people, so volunteering is an absolute joy. Sitting in someone's beautiful garden and chatting with likeminded people is great and we feel that we are contributing to the ongoing success of the Open Garden scheme”.



Barbara and Peter Hamburger in their 'non-showable garden (their words). We tried to lure their 17-year old black spaniel 'Lexie' into the picture too but she was too distracted by other

happenings. Their productive and mature garden in Hughes is bursting with healthy fruit trees most of which has been taken by birds and mice this year, they said.

Seeking more volunteers.

We need a healthy supply of volunteers to continue with the busy schedule of open gardens such as our current Autumn and the next Spring season starting in September. If you'd like to help Open Gardens Canberra and volunteer for a shift or two or three, please email info@opengardenscanberra.org.au. The Volunteers Coordinator will get back in touch with you. Rest assured, you will always be paired with an experienced volunteer to learn the ropes and you will be able to select the location and date. You can volunteer for one, two or three shifts and if you are really flexible can simply put down "Any place, any time" like some of our volunteers often do. It makes drawing up the rosters so much easier. We simply cannot open gardens without our wonderful volunteers.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS WITH A UTE, VAN OR TRAILER to assist the Garden Coordinators with set up (and pull down) at our open gardens. Involves transporting the gear that we use at the garden entrances, consisting of several fold-up tables, chairs, OGC flags and signs and a couple of milk-crate boxes. Volunteers on OGC business are covered by our Voluntary Worker Insurance and petrol costs can be reimbursed. This volunteer position would suit garden lovers who have a few spare hours on the weekends. Think of all the gorgeous gardens you would see before the crowds! For more information please call or email:

President1@opengardenscanberra.org.au; 0406 378 322.

Lynne Bliss

Volunteers Coordinator

Autumn Open Gardens

Our Autumn season is now under way, with the following openings in April and May. Gardens are open 10 am - 4pm on the days listed. Entry to gardens is free for members, \$10 for visitors over 18 years of age, accompanied children free.

27 - 28 April, 2024

[Lavender Hill](#)

155 London Bridge Road, Burra, NSW

10am - 4pm

Enjoy glorious rural vistas in a relaxing setting of rolling lawns and established English park style gardens, all overlooking a lily-pond weir on Tin Hut Creek, which flows eventually into Googong Dam. Stroll through the large and picturesque 8 hectare block with its own dam, numerous advanced trees ablaze with autumn colour, scattered mature gums (some quite ancient), curving dry-stone walls, hedges and



perennials. A cleared grazing area also features an enclosed orchard and veggie beds.

Why not take advantage of this lovely property to enjoy a picnic to complete your trip in the country? Or combine it with a visit to nearby Woowoolahra open garden as well as scenic London Bridge Arch.

Supported charity: [Burra Rural Fire Brigade](#).

[LAVENDER HILL GARDEN NOTES](#) are available.

Craft stalls

Homemade preserves

The RFS will provide tea, coffee, drinks and cake from 10 to 4 both days.



DIRECTIONS

From Queanbeyan travel south 14km on Old Cooma Rd. Left into Burra Rd and travel 8 km to London Bridge Rd. Garden entrance is at cul-de-sac 1.2 km along. From Canberra go south on Monaro Hwy, left at Old Cooma Road and travel 8 km to turn right into Burra Rd, then travel 8 km to London Bridge Rd. Garden entrance is at cul-de-sac 1.2 km along.

PARKING

On road and in cul-de-sac. Limited parking on site as marked. Mobility impaired can be dropped near to house.

27 - 28 April, 2024

[Woowoolahra](#)

6 London Bridge Road Burra, New South Wales

10am - 4pm

Sweeping curved rock walls divide this relaxing, mature country garden into 'rooms' where lovely old trees embrace lawns, frame valley views and provide shade and rich autumn colour. A cypress woodland opens to a dam with abundant bird life and water lilies and crowned by a curving forty metre rose arbour. The house is surrounded by wide cottage-style beds, mature shrubs, raised parterre-style veggie beds and large plantings of unusual perennials. Combine it with a visit to nearby Lavender Hill open garden as well as scenic London Bridge Arch.



Supported charity: [Burra Rural Fire Brigade](#).
[2024 Woowoolahra Garden Notes](#) are available.

Facebook [here](#)

DIRECTIONS

From Queanbeyan travel south 14km on Old Cooma Rd. Left into Burra Rd and travel 8 km to London Bridge Rd. Garden is on corner.

From Canberra go south on Monaro Hwy, left at Old Cooma Road and travel 8 km to turn right into Burra Rd, then travel 8 km to London Bridge Rd. Garden is on corner.



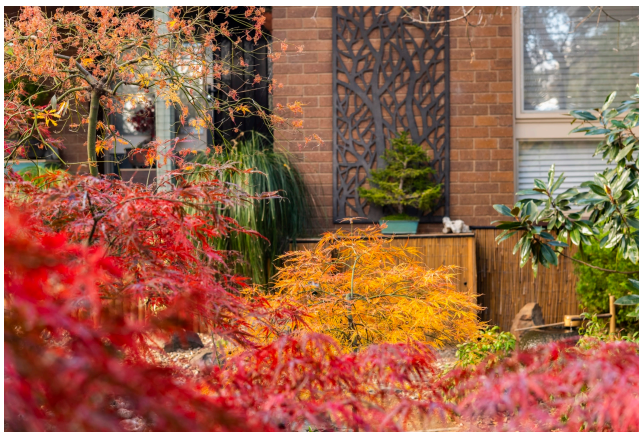
Some areas may not be accessible to wheelchairs if ground is soft from rain.

4 - 5 May, 2024

[The Wright Place](#)

58 Faithfull Circuit, Kambah, ACT 2902

10am - 4pm



Work commenced on this almost 1000 square metre property in April 1975 and has continued unabated since, with many changes over the intervening years.

The front garden consists of four terraces with the bottom terrace featuring a gabion wall and the top terrace strongly influenced by the owners travels in Asia. Of particular note are the Torii gate, spill bowl and 15 Japanese maples of different

varieties, which turn to splendid reds and oranges in autumn.

The enclosed private back garden consists of a series of outdoor rooms – a back deck off the house with spa; an entertainment area off the guest studio; lawn area, with dry stone creek and green walls; a Mediterranean style courtyard; a Silver Birch forest; and a Fernery. There are over 200 containers of plants around the property, 92 trees and 7 water features, amongst other items of interest.

The whole property is supported by a drip irrigation system with 5 water tanks (13,500 litres)

Supported charity: Lions (Food project)

[Wright Place 2024 Garden Notes](#) are available.



Steepish Sloping Driveway. Not all areas are accessible to wheelchairs.

4 - 5 May, 2024

[An Enchanted Garden](#)

4 Paull Place, Kambah, ACT 2902



Adults and children alike will be enchanted by this delightful garden. The owner, a successful potter and mosaicker, as well as a skilled gardener, has created a garden with surprises and beauty at every turn. This no-lawn and waterwise garden, which has evolved over more than twenty years, combines both natives and exotics to pleasing effect.

Demonstrations of basketry and string

bag making on Saturday between 2pm and 4pm.

Garden Notes will be available.



Narrow paths make this garden unsuitable for prams. Good vistas of the garden, mosaics and sculptures are possible for wheelchair users approaching the garden through the garage.

Public toilet in park cnr Drakeford & O'Halloran.

PARKING: Please park on McKillop (or other nearby) Street. Drop off and pick up only outside of house.

Supported charity: [St Vincent de Paul](#)

MailChimp

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