



# GARDEN DESIGN STUDY GROUP

ISSN 1039 – 9062  
ABN 82 428 110 028  
**Newsletter**  
**November 2009**

**68**

STUDY GROUP LEADER / EDITOR  
Jo Hambrett

TREASURER / MEMBERSHIP  
Jeff Howes

email: [tudortalisman@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tudortalisman@optusnet.com.au)

email: [gdsghmembership@yahoo.com.au](mailto:gdsghmembership@yahoo.com.au)

Website: <http://asgap.org.au/design.html> or Google 'Australian Garden Design'

---

Dear Members,

A reminder to those members who haven't yet renewed their 09-10 membership - now is the time! The membership form is on our website so in order to keep receiving your Newsletters, fill it in and post to Treasurer, Jeff Howes asap.

Sadly, Lyn Thompson the very well known APS NSW stalwart, passed away recently. Lyn and her sister Merle have been deeply involved in the ANPS organisation on Branch, State and Federal levels for many years; both giving their time and expertise unstintingly to the Society. All of us are thinking of you Merle at this difficult time.

A member has contacted us concerned about the privacy issues of publishing their (professional) contact details in the Newsletter. This has a bearing on putting professional members details up on the website – a question which was asked last NL and to which we yet haven't had any response. Naturally, we offer a sincere apology to our member for any inconvenience caused.

In the Correspondence section of NLs 67 & 68, members Robyn Diamond, Peter and Wilma Garnham and Daniel Rowland have raised interesting and important points for this Study Group going forward. Re photos in the Newsletter: quite a few members have expressed a not unreasonable desire to see photos in the NL. I am afraid your editor is the sticking point here! I am not convinced that the size and quality of the photos in the newsletter, in its present form, would sufficiently enlighten the subject of garden design using native plants. Peter and Wilma Garnham wrote of the possibility of a colour magazine, certainly it would be a superb achievement – but a *super committed committee* would be necessary for this to succeed – more time and more money would be needed. If there are members who are willing take over the photos and formatting of a new look Newsletter, I am more than happy to work with them to deliver a product that the majority of the members want. Robyn mentions the possibility of doing more on the website; there is no doubt that the future of most printed matter lies with the web; indeed this NL could very well be online and accessed by members via a password right now. Photos in this medium would then be more relevant as quality and size could increase. I had thought that this would be the way my successor would probably go but if there is significant interest in this alternative it can certainly be looked at now. I will still need a photo - web expert, as the amount of time I have to spend on our quarterly newsletters is finite. Feedback, as always, most welcome.

What did members think Phillip Robinson's excellent suggestions in NL 67? I would be interested in members' thoughts on the numerous articles in that NL too.

# INDEX

## 3 CORRESPONDENCE

## 7 DESIGN

The Australian Landscape Conference	Diana Snape Vic.
Change, in Landscape and Gardens	Diana Snape Vic
Modern Gardens	Barbara Buchanan Vic.
The Garden of Joy	Joy Cook NSW
Borrowed Landscape, a few thoughts	Jeff Howes NSW

## 18 PLANTS

A Trip to Hartwood Station in the Riverina	Jo Hambrett NSW
--	-----------------

## 20 MEETINGS

ANPSA 25 <sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting Geelong 2009	Chris Larkin Vic.
--	-------------------

## 24 TREASURER'S REPORT

## CORRESPONDENCE

I would happily pay extra for a colour newsletter with photos. I like the open debate format ( eg: on formal design) ; other topics I would be interested in include the environmental impact of using artificial hybrids and non indigenous plants.

**Daniel Rowland NSW**

Is anyone qualified to write about designing gardens in fire prone areas? I don't need this but we see " inflammatory" articles denigrating the Eucalypt in particular ( see Diggers Seeds newsletter) and all those people living in lovely bush areas would probably appreciate a sensible discussion!

Thanks for continuing to provide stimulating food for thought and hopefully inspiration to create our gardens in a considered long term way.

**Jan Hall Vic.**

*An excellent suggestion Jan. I for one am very philosophical about living in the bush and the possibility of fires. People who choose to live surrounded by trees do by choice. Bushfire is always a risk and one that must be accepted. If the risk is an unacceptable one then the answer seems to me to be simple – don't live in the bush. There are any number of bush free suburbs and urban areas from which to choose. Removing the bush so there are no bush fires is rather like draining the ocean because of sharks. However I continue to be amazed at the number of eucalypts planted as street trees – they aren't the most wind resistant or shady plant to choose! Such a dichotomy – bulldoze the bush to keep us safe from those awful eucalypts and yet plant them out as street trees....yet another horticultural conundrum. JH*

Maybe we should do more on the website, examples of good gardens, plants, how - to step by step with accompanying photos etc.?

**Robyn Diamond NSW**

I enjoy the Newsletter and reading of others' concerns. My "gardening" this year has mostly related to a fire through all the property in January.

**Peter Shannon W.A**

*More information on this very dramatic gardening year please Peter! JH*

(I would like to see) contributions on native grasses and other grassland species for use in garden design as well as native water plants for use in garden ponds.

**Ian Anderson ACT**

Thanks for the great newsletter. As a new member I thought that someone from the Victorian group might have contacted me – I shall give it another go!

**Michelle Banfield Vic.**

*An interesting point you raise Michelle and an important one as well. Probably due to the fact that the study groups are national, most contact is by email or post unless, of course, members are able to attend the various meetings held during the year. Please feel very free to contact Chris Larkin, Di Snape, the new, yet to be appointed, leader of the Victorian branch or me if you have any queries. Naturally this applies to all new members. JH*

(I would like to see in the Newsletter) the inclusion of photos and, if members could include in their stories of the development of their gardens, details like soil, climate, rainfall and aspect.

**Maree Avendano NSW**

*Yes, an excellent suggestion Maree - all very important things to include if the articles are to be study- group scientific and thus provide information within a correct context. JH*

I would like more information on design for tropical Coastal Queensland and also Central West Qld. I enjoy Lawrie Smith's articles.

**Ruth Crosson Qld.**

In early August 2009, I drove to Melbourne for a short stay, to see the excellent Pompeii exhibition at their museum. While in Melbourne I was reading the gardening section of one of their weekend newspaper (I forget to record which one and the date). In this article, Jennifer Wilkinson was describing the removal of two of her *E. Leucoxydon* Rosea gum trees because they were flammable and too close to the house. Jennifer then asked the question "what is the ideal non-flammable, small to medium sized, leafy and bird attracting replacement tree?" I would also have stated that it needs to be able to survive on low rainfall. I have no

suggestion as I live in Sydney; however the question needs to be answered, especially when designing gardens in a fire prone area.

