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GARDEN DESIGN STUDY GROUP
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Dear Members,

More feedback about how to spend our book money, or not, as the case may be!
A second book, professional photographic record of notable Australian plant gardens, an annual prize for garden design at Horticultural colleges, or liaising with other societies whose charter it is to protect important gardens? Please give all these suggestions due consideration and let us know. There is a thoughtful response from member Shane Doherty on the possibility of using our website to publicize the professional qualifications of our members and a GDSG branch for the ACT under Shirley Pipitone's, leadership will further strengthen our membership, intellectually and socially. Our rather topical theme this Newsletter is that of threat. I think in this case, to borrow from federal government speak, "be alert AND alarmed!" I found it very interesting to read the review of "Heartland : the regeneration of rural place" so soon after our trip to Cootamundra and environs. The grassy woodlands is truly a threatened ecosystem in the west, [see also Neil Marriot's article on the Wimmera]. As is, apparently, some of our indigenous landscape architecture within the urban environment - see Elizabeth Farrelly's article on the threat to some of Bruce Mackenzie's work. Also, the threat highlighted by Tim Low in his book of feral garden escapees. We should think deeply, as garden designers using Australian native plants, what we can do to lessen all of these threats.

Now , dear members, I have had the most thoroughly enjoyable 3 years as leader/editor of the GDSG.I have learnt so much, met and emailed with fantastic people and even learnt to type! This year is shaping up to be one of my busiest on record so I have *very* reluctantly decided to relinquish the leadership. I leave you all in the blissful knowledge that you are in the safest possible hands - Diana Snape has agreed to step in and will be ably assisted by Chris Larkin, whom I have to thank for being so strongly supportive of the Newsletter whilst I have been editor. Thank you *all* for your support and kind words of encouragement, they have been truly appreciated. So its au revoir and not goodbye!

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CORRESPONDENCE

Money from the book fund

Enna Snape Vic

I like Barbara's idea of APS setting up a Garden Preservation Fund for Australian Gardens - their preservation is something I have always been concerned about. However for several reasons I think this is a very difficult thing to put into practice.

The first is the private ownership of gardens, as we are concerned here with private rather than public gardens. If a garden is sold, assuming APS does not buy it, there needs to be a very sympathetic new owner willing and able to cooperate with the concept of preservation. In general the larger the garden, the more work is involved and probably the more people needed to do that work.

Even then I suspect no-one can keep a garden completely true to the spirit of its original creator. As Barbara says "the idea of preserving or re-making a classic (formal) garden is realistic. A natural garden...changes very quickly and the idea of preserving it or re-making it is a no-go." The majority of our gardens are naturalistic rather than formal, so how are they to be preserved? And for how long? And by whom?

If you are able to visit the new owners of Betty Maloney's garden at Frenchs Forest, I'll be most interested in your report. This was the original 'bush garden' and quite naturalistic. How are they managing its preservation? What do people who knew it years ago think?

Although I support Barbara's idea for APS, I am concerned about the type of garden she is talking about. She says, "it is the collections they are so valuable for. Botanic gardens in miniature." This may be appropriate in terms of the work of APS. However the aim of the Garden Design Study Group has always been to improve garden design using Australian plants, not to preserve collectors' gardens. These can sometimes be well designed but this is certainly not their first priority.

If we were to support the preservation of any Australian gardens, it should be on the basis of their good design and then the problems outlined above apply. For these reasons I do not think the money from the book fund should be spent the way Barbara has suggested.

One way our gardens can be preserved to a limited extent is by keeping good photographic records ("a picture is worth 1000 words"). Not as good as the real thing and the record will of course be incomplete but what is the alternative? Could we pay a professional photographer each year, in each State which wanted to be involved, to record gardens selected on the basis of their good design, for example those which are (or have been) in the Open Garden Scheme? These beautiful photos would then be available in each State to set up a display whenever appropriate. They would also be available to illustrate future books.

One reason why the authors of our first book donated their royalties to the Group was so money would be available without hassle towards producing another book. In a second book for the general public, the focus could be on any aspects of design with Australian plants we choose. Over 10,000 copies of our first book have now been sold so it has been very successful in fulfilling one of our aims. I am looking forward to seeing the booklet produced by the NE Vic Branch - local works such as these are very important too.

Another possibility suggested by someone early on was to award a prize each year, to a student at one of the horticultural colleges where landscape design is taught, for a garden design using Australian plants. This would raise awareness of this type of design. To make the prize more substantial, it could rotate between colleges.

These are just a few ideas. I think my leaning is towards another book - but on what topic?? I'll look forward to hearing other members' suggestions.

Dear Jo,

I thought the last Newsletter was full of interest and really excellent - congratulations. Many ideas to think about/comment on. I've written separately - see above - about possible uses for the money from the book fund. The amount of information on potential street trees was marvellous.

Warm congratulations to Shirley Pipitone for attaining her Master of Landscape Architecture degree. Her proposed research sounds fascinating - I hope it goes well. As she says, having quantitative data about peoples' beliefs and attitudes is most important.

I also wonder about Chris Larkin's question "whether it is possible to develop an identifiable formal Australian design style, or will any Australian plant garden merely be imitative....".

I think such a style could develop, maybe not 100% formal but involving formal elements tweaked at the edges with informal touches. Many Australian plants can be very well behaved and formal while others are definitely more relaxed and non-conforming, even rebellious.

A distinct Australian style might involve our 'formal' and 'informal' plants combined in innovative ways. Alternatively the setting might be formal, the plants less so. This style could include, for example, very formal layouts with geometric shaped beds and symmetry but having informal planting within those beds; or a 'formal' avenue of trees with a double (or triple) row of several species 'plaited' or more informally planted. I think an Australian style must somehow be related to the national character or ethos (assuming there is one) as well as the Australian landscape and flora.

Leigh Murray's article on climbers was interesting and helpful. We too have found *Pandoreapandorana* 'Snowbells' and *P.jasminoides* 'Lady Di' to be rampant climbers. *Athanopetalum resinsum* (Gum Vine) has so far been OK for us though it can become

rampant. *Hardenbergia violacea* 'Happy Wanderer' is vigorous but not in the same league, while the white *H. violacea* 'Free 'n Easy' and *H. comptoniana* are excellent in suburban Melbourne. All the billardieras are lovely light creepers but can't be neglected in dry conditions.

Your snippets are wonderful - an inspiring Russell Page quote and two inspiring Australian women, Judith Wright and Margaret Preston.

Best wishes,

Diana Snape Vic.

