

[View this email in your browser](#)



Winter 2026



Image: L Murray

Early Bird Renewal Offer

Once again we are offering two exciting raffle prizes, open to all those who renew or join online using JointIt in July or August 2026, before the first spring gardens open. The best prize is open to the earliest birds! Details below, or go to <https://opengardenscanberra.org.au/members>. The more people we have signing up early, the smoother things will be at the garden entry tables.

Help to ease the pressure on our wonderful volunteers!

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

- [President's Update](#)
- [Membership renewal offer](#)
- [Spring 2026 Open Gardens](#)
- [Volunteer News](#)
- [Friends OPH Rose Gardens](#)
- [Garden photo competition](#)
- [Hawker Community Landcare Grant Report](#)



President's Update

Welcome to our information-packed winter newsletter.

Another Earlybird renewal offer! Last years's offer was a great success and so once again we are offering two exciting raffle prizes - details below. Renewing or signing up before a garden visit really helps our volunteers a lot, both at the table and behind the scenes.

We already have nine varied gardens lined up for spring 2026 and more on top of that for autumn 2027, so membership is fantastic value. Check out our 'save the dates' preview of all our spring gardens in this newsletter, with more details coming to our website in August.

Due to the success of our 2025-26 program, we have been able to fund another two horticulture scholarships, as well as some new grants to support good community projects. We're currently finalising agreements and payments for three new projects to be undertaken in 2026-27 and we'll provide full details in the spring newsletter.

Volunteers are absolutely essential to opening the wonderful gardens that we all love to visit, and we have been very fortunate in having a great group of volunteers, but we always need and welcome more. Read about how you can help out in Volunteer Coordinator Lynne Audsley's article in this bulletin.

Finally a note of thanks to all the garden owners who responded to our recent email call for gardens to open. But we always welcome more, for either spring or autumn. Drop us a quick note at info@opengardenscanberra.org.au and we'll take it from there.

Len Dowling

President



Images: M Davenport

Membership Renewal Offer

Once again we are offering **two exciting raffle prizes**, open to all those who renew or join on-line using 'JoinIt' early. The more people we have signing up early, **before** our first spring gardens open, the smoother things will be at the garden entry tables! A random number generator will be used to select the winners.

July reward:

Open to everyone who joins or renews on-line using 'JoinIt' between the dates of 1 July 2026 and 31 July 2026 inclusive - one lucky member will receive a **\$100 voucher** to spend at your choice of one of the following nurseries which have supported us over the years:

Rodneys, Cool Country, Willow Park, Greengold Federation Square or Heritage at Yarralumla.

This will be drawn at the Committee meeting to be held in August 2026 with the winner notified shortly thereafter.

August reward:

Will run from 1 August to 31 August inclusive for a **\$50 voucher** at one of the nurseries listed above. This will be drawn at the AGM in September.

Membership is still the same low price: \$30 gives you free entry to all OGC gardens for the whole financial year to June 30, 2027. With about 9 gardens already confirmed for this spring plus more for next autumn, that's a real bargain.

To renew and go in the draw automatically:

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

2. Check your member information (**please consider volunteering**) and enter your payment details.
3. Click on Renew Membership.

Should you have any issues relating to your membership please send a message to info@opengardenscanberra.org.au for assistance.

Ian Davenport

Membership Officer



Images: Garden Owners

Save the dates: Spring 2026 Open Gardens

Note these dates in your calendars and check our website for full details and photos in mid-late August.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Forrest Bower in Forrest – An amazing two-in-one property where the leafy green of the original garden is now complemented by vibrant planting and innovative landscaping on the adjoining block.

26-27 September

The Garden of Memories in Lyons – This 60-year-old garden on a large block at the very top of Lyons is under renewal, with new landscaping and an eclectic mix of plants, as well as numerous vantage points providing sweeping views across the valley.

3-4 October

The Baker Garden in Griffith – Your last chance for a springtime visit to this popular garden which, since its last opening in autumn 2023, has been thoughtfully modified to allow for easier access and maintenance.

10-11 October

Els' Garden in Flynn – A final opening, too, for this very large garden featuring a substantial variety of native plants, a wisteria covered pergola and a relaxing sitting space by the backyard creek.

24-25 October

Vogelweide Estate in Gundaroo

An outstanding rural garden to enjoy! Unwind as you wander through these picturesque, European-inspired gardens featuring an impressive variety of established trees along with masses of old-world roses, peonies and a vibrant herbaceous perennial border.

