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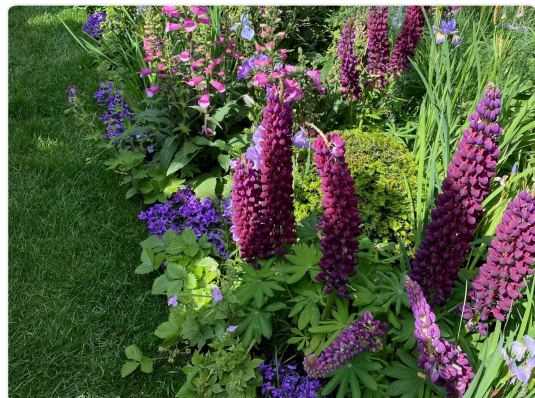


Spring 2026



Inside this issue

- *President's Update*
- *Spring 2026 Open Gardens*
- *Grant news*
- *Goulburn Open Gardens*
- *Volunteer News*



President's Update

A great spring program of nine open gardens starts with a real bang on 19-20 September with the unique 'Forrest Bower' garden in Forrest. This garden extends across two adjoining blocks comprising ten garden spaces. And you

enjoy!

We've had a fantastic response to our "earlybird" membership renewal prize offer! Congratulations to Daniel from Cook, who won the July prize draw of a \$100 gift voucher. The \$50 August prize (for those who joined or renewed in August) will be drawn at our AGM on 14 September. It's great to see so many more who are renewing or joining early this year – it will make things so much better for our garden reception volunteers.

And there's still time to renew or join [now](#) before the gardens start opening from 19 September. Still the same membership fees and ticket entry prices. Membership is an absolute bargain - \$30 for the financial year gives you free entry to the 9 spring gardens plus free entry to a big autumn season in 2027.

This year we will hold our AGM on 14 September. We will have vacancies on the committee and we particularly need people with IT/website skills and people to get involved in garden selection and the coordination of open gardens. Please consider nominating to our friendly and cooperative committee.

Len Dowling

President

Open Gardens Spring Season

The following gardens will be open from **10am to 4pm**.

Members: Free entry

Visitors: \$10 entry for visitors aged 18 and over. Cash and EFTPOS accepted

Please see our [website](#) for more details

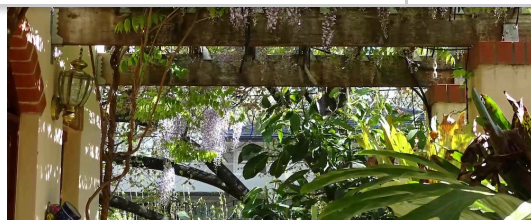
19-20 September - [Forrest Bower](#)

13 Talbot St, Forrest, ACT

The magic atmosphere of Forrest Bower entices the visitor to wander and enjoy its ten garden spaces, including The Grand Lawn, The Woodland Walk, The Walled Garden and the Cloister Courtyard. As a world garden, it embraces ideas from diverse cultures and features artworks reflecting its owners' travels and life stories. Forrest Bower seeks to capture the universal experience of wonder and peace that only a garden can provide.

Street parking. Small dogs allowed on leads

Supporting Fred Hollows Foundation



26-27 September - [The Garden of Memories](#)

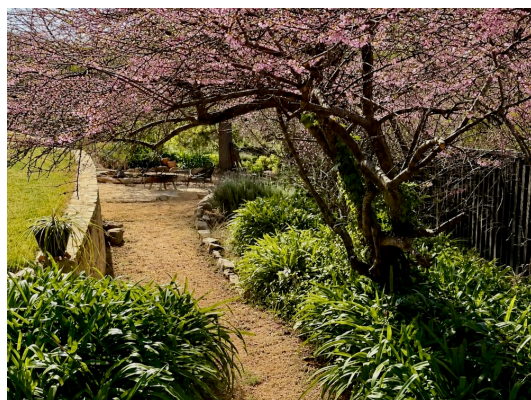
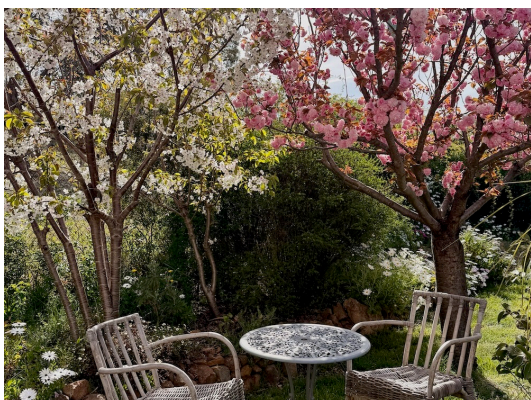
16 Barrow Place, Lyons, ACT