I feel sorry for our Melbourne and Victorian members as Melbourne is now officially the driest capital city ('Melbourne is the nation's driest capital' The Melbourne Age, page 7, 30/07/09). This article also stated that there is the potential for more catastrophic bushfires exceeding the summer of 2009. As at 9am, July 28 the Bureau of Meteorology supplied the follow rainfall figures so far this year:

Melbourne 158 mm, Adelaide 307 mm, Perth 372 mm, Hobart 438 mm, Sydney 674 mm, Brisbane 784 mm and Darwin 1086mm.

If this continues as predicted, then there will be a lot of garden redesigning and new planting by our Victorian members.

### **Jeff Howes NSW**

I first opened my Sydney garden as part of the Australian Open Garden Scheme (AOGS) in September 1999 and did not know what to expect. At that time, there were not many gardens open that predominately featured all or nearly all native plants. On a lovely sunny spring weekend, I had 140 people visit my garden and the majority of them were very surprised to see native plants growing and flowering profusely in a garden situation in the middle of suburbia – not what they expected at all. As well, a lot of them did not know very much about native plants and I spent most my time giving advice as to where they had been going wrong. Since my first opening, all those years ago, I have opened my garden another five times and have seen a big change in attitude towards Australian native plants. There are now many more visitors and they are much more knowledgeable about selecting and growing our native plants. They are also better informed about the increased range of reliable native plants available in nurseries. My opening this year was in September, so by the time you read this it will all be over and I will be celebrating with a good Rutherglen Muscat. A few hints to anyone think of opening:

- ❖ Nature is fickle – what was flowering at your opening times last year does not mean it will be flowering at your opening. It never ceases to amaze me on the variability of flowering times.
- ❖ Weeks before opening, a plant will die and leave an enormous 'hole' as has happened to me this year. Another plant or two will be planted and only you will know they have not been there all the time
- ❖ Have someone available to supply you with drinks and lunch as you will be talking constantly about your garden and will need refreshments to keep your stamina up.
- ❖ The scheme's local co-ordinator and selector in your area will supply valuable help in preparing for your opening.

If you are thinking of opening, please do, as it is enormous fun and you will be surprised about how clever you are and how much you do know about native plants. I can arrange for a selector to visit you and talk about the scheme, just contact me.

To find out about gardens open in your area, the best way is to purchase the excellent value AOGS Guide Book which is available from newsagencies and book shops, from late August each year. There are many native gardens opening in all states, together with "Special Event' gardens which are great value and well worth visiting.

Feel free to talk to me about the scheme.

e-mail me at: [Jeffh978@yahoo.com.au](mailto:Jeffh978@yahoo.com.au)

**Jeff Howes**

Sydney AOGS Committee Member and Selector.

## DESIGN

### **The Australian Landscape Conference 2009**

This biennial conference, organized by Warwick Forge and John Patrick, is always interesting with its mix of overseas and home-grown speakers. This year there were only two of the latter. First, Stephanie Alexander told of the inspiring work she and her Foundation are doing with primary school children as they learn to enjoy growing, cooking and eating their own food (especially vegetables and herbs). In these days of obese children, it's an excellent movement that's slowly gaining ground.

Later, Josh Byrne of 'Gardening Australia' spoke on integrated water systems for sustainable urban landscapes, the topic he is currently working on for his Ph.D. His facts and figures were most impressive as he compared in great detail the water savings gained at his place by the use of rainwater and grey water. To make sure no water is wasted, it's carefully metered and delivered by drip system to individual plants. Of course his soil is very sandy and well-drained, unlike the clay we have here in Melbourne. Also in his small garden there are no established trees or large shrubs, which make maintenance of ground water something I think we need to consider. I like the term 'hydrozoning' for putting plants of similar water requirements together in the garden.

The following are my personal brief responses to the overseas speakers and of course do not do them justice. Nearly all their work involved large gardens on which very large amounts of money were spent. Rosemary Alexander from the U.K. and Nancy Power from the U.S.A. both gave impressive presentations. Rosemary's gardens were very formal and constrained - she believed in "working to the grid" - photogenic but ultimately nothing new. She said "Clients feel safe with classical gardens". (I did like her recommendation for wide, shallow steps - 4 inches (10cm) by 18 inches (45cm) with an overhang to give a shadow.) Nancy's numerous gardens were more varied, including Mediterranean gardens with citrus trees and water. Her own was quite small. She did praise a *Leptospermum laevigatum* hedge and I also liked her dry humour - "Roses don't have good legs".

However I felt I really gained little new insight from their talks. Both were generally focussed on deciduous trees and/or a palette of soft-leaved plants that would have no hope of surviving now in southern Australia. The gardens they showed generally had a lush look, unattainable in a water-strapped climate, and used a range of plants quite inappropriate for an Australian "sense of place". Northern Australia has a very different climate but here I think our wonderful tropical plants are far more suitable than European annuals or soft shrubs and they also give their own special 'look'.

Two French landscape designers spoke separately about the gardens they have designed together. Eric Ossart described and showed their gardens in Morocco, where they have lived for some years. Here buildings have a plain, walled exterior while inside there may be a beautiful courtyard garden. They're the typical gardens of desert areas, always with some

water. Arnaud Maurieres illustrated their very different gardens in France. He said that while country gardens must link to the landscape, for urban gardens "there is no landscape". Also around the same building there are many microclimates, so many different gardens exist within the one garden.

Marta Montero spoke about South American artist and designer Roberto Burle Marx and 'the lyrical landscape' including the use of curved beds, massed planting and colour. Looking more to the future, I did enjoy hearing from Edmund Snodgrass about roof gardens and seeing the numerous examples he showed. He talked about the ecosystem services provided by roof gardens and explained in some detail the structural support required for them. Six distinct layers are required, though some of these can be combined in certain materials. In brief, the taller the plants grown, the heavier the sub-structure needed. Plants can go from low succulents and grasses to shrubs and even trees. Edmund talked about the use of native plants, self-sowing plants and seasonality in roof gardens. The aim is for 'low imports' of both water and nutrients.

Australia now has a few green roofs but Europe (especially Germany and Norway), Canada and America are way ahead of us. In Stuttgart, for example, roof gardens are mandated for any flat roof. I hadn't realized they can be grown on slopes of up to 45 degrees. There's an enormous amount of information out there (just google 'greenroofs' to see). I hope we'll have an increasing number of green roofs here, especially in our cities to help reduce the heat island effect. It's claimed the temperature of Chicago has been lowered 7 degrees by greening roofs.

