



## Spring 2024 Newsletter



### President's Message

Welcome to our spring newsletter, which is all about our bumper spring offering of 9 very diverse gardens, located all over the Canberra/Queanbeyan region. Check out the details below and enjoy your visits, now made that much easier with Eftpos at the entry.

And the good news is that despite inflation, we have managed to keep our membership fees and ticket entry prices unchanged for the year ahead. And what a bargain membership is - \$30 for the financial year gives you free entry to 9 spring gardens and there's still the autumn season to come. Join or renew **now** to avoid delays at open garden reception this spring.

Have you thought of opening your own garden or know of an outstanding garden in the Canberra region? We're always on the look out for gardens to open - and it is a rewarding experience - so please let us know at [info@opengardenscanberra.org.au](mailto:info@opengardenscanberra.org.au) and we'll help with next steps.

With such a big season ahead, we have just held our first-ever “Volunteer Curtain Raiser”, a briefing session and afternoon tea for our great band of volunteers who run the reception tables at every open garden. It was a chance for the garden coordinators and volunteers (experienced and brand new) to get to know each other better and to talk about the processes that need to happen to help make every open garden run smoothly.

This year we held our AGM on 10 September, ahead of the spring season of open gardens. Sadly, two of our very long serving and hard-working members – Tom Baker and Deidre Kiorgaard - have retired from the Committee and we will keenly feel the loss, but we wish them the very best for the future. The committee will also miss Liesa Hindmarsh, who will however continue managing our Facebook page, and we aim to continue her work on an edible garden trail concept. In their stead we now welcome Lynne Audsley, Michelle Haine, Peter Badowski and Melanie Benjamin. A full list of committee members and office-bearers will be on our website shortly.

Len Dowling

President

## Spring 2024 Open Gardens

Gardens are open between 10:00am and 4:00pm. Garden entry is free to members. Visitor entry (non-members): Garden entry is \$10 for visitors 18 years and over, cash or Eftpos. Accompanied minors free.

### 28-29 September, 2024

Our Spring 2024 program will commence in late September, with two contrasting gardens:

#### [My Place](#)

*44 Brookman St, Torrens, ACT*



A haven featuring spring flowering shrubs, annuals and flowering trees including a stunning weeping cherry. A cobblestoned space framed by a wisteria covered pergola, views to Mt Taylor and a large productive vegetable garden complete the picture. [Read more...](#)

#### [Garden Notes](#)

## [Cuumbeun](#)

*24 Severe St, Greenleigh, Queanbeyan NSW*



Over forty years the owners have created a spectacular natural landscaped native garden around the house and maintained the remainder of the two-hectare block as an open dry native eucalypt forest. The plantings are predominantly local species, and many are threatened. A nursery of propagated plants and a worm farm are of special interest. Cleared meandering paths enable access to the garden and the bushland. Propagation demonstrations at 11am and 2pm. [Read More...](#)

## [Garden Notes](#)



**5 - 6 October 2024**

[My Therapy](#)

*13 Geerilong Gardens, Reid, ACT*



At My Therapy in Reid, visitors will enjoy the enclosed Japanese style formal garden at the front of the 1930s house. Circling the house, they will discover a very large wisteria covering an entertainment area and large water features. In the contrasting back garden, features include large grassed area, a huge Chinese elm, *Ulmus parvifolia*, and a large Olive tree. [Read More...](#)

[Garden Notes](#)

**12-13 October 2024**

This will be a bumper weekend, with three gardens open. Adjacent gardens Narrawong and Beaverlea in Rivett will open together for a single entrance fee.

### [Narrawong](#)

*17 Astelia Pl, Rivett ACT*



Narrawong is a mix of formal and cottage garden styles, designed to make the most of a small area. There is a variety of flowering and aromatic perennials and cottage plants including azaleas and rhododendrons, which provide a splash of colour in Spring against the backdrop of mature trees. [Read More ...](#)

### [Garden Notes](#)

## [Beaverlea](#)

*19 Astelia Pl, Rivett ACT*



The plantings chosen in BeaverLea, come from an eclectic taste in flowers and trees which the owner could not resist and indulged herself on whimsical impulse. The front is her “Arboreal Cathedral” which, more or less, came with the house. [Read More...](#)

