



# Landscape Outlook

Issue 92 • Winter 23

Landscape Design  
of the Year 2022

Australian Landscape  
Conference 2023

New LDI Education  
Partnerships

Entries open for 2023  
Landscape Design Awards



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# LO Landscape Outlook

Journal of the Landscape Design Institute (Aust) Ltd

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## LDI welcomes new members

<b>Registered Landscape Designer</b>	<b>Members</b>
Jez Clarke (Qld)	Toby France (NSW), Rachel Fullston (Qld), Sophia Burgess (VIC), John Pargeter (NSW), Nikki Findlay (Qld), Joseph Christie (NSW), Brendan Eccleston (Qld), James Frost (Qld), Mark Roper (NSW), Alida Mekanna (NSW)
<b>Professional Landscape Designers</b>	<b>Education Members</b>
Michele Shennen (NSW), Benjamin Miura (NSW), Nicki King (SA), James Frost (Qld), Bernard Robinson (NSW), Brendan Rafter (Qld), Jarryd Quinnell (NSW), Michael Bligh (NSW), Marcus Ballard (VIC), Elizabeth Heath (VIC), Paul Pritchard (VIC), Ken Bevan (NSW), Scott Rossiter (VIC)	Kirsten Wood (VIC), Kimberley Lynch (Qld), Sandra Lutke (VIC), Stephen Bray (Qld), Anthony McGowan (NSW), Emma Warren (VIC)

**Editor:** John Fitzsimmons M: 0418 552541  
E: landscapeoutlook@ldi.org.au  
**Advertising:** Gabe Mostafa M: 0433 745 004  
E: gabe.mostafa@greenerpublishing.com.au  
Paul Cogger M: 0402 120 038  
E: paul@postscriptprint.com.au  
**LDI Executive Officer:** Maureen McKee  
E: maureen@ldi.org.au  
**Address:** Landscape Design Institute, PO Box 48, 12 Phillip Mall, West Pymble NSW 2073  
**Phone:** 0422 970 618 **Email:** hello@ldi.org.au  
**Website:** www.ldi.org.au  
**Subscriptions:** LDI Executive Office  
**One year:** \$48 inc. Postage & GST  
**Editorial contributions are welcome:**  
E: landscapeoutlook@ldi.org.au  
M: PO Box 2248, Clovelly NSW 2031

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W: hortjournal.com.au

**Cover Photo:** Clareville project NSW.  
Photo Natalie Hunfalvay



## editor's message

Challenges abound and possibly moreso today than ever before in this country – environmental, social, economic, dare we say – political (lower case)? And in landscape always the site, the inevitable diversity of clientele, weather and, lately, material and labour supply issues. And yet so long as we have creative optimists among us there will be new solutions and outcomes. This is Landscape Outlook.

So let's consider some of our sector's most recent individual projects and achievements, some international perspectives from The Landscape Conference, some new products and ideas from the Landscape Show, and ideas for the road ahead from AILD/LDI including support and guidance for the next generation of landscape designers. It's all in the following pages. Read. Absorb. Consider. Debate. Enjoy.

*John F*

**John Fitzsimmons, editor**

# PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

STORY: COL DAGGER, LDI DIRECTOR

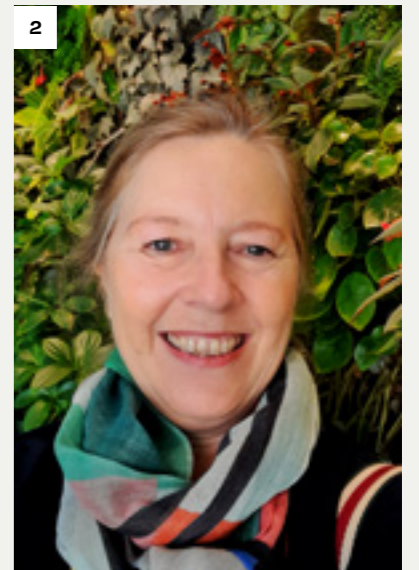
- LO Editor retires. LO branding retained
- Special sections reflect your needs
- Innovative new advocacy
- Education alliances a key
- Celebrating fine work

Welcome to the Winter edition of Landscape Outlook. Apologies go out to our members as Louise McDaid - our longstanding editor - has retired. Louise gave many years of great service to this magazine, AILD and its members. Having to step into her shoes I now realise the mountain of work she did with every edition. Louise, we wish you well and the biggest thank you for all your efforts.

Moving forward as we must, the AILD Board took the opportunity to reassess LO-Landscape Outlook and we have made the following direction changes. First off was to take the members' advice as to how they see LO now and into the future. Filling out surveys can be tedious, I know, but these responses and feedback are how we shape the direction of LO. The big design moves are:

- Keeping the same look and feel of our LDI branding – no change
- Creation of special interest sections that reflect your express needs for inspiration for great gardens, studio developments that help you in your business, and more information to assist you by talking about the best garden/landscape products, technology and construction information for you to consider and utilise.

But possibly the best innovation for LO will be in new our advocacy for our association. This is starting off with the launching of our environment policy. LO will advocate for our planet, sustainable and regenerative environments. We will actively discuss the complexity of professional and ethical



**1. Colin Dagger, LDI Director**  
**2. Louise McDaid, recently retired editor of Landscape Outlook**

approaches to the materials and practices we use every day in creating and building landscapes of value.

Key to our business future is the education sector (see pages 28-29 this issue). We are building stronger alliances with education and training organisations to support them in developing careers for the graduates they produce every year. We are excited about the opportunity to publish and showcase some of the best student works as we encourage them to be successful in the areas of their interest within the vast space of Landscape Design.

Landscape Design Institute (LDI) is assisting Skills Insight - the national training body - by providing them with our industry advice on all things landscape and design.

Annual design awards are always a favourite and future issues will dive deeply into the magic of studios that produce such fine work.

Enjoy the read and please feel free to contribute with an article or provide feedback on what we could do to improve LO for all our members. Thanks for participation in our association. Together we will guide the direction of our future.