TO SPEND, OR HOW TO SPEND, THAT IS THE QUESTION

Thanks Jo and newsletter contributors for a beautiful lively, interesting newsletter - lots of ideas like how to spend our accumulated funds, (largely from the sale of the book), reports, responses to previous articles and plant suggestions to inform and stimulate thinking.

Barb Buchanan's idea of money being used to seed a Garden Preservation Fund is worth thinking about and talking about although I do wonder about the logistics and mechanics of it.

Who would own these properties, which I gather would include houses as well?
 Who would assess their value as gardens or botanical collections - and would we be interested in supporting the preservation of gardens without substantial design merit?
 What kind of organisation - with what kind of budget - would be able to manage an enterprise of this kind on an Australia-wide basis? Barb says there are funds to preserve exotic gardens - are these exclusively exotic? If funds are available to preserve good gardens I imagine any good garden could qualify - an Australian plant garden included.
 We need to know more about this Barb as perhaps there is an organisation already in existence that we could support and exploit!

The organic, non-static nature of gardens makes them much harder to preserve and maintain than a building. Outside of large Botanic Gardens, supported and funded by Governments, we may need to acknowledge the inherent transience of gardens and back away from any idea that gardens that have been in private hands can have a lasting future. When a person dies we need to find a way of seeing how this person can 'live' into the future, we need to find a way of connecting with their presence in their absence, and this is generally done in talking about their spirit, or influence being alive within their community of family and friends.

We could talk in a similar way about gardens - the influence well designed Australian plant gardens have, and can have, on the style of current and future gardens. Sharing your garden with family and friends, making it available for people to visit through organisations like the Australian Plant Society (whatever it is called in your particular State) and the Open Garden Scheme are some ways to have an impact. Those people lucky enough to have photographs of their gardens included in magazines, and

particularly books, may enjoy an even more lasting influence, but I suspect at the end of the day, in the enormity of time, little will be remembered or known of our current private gardens.

This leaves the question of how to spend our pot of money.

First of all - what's the hurry, do we need to allocate this money quickly? Wouldn't it have been useful to have had the money when we needed help with publishing the book - we would have avoided having to go cap in hand to APS Vic for a loan? And we may want to have another book published at some future time; the Daisy Study Group has now published three. At the last Melbourne meeting for 2005 there was discussion about, giving some serious thought to producing a less substantial book - a booklet - on small gardens; the gardens of the new millennium. If we were to go down this 'garden path' then there is a ready made good use for the money, and even a good focus for newsletter articles over the next couple of years.

What do you think?

What kind of content would the Design Group like to see covered?

If we knew this then each newsletter may be able to seek ideas on the different sections to be included in the booklet.

Chris Larkin Vic.

Dear Jo

Have just returned from the south coast - my dear husband insisted that I have some R&R away from computer and garden after carpal tunnel operation. Thank you for your referral to Ruth Gordon - I've contacted her and we'll meet in December after she's finished current studies. Now for my abject apology: I am suitably ashamed that it's taken me this long to email you some thoughts on our phone conversation. And all you asked me for was a stream of consciousness - well, what can I say except that I've obviously been unconscious! And to make matters worse I know we covered a lot of ground and I seem to have covered very little in my email to you. Apologies and feel free to send terse reminder in point form of things I was going to expand on... Here are my (brief) thoughts further to our phone conversation:

Re the ethics of SGAP being seen to promote individuals within its ranks: When trying to find a professional, a tradesperson or whoever to undertake a project or do a job for me, I often have to wade through the Yellow Pages, local paper, internet etc.

Then I start ringing, ringing and ringing again. Some people call back, some don't.

I think this happens because one has to start somewhere when trying to find help and often the search starts with a very broad field of options. Narrowing down options enables a client to find a more suitable supplier within a shorter time and with fewer frustrations.

If a person knows they would like to have an indigenous garden, what better place to start looking than the SGAP web page? I understand that part of the SGAP ethos is promoting the understanding and use of indigenous plants, and by extension, indigenous plant use in Australian commercial and residential landscape. What better way to do this than through the resources of SGAP, with its invaluable resource bank?

How to give SGAP members the opportunity to let others know of their skills?

The next bit I'm sure is beyond my area of expertise but I could hazard a few guesses and suggest a contact who I think could be helpful: I would guess the place to display one's wares would be the SGAP webpage and maybe the Design Group newsletter? Perhaps also other landscape / design organisations - see below.

If members would like their abilities to be known, perhaps they could write a précis of the philosophy behind their work and this could be published with their contact details. I'm attaching my philosophy for you to peruse and also the précis of my design and business rationale I send to prospective clients.

Do you know Catherine Stewart? She's co-vice president of Aust. Inst. of Landscape Designers and Managers (my professional association)

Catherine wrote articles for and edited Landscape Outlook, AILDm's publication. Did a brilliant job, knows the best way to get things done and will cut quickly to the chase. I think she'd be a good person to contact for ideas. I volunteer to talk with her if you would like. I think a bit of cross pollination with AILDm, Aust Inst Horticulture, Aust Inst Landscape Architects, wouldn't hurt. What form this would take, I'm not sure. That's as far as I get before starting to have circular arguments with myself about the parameters and clarification of the original idea of providing a forum for SGAP members to air their skills.

I look forward to hearing from you, Jo.

Regards

Shane Doherty NSW

Landscape Designer & Manager
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PS Have you seen the Oct 2005 issue of Gardens Illustrated? Page 40 'The Genius of the Indigenous' - article and photos of Victorian garden by Fiona Brockhoff and David Swann - think they design and make the most wonderful indigenous gardens totally in keeping with their part of the world - Mornington Peninsula.

Dear Jo

Further to my last email to you concerning service referral within SGAP. I've just been looking on the internet for more possible wholesale indigenous plant nurseries/growers and came across a link from Victorian SGAP - as follows: Australian Native Plants Nurseries. The following nurseries advertise in our Newsletter - please support them.

Robert and Norma Brown Phone (03) 5659 8219 Open most Saturdays 340 One Chain Road, Kardella 3951 (South Gippsland)

1.5 acres of gardens - over 200 grevilleas. Plant sales include grafted grevilleas
 We are open most Saturdays but available other days. Please phone before visiting.
 This page is linked back to main SGAP Vic home page and is updated
 regularly.

Maybe we could do something like this not only for nurseries but for others
 providing services associated with the promotion of Australian native
 plants - landscape architects and designers, contractors, materials
 suppliers.

Shane Doherty NSW

Dear Jo

It was lovely to meet you and some of the Study Group members on the Cootamundra
 weekend. A big thank you to Win and Paula for putting it all together.

I am planning a proper article for the newsletter when I have organised my ASGAP notes
 and some of the photos. Meanwhile I want to let you have the names of the people who
 came to the little gathering of GDSG members and other interested people which I
 organised at the Conference.