## [Garden Notes](#)



## [Hillside](#)

*49 Sullivan Cres, Wanniassa, ACT*



Mid-October at Hillside in Wanniassa sees the peak of flowering in most parts of the garden, especially Camellias, Eremophilas, Alyogyne, true geraniums, Correas, Cliveas, Iris and Grevilleas. Many rare shrubs and perennials are also peaking then, most deciduous plants are in fresh leaf and a wide variety of bulbs and annuals are in full display. With expansive views of the Tuggeranong Valley and ranges beyond, the sloping site lends itself to terracing and, meandering pathways, stairs, stone retaining walls and a bubbling pond. [Read more...](#)

## [Garden Notes](#)



**26-27 October 2024**

[Fairview](#)

*71 Euree St, Reid, ACT*



Fairview is a professionally landscaped garden planned by its qualified horticulturalist and landscape architect owner to complement and highlight the 1927 heritage cottage. There are water features and a varied and intriguing range of garden rooms with layers and textures created by the plants, many featuring art installations and sculptures, including Japanese elements. The heritage cottage will also be opened to garden visitors, allowing views to each of the outside garden rooms. [Read more...](#)

[Garden Notes](#)

**23-24 November 2024**

Teacher's Rest

*5 Macedon Cres, Palmerston, ACT*



Teacher's Rest in Palmerston, is a cottage style garden, surrounding the house on level ground. It is a showpiece of many roses – at their best this month, mixed with a variety of perennials, shrubs and small trees, mostly planted within the last five years. Vegetables, fruit trees and pieces of art are placed among the back garden beds. Further interest is added with pleasant rest areas and vantage points. [Read More...](#)

Garden Notes



## [Dhulwa](#)

*5 Boyce Pl, Chifley, ACT*



At Dhulwa in Chifley, visitors' first experience is a front garden of mature banksias, wattles and other native shrubs, which nicely merge with the neighbouring garden and attract native birds including gang gang and yellow tailed cockatoos and nesting wattle birds. The stonework lined paths take the visitor on a journey around the house through a series of quiet sanctuaries including a meditation garden, immersed in the shade of large Melia, Pear and ash trees. [Read more...](#)

## [Garden Notes](#)



## **Volunteers profile Lynlea & Clive Rodger**



Clive and I have always enjoyed gardens and gardening. Growing up in Sydney the Blue Mountains and its open gardens was one of our favourite destinations. We have established gardens and/or renovated gardens in each home where we have lived.

We arrived into Canberra in the mid 1970's experiencing a very different climate and soils. In Canberra we have gardened in one garden with natives, in another a large heritage garden with rhododendrons and roses (opened twice to Open Gardens Australia).

Our present garden is an average sized suburban block with a fully renovated garden now three years old. It was opened with Canberra Open Gardens in 2023 to show what can be done in 2 years.

Over our gardening span we have learned Clive enjoys exotics and textures, Lynlea enjoys colour through the year: Clive values lawns and planting, including varieties of bulbs and annuals, Lynlea has learned soil improvement, composting and the delights of vegetable growing and mulching.

Over the years we have had the opportunity to travel on garden tours, learn something of the history of gardening in Europe and visit world class gardens. A memory which sticks is the pride of such gardeners in the potting shed and the empty pots of the things that didn't work. A key principle for us is that there is no formula for gardening, no mistakes, no failures. Gardening is a pleasurable experience and a lifetime of learning.

Each garden unique.

Over the years too we have learned what works in Canberra, how to plant for the climate and the garden environment. What brings us pleasure is places to sit and enjoy a shared cup of tea, and barbeque and hospitality spaces for family and friends.

We have appreciated and valued sharing the skills of other gardeners in Canberra, including through Open Gardens. Volunteering at a garden, visiting gardens hosts are generous to open and share is a weekend pleasure and inspiration.

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## Membership Renewal

We are endeavouring to ease the load on our volunteers at the first Open Gardens by asking as many of you who intend to continue your wonderful value for money membership to do so prior to the event.

Refer to the **Renewal Reminder** sent from *Join It* **OR** follow the process below. The process is quite simple.

- 1 .Go to the Open Gardens Canberra website <https://opengardenscanberra.org.au/>
- 2 .Click on Members
3. Click on the blue word *Join It* NOT the Green Box.
4. Click on the "Member Log In" box
5. Enter your registered email address and password and Log In
6. If you have a red box with "Expired" or "Cancelled" displayed you need to Renew
7. Click on the "renew membership" wording
8. Make your payment.