The highlight of the conference for me was hearing Thomas Woltz, an enthusiastic American involved in designing a great number of landscapes, some on a very large scale. He talked about being consistent in your approach to a project - "following your own story". In his first talk he described how he persuaded councils and/or developers to let him 'daylight' streams that had been confined in underground pipes for many years, in order to create attractive waterways through urban (or suburban) development projects.

Thomas uses local plants where possible for connection to place. Some of his work is similar to revegetation projects but he deliberately designs with local plants rather than using them in a more natural way. In New Zealand he is part of a team working on the design of a very large coastal property which is a farm but also serves as an example of 'conservation agriculture'. One complete headland has an enclosure fence to keep out feral animals, so sea birds can nest there safely. He talked about developing strategies for biodiversity. To measure their success, specialists in many fields have carried out studies of the wildlife as a 'baseline for biodiversity', so progress can be studied over the years ahead. He also uses 'eyes', small devices to measure and record over a two-year period the temperature of the air and water at selected places. He consulted the local Maori people to get their input to the project. This short description does not reflect the range of his work, which I thought was inspiring.

**Diana Snape Vic**



## **Change, in landscapes and gardens**

If we want to create a truly naturalistic garden, we might have in mind a picture of a particular type of Australian landscape. Depending on where we live, this could be a shrubby or grassy woodland, a heathland or grassland, a wildflower garden, or other types. A large garden could combine several of these. In some areas a rainforest would be appropriate but our hardwood forests have always been problematical for a home garden and even more so after the recent terrible fires.

For our garden, my vague picture includes some of the above categories. It's not a large garden and is quite a mixture so it can't be truly naturalistic! However, it's certainly influenced by natural scenery in the grouping of plants and the look of the garden as a whole. I suspect that's typical of many of our 'naturalistic' gardens. I'm currently trying to come to terms with the levels of change and sustainability in our garden, especially in the light of this summer's severe weather conditions. We lost many plants, most small and easily replaced but a few more important, larger ones, leaving noticeable gaps. Our nursery is full of potential replacements.

Natural landscapes in Australia are subject to change. So is our garden. I think change is a key characteristic of many (most?) Australian landscapes and gardens. A natural landscape changes during the year in a somewhat cyclical way with the seasons and weather conditions. In a landscape you know well, it's surprising to see just how much change there can be during a year. For example, small plants come and go, occasionally a tree dies. So it's not surprising that during the year our gardens change a lot too. However in the garden, changes aren't linked into natural ecological cycles and plants don't necessarily change in step with each other.

A natural landscape also changes over time as plants age at different rates, respond in different ways to climatic conditions, have different lifespans and reproduce in different ways, with greater or less success. Over time all that happens in the garden too but the changes are less co-ordinated, more disconnected from each other. For example, plant deaths in the natural landscape are just part of the pattern and are then compensated for by growth of other plants to fill the vacuum. Some plants do reproduce naturally in the garden but not many and those that do may become 'weedy' because there's no natural limit to their spreading.

So generally it's not surprising that there is so much change in our gardens, in sympathy with the natural Australian landscape. Overall the biggest difference is in the long-term sustainability of the natural landscape and lack of sustainability in our unnatural gardens. It's probably only by having a completely indigenous garden that one can hope to have a sustainable garden and even then it must be difficult to get the balance right. I suspect all other types of 'naturalistic' garden require continual input from the owner in terms of pruning, planting, weeding, etc. Of course for us gardeners, that maintenance is no problem! It's gardening. However - and I think this is important - it does mean that the garden is dependent on its gardener for an ongoing life.

**Diana Snape VIC.**

## **Modern Gardens**

*A modern garden, 'is one in which people sit rather than just passing through en route to somewhere else.'*

This comment by a prominent English garden designer in an article in Gardens Illustrated set me thinking. We don't usually sit in our garden, we work in it, stroll round for gentle exercise or to discover the latest new flowers or we come inside to rest. My husband hates sharing food with flies so we have never developed the barbeque lifestyle. We have never set aside an area with seats and table for resting. Maybe it is time we did, but I think it may be connected to living in the country. Those of our offspring who live in the big smoke do all the outdoor living things, those who are in the bush, don't. We are lucky enough to be immersed in the great outdoors and don't need special efforts to enjoy it.

There has been plenty written about outdoor living rooms and courtyards and I remember being impressed by a comment by Derek Fell in his beautiful book on Monet's gardens that his borders were developed to be painted, which meant being viewed from fixed points rather than walked past. This influenced their planting. Elsewhere he made stroll gardens. Lucky man to have the space for both, something in very short supply in urban gardens. It suggests that for the modern garden, viewed from a fixed seating area, it is important to create pictures, satisfying plant groupings that give pleasure the whole year. A tall order, using living material, no wonder show gardens depend so much on hard landscaping. Monet did not have the problem with his typical European borders of herbaceous plants, our small woody shrubs are much more of a challenge.

The answer as I see it is in pruning, both careful selective clipping to keep the shrub within its allotted space while maintaining a natural shape, and overall trimming to create shapes. This latter can, but need not develop into the equivalent of parterres with clipped box hedges. I have seen a 'staircase to the sky' made from a row of five or so small leaved myrtaceae arranged in ascending order. A rapid turnover of specimens as better forms become available is feasible in small areas, here at Myrree it is hard enough to keep up with removing the dead and dying. (Is there an end to the drought in sight?) I also predict a development of our native bulbs, annuals and herbs to suit the size of urban plots, but also to enable all season interest in a restricted space.

The same article also claimed that '*gardens satisfy people most profoundly when they provide both refuge and prospect*', i.e. an enclosed secure feeling with a view to the outer world. A truism that is hard to live up to in suburbia, but perhaps one to bear in mind. I know the borrowed view of the row of gums along a nearby creek influenced me in the choice of our 'town house' in Benalla. As the intervening fences and roofs are being screened out we are moving towards these twin aims. That part of the planting is quite simple, creating the picture to sit and dream in is much tougher and only time and experience will see it done. That's not the right word, done. A garden is never done, there's always something to tweak.

**Barbara Buchanan Vic.**

## **The Garden of Joy**

Leaving behind a thirty year old garden can be devastating, especially if that same garden held ones history of gardening with Native Plants. Exiting Melbourne was heavily influenced by the opportunity to start a new garden in a bush setting and the privilege of being able to share the wonders of the FAR SOUTH COAST, magnificent views and an abundance of wildlife.