22 people responded to the very brief announcement of a GDSG "get-together" at the end
 of the day's seminars on Wednesday 5 October. I introduced myself as standing in for you
 and spoke briefly about how the Study Group operates.

Diana Snape spoke a little about the history of the group and Chris Larkin was successful
 in getting some volunteers to write up the Conference garden visits for the newsletter.

The venue was very noisy so there wasn't much socialising but the meeting generated a
 lot more interest and discussion around the dinner table for the following couple of days.

Nicky Zaren [Rose] offered to take subs then and there from some of the people
 interested in joining the Group.

Those present were (Study Group members in green):

Ingrid Adler, ACT Ian Anderson, ACT 2605 Rutta Boarine Tas Heather Daley, NSW
 Beverley Fox, Vic Carolyn Glllard, NSW) Joan Knight, Vic Chris Larkin, NSW
 Margaret Moir, WA Paul Godwin, WA 6160 Jan Hall, Vic 3730 Janelle Harvey, NSW
 Philippa O'Brien, WA 6070 Sue Radford, WA 6111 Lyn Reilly, NSW Gold Coast Group
 Don Greer, NSW Gold Coast Group Nicky Rose, UK Peter Shannon, WA
 Jan Sked, Qld Diana and Brian Snape, Vic Rosemary Verbeeten, Tas

People who have given their address clearly want to join the Group and some of them
 have paid. Others may also be interested in joining but hopefully they will contact you.

.I'll finish with a Chinese proverb I read the other day: *All gardeners know better than
 other gardeners.* I don't think we are like that.

Regards

Shirley Pipitone ACT

Here is my extremely brief summary of the AS GAP Study Group Leaders meeting. I get to everything eventually. Chaired by Lorna Murray.

Brief outline of subsidy agreed by ASGAP for Study Group Leaders to attend future Conferences. Note that part of the motion says that it is appropriate for Leaders to use Study Group funds to help subsidise their attendance.

I think we should have a discussion about this through the newsletter. Would you like me to write something to start it off, seeing as I moved the motion?

Maria Hitchcock's proposal that ASGAP set up a database of photos of plants: agreed to compile a list of people who have good photos. No action person stated.

Discussion on publishing: someone mentioned two good free pdf converters: pdf995 and cutepdf

Some discussion of how study group leaders want to be incorporated into the ASGAP Conference program eg displays, in speakers program?

Regards

Shirley Pipitone

ASGAP Perth Conference, Oct 2004

Apologies for not reporting on garden visits at the Biennial Conference in Perth for the last newsletter; personal matters overwhelmed me and stole away the time. From memory the garden that impressed me most was not a private garden but a garden, designed using only indigenous plants, to set off a modern information centre. Close to the building entrance there was very careful placement of large-trunked xanthorrhoea specimens (australe?) with massed under-plantings of clumping *Conostylis candidans* and a lepidospermum species; further around the building there were drifts of eonospermums waving their white cotton heads aloft. The very showy red and green *Anigozanthus manglesii* had also been planted on mass but away from the building and close to an area of remnant bush. The garden was still quite young (2 years, I believe) so that the larger shrubs which had been planted were not obvious in the design but you could imagine how the design would be realised in the fullness of time.

It is interesting to note that of the 28 speakers at the conference only a few talked about growing plants and only 2 people spoke directly of growing WA plants in gardens. Most notably Mary Gray spoke about a recent project to encourage and inform gardeners about growing local plants which has resulted in the publication of a book called 'Grow With Us'. The group had 5 aims: to promote suitable WA plants, to promote good garden design, to promote practices compatible with the environment and not damaging to it, to reach out to the wider community and to involve members and branches. It is interesting to note that they developed 4 criteria for selecting plants to promote; they had to be: attractive, small, drought tolerant, available and West Australian.

N-E Vic Branch booklet

And while we are talking about books - congratulations to the N-E Vic Branch on the publication of a great little booklet to assist gardeners in their region. Local knowledge is the most valuable and worthwhile; combined with such a supportive and active group your region is very well served indeed.

Diana in the news again!

Congratulation to Diana Snape for writing a great article which appeared in Saturday's Age, December 17. With changes in the Age's gardening editor can we expect more contributions in future? The theme of Diana's article was the use of ground-covers - and she mentioned many different kinds. Would it be a good idea to reproduce the article in this newsletter or would there be problems with copyright?

Chris Larkin Vic.

Hi Jo,

Thank you so much for thinking of me and recommending me to Penny from Hassle when they needed some advice to *use natives in a coastal situation!* gave them many suggestions and they will then put them to the client who makes the final decision. It seemed they want to use exotics as well but hopefully it will turn out well, btw, I'd like to tell you about one of the *best coastal plants* that ought to be used more frequently ornamentally -

- *Allocasuarina verticillat* or *A. stricta* low coastal forms. They are a dense fluffy shrub to 1-2m (can be pruned easily) and look great with greys, white, and burgundy or rich red: such as

- *Correa alba* (coastal form),
 - *Acacia myrtifolia* with its burgundy stems,
 - *Banksia spinulosa* (coastal form),
 - *Grevillea 'Ivory Whip'*,
 - *Callistemon 'Rocky Rambler'* (burgundy flowers)
- and rich green grasses ie, *Isolepis nodosa* with one of the blue grasses ie, *Dianella 'Cassa Blue'*.

I went to the Sydney in Bloom, and Gardening Australia Festivals in Sydney. Fantastic! Did you see them? There was an interesting display with a waterfall flowing under a glass-topped outside dining table. Should be more natives used I feel, though.

Anyway, hope you are well and enjoying Spring,
Kind regards,

Maree McCarthy NSW

Jo.

As for the Cootamundra weekend you deserve a big thank you - I am sure it worked out so much, much better than you could ever have hoped for.

We managed to leave Grenfell at 2.30pm also looking all over the old mine site etc etc.

The next day I, and all the others I am sure, cleaned all the cow poo off their cars from 650 odd adult cattle and their numerous calves that we managed to pass twice. No complaints as I thought that cemetery visit was very much worth while as I have read so much about them being the last remnants of grassy woodlands.

As for the country hospitality - we are all now on diets I am sure.

Again - many thanks.

Jeff Howes NSW

Ed. Note: Jeff and Glennis won the guessing competition kindly sponsored by the Sullivans, to guess the no of cattle in the large herd we passed twice on our way to and back fro the cemetery - they were extremely close, to within 6 cows from memory I

Jo,

Just a quick word to say what a delightful weekend had been arranged for us in Cootamundra by Win Main, Paula Rumble, Irene Stocks, the Cartwrights [and you of course]. About 30 joined the tour, mostly Sydney and Canberra members. Stocks Nursery was our introduction to the plants that seem to do so well in these soils and away from Sydney's humidity....