This 60-year-old garden on a large block at the very top of Lyons is under renewal, with an eclectic mix of old and new plants, fruit trees and natives – building on what was there before and creating new memories. New paths weave through multiple spaces including a fire pit, a shady woodland garden and an open large sunny paved area- all with sweeping views across the valley below.

On street parking, in cul-de-sac.

Supporting Dementia Australia

Dogs on leads allowed



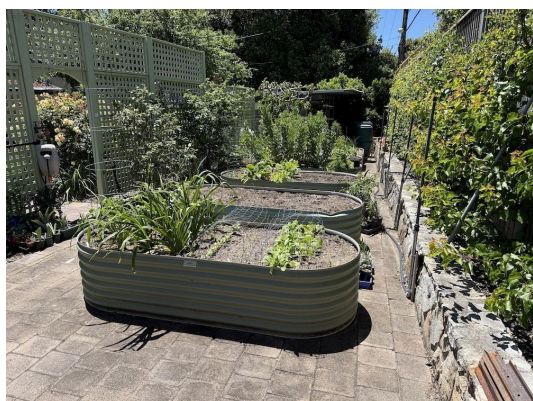
3- 4 October [The Baker Garden \(Final Opening\)](#)

20 Wells Gardens, Griffith, ACT

Established 16 years ago on a 970 sqm block, this gardener's garden is designed to provide colour and interest all year round. It includes many sculptures, plus stone walls and bird baths. Pine bark mulch, drippers and no lawn make it a low maintenance garden. Hidden behind a lattice at the rear are productive raised veggie beds, fruit trees, a covered potting area and composting production. The garden has recently been modified to make it even lower maintenance and safer for its two 80-year-old owners, by removing hedges, replacing stepping stones with a path and adding handrails.

Street parking available

There will be a sale of plants (The First Canberra Garden Club) and sculpture and garden ornaments



10-11 October - [Els' Garden](#)

3 Ramage Place, Flynn, ACT

This will be your last chance to visit Els' Garden as the owners will be leaving their much-loved property later this year. Situated on a quarter-acre sloping corner block, the area has been gradually transformed over the past 45 years from the original heavy clay pasture and now accommodates close to 200 species of mainly Australian native plants. Carefully selected planting in the front garden provides both colour and privacy. In the back a landscaped creek with three waterfalls feeds a pond, while a patio provides a relaxing spot to enjoy the morning sun. Coffee and tea can be enjoyed under a wisteria-covered pergola.

Street parking.

Supporting The Flying Doctor Service



24-25 October - [Vogelweide Estate](#)

94 Cork St, Gundaroo, NSW

shine in every season, the expansive grounds feature striking umbrella pines, junipers, maples and even a rare 5-metre Wollemi pine. Wander among more than 150 old-world roses, alongside lush peonies, spring bulbs and fragrant Mediterranean herbs. The fountain walk, bordered by a vibrant herbaceous perennial garden, is a favourite spot for couples celebrating their wedding day. Come for the spring blooms- stay for barista-made coffee, delicious treats, and the chance to unwind in one of the region's most picturesque garden settings.

Parking on road – parking attendant present.