Any problems or issues please let me know via [info@opengardenscanberra.org.au](mailto:info@opengardenscanberra.org.au)

Ian Davenport

Membership Officer

## Project news



### Croke Place Wetlands

This project in Evatt and near Lake Ginninderra was co-funded by Open Gardens Canberra in 2023 and after some tribulations is now complete. Croke Place Wetlands Land Care Group was allocated \$1,500 towards the construction of three seats to provide rest and pleasant viewing for visitors at different sites overlooking the wetlands and Ginninderra Creek.

Other contributions came from the Lions Club of Canberra City (hardwood from a sawmill at Termeil, north of Batemans Bay); woodworkers from the Triton Owners Club who made the seats to a design copied from a seat in a park in Albury; Bunnings for preservative material and hardware; the ACT Government for approval to install; and – importantly - Croke Place land carers digging for the foundation slabs.

The Croke Place Wetlands Land Care site now boasts three very sturdy seats in prime locations. One seat faces west with a view over the wetlands while the other two seats have been placed in a 'V' formation atop a small rise overlooking Ginninderra Creek, and towards a small island that is formed as the creek goes one way and a flooded anabranch another.

Croke Place Wetlands is a lovely place to visit for a wander or a picnic (or a sit!); please drop by and marvel at what has already been achieved by this energetic Land Care group. Congratulations on an inspiring community effort!



## News from Cooma

Tablelands Trees and Shrubs, a local nursery in Cooma, is celebrating producers and gardeners of the district with 'A Day in the Garden in Cooma'. This event showcases and brings together garden talks, garden visits and plant related stalls. You may like to make it a day trip. Please note that this is not an Open Gardens Canberra event, and charges may apply.

### A Day in the Garden in Cooma

**30 November 2024 9.30am - 3.00pm**

**3775 Badja Rd, Cooma NSW 2630**

Tablelands Trees & Shrubs presents

# A Day In The Garden.

- **DISCOUNTED PLANT SALE** There will be significant discounts on some of our surplus plant lines. Plants will be marked with ribbons: **Blue ribbon - 50% off - Pink ribbon - FREE PLANTS**
- **INFORMATIVE GARDEN TALKS** Throughout the day we will have some experts in various fields talk to us about their speciality. (Schedule on back of page).
- **OPEN GARDEN** Come and explore our vast gardens surrounding the nursery.
- **LOTS OF PLANT RELATED STALLS** Stalls from local producers showcasing some of the best the area has to offer in fresh produce and plant related items. (Coffee van will be here on the day for all your food & refreshments).

**30 NOVEMBER 2024**  
9:30am - 3:00pm  
3775 BADJA RD COOMA N.S.W 2630

FIND MORE INFORMATION ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

 @tablelands\_nursery  
 Tablelands Trees & Shrubs



## A Day In The Garden At Tablelands Trees & Shrubs

Through our years as plant growers we have been lucky enough to meet many keen local producers and gardeners. We passionately believe the bringing together of these parties is the future of the horticulture industry, with this in mind we are putting together a yearly event, "A Day In The Garden at Tablelands Trees & Shrubs". An event to showcase and bring together local growers and gardeners to enjoy our nursery gardens and share ideas on the growth of all types of plants.

**11 am**  
John Bowler from Tablelands Nurseries talking about plant propagation of softwood & semi-hardwood cuttings.

**12 pm**  
Celeb from Contoured Land an expert in sustainable garden design talking about Resilient Property Design through permaculture practices.

**1 pm**  
Penele from Feel Well Farm talking about the best techniques for growing flowers in the home garden for cut flower displays.

**2 pm**  
Paula Boer our local environmental expert & author of Bushfire Recovery at Badja a land owner's survivalist talking about how to be a citizen scientist.

**Lots of stall including:**

- Feel Well Farm
- Contoured Land
- Garlic Kingdom Australia
- Tablelands Nurseries Ribbon Sale
- Bunyan Nuts & Berries
- Coffee Van (for all your food & refreshments)
- Paula Boer (selling her book Bushfire recovery at Badja)

**Plus Many More!**