Eremophila, WA grevillea, pretty *Pimelea physodes*, verticordia and abundantly flowering vivid *Leschenaultia*. And this is only a tiny sample of what they propagate. All gardens were wonderful, real eye openers for us Sydney suburban types especially, and displayed delightful borrowings of the expansive scenery around.

Paula, from her now expanding farmhouse garden on a hill, swept her arms to demonstrate not another house visible on the lushly green and rolling hills. New bush plantings down a slope to the east included red/pink *Euc. leucoxydon* growing in delightful mallee form having survived two severe grass fires.

Win's "Treetops"delight, nestled into a pastured hill, took full advantage of the tall *Corymbia citriodora* trunks to frame paddocks of golden canola, greenest grain crops, livestock in seas of grass and folds of tree lined hills. Below them were paths meandering through generous plantings of local and WA plants. My favourite area was the grey hedge of *Acacia iteaphylla* beside *Grevillea endlicheriana*, with *C. citriodora* seedlings among the lush native grasses.

Also included was a trip to a treasure of a cemetery at Stockinbingal where National Parks and interested locals have had mowing reduced to the minimum and native grasses, orchids, bulbs and low perennials emerge undisturbed among stands of gums and groves of *Dodonea lobulata*. The headmaster from Temora had come with his daughter to share their wealth of information and discoveries with us. I now know what to try to replicate in a paddock planting.

At Grenfell, actually a suburban sized and framed garden, the Cartwrights have collected a magnificent display of WA unusual beauties for the front garden. But around the back he had created a hillock, waterfall, watercourse [bridged], a rustic cottage amongst a stand of *Euc. caesia* and some mighty pines and massed ferns. We even sampled quandongs, both natural and in tarts!

Everywhere the hospitality, generosity and delight in the knowledge of their worlds made these hosts great company. But then the company of tourists was great as well. Thanks Jo and you lovely families in "the Bush".

I know street trees were in the last NL and I was interested in the suggestions. I read with alarm some of Gordon Rowland's selected *Corymbia* and *Eucalyptus* species. They do grow tall and most of Sydney does not have underground electricity, let alone Optus cables. Street tree pruning teams cannot be subtle in their task. There are lower growing gums that could suit, like the *Corymbia* summer series and impressive mallees. Another that concerns me is Leigh Murray's endorsement of *Livistonia australis* [cabbage tree palm] Yes, a delightful palm, but far too barbed to have amongst the public. It needs to grow in a grove where it can be observed but not brushed past. My pick as a performer after this hot dry summer is *Backhousia citriadora*, growing without supplementary water or attention, flowering generously and maintaining a tidy shape. And I'm a great supporter of the tuckeroo, once established they survive appalling conditions and still look great.

Speaking of looking great, it's a bit hard after the big bake of New Year's day [45 deg.]. With so little water left at their roots or moisture in the foliage my tree ferns frizzled and ground covering ferns with insufficient shade just burnt. I know the ferns will recover but I've trimmed off most dead sections of the tree ferns. I aim to keep some moisture in their tops to encourage new fronds. Most of the established shrubs were OK or have recovered from a slight limpness with extra buckets of water and some nice rain showers. The dust bowl that was a *Microlaena* [mown] and *Dichondra* lawn is showing some new shoots and even reviving threads - but not looking great. It is all a new experience and one to learn from and I'm sure it isn't as drastic as Paula Rumble's garden after the fires. Here's hoping her plantings look wonderful now.

Caroline Gunter NSW

Hello all,

Am passing on this email from Max Me Dowall

Maria Hitchcock

Correa Study Group Leader

You will have been concerned about how our friends in the Stawell area have been affected by the current grass and bush fires. The good news is that Neil and Wendy Marriott are well, and that they have saved their house and nursery and the immediate surroundings and buildings. The bad news is that the rest of their property is burnt out including the grevillea garden. Neil and Wendy and Wendy's son and daughter fought the flames until 3 a.m. and eventually the CFA came and helped. The eucalypts on the property including the eucalyptus arboretum, the rain forest arboretum and most of the grevillea garden have been destroyed, although the new plantings above the nursery and most of the acacias appear to have survived. When Neil and Wendy have had time to assess the damage and formulate their recovery plan, we should consider what GSG and other APS members can do to organise some help for them. Over the next 1-2 years, there will be a great surge of germination of grevillea and banksia seedlings including many hybrid seedlings of uncertain parentage, as well as a host of *Acacia implexa*

seedlings in the immediate vicinity of the grevillea garden. Ian Mitchell's Australian plant arboretum across the road appears to have been devastated

Our thoughts are with our fellow members and Australian plant gardeners at this awful time, allofus empathise with their awful loss -I am sure fellow APSers will rally around.

Hello Jo,

Although I am not into garden design I really enjoy reading your newsletters. My front garden is divided into three different gardens:

- the main one consists of about 60 eremophila species
- a smaller wildflower/grasses garden which is separated from the main garden by a pebbled area
- a kangaroo paw garden which runs alongside the driveway.

I am not into formal gardens, I like the bush effect. I agree with Diana Snape *"in the middle of suburbia, your informal Australian garden may stand out in a conspicuous way from the rest of the street, **does this matter?"***

My garden well and thoroughly stands out. The contrasting foliage of the eremophilas with the grey, green, light green merging into each other. The rising sun rays shining on the white flower heads of a 2.5m high Ozothamnus diosmifolius, and the setting sun turning the Kangaroo paws 'yellow flower head into a blazing golden colour, makes my garden very enjoyable, to me and to other people using the street judging from comments made from people walking past.

Charles Farrugia NSW

Dear Jo

Oh, I do love a bit of research. The questions that Shirley Pipitone wants answered, like the relationship between how people value the natural environment and their preferences for garden design style, are interesting. I was amazed at how many times Shirley used the word 'ethic' probably because the motivation behind Shirley's research is to 'encourage urban people to engage in more ethical behaviour' to be 'environmentally responsible' to quote her own words. And what a beautiful response you gave Jo to this article in reproducing for us a long, lovely and very thoughtful quote from Michael McCarthy.

Chris Larkin Vic.

Dear Jo,

We have rapidly moved into summer mode with strong hot north winds and occasional thunderstorms over the past fortnight, so I am rearranging the moveable plants from the sunny side of the house to the south where they will be protected from the winds. My daylight saving evenings are now spent watering pot plants. The rapidity of the change has caught many people on the hop; closely mown lawns are dying off whereas my unmown grassy sward is surviving. I hope Sydney is making a more leisurely approach to a normal summer and that your garden is thriving.