Dogs on leads allowed



31 October-1 November - [Garden By Fleur](#)

16 Chapman St, Braddon, ACT

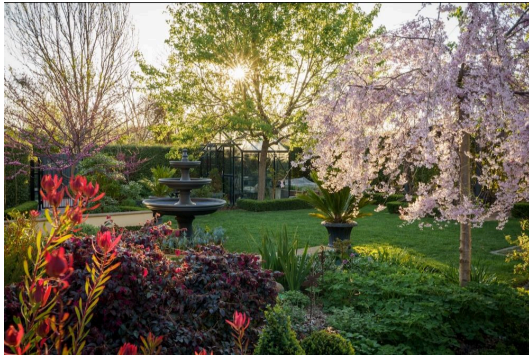
Cleverly surrounding a multigenerational home in one of Canberra's oldest "garden city" suburbs, this enchanting and professionally designed garden is a masterclass in how to make great use of an average sized block so as to perfectly suit family living. Inside its hedges and walls you will find inviting garden rooms, water features, murals, sculptures, outdoor living areas, productive gardens and many unusual plants and trees. You are sure to find lots of ideas and inspiration.

Art/craft goods for sale. "Plant Doctor" – horticulturist on-site! Bring photos or a sample in a plastic bag for diagnosis or identification (for a gold coin donation to the charity: The Eating Disorders Residential Treatment Centre ([EDRTC](#)) in Coombs, ACT

The garden is level and generally accessible. Access to the inside of the glasshouse is narrow and not suitable for mobility aids.

Please ensure children do not drink from or climb/swing on the tiered fountain.

Normal street parking



7- 8 November - [Joan's Garden](#)

51 Dash Crescent, Fadden, ACT

This restful green garden has been lovingly tended by Joan for the past 40 years. An eclectic variety of plants, largely sourced from friends and family, has resulted in a very personal space. Over time trees and shrubs have grown to dominate smaller flowering plants, but this abundant greenery is enhanced in spring by delicate blossom, bulbs and irises. Come to enjoy the garden and pick up some tips from Joan, who admits to a love of composting, pruning and growing plants in pots!

Street parking

Small dogs on leads allowed



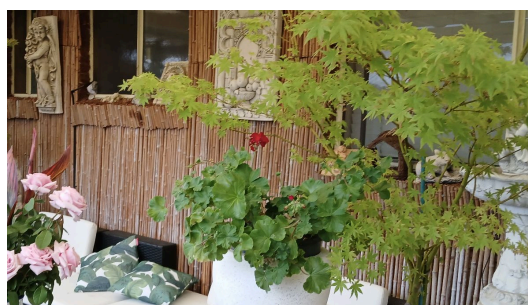
21-22 November - [Zhou's Sustainable Kitchen Garden](#)

36 Fimister Circuit, Kambah, ACT

fruit trees, berry bushes, herbs, and edible plants of every kind. Lovingly cultivated for food production rather than formal landscaping, flowers, or foliage, this remarkable garden belongs to an enthusiastic professional cooking teacher. Visitors will discover plenty of inspiration for growing edibles, sustainable gardening practices, and plants that thrive in Canberra's climate.

Japanese maples, roses, dogwood trees, and colourful conifers have also been thoughtfully incorporated, adding beauty, texture, and seasonal colour throughout the garden.

Street parking available



21-22 November - [The Secret Country Garden](#)

9 Iora Place, Waramanga, ACT

A beautifully layered Australian garden blending formal structure with relaxed cottage planting. Fragrant climbing roses, flowering agapanthus, formal hedges and gravel pathways weave through tranquil outdoor rooms alive with birdlife and seasonal colour. Mature gums provide shade and scale, while secluded sitting areas and ornamental features create a peaceful retreat that feels both elegant and deeply natural. The garden is beautifully laid out with distinct, themed rooms that create an ornamental and peaceful retreat. This secluded sanctuary is full of vibrant colour and thriving bird life, offering a serene escape from the outside world. Each section of the landscape has been carefully designed to provide a unique atmosphere, blending artistic structure with the natural beauty of the local environment.

Street parking available

Wood fired pizza available from 11am – 3pm Saturday and Sunday.

Dogs allowed on leads but please check with owner before entering



Please note: Toilets are NOT available at gardens unless otherwise indicated
No dogs are permitted (Assistance dogs excepted) at gardens unless otherwise indicated.

Open Gardens Canberra 2026-27 Grants Program

The Committee awarded three grants for the 2026-27 financial year to the following organisations. The total value of the grants was \$10,904.