31 October-1 November

Garden By Fleur in Braddon – Cleverly surrounding a multigenerational home in one of Canberra's oldest "garden city" suburbs, this enchanting and professionally designed garden is a masterclass in how to make great use of an average sized block so as to perfectly suit family living.

7-8 November

Joan's Garden in Fadden – Previously opened in autumn 2019, this much-loved, restful garden will re-open in spring to showcase its abundant greenery along with spring flowering plants and a secluded pond.

21-22 November

Zhou's Sustainable Kitchen Garden in Kambah – Dedicated to sustainable and organic gardening, this entire suburban block has been transformed into a thriving orchard with an amazing variety of fruit trees, berry bushes, herbs and productive edible plants of every kind.

abundant spring colour, tranquil outdoor rooms alive with birdlife and secluded sitting areas.

Volunteer News

Although the days are getting colder, Open Gardens Spring Season is just a few months away.

Once again, I'm reaching out to ask for your help in volunteering at the Open Garden reception gates.

Nine gardens means around 100 shifts to fill! While we have a dedicated group of volunteers who are always willing to lend a hand, we're looking for new faces to help spread the tasks.

If you're new to volunteering at Open Gardens Canberra, consider volunteering for a shift. It's a great way to meet new people and make friends who share your passion for beautiful gardens and gardening. You'll also learn new skills and be supported by more experienced volunteers, garden coordinators, and the Volunteers Coordinator.

You choose when and where you want to volunteer, and we can even roster you with a friend if you'd like. Plus, you're covered by our voluntary worker insurance while travelling to and from the gardens, and while you're working there.

If you're not sure what it entails to volunteer at a reception gate, don't hesitate to reach out. I'm more than happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Just drop me an email at audsleylynne@gmail.com

I'll also be holding a training session towards the end of August for both new and experienced volunteers. It's a great opportunity to brush up on your skills and meet other volunteers over a cuppa. I'll send out an email with all the details soon, so keep an eye out!

Lynne Audsley

Volunteer Coordinator

Canberra's finest rose gardens are found at Old Parliament House, now the Museum of Australian Democracy (MOAD). With hundreds of beautiful roses and a rich history dating back to the 1920s, the gardens remain one of Canberra's most treasured public spaces.

The Friends of the Old Parliament House Rose Gardens are always pleased to welcome new members. While the National Capital Authority manages and cares for the gardens, the Friends support events, communications, and the celebration of this special place.

The gardens have a fascinating story, from their early beginnings through the wartime years when trenches replaced roses, to the vibrant gardens enjoyed today for picnics, weddings, gatherings, and quiet reflection. You can learn more on the Friends' website.

Membership offers opportunities to enjoy events such as Christmas Carols under the Wisteria Arbour, guest speakers, and a rose pruning demonstration planned for August.

For more information, membership details, and the latest newsletter, visit fophrg.org.au.



Images: Friends of Old Parliament House Rose Gardens

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Garden Photo Competition

The 2026 Garden Clubs of Australia Annual Photo Competition is open to all members of a GCA-affiliated club - which Open Gardens Canberra is - and we would love for you to enter your wonderful garden photos!

Photographs can be taken anywhere in the world, at any time, with subjects related to general garden scenes, productive gardens, edible plants, flowers, floral art, trees or garden visitors.

Entry is free and the closing date is 1 October 2026. Email your digital images to photocomp@gardenclubs.org.au. More details and entry form at <https://gardenclubs.org.au/photo-competition/>

You can also view the winning photos from 2025 at <https://gardenclubs.org.au/2025-photo-competition/>

Images: Upsplash, L Murray



New garden under construction



Participants at the wicking bed workshop

Hawker Community Landcare Grant Report

Last year, Open Gardens Canberra provided a grant to Hawker Community Landcare (HCL) to support community engagement and improve the Hawker Community Gardens.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

building wicking beds, growing plants from seed, and encouraging native bees into home gardens. Workshops were promoted through social media, flyers, local shopping centres, and letterbox drops, attracting interest from across the local community.

The grant also supported the purchase of vegetable crop seeds and insect-attracting flowers, enabling several community planting days. In addition, volunteers improved three garden beds by installing formal edging to help retain moisture and mulch while creating clearer pathways through the garden.

The project has strengthened community connections, shared valuable gardening skills, and enhanced the gardens as a welcoming and productive community space.

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 © 2026 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