Our property in Tathra, purchased in December 2002, is opposite a reserve overlooking the Bega River. It is only a small block, 1423metres square, but the outlook from the front of the property gives the impression of being in the middle of the bush. Although we have neighbours in very close proximity at the rear and on either side, it is that view from the front facing west, through the trees and down the river with the blue hills in the distance that convinced us that we could make something special out of this property.

### **STARTING THE GARDEN**

We were presented with a relatively new home facing west on a steeply sloping block of land covered with Kikuyu grass. Doesn't sound ideal does it? The house stood out like a

sore toe when viewed from the street . To accommodate a steep slope the house is built up at the front and gradually decreasing in height to ground level at the rear. We were impressed with the house being open plan inside and on one level, and myself enthused by the surrounding grounds begging for a garden. I intended to spend my retirement gardening and I always enjoy a challenge.

I am not known for my patience, but this garden has curtailed my impulsive nature. After moving in I spent a lot of time just observing the way the water ran, the shadows cast by neighbouring trees, and the wildlife that passed through our property. The previous owners had planted numerous trees on the northern boundary, but I knew by observing the length of winter shadows from a neighbouring block that some trees on our boundary needed removing. I wanted trees for privacy, and to give balance to the height of the house, but not a thicket casting long, dark winter shadows.

We waited until September to make some even ground at the front of the house. Max and I toiled for weeks building a terraced area and retaining wall of grey besser self locking blocks three meters out from the western side of the house. This extended the whole length of the house and rear of the garage, totalling approximately 30 meters in length. To make a flat surface we back filled with decomposed granite. This gave us an even walking track around the front and a level to start the garden from. We had to accommodate a very steep slope in front of the garage, so two terraces were created in this area, incorporating the pathway that gently slopes down into the front of the house and continues in a stairway and path to street level.

The exciting part came when the local landscaper came with the bobcat and started the earth moving. I had made up my mind that I wanted a pond (hoping to bring an illusion of the garden being part of the river) and mounds to add interest and remove the steepness of the slope. The earth removed to make the pond 6metersx3meters, was mounded in heaps in front of the pond. These were then sloped down to the edge of the block. It then drops away quite sharply, about 4 metres down to the road. The pond is directly in front and below the balcony and can also be viewed from inside the house by looking down into the garden. Numerous large rocks were bought in to line the walls of the pond and placed around the garden. A decomposed gravel path was put in from the roadway at the front, cutting diagonally across the slope then turning at the pond to form a stairway up to the retaining wall in front of the house. The path was then continued on around the side of the garage to the rear of the property. The kikuyu grass was poisoned and left intact. The landscaper advised me not to disturb the soil, because of the steep slope. Every thing was then left for six months, any kikuyu grass that was determined to survive was promptly removed. In late February we had about 34 cubic metres of heavy mulch, (ground up tree roots) spread all over the garden. We were advised that this heavy mulch would not slip on the steep slope nor blow away in the wind, we were ready to plant.

Very little land at the rear of the property where all our bedrooms are placed posed a problem of privacy. Vehicle access to the property is at the rear via a lane way. We are obliged to give other neighbours access to their property through our land. A load of strategically placed rocks allowed us to mark our boundary and keep traffic to a designated road way, I still back fill this area with any compost or mulch trying to create small mounds

to add interest to the garden . The neighbours have their access, but instead of driving up a barren dusty track, it is now lined with hillocks of native plants and we have a living green screen that gives privacy to us humans, shelter and food to bird and animal life and helps to filter the dust.

A problem evolved with excess water from a house at the rear on a higher elevation. . The storm water from their hard surfaces ended up on our property, often under the house. This was rectified by digging a huge drain right across the rear of the property. To allow the water to drain away it had to be nearly 2 meters in depth at the deepest end. This was back filled with blue metal and works extremely well when we get huge down pours. I then covered this area with various sized river stones, it has become known as The Dry River Bed. I have planted this out with grasses, correas and two *Westringia longifolia* that give a little height but are light and enjoy the trimming I constantly give them. This area extends 18 metres along the rear of the house and graduates from 3 meters to 1.5 meters in width before it turns around at the southern corner of the house into a stone covered stairway.

The area above the dry river bed 22metres x3 metres, on the eastern side, had been raised using railway sleepers by the previous owner, and planted out with *Pittosporum* and Mondo grass. I decided to leave these plantings, as they provided some privacy. I have used half a dozen *ACACIA COGNATA* (GREEN MIST) that I had grown from cuttings in our Melbourne garden, along with *PROSTANTHERA* , *LILLY PILLY* (ORANGE TWIST) *CALLISTEMON*, *GREVILLEA JOHNSONII*, *DWARF BANKSIA* and for height two *EUCALYPTUS LEUCOXYLON*. Over the years as the natives established I have gradually been removing the *Pittosporum*. This area will need rejuvenation in a few years time as it is heavily over planted. .

Nothing pleases me more than to wake of a morning with the sun streaming in through the window, and watch the birds that have taken up residence in this little wilderness. Blue wrens, Thornbills, Eastern Spinebills , Redbrow Finches, Wattlebirds, Crimson Rosellas, King Parrots, Eastern Whip Birds, Magies , Kookaburras Flycatchers, Bower Birds, the occasional Whistling Kite or an unrecognizable surprise that has me jumping out of bed for the bird identification book.

I always enjoy taking visitors for a walk through here, as it often gives out wonderful surprises, like Lizards, Echidnas, or a multitude of birds species. . Even the occasional Red Bellied Black snake has been known to surprise us, along with a very large Goanna .

I wanted our garden to have an empathy with the bush in the Reserve opposite, which consists mainly of large *EUCALYPTUS*, *CASUARINAS* and *NATIVE PITTOSPORUM* Although I didn't want to grow these in our garden, I wanted to mirror the feeling of serenity that the reserve gives off as you drive into Riverview Crescent. I made an adamant decision to keep all colourful plants to the top of the slope, where they couldn't be viewed from street level. The temptation to grow plants that don't fit into this plan is always with me, and I constantly have to remind myself that our garden when view from street level, is a serene garden, subtle being the key word when looking for plants as fillers.

THE PLANTING BEGINS.

ACACIA COGNATA, GREEN MIST were mass planted below the terraced area in front of the house in a V shape, ending at the edge of the pond. Along side a massed planting of AUSTROMYRTUS DULCIUS (I was attracted to the copper tinges of the new growth.) Although I don't regret planting this plant I do regret putting these next to the ACACIA COGNATA as it has not grown high enough to achieve a height balance and DICHONDRA REPENS that grows rampantly in our garden tends to choke it.