Bryan Loft Vic.

DESIGN

DESIGNING INDIGENOUS GARDENS - MY JOURNEY

Shane Doherty, Landscape Designer

My interest in the landscape, plant use and design really began when I started making a garden around my first house twenty-five years ago. I didn't know much about plants, but wanted to learn more. Many hours were spent walking around Botanic Gardens and open gardens; talking with other gardeners; visiting countless nurseries and reading all I could find about gardens and gardening. I worked out which plants stood a good chance of surviving in my Mediterranean climate garden with its heavy limestone based soil, pH 8 to 9.5, and started planting with gay abandon. In the five years spent in our first home the small, flat front and back gardens changed, flourished and became my delight. As our family grew we moved and moved again, renovating houses and gardens as we went. My design ideas started to be drawn on paper before being tried in the garden and I experimented with different combinations of plant colour, shape and texture, using both exotic and indigenous plants suited to my current garden conditions. When I returned to Sydney after some years' absence, I expanded my plant and design knowledge through studies at Ryde Horticultural College, where I was introduced to botany, horticulture, soil chemistry, landscape engineering and surveying, among other subjects. As my understanding of the complexities of imposed landscape design increased, my respect for the beauty and intricacy of the natural indigenous environment intensified. My work as a landscape designer started while I was still a student.

The way I approached landscape design and plant use in gardens gradually changed from designing and planting within the inherited constraints of garden making in the tradition of British and European gardens, where formality of construction and planting predominate, to a less imposing approach. I began to attempt to translate the broad landscape of 'the bush' to the context and scale of the residential garden. This, I found, was no simple matter. It was so much more difficult to bring the apparently artless simplicity of nature to a back garden than it was to design, construct and plant an imposing exotic garden. My journey as a designer of Australian indigenous gardens had begun.

I learned that indigenous gardens can be designed both formally and informally; formal Australian landscape design need not mimic the straight lines, hard edges and rigid planting layouts found in English and European formal design. We can use symmetry and groups of plants rather than soldier straight rows; bend and blur the edges of hard surfaces and train our plants as desired. Certainly Australian plants respond well to being pruned and trained to form; this can range from the gentle removal of dead branches and spent flowers to the more vigorous treatment needed for hedging, topiary and revealing the framework of a plant.

My exploration of Australian plants and their response to different forms of training and design has progressed and is ongoing.

Today, when designing an indigenous garden, whether formal or informal, my aim is to evoke the feeling of being 'in the bush' through sight, sound, smell and touch. Plants are chosen for form, texture and colour; for the pungent smell of their leaves or the soft scent of their flowers, and of course for their ability to invite visits from indigenous wildlife. The garden is planned with soft, indistinct boundaries; subtle pathways encourage

exploration and seating in a quiet garden corner invites a pause to reflect quietly on the beauty of a special plant or small pond.

My journey towards understanding how to design pleasing indigenous gardens is fascinating and continuing. I expect always be a traveller, learning from each different experience and enjoying the fraternity of the interesting and knowledgeable Australian plant lovers I meet along the way. I am indeed lucky.

Heed the call of nature

Elizabeth Farrelly S.M.H. 10/12/05

extract

A friend of mine, a successful London landscape architect, rails passionately against what she calls "landscape as a verb" This mystifies many people who see nothing wrong with the notion of landscaping something. The red rag, though, is the idea, hidden within that popular assumption, that landscape is something you can roll out around a building, like Astroturf perhaps, or carpet, and cut to fit. Why the resentment? Because landscape architecture, so its proponents argue, should be considered from the start of a project and designed *with the buildings* to create a unified whole.

Landscape architecture is a relatively recent name for a relatively ancient art form. The term was first used by a Scot, Gilbert Laing Meason, in his 1828 treatise, *On the Landscape Architecture of the Great painters of Italy*. Meason's focus was on architecture fitting naturally with its landscape not vice versa.

This emphasis was reversed by the first self described landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted [1822 - 1903]. Olmsted was the designer of New York City's Central Park, champion of the City Beautiful movement, and founder of the landscape architecture profession. For Olmsted, landscape architecture was one of the highest human callings -

"What artist so noble as he who, with far reaching conception of beauty...sketches the outlines, writes the colours and directs the shadows of a picture so great that nature shall be employed upon it for generations before the work he arranged for her shall realise his intentions."

Bruce Mackenzie touched on this notion briefly in his recent talk to the Twentieth Century Heritage Society of NSW. Mackenzie is one of the unsung heroes of Sydney design; unsung because his approach, which later became standard, looks at first like underdesign. Landscape architect for many of Sydney's most accomplished high-modern buildings, Mackenzie pioneered the native bush landscape in Australia; the idea that minimum intervention gave maximum value in a fragile continent.

Mackenzies landscapes include UTS Kuringai campus, Dee Why Civic centre, ANG sculpture garden, Pettit and Sevitt houses, St. Ives, Readers Digest building Surry Hills and the Iloura reserve, Peacock Point, Balmain.

All of them are now under threat, partly because they are so successful that people don't see them as made landscapes at all but as nature's handiwork, which therefore begs disdain. UTS Kuringai campus is a prime example. Built between 1966 and 1971, it was designed, say its architects with Italian hill towns in mind - plus a little influence from Frank Lloyd Wright, London brutalism and the "nuts and berries" Sydney School.

Though its presence on the rocky hillside is more castle than hill town, with tiered roof gardens cascading down the incline planted with drought resistant plants, and internal courtyard gardens bringing full height scribbly gums and paperbarks into the middle of what would otherwise be dreary university corridors.

Now 40 years on, the landscape is still integral to both the castellar massing and the delicate interior, where the greys of the eucalypts play against the silvery off form concrete, infusing the whole with a subtlety and strength that are remarkable in the architecture of any time or place.

However the threat remains real. **If this were manicured garden-scape like, say, Versailles, its demolition would be unthinkable. A bush site though automatically classifies as "potential development site".**

One can only feel for Olmsted's "artist so noble".

I have put the writer's words in bold form - I was struck how it echoed a point I had made about the destruction of the Cockburn garden at Dural, coincidentally a Bruce Mackenzie garden also, 3 years ago.

Then, I made the point that had it been an exotic garden, with the same design, it is highly likely the new owners would not have destroyed it so completely - it would have communicated or resonated with them and their definition and expectation of what a garden should be. . . .Ed.

PLANTS

Roses with other names

Phil Watson Tas.

The Rose family [Rosaceae] is a well known and economically important family incorporating numerous delightful, long established garden favourites ,roses, spiraeas, japonicas and flowering cherries, productive fruit trees and shrubs ,pears, apricots, apples, plums, loganberries etc., and notorious weeds.