# LANDSCAPE DESIGN OF THE YEAR 2022

ENTRANT: FIFTH SEASON LANDSCAPES  
PROJECT: CLAREVILLE  
PHOTOGRAPHY: NATALIE HUNFALVAY

1. The creation of a layered garden provided interest from the street, privacy to the front yard and softening of the architecture.

Client Brief: Having relocated from Sydney's upper north shore to the northern beaches, the clients were looking to create a relaxed haven to enjoy year-round.

Being garden enthusiasts the planting design was a key focus, with the intent to develop a scheme that met both style and site specific requirements, also complementing the newly renovated home. Given the waterfront location, and the client's love of garden, the creation of a number of pause spaces to facilitate immersion into the outdoor areas was crucial.

The rear garden backs directly onto Clareville beach, so it was important to define the backyard boundary without heavily impacting views to the water beyond, in effect blurring the lines between backyard and beach. Low level, aesthetically pleasing fencing combined with hardy mass plantings was a must.

Given the significant setback of the house from the street, the incorporation of a large format walkway within the front yard, with functional spaces hanging off of this, was a focus. The setback also afforded the opportunity to consider the creation of a layered garden providing interest from the street, privacy to the front yard and softening to the architecture.

The clients also requested that a number of other key elements be incorporated into the scheme, including multi-faceted built-in BBQ, outdoor shower, water sport equipment storage and informal seating alongside outdoor entertaining. →

*This amazing location included proximity to Clareville beach*



1



**GREEN EXPO 2023**  
25 - 26 July  
**Gold Coast Turf Club & Events Centre**



**GREEN EXPO**  
**GALA DINNER**  
25 July 2023

All exhibitors and visitors welcome to attend. Green Expo competition winners will be announced, entertainment and prizes.

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- 1. Large format burnished concrete steppers
- 2. Complementing a newly renovated home while creating a relaxed haven
- 3. The setback of the house from the street allowed the incorporation of a large format walkway with functional spaces hanging off it
- 4. The creation of a number of pause spaces to facilitate immersion into the outdoor areas was crucial

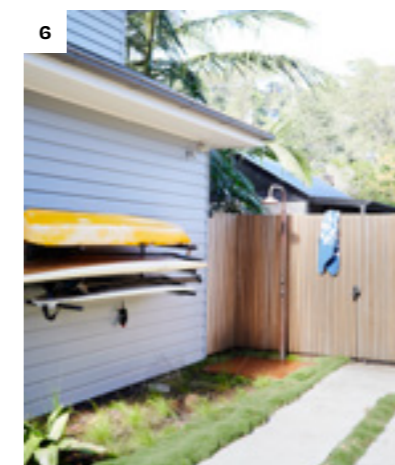
- 5. The planting design was a key focus, meeting both style and site-specific requirements. Plantings were made in between steppers
- 6. Storage for water sports equipment and an outdoor shower were client requests
- 7. Sculptures were sited among ground covers and shade tolerant plantings backed by a 1.8m hardwood screen

**CONSTRAINTS**

The complexities presented by this amazing location included the proximity to Clareville Beach, with the new boundary fence becoming the division between the garden and the beach. This brought obvious environmental control requirements, of controlling silt and water, along with protection of two existing mature Norfolk Island pines. →



*Pause spaces to facilitate immersion into the outdoor areas were crucial*





1



2



4

1. Existing railway sleepers were re-laid to extend their useful life
2. Hardwood offcuts from the picket fence were used to enhance the BBQ area
3. A multi-faceted built-in BBQ was a specific client request
4. The new boundary fence between the garden and the beach brought environmental control requirements
5. The clients were looking to create a relaxed haven to enjoy year-round



5

## OPPORTUNITIES

A key use of recycled material was within the new custom BBQ area. We found that after building the hardwood boundary picket fencing we had offcuts and leftovers of hardwood rails are 88 x 42mm. Instead of consigning these to waste we approached the client with an option to enhance the 'charcoal feel' of the BBQ area. Shou sugi ban is the art of preserving and finishing wood using fire. This technique has been used on leftover hardwood timber and customised to create a herringbone feature panel to complement the outdoor cooking area.

In this project we also used second hand railway sleepers as informal stepping stones through the beachside gardens and re-used the existing sleeper side paths by lifting and re-laying them to ensure longevity. 🌿



3



## LDI National Landscape Design Awards 2023

Entries close 11 September

# ENTRIES ARE OPEN

The LDI National Landscape Design Awards are the only national design awards specifically for landscape designers. They showcase the wonderful work of our LDI members and the importance of great design.

Winning a National Landscape Design Award is not only a testament to a designer's talent and passion for landscape design, it can also open opportunities to grow their business through LDI's promotion of award winning gardens and their own promotion of their success. Members are encouraged to take this opportunity to boost their standing within the landscape industry by including our competition as part of their marketing strategy.



Entry in the competition is open to all financial members of the LDI membership categories: LDI Member, LDI Professional Landscape Designer Member and LDI Registered Landscape Designer Member. There is also an Emerging Designer category for members who have graduated in landscape design in the last 4 years, and a *pro bono* category open to all members who have undertaken a project for the benefit of others.

### ENTRY CATEGORIES

In response to feedback from members we have extended the category options to provide opportunities for more members to enter, including those with clients who don't have a large budget. There are 14 categories catering for a range of project sizes, budgets, and design scope.

### AWARDS

In addition to gold, silver and bronze awards there will be three major awards which may be achieved:

- Landscape Design of the Year - Residential Design
- Landscape Design of the Year - Commercial Design
- Landscape Design of the Year - Plantscape

Entries will also be considered for the Allan Correy Award if an entrant selects this option.