My impatience shows here, obviously I didn't read the height of the plant correctly. Next to these I have mass planted AUSTROMYRTUS INOPHOLIA the rich burgundy foliage working exceedingly well as a contrast to the bright green of the ACACIA COGNATA. The idea being to create a colourful foliage garden above the pond, contrasting foliage giving interest all year round.

I have recently mass planted AGONIS FOREST MAGIC amongst the AUSTROMYRTUS DULCIUS, to add to the foliage contrast and to rectify the height balance. (AGONIS FOREST MAGIC foliage being a delightful mixture of cream, light green with a tiny tinge of pink, that deepens to almost burgundy in the cooler weather.)

These three plants are then repeated in isolated places around the rest of the garden.

AGONIS FLEXUOSA NANNA DWARF FORM has also been used repeatedly because of its weeping habit and the red tips that appear in winter. GREVILLEA LANIGERA has been used extensively as ground cover.

Three AGONIS AFTER DARK were planted to add height and colour contrast, but they have struggled, but I refuse to remove them living in hope that my patience will reward me. The weeping growth habit of many of these plants works exceedingly well on the steep slope and is really appreciated by the eastern whip birds and bandicoots.

Being on a septic system, or enviro cycle I had to take this into account when choosing plants for many parts of the garden.

There has really only been one area that has caused me grief. It is an area that is on a very long slope and also gets the bulk of the grey water that automatically sprays out of the enviro cycle. I have been growing members of the ASTERACEA family here, as they tend to cope well with the spasmodic spraying that has to be tolerated at all times of the day, often in glaring hot heat in summer and prone to a little water logging in winter. After 5 years I thought this area of the garden to be out of balance with the rest of the garden that is mainly based on plants 1 meter high and 2 meters wide.

Although the daisies give a wonderful display in spring and cope well with the instantaneous watering system I have been giving serious thought to this area on how to improve its appearance in relation to the rest of the garden and maintain the balance. After recently attending a workshop on garden design I am beginning to think that this area does work as it gives a feeling of space into what would otherwise be a very crowded garden.

To get some shade in summer, add balance to the height of the house LITTLE SPOTTY (EUC MANNIFERRA) has been planted, along with LITTLE SNOWMAN (EUC. PAUCIFLORA) on the Western Side of the house. Both trees have grown exceptionally well, LITTLE SPOTTY being kept trimmed by the family of possums that prefer its leaves to the apples we put out each night. We also have 2 EUCALYPTUS CAESIA on the northern end of the pond and directly below our dining room window. They are now high enough to view as we sit at the dining table and watch the birds feed in the upper branches. These plants have made it possible for me to achieve two of my aims with the garden, that being,

bring the garden into the house and to camouflage the house when viewed from the street.

The pond has proven to be a great success, and on various occasions we have recognised five calls from different species of frogs.. The sound can be deafening of an evening when they all decide to call at once. Locals tell us they enjoy their evening stroll past our garden when the frogs are most vocal.

Lazy summer mornings can be spent leaning in safety on the balcony railing out of harms way, watching the resident red bellied snake look for his morning snack.

A sudden absence of snails, made me suspect we may have a Blue Tongue Lizard. I once caught a glimpse of him as he disappeared up the water out let to the pond. His residence was definitely confirmed the day I opened up under the house to have him greet me with a "what kept you so long look" Jacky lizards love to sun bake on the rocks and watch me garden. I had been fooled that they were waving at me as I passed their way. I have learnt that their habit of the waving hand, is a warning to back off out of their territory.

A thicket of HAKEA BURRONDONG BEAUTY (a great favourite of the Blue Wrens and Eastern Spine bills,)has been planted behind a large GREVILLEA FOREST RAMBLER that was purposefully planted to hide two large and ugly cement tanks that are part.of our enviro cycle. The GREVILLEA FOREST RAMBLER is usually full of birds, bees or butterflies and offers a great refuge to the little birds seeking a quick get a away from those boisterous and bossy wattle birds. .

EPACRIS IMPRESSA, CORREA AUTUMN BLAZE and BANKSIA BLECHNIFOLIA are planted by the steps along with various forms of LOMANDRA and BRACHYCOME. This area tends to be high maintenance and I do tend to loose the EPACRIS, but my love of them has me keeping the local nursery people in employment and the small birds extremely happy as they feed on the flowers.

A visitor pointed out to me how wonderful the pink EPACRIS looks growing near the AGONIS FOREST MAGIC. It is always beneficial to have the garden viewed with new eyes. I had never noticed how subtly they compliment each other previously.

The thick fleshy leaves of the CRINUM PEDUNCULATUM give upright balance in contrast to the weeping habit of many of the acacia and agonis. The DORYANTHES EXCELSA have recently sent up flowering stalks and we wait for the flowering heads to add another dimension to the height balance .

THRYPTOMENE PAYNEI and MICROMYRTUS CILIATA have been used as fillers, to add colour and a feeling of lightness throughout the garden.

I consider ourselves extremely lucky, the garden has flourished, and our aim of having a garden that attracts wildlife has certainly succeeded, too well sometimes. The local wallabies managed to decimate my LYTHRUM SALICARIA. A thicket that flourished for four years on an enviro cycle outlet has disappeared. I wondered why, until one morning at 5 am I spotted the local wallabies grazing between the bushes.

Two of the local Lyre Birds are often spotted strutting and digging in the mulch between plants. The bower bird has built his bower at the end of the retaining wall below the decking, and we are often entertained at lunch time as he entertains his lady friends. Bandicoots do the night shift turning over the soil for me, keeping it loose and aerated.

In spite of being exasperated by the local wildlife at times, we refuse to fence our property,

we always feel we have intruded into their homeland, and cannot bring ourselves to locking them out. After all isn't a native garden about attracting native wildlife.

There is a new project in the pipe line, landscaping the steep bank down to the road side. Recently nine tonne of rock was delivered and put into place, the area waits to be planted out. .

My love of gardening with Australian plants continues to be rewarding in so many ways. A day hardly passes that I am not handed some small pleasure, be it from the animal or plant world. Together they continue to bring a smile to my face day after day.

The garden has also had an impact on the locals, it is very rewarding to be asked for the names of certain plants so neighbours can put them in their gardens.

We have been greatly rewarded, this garden has flourished in five short years.

We have had the advantage of knowing what we wanted from the start, the majority of plants have been planted at the same time. So there was very little competing from larger trees or shrubs to inhibit the growth of smaller species.