Families and Friends of Blue Gum

This is a two-part project at the Blue Gum Community School in Hackett:

1. To transform entrance of the secondary school into a climate resilient educational garden using wicking beds.
2. To revitalise the primary school gardens with annual vegetables and flowers supported by a sub-irrigation system.

Yarralumla Montessori Parents Association

The project will revitalise gardens of the Yarralumla Preschool and Montessori campus with native plants and provide soil and equipment for raised garden beds and composting. Native plants will provide shade, habitat for native wildlife, and support the learning environment and yarning circle.

UCX Ltd, University of Canberra

The UCX Community Garden is an established on-campus space being revitalised by the UCX Volunteering Program. The project will support the purchase of soil, plants and material to restore some existing raised beds that have suffered prolonged neglect. The garden supports community engagement through workshops and activities with produce harvested and donated to the UCX Food Pantry to support students.

Goulburn Open Gardens

10am-4pm, Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 October

On a weekend when we have no gardens open in the Canberra region, why not take a trip to Goulburn for their second Open Gardens event?

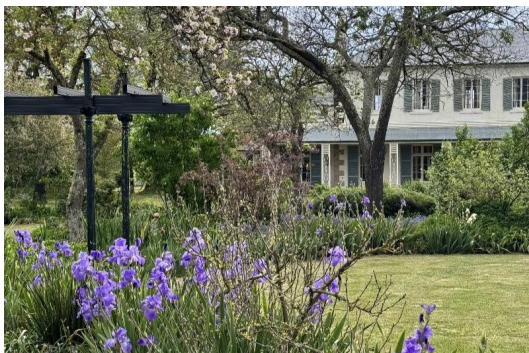
After a huge success in 2025, the Southern Tablelands Open Gardens Association (STOGA) is hosting its second Goulburn Spring Gardens event on 17 & 18 October this year.

The 2026 event includes seven new gardens and the return of 'Rossville Homestead' one of the favourite 2025 gardens. Variety is a feature of the event with town and country gardens, new and old gardens and exotic and native plantings. Find out more about these wonderful gardens at the website www.stoga.org.au/goulburn-spring-gardens

This year the Goulburn Spring Gardens Event Hub will be at St Saviour's Cathedral Hall, 170 Bourke Street Goulburn. The Hub will offer refreshments, plant stalls, information about Goulburn's history and heritage, and selected local arts, ceramics and crafts stalls. Tours of St Saviour's Cathedral and Belltower and the Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral building will be available.

An added attraction will be a Goulburn Spring Music performance at St Saviour's Cathedral between 4.30 and 5.30 pm on Saturday 17 October. For details see the website www.stoga.org.au/goulburn-spring-gardens.

You can purchase All Gardens tickets for \$25 now at www.ticketebo.com.au/goulburn-spring-gardens (or at our Event Hub at St Saviour's Cathedral or from the gardens themselves). Single garden tickets will be \$5, available only at the individual gardens. Entry is free for STOGA members, including those who actively volunteer with STOGA.



Thank You Morning Tea at Cuppacumbalong

We were very lucky to enjoy warm, sunny weather on Saturday, August 15, when we gathered for our annual morning tea in the beautiful gardens and homestead at Cuppacumbalong, Tharwa. The event was an opportunity to

The morning began with tea and coffee, and a welcome from OGC President, Len Dowling. Paulene Cairnduff, 'Garden Guru' of 2CC Radio, gave a most interesting talk on "Garden Clubs of Canberra". Paulene also showed some historic books from the very early garden clubs here in Canberra. It was very interesting to hear how the early residents of our capital city managed to tame the difficult conditions for gardening.

Guests then enjoyed a delicious morning tea and the opportunity to catch up and chat with fellow volunteers. Many also took advantage of the beautiful weather to explore the gardens at Cuppacumbalong.

It was a lovely morning and a fitting way to celebrate and thank everyone who helps make Open Gardens Canberra such a success.

Lynne Audsley
Volunteers Coordinator



Featured Photos: COG Committee Members, Garden Owners and The Southern Tablelands
Open Gardens Association

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