### HOW TO ENTER

Login to the members area of the LDI website for:

- Award Categories
- Entry & Judging Guidelines
- Entry Form
- Client Permission Form

### DEADLINE

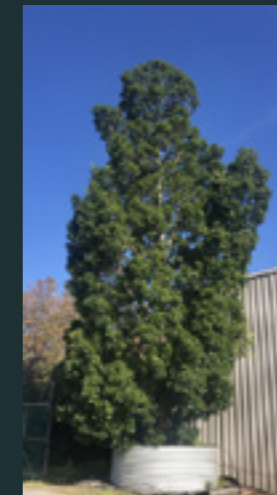
Entries close 5pm 11 September 2023



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climate ready trees



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we respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of the land, the wurundjeri people, as the rightful owners of the land. we pay respect to all aboriginal community leaders past, present, and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the history of the region.

# THE AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE 2023

STORY: JOSH ARKEY, JALA STUDIO

The 2023 Australian Landscape Conference by Outlandish must be considered as one of the most successful to date. This year's lineup of international speakers promised a weekend brimming with exciting and thought-provoking lectures, focusing on the notion of gardening 'beyond the boundaries'.

We heard from Alison Page with her refreshingly frank review of colonial design and development throughout Australia. The Walbanga and Wadi Wadi woman compelled us to analyse our own design processes and seriously consider how our landscapes would look if we truly listened and learned from the unique environment that is our Australian landscape.

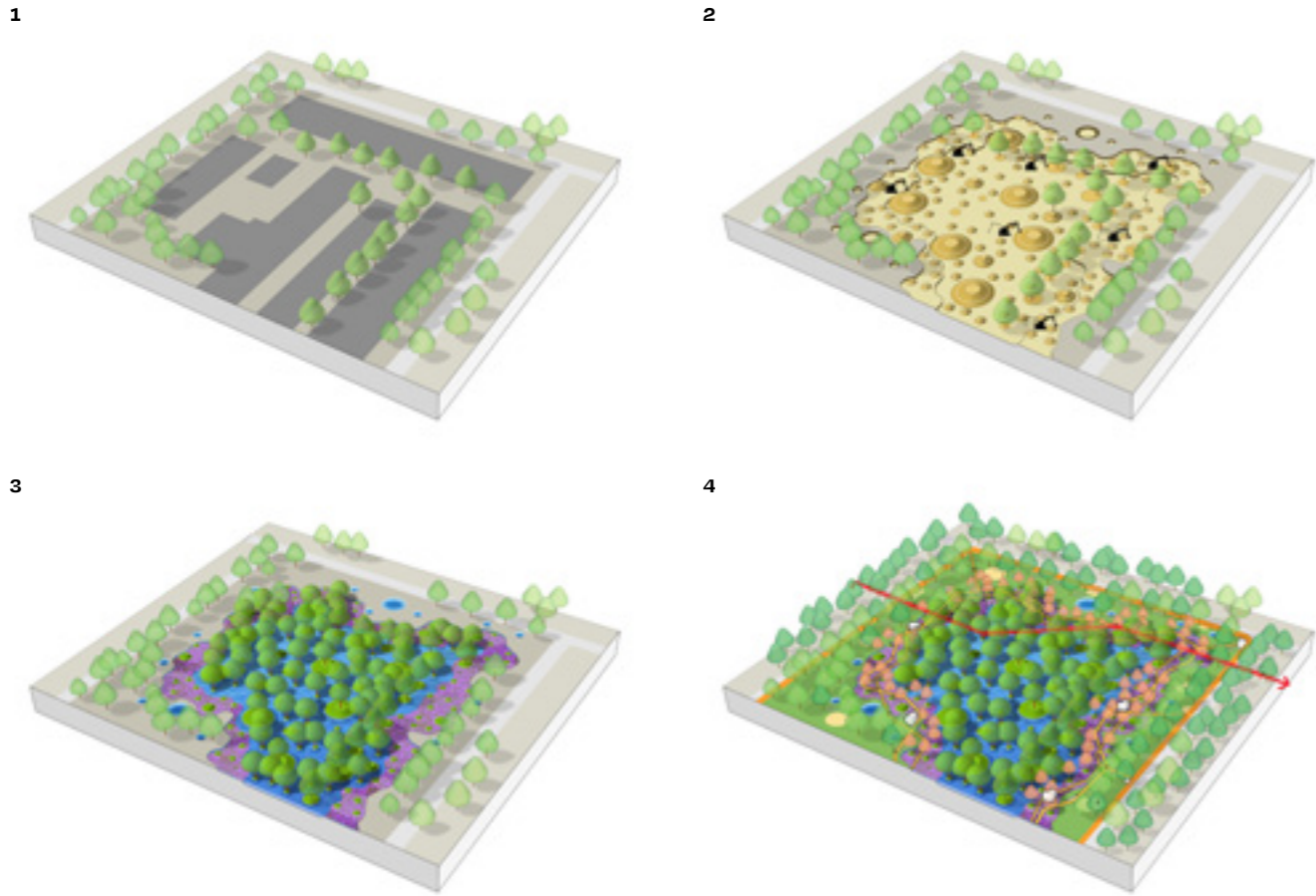
She posed that with true collaboration with our First Nations peoples and their science and understanding of Country, we have the opportunity to form distinct and enduring gardens and landscapes.

Echoing this sentiment, Andrew Campbell provided a startling review of the world's food systems and the gigantic disturbance that humans are imposing on our alarmingly fragile planet. He noted that after 20 years of general food security, we are now facing another food crisis, driven by the '3 Cs' - climate, COVID and conflict. Professor Campbell suggests that with careful consideration of our food systems, we have the ability to improve the resilience and sustainability of food crop management, but only if we understand what it should mean to 'live like an Australian'.