For the native plant enthusiast, the family is represented in our bushland communities by a small group of intriguing but often overlooked herbs [native buzzies, or sheeps burr', Guems, Parsley Piert] as well as the scrambling, drought tolerant, thorny Native Raspberries.

Many of today's declared weeds have derived from the Rose family. They were introduced by the early colonists into the pristine native landscape for their important amenity and horticultural values of the day. "the anglicized countryside of sober green and white flowering hedgerows, the glorious hawthorn hedges in bloom"- Louisa Meredith

Within a short period some had escaped the confines of their English style gardens and farms to flourish as aggressive weeds, initiating their invasion and subsequent degradation of our vulnerable vegetation communities. Weeds such as briar rose, blackberry, hawthorn, and cotoneaster have now become well known for their ability to tolerate the toughest environmental conditions and out compete indigenous flora.

Sclerophyll and Rainforest Bark and Trunks

**Colleen Keena &
David Somerville**

I would like to commend these two articles [written by member Colleen Keena] and accompanying photographs that appear in Australian Plants June 2005 Vol 23 No 183 issue.

They are a reminder of the outstanding variety in both trunk and bark texture and colour, which occurs in so many of our Australian plant species. There is a very definite place for them in garden design with Australian plants.

hi the same journal **Neil Marriott** writes about the **Wimmera Woodland Plants**.

The Wimmera plains is a large area of deep cracking grey to red clays in the western Victorian region. Originally covered in beautiful open Buloke [*Allocasuarina leuhmanii*], Box and Yellow gum grassy Woodlands with patches of plains Grassland the region is now largely cleared and modified by agriculture. A similar story to the South West slopes of NSW. Surveys of the grassy remnants have led to the discovery of many beautiful and often rare plants, plenty of which have proven ideal for cultivation in dry Mediterranean gardens. Excellent photos and a descriptive list of these plants appear in the article.

And sensible advice from one time member, **Betty Rymer** in the **Native Plants for NSW July 2005**

"at the risk of offending those members who like to make lists, I have to say, lists of plants are useless unless related to aspect and soil. All the lists I have seen our group produce on walks over the years never tell us whether the plant grows in sun or shade, top of hill or in the gully, northerly or southerly, sandy or clay and so on - unless you know you will have trouble growing the plant."

Book Review:

Heartland: The Regeneration of Rural Place

George Main UNSW Press.

Review Bob Birrell SMH Oct 2005

George Main is appalled at the impact of industrial agriculture on the Australian landscape. His focus is on the South West slopes of NSW, an area familiar to travellers between Melbourne and Canberra.. To Main it is a countryside scraped of all traces of original landscape. There is the occasional sick yellow box, some pathetic remnants of original wetlands and flora in tiny reserves and the residue of creeks turned into drains. It is an industrial landscape dominated by the objective of high yields. Farmers have to get big to survive, in this process the SW slopes are losing not only the original flora and fauna, but also their people.

The surviving farmers and their political and commercial leaders regard the outcome as a success - the creation of a European landscape of wheat and yellow canola is the end product of a battle that generations of farmers have fought with a recalcitrant land. They have engaged in this battle with the aid of scientific agriculture and its institutional expressions like the CSIRO; even Landcare he sees as a token gesture which cloaks the continuing assault .He describes visits to prestigious properties opened under Australia's Open garden Scheme. These gardens, which typically feature exotic European trees and shrubs are a metaphor for dominance, just like the surrounding monocultural landscape. No more potent symbol of human alienation from the local environment than these gardens could be imagined: not a hint of a native shrub, including the sweetly perfumed chocolate lilies that once flourished in the district.

The consequences of this insensitivity is an unsustainable form of agriculture with a potentially disastrous downside. Main joins a long line of distinguished pessimists in these judgements; Griffith Taylor, Tim Flannery and Jared Diamond to name a few.

"Australia Speaks"

Daniel Bunce [1812-1872], a botanist, viewed the Tasmanian vegetation with a gardener's eye. Writing in his *Manual of Practical Gardening Adapted to the Climate of Van Diemen's Land*, he predicted that

"native plants... would become a handsome ornament to shrubberies, provided a little taste was displayed in planting them according to their size and habits of growth".

Although he knew colonial gardeners were in the habit of furnishing their gardens by digging up plants in the wild, he was adventurous enough to include Australian plants in his 1836 nursery catalogue. As his travels through Van Diemen's Land grew more extensive, he began advertising "native seeds collected by himself... in some of the most unfrequented parts of this island."

"Clearings" **Paul Fox.**

"Garden plants in all their glory now dominate our worst weeds lists making up a staggering 30 percent of all our noxious weeds and accounting for 7 of our 18 worst environmental weeds.

Beauty was their passport to Australia. From distant lands they were brought here to brighten our gardens, parks and ponds, to lend colour and shade to a new land.

We are locked into an absurd cycle of introducing new garden plants - new weeds to be whenever older ones become weedy and fall out of favour.

Australians urgently need to adopt a new gardening ethos. We must accept that gardening within a kilometer or so of bushland, rivers or beaches entails an ecological responsibility."

"Feral Future" **Tim Low**

NB: fellow member Gordon Rowland is passionate about this subject and speaks most eloquently on it - if you get the chance to hear him lecture, or are able to drop in and talk to him and Marie you will find it time well spent..

Report on Sydney Group's meeting - Cootamundra Weekend 21-23Oct 05.

Where to begin to try and describe our terrific weekend away to the South West slopes of NSW? [see Caroline Gunter's article in Correspondence].

Weekends away, such as this, our two meetings on the Sth. Coast [Anne and Geoffrey Long and Norm and Maureen Webb] and the Central Coast a year ago [Tom and Ann Raines] have proved very popular with our members and there is a wonderful energy and camaraderie, created I guess by people who share the same passion and enjoy each other's company

A big thank you to the members who have organized these marvelous weekends in the past - long may the tradition continue. The Coota w'end appealed to our ACT members and friends too, so it was a great opportunity to meet fellow members, previously only names!

South West Slopes GDSG members, Win Main, Paula Rumble and Irene Stocks organized a truly fantastic weekend for us, rich in both Australian plant learning experiences and social interaction, set against a backdrop of a countryside literally glittering with the after effects of buckets of rain! Brimming blue dams, verdant pastures and sleek cattle were unexpected pleasures. At dusk, voluminous storm clouds would gather hovering above the encircling purple ranges - exquisite.

