

29 & 30 MARCH

Our Autumn 2025 program will commence in late March. Something different: a Community Gardens Weekend!

WHITLAM CLIMATE-WISE GARDEN

3 Klaus Moje St, Whitlam, ACT

With hot summers and cold winters, Canberra's seasonal conditions affect how plants grow. Gardens also need to be resilient as climate change brings more extreme weather events. Choosing the right plants for Canberra's climate and soil is key to building a climate-wise garden that will thrive now and into the future. Suburban Land Agency's (SLA) Innovation Precinct in Whitlam has a thriving climate-wise garden, planted in 2022 and showcasing resilient garden design. The garden has been designed with its natural context in mind- supporting local plants and wildlife while thriving in the local weather conditions across all four seasons. The garden was designed by Place Logic as part of SLA's Innovation Precinct, a place for demonstrating sustainable homes and gardens to inspire more sustainable living. The plants chosen for the garden were selected from the SLA's Climate Wise Garden Designs booklet, a key resource for residents in new suburbs and available to visitors on the day for free.

Over the weekend pop in to explore the garden and talk to people who work with the garden, visit the Whitlam Community Garden nearby and enjoy coffee and live music at the adjacent Heartbeat Café (open 8.30am to 3pm). There is a large carpark in front of the café. **Entry is free.**

Program Highlights

10am-12pm both days: chat with site gardener Mike Nicholls about the garden. He will lead two half-hour tours commencing at 10.30am and 11.30am.

1pm-3pm both days: live music at the Heartbeat Café: Saturday features Will & Annie and Sunday a gypsy jazz group, Black Owl Quartet.



COOK COMMUNITY GARDEN

Bindubi St, Cook, ACT (look out for Open Garden signs)

The Cook Community Garden, established in 2001, is situated at the southern end of Bindubi St. The 5000sqm garden is leased by Canberra Organic Growers Society Inc from the ACT Government. Currently the garden has 46 very active gardeners of all ages and backgrounds working 55 allotment style plots ranging in size between 50 and 15sqm. The garden is always on the lookout for keen gardeners to join and embrace organic growing principles, especially the younger generation. There is an off street carpark adjacent to the garden. The nearest toilets are located at Cook shops. **Entry is free.**

Program of activities, both Saturday and Sunday:

10.30am: Getting started with Beekeeping

11.00am: Garden Tour featuring Q & A with selected gardeners showcasing their garden plots. Topics include growing dahlias, success with cucumbers, starting a garden, growing artichokes, no dig gardening and gardening the COGS way.

11.30am –1.00pm: Sausage Sizzle (gold coin donation).

Note: this garden is open 10am -2pm.



12 & 13 APRIL

MERRYWAY

51 Euree St, Reid, ACT

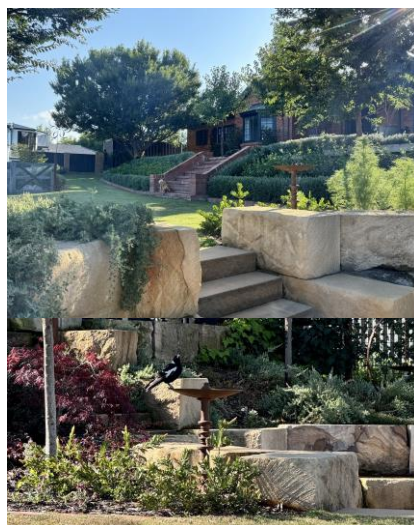
Located at the centre of Reid, this well-established garden is enclosed by a curved Camellia 'Yuletide' hedge. Behind it is a lawn with leafy borders featuring a variety of maples and other plants including Hydrangea quercifolia and Michelia alba. In the back garden a formal area near the house features hedges and clipped balls created from diverse plants including box, lonicera, teucrium and Abelia nana. There are also fruit and flowering trees and a small vegetable garden. Autumn brings scarlet tones to the large vine-covered pergola while in a secluded corner an enormous old fig stands proud. At the rear the garden takes on a wilder aspect with a variety of seasonal bulbs and white flowered plants sheltering beneath a grove of birch trees. Over time the garden has been adapted to change according to family needs, maturing plants and the climate.



TEA GARDENS

10 Yirawala St, Gunnawal, ACT

Tea Gardens Homestead, dating back to the 1860s, is one of Canberra's oldest residential homes, located on a peaceful half acre block, overlooking the 4th hole of Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club. Since 2021 the garden has been completely transformed from a steep sloping block suffering from drought and overgrown with periwinkle, to a beautiful blend of cottage, native, traditional and productive styles. It perfectly complements the homestead's historic charm. 'The Vineyard' was established in July 2024. The front garden development has been ongoing since the property was purchased in 2020. They are highlights of this truly inspiring garden.



3 & 4 MAY

Woodbury Garden

1048 Cooma Rd, Googong, NSW

A garden not to be missed! Set in rolling countryside, this beautifully designed and maintained 40-year-old garden comprises sweeping beds of interesting and unusual Australian native plants and trees, including Gynea lily, angophora, banksias, kangaroo paws, unusual hakeas and so much more. You will also find an exotic plant section, extensive rock retaining banks, a dam, ponds with fountains and an attractive bog garden with a winding wooden walkway and massed with pretty native violets. Productive garden buffs will also enjoy an amazing fully enclosed orchard full of berries and espaliered fruit trees, separate raised rabbit-resistant beds and a sheltered circular garden for cut flowers, roses and citrus. Refreshments and food will be available and there are places to sit and relax if you want to bring your own picnic. There is also a toilet on site. Peter and Lyn first opened their garden for OGC back in 2015, our foundation year. In 2025 they are helping us to celebrate our 10th anniversary!



Garden entry: Gardens are open between 10:00am and 4:00pm, except the **Cook Community Garden**, which is open from **10:00am to 2:00pm**. Garden entry is free to members. Visitor entry (non-members): Garden entry is \$10 for visitors 18 years and over, cash or Eftpos. The **Cook Community Garden** and the **SLA Climate Wise Garden** are **free**. Accompanied minors free. No bookings required.
Opening your garden: Ever dreamed of opening your garden? You can find out information on our website. opengardenscanberra.org.au