After a short break, the ALC23 attendees were treated to the 'serious fun' that is Claude Cormier and his Canadian studio's refreshingly unique work. Unfortunately Claude wasn't able to attend the conference in person, so joined us via video link from Montréal. →

**Right: Beauty and productivity in Chile - vines, lavender for oil, and olives. Landscape Design by Teresa Moller. Photography by Chloe Humphreys**





**1-4. Healing the built environment in China, transforming a former industrial site to parklands and wetlands for public and environmental benefit, as described by Prof. Kongjian Yu of Turenscape.**

His joyful vision for the practice of landscape architecture sees his studio weave colour, playfulness and humanity throughout the studio's broad range of projects. Claude illustrates that his studio thrives under varying constraints, as this is evidently where they uncover the true dynamics of a site. From the '18 shades of Gay' installation to the witty dog fountain at Berczy Park, the ALC23 audience was taken on a fast-paced review of the studio's work to date.

Fergus Garrett was the next speaker up. Described as the 'Lionel Messi of horticulture', Fergus provided a detailed exploration of his plantsmanship at Great Dixter, England. Often hilarious, his recount of Dixter's rich biodiversity posed many in the audience to ask themselves how they are playing their part in offering rich garden ecologies. As Fergus stated 'every space can play a part - wildlife will and can adapt and [we] don't need to re-wild to do this. We can blur the edges between horticulture and ecology whilst creating beautiful artistic spaces.'

Professor Kongjian Yu showed us through the ways he and his studio -Turenscape - are healing the built environment throughout China. With his 'sponge cities' Yu has implemented innovative grey water treatment

designs throughout over 200 cities in China, reigniting the connection between humans and nature. Kongjian Yu states that 'by protecting and restoring the ecological infrastructure, we are able to secure and make wise use of nature's services for the benefit of the planet and the welfare of people'

From Yu's China, ALC23 were then transported to Italy, with Luciano Giubbilei. Now based in the UK, Luciano spoke of how his memory of light, texture and form of his birthplace, Siena, Italy, still informs the importance of his design style. Originally practising with a restrained palette of boxwood, hornbeam and ironwood, Luciano now describes the freedom he feels with his ever expanding library of perennials and grasses. Echoing the statements throughout the conference, Luciano stresses the importance of collaboration with artists, craftsmen and plantsmen, moving the practice of landscape design from the limitations of a familiar language.

Rounding out Day 1 of the conference, Director of City Design at the City of Melbourne, Professor Rob Adams gave us a snapshot of how he and his colleagues over the past 30 years have reclaimed and revitalised the city's green spaces.

Their initiative in 'Grey to Green' has seen the introduction of hundreds of new street trees, garden spaces and car-free zones throughout the city. With a rapidly warming climate, Rob stressed the importance of this work, ensuring an adaptive yet completely hospitable urban environment.

On Day 2 of the ALC23 Georgina Reid from Wonderground gave an emotional address around the notion that 'Gardening is a framework for being with the world. It is action grounded in attention and enquiry, care and humility, respect and reciprocity.' Georgina suggested that instead of garden making, we should be garden-mending. She poignantly asked the audience to consider: What stories as designers are we telling? What stories are the materials and plants we use telling? How can we cultivate awe and gratitude? How can we truly sit with attention and presence whilst designing gardens and landscapes? Georgina provided a lens to which we all must ask ourselves: What will be the reaction from this action, whilst designing future garden spaces?

Following Georgina Reid, Teresa Moller, designer of one of the world's most recognisable landscape projects - Punta Pite, delivered a lecture stressing the importance of listening to site. Her studios principals are centred around 'maximum economy, maximum design, maximum sustainability and aesthetics is not enough any more.' Teresa is known for her uniquely environmentally sympathetic designs, with projects from her home country of Chile to China, Germany and Italy. She spoke of her need to have the lightest touch upon a landscape as possible, but as we discovered this sensitivity demands incredible spatial skills and a detailed understanding of the site's history, geology and flora. With this comes some of the world's most distinctive landscape and garden interventions.

Sean Hogan of Cistus Design Nursery was the next speaker to the lectern, with his comprehensive understanding of the abundant flora of the vegetation communities of Oregon, USA. Sean is known throughout the

world as a leader in the mapping of the rare plant species of West Coast America. Through his garden designs, he showed ALC23 that although using climate appropriate species, Cistus design gardens of textural abundance, with low resource reliance or the need for intensive maintenance programs.

Julian Raxworthy, landscape architect, author and lecturer spoke to the dialogue between landscape architecture as a practice and the act of garden maintenance. From historic French gardens to modern day landscapes of South Africa, Julian was able to illustrate that we are able to read a landscape and the hand of man through garden maintenance as a lens into the history of the site.

Unfortunately due to contracting COVID whilst in Australia, Japans' Midori Shintani had to present her lecture remotely from her hotel. Midori is the head horticulturist at the Tokachi Millennium Forest in Hokkaido, Japan. ALC23 was treated to an in-depth overview in to a year at one of the most interesting new gardens of the world. Midori spoke of the collaborative process between herself and the UK's Dan Pearson in the creation of their project. Midori remains the creative force behind the project, and gave the audience a glimpse into how she and her team integrate both western horticultural practises, with uniquely Japanese traditions. We hope next time for Midori she is able to be with us in person.

Reflecting on the Australian Landscape Conference 2023, we are left with an abundance of inspiration from a diverse range of engaging speakers. Key learnings from this year's conference is the interdependence of listening and observing site, collaboration between designers, artists, scientists and the respect and understanding of landscape's history. We are incredibly lucky to have such a diverse and generous garden and landscape community.

Having been through the recent COVID-19 pandemic, we understand how significant our industry is in navigating the future climate crisis whilst providing gardens and spaces that restore, reflect and reignite. 🌱

**Left: Luciano Giubbilei's early Tuscan influences were light, shade and stark atmospherics but as he learned more about plants his designs became more layered with the addition of flowers**

**Right: Indigenous designer Alison Page explores links between cultural identity, art and the built environment**





# COASTAL GARDENS OF THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA

JOHANNA MACMINN, MY VERANDAH

The Australian Landscape Conference 2023 offered attendees the opportunity to join one of two garden tours on March 17. Given the impossible choice between a tour of Melbourne city gardens or of coastal gardens, I found myself hurtling down the highway towards the Mornington Peninsula and the southern coast.