Friday afternoon saw us meet at **Irene and Ben Stocks' Native Nursery**, in the picturesque little town of **Harden**. Ben and Irene established the nursery after becoming involved with Landcare and propagating plants - cuttings and seeds - for use in that program. The nursery now supplies plants to places as far afield as Tamworth, Griffith Victoria and the Coast. Harden has the same temperature as Canberra, so of course it is popular with ACT enthusiasts as well.

The nursery and house are high on a hill with sweeping views of the surrounding countryside, not a dwelling in sight. A huge variety of native species have been planted around the homestead and nursery area giving it protection and privacy as well as showcasing the plants themselves. Ben and Irene have made substantial plantings, in raised beds linked by gravel paths, on the slope of the hill - this provides a mentally relaxing [especially round the billabong] but sensorially stimulating, bush garden walk amongst a myriad of flourishing dry climate species, all available to purchase and most propagated on site.

Ben noted that land clearing and agriculture has taken a huge toll on indigenous species in the area and cemeteries are one of the few places where indigenous material can be found. He guided us through the electronically operated greenhouse and explained his use and experimentation with hydroponic techniques.

That evening we had a truly delicious meal at the Terracotta Restaurant, Harden and afterwards the chef regaled us with funny poems, even doing requests. Irene had also organized two lucky door prizes - Stocks' plants of course! www.stocksnativenursery.com.au

Saturday morning, before going to the Main's property, Win had organized an inspection of the **Stockinbingal cemetery** for us. Here, schoolmaster and APS member Bill Godman gave us a talk on the fast disappearing remnant grasslands. The cemetery is particularly interesting as it has overlapping ecosystems - yellow box/ kangaroo grass and grey box /wallaby grass with a white box community nearby.

To quote Bill "the Stockinbingal cemetery is besieged by wheat fields and grazing pastures on all sides. They are testimony to the way in which the industrious European over a few generations have modified the original landscape. The Stockinbingal cemetery is a porthole onto the past. A tenuous sliver of land that gives us some idea of how our natural landscape may have looked prior to European settlement. It is rare, beautiful and precious and deserves the highest conservation status"

I have Bill's excellent and descriptive notes on the species growing at Stockinbingal as well as a pamphlet Paula gave me on restoring Grassy white box woodlands -please contact me if you would like these -I am very happy to run off copies and post them out - unfortunately space does not permit me to include them in the NL.

I'm sure a truly beautiful garden could be made using these species .One could create a true blue Aussie meadow, full of the most wonderful little treasures - ideal for a small areas or pots too.

Next, we had Win Main's garden "Treetops" and Paula Rumble's "Weventure" to explore and delight in. I shall leave the story of the gardens to those people best able to tell it, their creators

"TREETOPS"

Win & Jim Main NSW

After living for 12 years on a family property 38kms west of Cootamundra, we purchased Treetops in 1977. In 1979 I joined the newly formed SW Slopes SGAP based at Cootamundra. My home before my marriage had been on a property between Gulgong and Dunedoo in Central NSW. This is where my interest in native plants began because there was native bush on the property and on adjoining land. We had a paddock called Bluebell. This was where *Stypandra glauca* grew. What a splendid sight that paddock was in springtime.

Our native area here at Treetops [and yes we do have exotics] just developed without much thought - no GDSG then!

Continuing drought conditions over 3 years [finally breaking in June this year] gave us a number of losses. All the *Euc. scoparia* and *nicholii*, a couple of *Angophora costata* and various grevilleas and correas succumbed to the dry. Minimal watering, and for some none at all, kept the rest alive. Over the last year we have been spreading gravel around the native area to eliminate the need for grass cutting and we are both happy with this effect. I must say that this garden in its wild and weedy state gives us both much pleasure.

Three years ago, with the help of family and friends we did a planting of a large number of indigenous trees and shrubs on the hill to the NW of the house. This was done at the onset of the drought - about a third have survived. Two years ago, lower down on the same hill, 9kms of indigenous seed was sown following the contours of the hill. Drought continued and the few plants that germinated were eaten by kangaroos.

During the drought a flock of budgerigars appeared, having flown in from an arid area where they appear in their thousands. We have never seen them here before. We have a pair of wedge tailed eagles that circle overhead and superb parrots come in the early summer to feed on ripening acacia seed.

A dehydrated wombat dug a hole near our verandah during a heat wave 2 years ago. It left early next morning after having a drink of water we left beside it. Wombats are not known in this area. Kangaroos have hopped past our bedroom window and presently a hare is sharpening its teeth on small shrubs. A recent visitor was an echidna who had a great feed at an ants' nest.

This is all a part of bush living and at this stage of our lives we can't imagine living anywhere else.

"WE VENTURE"

Paula Rumble NSW

In 1970, when I moved into the homestead at 'Weventure' with my husband and young son Tim, I began to turn the house and garden into my own home. Originally, there were Elm trees on the Western side of the house and Pinus Radiata on the Northern side. The Pines were large and dying so they were removed. The fence was close to the house with a small garden at the front and a vegetable garden on the southern side.

We initially moved the front fence out about 10 metres and planted more lawn, trees and shrubs. Four more children came along and the years were filled with many busy family activities. I still found a little time to garden, making many mistakes but learning all the time.

In 1985, whilst walking along a revegetated area on our farming property, I was thinking about how lovely it was, alive with birds and insects, beautiful colours and textures. I thought, 'if this area can grow like this with no care or added water then why couldn't I do this in my house garden?'

I knew little about Australian plants, but joined the SGAP and so began the experience of learning about exceptional flora. I read books, listened to experts and visited gardens, taking garden design and all aspects of horticulture into account.

So ... the fences were moved out in all directions. The drive was re-directed into the garage from the western side, more garden beds and paths put in. Our garden has been burnt out in 1987 and 1990. Some of the eucalyptus have become multi-trunked but many smaller plants died. You begin again!

The garden is still developing. I love to recycle and try to use things in a creative way. The 'snake' is a piece of drift wood salvaged from the beach, the kangaroos and possums cut from corrugated iron. My father made the beautiful garden bird house and wishing wells. The laundry trolley under the clothesline was an engagement gift. After using it for thirty seven years, faithfully wheeling out the washing, it gave up the ghost and is now having a happy retirement painted pink and planted with small succulents.

The viewing platform and brick walls were built by two of our sons. The wire nests were made by magpies - one even has a pair of wire spectacles woven into it.

For the benefit of people interested in design, the garden is situated on a hill with beautiful views of farming land. The house is nestled in garden beds with a backdrop of eucalyptus and currajong trees. The drive into the garage is through the western side and passes under large elm trees. The southern side consists of utility areas, potting shed and a small courtyard. The north side (front garden) has a large lawn, curved beds and trees and a circle of prostrate Cootumundra wattle. Areas are kept open to accommodate the views, we use the lawn for games and parties, in summer the grass dies down and comes back to life with rain.