I feel the biggest factor that has made the garden a success, (my opinion strictly) being that I have restricted the number of species grown in the garden, I rarely plant just one of something, it is always in threes or fives. If these plants grow well I then tend to repeat them in isolated pockets to give a feeling of uniformity. The garden has developed a little environment all of its own. Not just a collection of individual plants as our previous garden in Melbourne was.

I consider our garden a large, living canvas that I am continually creating in hand with nature. I try hard to be in control, but most pleasure comes from the unexpected - that which I have no control over. Creatures come to the canvas and then leave to return another season. Changes in the seasons change the colour of my canvas, sometimes slightly, other days it is as if some-one has spilt a bucket of red or blue paint over the foliage, or cleaned off a paintbrush by splattering paint in disarray as feathered friends feed amongst the plants. I am always enchanted, and feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to garden with Native Plants on the Far South Coast of New South Wales.

I hope that as our garden develops it will influence others in the area to take up some of our ideas and adapt them in their garden using AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS.

Living between two National Parks, I feel I have an obligation to be mindful of the habitat that was disturbed when our housing estate was developed. As more pressure is put on coastal areas for housing I like to think that by growing native plants I am replacing habitat for native species, and not adding to the problem of exotic garden escapes getting into the National Parks. I am mindful of any plant I grow becoming too dominate in the garden, and if I find it is reproducing itself too readily I remove them completely. As the years go by I hope that our home will continue to be garden of choice to a multitude of birds and animals seeking refuge and feeding grounds. I hope to be able to influence others in the area to change their gardening habits and switch to Natives. After all we humans are not the only species that reside on the Far South Coast, we house dwellers have an obligation to create an environment where bush and urban landscapes can entwine in harmony.



## **Borrowed Landscape - a few thoughts.**

The advantage of a borrowed landscape in my suburban situation was starkly brought home to me when my neighbour had to prune a 30 year old, five metre high *Murraya paniculata* (Syn. *M. paniculata* var. *ovatifoliolata* or *M. ovatifoliolata*) that was on our boundary to enable a new overhead broadband cable to be run to the house. A view is now revealed that I had forgotten about as the tree was screening their carport and a neighbouring two story house. Looking back at past NLs there appears to be very little (that I could find) written about the importance of a 'borrowed landscape' relating to smaller suburban gardens. The few references I could find discussing the 'borrowed landscape' relate to large country gardens. The design principle being to frame distant views, being mountains, trees, lakes etc with a foreground planting that leads the eye toward that distant view.

One of the few articles I could find (will be easier when we have all the past scanned NLs indexed) that mentioned a 'borrowed landscape' was 'Coping with Constraints' by Diana Snape (NL 22 Aug 1998 page 6). I have reproduced it in part and highlighted in italics.

*"Frequently when I read advice on garden design I get the impression that the writer is picturing an empty block of land, probably in the middle of beautiful countryside or else in an attractive suburban area. The spirit or 'genius' of the place ('genius loci') is a very friendly genius you'd be only too happy to consult. In the country there will usually be space to work with and within, but in the suburbs many of us move into a house in an established neighbourhood and start work on an old garden, in among other houses and gardens which may not provide a 'spirit' we respond to with enthusiasm. We're lucky if Australian plants predominate in the garden we inherit, or in neighbouring gardens. (This is also true for the country of course, but I think the 'borrowed landscape' is likely to be more appealing and further away".)*

I agree with Diana that a borrowed landscape in a country situation is 'more appealing' however from a privacy aspect the borrowed aspect is very important. I suspect it will become even more important as suburban blocks are getting smaller at the same time as the houses are becoming larger. So the ability to 'use' a neighboring shrub or tree to hide a view that you really would not like to look at is important.

In my case, I cannot grow a tall shrub/small tree on my side of the boundary as the garden is only one metre wide and is the access path to my electricity meter and as well, the sewer pipe is directly underneath. You can now understand why I was using a borrowed landscape.

**Jeff Howes NSW**

*Jeff's dilemma reminds me of a well known and loved stroll garden we visited in Japan. This palace garden, once on the outskirts of a township, is now the middle of a large city. The beautiful view to the borrowed landscape of distant misty hills is now seriously compromised by over a century of building development. I wonder what the management response of the garden's custodians will be for future generations? JH*

## PLANTS

### **Nature Conservation Trust - Historic Houses Trust NSW trip to Hartwood Station, Currabunganung, in the Riverina**

I just knew I had to go on this 4 day tour organised by the HHT in September; the mix was irresistible.

Four days of walks and talks, by various experts in their field, examining the historic buildings, gardens, pasturelands, indigenous flora and aboriginal settlement on one the Riverina's oldest ( circa 1840) sheep stations. A chance to travel through some of the Riverina communities in general and, in particular, an in depth peak at one of the Riverinas oldest properties - its built and social history, its farming practices through the centuries, the state of its remaining indigenous plant communities and the creeks upon which it so heavily relied. The Riverina is an area currently attracting much national attention as water usage practices of decades and the collapse of the Murray River system put it well and truly in the sustainability spotlight.

It was also a chance to find out about the work of the relatively newly established Nature Conservation Trust in NSW .

The NCT was established to help ensure nature conservation on private land. It purchases rural properties with high conservation values, maintains and improves the agricultural and conservation assets and sells them to a supportive new owner with a conservation agreement attached

This tour came about when the NCT enlisted the help of HHT to assist it in its documentation of the historically important residences, woolshed, stable and farm buildings of Hartwood Station – a property deemed to be of ecological importance and subsequently purchased by the NCT. Their intention is to protect its biodiversity as well as the fragile riparian zones, the depleted and weed infested paddocks and address the carrying capacity of Billabong creek ( the largest creek in Australia and ultimately a tributary of the Murray).

Once these measures and others, such as, historic building and garden documentation, indigenous species planting, additional fencing, weed and water management programs, identification and recording of aboriginal sites and protecting existing endangered ecological communities - the property will be sold to a environmentally friendly, philanthropic farmer with a capacity for hard work and deep pockets!

The Landscape..... *of sunlit plains extended*

In the absence of hills, the landscape vast and flat, becomes a canvas across which, unchallenged by elevation, creeks meander in generous looping curves. Dense clusters of trees signal their courses and are visible for miles. Ephemeral puffs of grey saltbush pile up against the stock fences, seemingly eager to resume their vagabond journey of millennia. And always, far in the distance, just before the horizon, the unending clarity dissolves into shimmering waves of light.

A desert landscape is always dramatic, a graphically singular and uncompromising beauty. No soft and pretties or jostling lushness blur the impact; only plants perfectly adapted to the harsh environment can survive here - God is always in his or her heaven when Mother Nature dictates design.