Melbourne has a wonderful talent pool of garden designers, makers, maintainers, and clients who value beautiful gardens. The five Coastal gardens that we visited were all exceptional holiday homes located a short drive from Melbourne.



- 1. Meandering planting beds soften the house facade
- 2 & 3. The pool is set into a lawn hillside allowing relaxation on a slope looking out over the water. Timber fencing around the pool extends out in a broad zone encompassing an existing stand of Eucalypts
- 4. A stone ha ha separated the garden from the pasture

## BONEO

The first garden was designed by Kate Seddon and set in farmland with views out to the Bay. Broad sweeping design elements defined destinations within the garden, leading from one area to the next. A beautiful stone ha-ha separated the garden from the pasture and preserved an uninterrupted view of the landscape and sea, beyond. Concrete retaining walls, timber fences and a restrained palette of mass planting demarcated areas and created a beautiful relaxing flow around the property. →



1

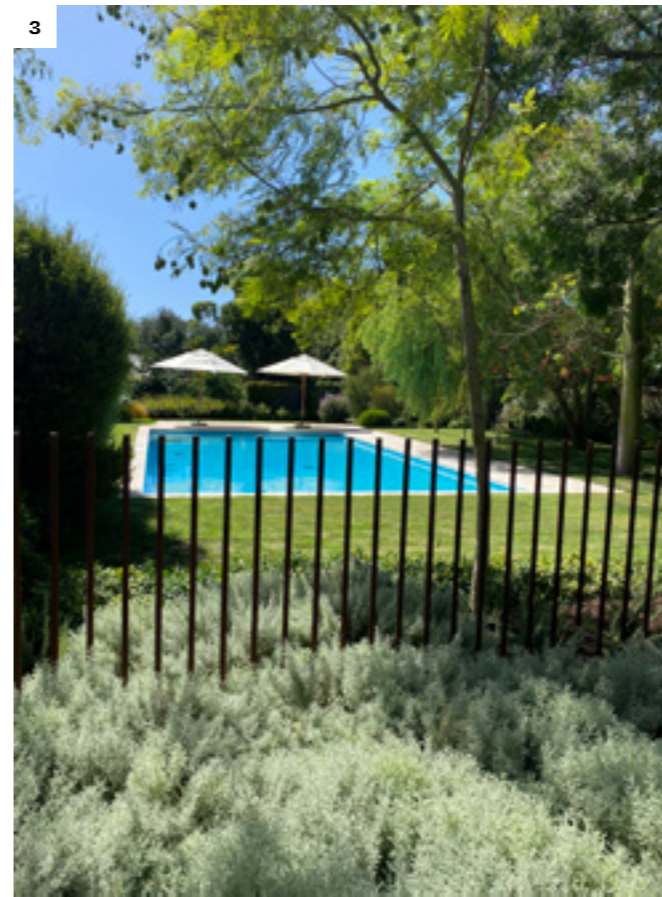
**1. A flat green lawn area contrasted with the harshness and beauty of a sand dune setting**  
**2. Fun family destinations in the garden are discovered via goat tracks through the native planting of grasses and shrubs**

### WILDCOAST

Our second stop was a naturalistic garden designed by Sam Cox. It was full of opportunities for exploration and offered non-stop surprises through the rehabilitated landscape. A flat green lawn area, in direct contrast to the harshness and beauty of its sand dune setting, sat under the Sam Godsall cantilevered home. The lawn acts as a connector to fun family destinations in the garden that were discovered via goat tracks through the native planting of grasses and shrubs. After a little investigation through the shrubs, a camp site and an in-ground trampoline appeared before opening to a fire pit area. The trek up to the swimming pool at the top of the site allows for expansive, uninterrupted views of the village and Mornington Peninsula National Park.



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**3. The garden was anchored on each end by the oversized swimming pool on one boundary and the tennis court on the other**  
**4. Nestled down a lovely quiet lane the garden design was elegant and strong**

### PORTSEA

The third garden visited was designed by Myles Broad of Eckersley Garden Architecture and the house by Wayne Gillespie. It was the only garden without an ocean view, instead, it was nestled down a lovely quiet lane. The garden design was elegant and strong, offering clean lines and an uncluttered design. The garden was anchored on each end by the oversized swimming pool on one boundary and the tennis court on the other with a peaceful refuge of soft green lawn shaded by an array of established trees linking the two. →



4

## SOMERSET GARDENS

Our last stop was home to a pair of gardens located directly on Port Phillip Bay. Both houses were designed by architect Bell Fisher and the gardens designed by Fiona Brockhoff.

Beyond the fence, **Garden A** had a steep slope planted with olives, correa, rosemary, grasses, and New Zealand flax. Either side of the house offered a beautiful journey through paths and courtyards that eventually lead to a timber deck and a small

infinity pool with striking framed views of the bay. Steps led down to a small lawn area that was surrounded by indigenous planting sympathetic to the natural landscape. The eastern courtyard contained a sheltered productive garden with a large-scale dining area. This large courtyard connected to a smaller western courtyard via a glass passageway which was home to an ancient *Melaleuca lanceolata*.



1

1. A steep slope planted with olives, correa, rosemary, grasses, and New Zealand flax

2. A beautiful journey through paths and courtyards

3. A small infinity pool with striking framed views of the bay

4. A swimming pool, surrounded by grasses, shrubs and succulents acts to ground the garden in the natural landscape of the cliff face.



2



3



4

**Garden B** contained mature Monterey cypress and a eucalyptus which created a commanding shady entrance to the garden. Timber and corten steel raised garden beds accommodated the roots of the mature trees and afforded an opportunity for underplanting. Paths led down to a timber deck on the northern side of the house with big spectacular open views of Port Phillip Bay. A swimming pool, surrounded by a beautiful collection of grasses, shrubs and succulents acts to ground the garden in the natural landscape of the cliff face.