The eastern garden, my favourite, consists of shrubbed beds and trees, winding paths, seating areas and a sundial. This area receives no water and is rather wild with many lovely plants growing, such as chocolate and bulbine lillies, wahlenbergia, grevilleas, westringia, wattles, correas, grasses and many more.

I have lots of birds including quails, lizards, roos even an echidna visits from time to time and, yes, the odd brown snake wriggles in.

My water is from a salty bore, so watering is kept to a minimum. The plants do not thrive on it, so they have to tough it out. The disadvantages are plants tend to grow slower and be smaller. Advantages are they look after themselves.

I love my garden. It has given me so much pleasure. I love my little blue wrens especially. My husband Paul has been such a wonderful helpmate over the years, he is truly the most loving super man!

Size: about 1 hect. Climate: 40 to -8 Soil: garden loam to rocky shale, ph slightly acid
Water: tank for domestic use, bore for garden and troughs Wind: mainly westerly or easterly.

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Saturday night we dined in Cootamundra and were up bright and early to visit our last garden "**Alumuna**" owned by **Noel and Sharon Cartwright** at Grenfell.

The Cartwrights are always on the look out for unusual and striking native plants and their garden is full of rare and difficult to find natives. The WA species revel in the dry hot climate and raised beds, we Sydneysiders marveled at their health and variety.

In this garden many of the plants including drifts of white and yellow everlasting daisies, hakeas, grevilleas, Geraldton wax and mint bushes have been propagated from seed or grafted onto hardy root stock. Darwinias from the Stirling ranges in WA can be seen growing alongside natives from the eastern states. Red, yellow and orange kangaroo paw, chorzemas and blue lechenaultias have been used to add contrasting colour.

In the back garden a recreated cottage [Noel's pottery studio] is nestled amongst the rocks and eucalypts and nearby a waterfall, lilly pond and decorative stone bridge complete the picture.

What is an Australian garden without a black stump? Well, Norm has one of those too, a huge, gnarled old monster set amongst some rainforest plantings.

After a delicious morning tea of scones and home made lilly pilly jam and cream we reluctantly turned for home.

Next Sydney meeting: Sunday, May 28th 06 , Ros Andrew's garden and Betty Maloney's garden by kind permission of its new owners. RSVP: Jo Hambrett

LAST MELBOURNE MEETING

We were blessed with a fine sunny day for our break-up at Pan and Jim Yarra's home in Heathmont. As we sat around the table out on their veranda, apart from some distant views of exotic trees, we felt quite tucked away and secluded in a bush setting; large shrubs up around the deck adding to the effect. The high level of privacy the Yarra's are able to achieve is helped by the fact that they are fenced off from only one close side neighbour. The neighbour behind has an access driveway running down the other side of their property but it is unfenced and not noticeable from the house (or the veranda where we were sitting); beyond that driveway the land falls away to the open space of a

reserve/drainage easement where a creek has unfortunately been replaced by drainage pipes.

In reverse of many gardens seeking to screen out neighbours by using tall plantings along the property perimeters, Pam and Jim orientated their house to the open space and developed a garden close around the house with lawns adjoining the driveway which has been constructed with a lovely gentle curve to soften what would otherwise be a hard straight line.

The give and take between these neighbours is instructive and heartening; they share mowing in an easy going way and appear unconcerned about territorial lines. Pam and Jim said they were interviewed by these neighbours who subdivided their property from their own 26 years ago now and this has resulted in a happy arrangement for both families.

Pam and Jim tried to retain as much of the bush as they could when choosing their home and having it built. Remnant eucalypts are a lovely feature of the garden and give it that wonderful sense of place that is difficult to achieve in any other way. The garden has many different sections including a very long cat garden running down the narrow space between the one and only side fence and their house. There is also a vegetable garden and place for propagating. Gardening conditions are generally dry and shaded. It's always interesting to see what can survive and even thrive under those conditions; plants like *Lasiopetalum floribunda* and *Chorilaena quericifolia* can do so as can many others, hi fact let me make a request through this newsletter - please Pam, list some of your best plants and plant combinations for these conditions for the next newsletter.

Chris Larkin

MELBOURNE MEETINGS FOR 2006

With Quarterly meetings and Maroondah garden outings the calendar for 2006 is already getting crowded and we have been forced to choose dates around other activities. The dates below are provisional (except for the next meeting date) and I would appreciate being informed if we need to make any changes.

March 12 Meet at Diana and Brian Snape's home, at 2pm.

Discussion will be about the future direction for this group, possibly including a review of our aims. Please come prepared to discuss this BUT also at the last meeting we decided to focus our thoughts on what could be said about designing a garden (to some extent at least) so that there are wonderful, inviting views from inside the house. Ideas on this latter theme would be best jotted down on paper, even if in point form, so that something of value can be written up for the next newsletter.

May 28 This is the long anticipated grand opening of the Australian Plant Garden at the Cranbourne Botanic Annex.

This should be an historic occasion not to be missed. Times not to hand but there will surely be more publicity closer to the event.

June 11 Cheryl Southall's garden in Mooroolbark.

Cheryl's 20year plus garden is on a steep block of land facing west. It has beautiful ponds (renovated a few years back by Colin Turner) which are used by the local bird life. You look down at the ponds from house level so they are a major focus of the garden. Cheryl's garden has been in the Open Garden Scheme once to date and is due to be in again in the next season which starts in spring 2006; the garden also featured recently on Gardening Australia. Cheryl has had her garden photographed by Michael Marmach and has spoken enthusiastically about its development and her design philosophy to APS groups in the past. It is interesting to note that Cheryl had help from Kath Dearie in the early stages of the garden's development.

Sept 10 Revisit the garden of member Bev Fox after first visiting her sister's garden close by which was also designed by Roger Stone.

Nov26 End of Year lunch at the home of member Marg James,

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A **Very Big Welcome** to **NEW** Members:

Romaine Harmor NSW, Romaine has a Hort.certificate and a Hort Diploma in Landscape Design
Leigh Tuck

Sue Bendel

Hilary Merritt ACT and

Rosalind Walcott ACT

Hilary is interested in maintaining year-round interest in small gardens and in infiltrating natives into a housing complex' exotic garden.

Rosalind is interested in bush gardens and water features

This brings the number of financial members to 119.

Bryan Loft,
Treasurer/ Membership

" sometimes the most poignant qualities of a site come not from what is actually there but from what is connected to it, through time and space, by our recollections and hopes."

C.W. Moore et al, "The Poetics of Gardens"