Dominating the landscape were:

*Acacia pendula* ( boree or western myall), cut down in its thousands to supply post gold rush Melbourne with timber and *A. salacena* ( weeping grey wattle).  
*Eucalyptus microcarpa* ( grey box) and *E. largiflorens* ( blackbox).  
*Calitris murraya* and *C. glaucophylla* and  
*Allocasuarina luehmannii* ( bull oak/buloke).

Greybox prefers the lighter soils whereas blackbox thrive in the heavier soils along the creeks, often with accompanying buloke, emu bush (*Pittosporum phylliraeoides* and apparently an aphrodisiac!) and button plant communities.

Very occasionally the Quandong *Santalum acuminatum* could be seen.

*Lomandara effusa*, strongly scented and endangered, grows on the sandhills and further funding from catchment management to fence it off is being sought.

The White cypress, *C. glaucophylla* is truly a majestic tree; stately - shaped like most conifers, to my eye it was the king of its country, well supported by the buloke, the boree and the soft greyness of the weeping wattle.

Lower to the ground was the old man saltbush *Atriplex nummularia*., the tiny lemon buttons of Ferny Cotula and the white daisy flowers of *Helipterum corimbiflorum*.

The amount of indigenous grasses and daisies occurring in the paddocks, reflects the seasonal variations.

Probably due to extensive clearing for timber and 150 years of grazing there is very little middle storey. Rye grass, Patterson's Curse and South African daisy romp away on the " cracking clay," encouraged by years of overgrazing. Fortunately great success has been achieved by the direct seed method whereby the weeds are sprayed, a deep hole drilled and indigenous species directly seeded into it.

## The Homestead Gardens

Plentiful water supplies ensured that post Federation Hartwood could have a garden that reflected the times and taste of its affluent owners.

" In 1915 John Hunter Patterson 111 married Matilda Wolseley Noyes the daughter of a Deniliquin doctor. Together they set out to make Hartwood homestead and garden a showplace in the Riverina. An entry in Pastoral Homes of Australia later reported that:

*The Pattersons have made a most beautiful home out of the old homestead and environs which have been in existence for nearly eighty years. Both Mr and Mrs Patterson are lovers of nature and in the beautiful expanses of gardens and shrubberies around the homestead full expression has been given to their individual botanic leanings, Considering the withering nature of the Riverina sun the skilfully laid out flower beds, lawns and groves are a revelation, and the unremitting care and attention entailed in creating this wealth of floral beauty under difficult conditions leaves a result of which the owners may be justly proud.*

*“The property is watered by a double frontage to the Billabong and a single frontage to the Yanko Creeks, in the former of which four concrete weirs have been constructed and in the other, 3 earth dams. The owner is fortunate in having this never failing supply of natural water which is augmented throughout the 35 paddocks into which Hartwood is divided by ten sub artesian bores, equipped with modern mills and a number of surface tanks.”*

Although the garden has greatly deteriorated, the grandeur of the formal landscaping can be still be seen. A gigantic Moreton bay fig tree and an *Aracauria bidwilli*, both suitably majestic Victorian plantings survive. A wonderful vista, so ably realised in these flatlands, runs from the front lawn of the original homestead through exotic plantings and native trees and on into the distance.

The phrase that leaps from the page in the quotation above is “never failing supply of natural water” – ah! .....from our 21<sup>st</sup> C perspective...if only.

Reminders, if ever necessary, of how tough times were, lie under a grove of Kurrajong trees below and to the south of the house. In 1858 four of Hartwood’s children, all girls, were lost to a virulent fever. The small headstones grouped together, lean unsteadily; they bear no religious embellishments - just the drooping leaves of the kurrajong, carved in stone.

Bibliography:

Plants of Western NSW: Bill Muellen

The Homestead: A Riverina Anthology: Peter Freeman

## MEETINGS

### **ASGAP/ANPSA 25<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference, Geelong 2009**

Yes, ASGAP is now ANPSA – and I’m sorry to say there are no fewer letters in the acronym than before! This decision was taken at the 2007 conference. I remember for years members of this Study Group spent time trying to get away from the term ‘native plants’ and instead stick with ‘Australian plants’. Looks like ‘native plants’ now has the nod so what does it mean for the nomenclature we in this group will adopt?

A few study groups, including the Garden Design, took advantage of an upstairs space to put on a display to promote their activities. Thanks to Diana I was able to place out a few large photos of gardens around some statements of our aims etc. I also took along a few design books (Urquhart, Snape and Thompson), some old newsletters and study group application forms. The newsletters and forms were taken by interested participants.

On the Wednesday afternoon some study groups were able to hold a brief meeting for anyone interested - members or non-members. Unfortunately a meeting of the Eremophila Study Group was held at the same time and it took away at least one of our members. A group of more than a dozen of us sat around in a circle. Carol, a representative from Q'L'D, reported that the group there has not yet met but it is expected to be convened soon. Shirley Pipitone was down from Canberra along with Ingrid and maybe there were others. Jan Hall from North-East Vic went to the Eremophila Study Group meeting but she did tell me before-hand that Van Reit's garden, recently open in Aust Open Garden Scheme, was a great success. (Opening gardens is one powerful way of impressing the public with how we can develop beautiful gardens using Australian plants.)

There were a couple of people who were not members but may join and at least one member who lives too far away to get to any meeting, which brings me around to one of the things we did spend time talking about – the need for members to 'engage in the conversation', whatever that is, through the newsletter. Most Study Groups rely on communication through the newsletter to exchange information and gain further insights into their particular area of study. The Design Study Group has several 'chapters', which is unusual and a great benefit to people who can attend them particularly as members can visit gardens or make design suggestions at the request of a member, but the Newsletter still fulfils a vital function beyond reporting on meetings. It is the avenue of exchange, the place where you can think aloud bouncing off ideas raised in the Newsletter, or ideas obtained from reading something relevant, or thoughts brought about by reflecting on your own gardening experience.

We did have some general discussion on design and what it is. I think there is a tendency for some people to think that garden design is a difficult concept because so much is involved in it. I tried to encourage people not to be awed by its complexity as most of us are on a journey of discovery with our gardens which more than likely are evolving and improving in the way they are designed over time.

It was overall a good meeting with many in attendance having something to say. Now we need members to have as much to say through the Newsletter!

(I am stepping away from the Vic leadership but no-one has put up their hand to date with the exception of Diana who will once again take on the job if no-one else comes forward.)