The garden tour of the Mornington Peninsula was a remarkable experience that showcased the unique beauty and creativity of each of the five coastal gardens. The dedication and hard work put into the design, construction, and maintenance of these gardens were evident in every aspect of their development. The generosity of the homeowners who opened their private spaces for us to explore was truly appreciated. It was an honour to witness the harmony between the gardens and the surrounding landscape and to learn about the creative processes that brought each garden to life. The tour was a testament to the power of collaboration, passion, and a shared love for the beauty of nature. 🌿

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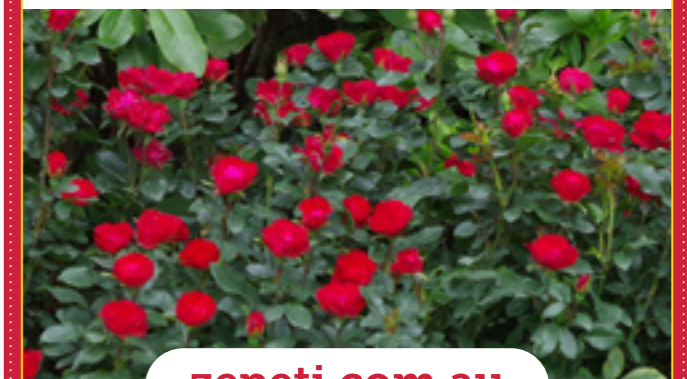
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# THE LANDSCAPE SHOW

**STORY: JOHN FITZSIMMONS**

2023 saw Landscaping Victoria Master Landscapers's (LVML) Landscape Show changed venues from Caulfield to Sandown Park. The event's following continued to grow and moved with it. While many attendees use the show as an opportunity to touch base with existing suppliers, our focus this year was drawn to a number of new products introduced to the industry.

New hardscape materials and complementary structures and fittings were a notable category.

With recent trade concerns about working with silica-based materials the arrival of an option in the form of Jonite® reinforced stone from Singapore was interesting. Using a granite and resin combination to make trench pool and tree grates, channel and sump covers, decorative panels and street furniture, Jonite products are available in more than

a dozen standard colours and just as many decorative designs. To go even further, for individual projects bespoke versions can be produced for different applications, in custom colours and textures, and with custom patterns (think branding and image) and hole sizes. The product is available in Australia through Sydney-based SABdrain.

Traditional materials in similar applications, such as reinforced concrete retaining walls, also continue to innovate. Victoria's Sunset Sleepers already offered concrete sleepers in various finishes and forms (think 'stackstone', woodgrain texture, smooth and rough block face). The material is popular for replacing wood structures that haven't weathered the job over time. So, in the same vein, the company now offers fibreglass reinforcing rods, ideal for wetter sites, to help maintain alignment over time.

**1. Landscape designers, suppliers and constructors gathered at The Landscape Show**

**2. Jon Noonan from TGA Australia discusses advanced trees and shrubs with landscapers at The Landscape Show**

On the subject of wet areas and drainage, an idea that has been around for some time, Capiphon™ capillary belt, also presented at The Landscape Show. This is a 2mm thick 'belt' of extruded PVC having longitudinal grooves; the grooves are 'omega' or teardrop shaped in profile with an opening just 0.3mm wide. The effect is a capillary or siphoning action to provide drainage either horizontally or vertically (for retaining walls). The idea is claimed to effectively remove more water than conventional drainage systems as well as being cheaper to install.

While structural matters were well represented, aesthetics were not ignored, especially the matter of lighting the landscape.

An innovative combination of garden edging and LED lighting was presented by Edglit from Canberra. The system utilises extruded marine grade aluminium, powder coated (in a range of colours) and UV treated (10 year warranty). Into this is integrated low voltage LED strip lighting to light the way or showcase the landscape site. Light colours can be selected and varied with the system Google/Alexa-enabled for control from a smartphone. So, smart colour-coordinated garden edging by day and engaging landscape lighting at night. And it's recyclable.

Our growing interest in landscape illumination is attracting more choice and innovation from around the world. Local lighting specialist Sphera brought the new Italian lighting range from Diomedea to The Landscape Show. With its highly creative forms and ideas comes a five year warranty – somewhat longer than many current market offerings. And while many landscaping light fittings are rather industrially styled, often square and linear, the Diomedea lighting boasts a wider range of forms including curves, paintable materials to match architectural colour palettes, and indirect lighting for subtle effect.

Solid timber post and rail fences, bollards and landscape timbers, as offered by Geelong-based (Vic.) Norwood Products, are often rough sawn and rustic to complement natural settings. However the company's investment in finishing equipment now allows them to offer dressed timber finishes which have struck a chord with customers wanting natural timber themes with a cleancut finish.

Form, finish and flexibility are also characteristics of the modular Greenblock fence and retaining wall system. This is adaptable to providing straight and curved walls and even cutouts and custom profiles. Finishes include painted renders, ColorClad/ColorBond® and BrickClad. Features include modular construction, shallow footings, and quick installation to 2.4 metre heights.

Similar smart wall solutions, using a different approach, were presented at The Landscape Show by Albury Wodonga-based Wallmark. Whether for privacy, security, acoustic moderation, bulk storage or even fire resistance this system also offers fast erection, lower costs than solid block walls, in a range of finishes all utilising a system of modular components.

In contrast to modular structural systems Urbancanopee presented imaginative, creative, surprising and unique structures, outdoor furniture and fittings to complement and enhance public, corporate and private spaces. Some pieces are functional, others more whimsical, but all add interest and engagement to spaces.

Last but not least mention should be made of Repurpose It®. This is a resource recovery company aimed at boosting sustainability, reducing waste, redirecting from landfill, and reducing our reliance on virgin materials. They take in waste streams ranging from mixed rubble and food or garden organics and turn them into landscape and construction materials ranging from sub-base pavement aggregates, garden soils and mulches to soft-fall playground mulch. It's a high volume segment of the waste industry using 'closed loop' resource recovery essential to preserving resources for future generations. ♻️



# MULCH 'AINT JUST MULCH

STORY: TIG CROWLEY, TIGDESIGNS

There are many brands and forms of garden mulch readily available on the market.

These range from:

- decorative glass
- gravel and pebbles
- hessian, coir and geotech fabrics
- decorative mulch
- woodchips, pine bark, forest fines (cypress mulch) and forest blends
- cereal straws, sugar cane, lucerne and other hays
- leaf mulch and grass clippings
- leaf and compost mix
- recycled vegetation or greenwaste
- composted food waste, etc.



1

*A leaf is the food for future life – never waste a leaf*



2



3



4



5

**1. Wood chips and barks can be low cost and beneficial**

**2 & 3. Gravel and pebbles can provide various colours and textures**

**4 & 5. Combinations of gravel mulches and pavers inter-planted with groundcovers combine contrasts and functionality**

- 1. Rough form stones, bark and recycled rubber soft-fall combine well in this setting
- 2. Feature stones and gravel form a low maintenance border to civic parkland
- 3. River stone mulch is functional and attractive against contemporary small tree plantings and masonry walls



When choosing which mulch to use, what do you look for and what do you want it to achieve? I would suggest the following as a prerequisite:

- Covers the soil surface. This is really important as 'bare soil is the enemy'
- Is visually attractive and/or fitting to the landscape. We have become accustomed to pristine leaf-free decorative mulches and we should probably shift this paradigm towards what is best for the landscape as a whole.
- Allows water infiltration. Bare soil will become 'hydrophobic' as the soil microbes disappear (releasing carbon). If the chosen mulch is not feeding the life in the soil, it will remain a hydrophobic landscape.
- Retains moisture. A healthy mulch and compost will break down readily and provide food for the life in the soil. The soil biome will then do the work. Mycorrhizal fungi in particular are hugely beneficial for extending the plant root network, providing increased water and nutrient absorption capacity and sequestering carbon into the soil as the plant provides the fungus with carbohydrates (sugars) formed from photosynthesis.
- Reduces evaporation. A good layer of healthy mulch will not only reduce evaporation, but it can also increase moisture to the soil through its breakdown to compost and eventually humus.
- Retards weed species. Bare soil will create the conditions for unwanted and problem plant species to thrive. A good layer of healthy mulch will suppress weed species and improve conditions that are suitable for higher succession plant communities.
- Insulates the soil surface from climate extremes. It is a worthwhile exercise to place a thermometer into a section of bare soil and an area that is covered with a healthy layer of mulch (litter/compost). The bare soil area will be much hotter at midday and much colder in the early morning. Bare soil is the main biological cause of temperature extremes along with lower succession species dominance – all leading to increased "natural disasters" or climate extremes including flooding, landslide/slip, drought, fire, plague, disease etc.
- Provides food for soil microbes. We are usually not taught much about the life in the soil or life from the soil surface down more generally. Scientists have acknowledged there are probably more than 10 billion living organisms in a double handful of healthy soil. In a healthy environment, there is much more life from the soil surface down than there is above the ground.

It is imperative that the life in the soil is fed; that may range from the mulch we apply in gardens to our plant selection and, more generally, the way we manage our landscapes to create conditions enabling/encouraging higher succession plant communities to thrive. These higher succession plant communities have leaf and fruit drop that breaks down and feeds the life in the soil – natural living mulch. With a healthy abundance of microbial life in the soil, we can reduce, if not eliminate our addiction to artificial fertilisers and our dependence on regular rainfall and/or irrigation.

Different mulches will break down at varying rates, depending on type of mulch and (initially) seasonal conditions. We need to replenish that mulch before the landscape reverts to bare soil.

A generous cover of 'good' plants (high or higher succession plants) is also an effective mulch. Then we can start creating the conditions for the plants we want for existing conditions (drought tolerant etc).

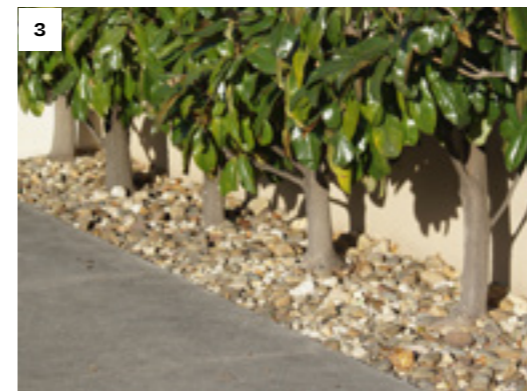
As landscape designers and managers, the best thing we can do is to create functioning ecosystem with healthy soil – to effect this, we must 'feed the Earth'.

### MULCHING AND COMPOSTING IN SITU

We should ask ourselves: "Why should we fill up green bin after green bin with potentially good leaf litter and viable mulch and then go and buy plastic bags of 'pretty' mulch from the garden centre or hardware store?"

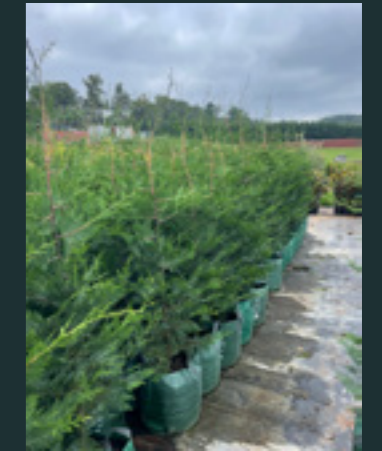
The answer should be simple – we should re-use that 'vegetative waste' and only bin what is not suitable (for whatever reason). We can put in into a compost bin and spread it periodically or, better still, we can 'compost in situ' straight onto the soil surface.