**Chris Larkin Vic**

**SYDNEY MEETING** Nov 21/22 Foxground/ Gerringong Sth. Coast.

Another weekend garden extravaganza awaits. On the beautiful south coast we will visit two gardens at Foxground Sat 21 and one at Gerringong, *a delightful seaside village just across the road from Foxground* on Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> am.

Sat AM:

Bruce Mackenzie's garden which originally belonged to the Longs and which some of our long serving members will have seen many years ago. Bruce is very happy to speak to us about the garden and other aspects pertinent to design with native plants - a wonderful opportunity and not to be missed.

Sat PM:

Just up the road to Bolwarra where we will have our BYO picnic lunch and spend the rest of the afternoon there. : please come prepared for leeches - just in case .Ann advises leech socks can be ordered online.

*Since the last visit of the Garden Design Group to Bolwarra, about 5 years ago, the forest has grown happily without its coat of lantana, and with most of the carpet of weeds gone. The old grazing paddock is now a forest wood lot, and difficult weed infested areas are healthy regenerating forest. There are bush paths throughout the 22 hectares that provide experience of four very different rain forest types. Plant lists (300 species) will be available. Suggest that the group arrives here for lunch at 12 – 12.30 so that they can take off about 1.30pm. When you come doesn't really matter, but it is about having enough time and light to walk slowly in forest and garden around house*

*For those who think they can't manage the walk into and out of the valley, we have a flatter circuit – interesting but the valley walk is more dramatic.*

*Try and Google Gerringong Accommodation if you need ideas. Bellachiara (resort) is on it as well as Tumblegum Inn in Gerringong village.*

We have not made any dinner arrangements yet as at the time of going to press there a have been ZERO acceptances!

JH

Sun AM:

the garden of Glennis & Warwick Dix

*We came here to a suburban block about 18 months ago and the conversion of the grass and agapanthus weed to natives is continuing. It is thus by no means yet an exhibition piece. The property presents the usual problems of ugly neighbouring walls, tree roots, shaded areas and so on. Planning is incomplete, particularly in the front yard.*

*Recently we joined a design study group visit to Batemans Bay. Glennis and I were impressed with the inspections of 4 properties and the subsequent discussions which demonstrated how much considered thought had been given by members of the group to the problems presented and to some of the solutions manifested.*

*If your group has in mind such an approach, a visit to our partially developed garden could be rewarding. We can put on facilities for morning tea ( hot water, some cups or disposable cups, a few chairs for those of us in need and a covered veranda area should the weather go nasty).*

**Warwick & Glennis Dix**

## SYDNEY MEETING 2010

Our first meeting for **2010** will be at Anne and Tom Raines beautiful Central Coast garden on the last Saturday in Feb. - please keep that date free and more details to follow in the February Newsletter.

## **MELBOURNE MEETING** - looking ahead to 2010

As Chris Larkin has decided to take a break from leading the Melbourne Branch after this year and no-one else has yet volunteered to take her place, I'm happy to be the interim leader for a while. However I'm getting off to a bad start, as I cannot come to the final meeting of this year at Karwarra, so my apologies for that. I'll look forward to hearing members' impressions of the progress there under the new curator, Lindy Harris. Lindy was a member of the GDSG for a number of years and she is very experienced in regard to both Australian plants and design, having worked at Kuranga Nursery and then the Australian Garden at Cranbourne.

I'd like to flag the first meeting for next year, at our place I'm suggesting Sunday February 14 (but please let me know if there's something major already on that day). I'll confirm the date in the February newsletter. Our garden will no doubt be suffering from the summer heat but we can talk about what we'd like to do during the year and start to plan our activities. Some members might like us to visit their garden, either to give suggestions for the design of whole or part, or else to see what they've achieved. Or you might recommend a special garden we'd enjoy visiting, or a garden design topic to discuss. One focus could be designing small gardens (and small spaces in large ones).

Bring a picnic lunch at 1pm if you're able to, or just come to the meeting at 2pm. I'll look forward to seeing as many members as can make it. In the meantime, happy Christmas and I hope your summer is much milder than last year's.

**Diana Snape**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Members who are financial for the 09/10 Financial Year (FY) are:

Dot Cassidy #, APS Queensland (including a \$10 donation), Leigh Murray #, Beverly Hanson, Peter and Wilma Garnham, Rosalind Walcott # #, Wildflower Society of WA, Angela and Christine Gairdo, Jenny Finnie, Jan Gough-Watson, Peter Shannon (for three paper NLs), Pascole Miller # # #, Ian Anderson, Michael Banfield #, Pat Watson, Mary Graham, Sheila Simpson-Lee, ANPSA Treasurer a \$30 donation, Mary Ward #, Maree Avendano, Tony and Joy Roberts, Betty Denton, Kay Dempsey, ANPS Canberra Region Inc, Annette Houseman #, Joy Cook # #, Ruth Crosson, APS Victoria, Joan Barrett, Jan Baillie, APS Keilor Plains Vic, APS Maroondah, Barbara Buchanan, Geoffrey and Ann Long # #, Phillip and Julia Rose, Fiona Johnson, Kerry Artist, Neil and Wendy Marriott #, Robyn Diamond # #, Gwen Sanders #, John Andrews, Jan Hall #, Anne Raine #, Carol Bently, Maree McCarthy, Sue Bendel, Daniel Rowland, Beverly Wodrow, Alan and Judy Lovelock, Chris Larkin, Barry Nilsson, Nicky Zanen, Trish and Brian Harris, Dot Cassidy #.

If you see # after your name you are financial for the FY **09/10** and **10/11** If you see # # after your name you are financial for the FY **09/10** and **10/11** and **11/12**. If you see # # # after your name you are financial for FY **09/10** and **10/11** and **11/12** and **12/13** and **13/14**.

For those paying for more than one financial year try and remember that you have paid for so many years in advance and not to renew your membership the following year.

Many members are requesting that I organise fees to be paid electronically directly to the GDSG bank account. Unfortunately your current treasurer, while quite competent in the world of computers, is not confident or even knowledgeable on how to set this up. I suspect that I will need to spend many hours in front of my PC, viewing our banks online statements to see who has paid and then transferring them to my member spreadsheet. Perhaps the next, brighter and more financial savvy treasurer can do this, in the mean time you will be need to continue to write cheques or purchase a money order..

For the record, our Study Group is most appreciative of the annual donation from ANPSA Aust.

Also a warm welcome to our new member **Mary Ward** & we do hope you enjoy your membership Mary.

***Finally .... If you have not yet paid you subscription for FY 2009/10 this will be your LAST newsletter and reminder.***