*Tig is a Sydney-based landscape designer and LDI Board Director noted for marrying natural forms and ecological principles with climate-wise design and regenerative landscape management practices.*

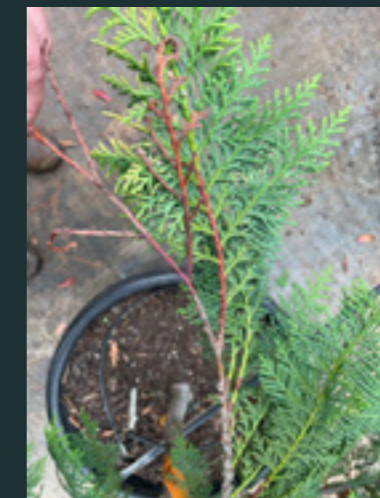


metro trees  
climate ready trees

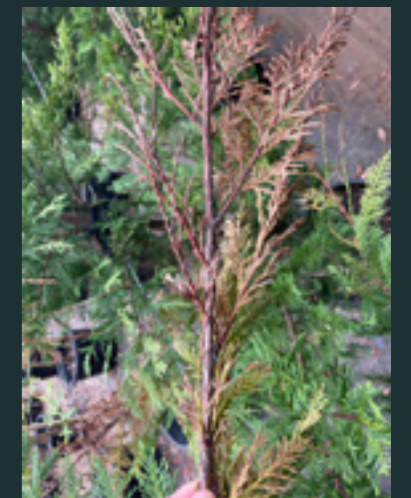
## Xcupressocyparis leylandii 'Madeline' PBR bettergreen cypress.



This clone was imported from the USA on the basis of claims that it was resistant to cypress canker. Observations here suggest that it can be infected by canker (we have a different suite of fungi causing canker), but, unlike comparators like Leighton's Green, appears to be able to recover from infestations. It is 30% quicker in growth than the other Leylandii Cypress types.



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growing through canker infection



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we respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of the land, the wurundjeri people, as the rightful owners of the land. we pay respect to all aboriginal community leaders past, present, and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the history of the region.

# SYMPOSIUM GROWS URBAN MINI FOREST KNOWLEDGE

STORY: ELEANOR DANENBERG, UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

The Miyawaki Miniforest movement, which connects biodiversity and community, was the focus of a two-day symposium that brought together experts from across the world.

The Japanese concept known as the Miyawaki Method of forestry, or Miyawaki Miniforests, encourages the planting of small community forest patches in cities and post-industrial and regional landscapes around the world to address the global biodiversity and climate crises. The movement also seeks to bring people together to foster and celebrate connections between humans and nature.

Dr Scott Hawken, Director Landscape Architecture at the University of Adelaide and the symposium's convenor, said: "Urban forests are important for a range of reasons, including community cohesion and wellbeing, urban biodiversity, and liveability, as well as cleaner agricultural and industrial production, climate mitigation and cooling – just to name a few."

Recent research from the University of Adelaide and University of New South Wales has shown how important it is to include more green space in cities. The symposium also examined smart cities, biodiversity and green infrastructure to support the publication of a special issue in the journal Sustainability.

"While emerging digital technologies can address sustainability challenges, there are both opportunities and risks in technologies like AI and robotics supporting urban biodiversity," says Dr Hawken.

The collaborative symposium featured presentations from experts from universities around Australia, as well as Japan, Belgium, India, Ireland, and Chile.

The symposium took place during Adelaide National Park City Month. Adelaide was named as a National Park City – only the second city in the world to achieve this status, following London.

"Adelaide is one of the most liveable cities in the world, but it can still improve. COVID

has seen people drawn to green spaces more than ever. The National Park City initiative will help Adelaide provide more space for nature in amongst our everyday lives," Dr Hawken says.

The symposium involved the documentation of best practice miniforest and biodiversity initiatives in both Japan and Australia and followed the hosting of landscape and sustainability experts from the Faculty of Design, Kyushu University, Japan at Waite Campus and North Terrace Campus by Dr Scott Hawken and Waite Arboretum curator, Dr Kate Delaporte

**Below: Small community forest patches celebrate connections between humans and nature**

***Urban forests are important for a range of reasons, including community cohesion and wellbeing, urban biodiversity, and liveability, as well as cleaner agricultural and industrial production, climate mitigation and cooling – just to name a few.***



# MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AT UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

Dr Scott Hawken head of Landscape Architecture at Adelaide University and LDI have created a valuable relationship for students and tutors.

LDI is delighted to actively support Adelaide University students at their North Terrace campus. The Institute has invited all students to participate in our online sessions known as "Landscape Beat-up", an initiative to help landscape design graduates with valuable career awareness as they further their studies.

Landscape Beat-up is an online student collective where topics of interest can be discussed openly. Industry speakers on topics of their choosing are coordinated through the LDI Board. This valuable and honest interaction with students and professionals was a great success last year and continues to build this year.

LDI will also be working with Adelaide University to introduce Vectorworks software

to the university's students under its educational software program. This will make their graduates 'job ready' when their studies are complete.

**Duration:** 2 Years Full-Time (or Part Time equivalent)

**Guaranteed Entry Score (ATAR):** N/A

**Location:** North Terrace Campus, Adelaide

**Start Dates:** February and July

Landscape architecture is about working with open spaces and built environments engaging with natural systems and human cultures. As a

creative and contemporary practice, it is always growing and evolving.

University of Adelaide's Master of Landscape Architecture teaches you to use design to expand possibilities, not memorise fixed definitions.

The course is accredited by the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects.

## CIT STARTS LANDSCAPE DESIGN DIPLOMA IN CANBERRA

Canberra Institute of Technology, ACT's TAFE, is now taking enrolments for Semester 1, 2024, for the Diploma of Landscape Design.

Vanessa Hagon, head teacher for Landscape Design at CIT, is excited at launching this new course adding to the stable of Horticulture and Environment Career Studies.

LDI is delighted with this innovative move by CIT and is assisting them with forging strong relationships with Ryde TAFE's head teacher Andrew Hewitt. LDI has encouraged the sharing of Andrew's valuable experience in assisting CIT to be a great success.

LDI is also encouraging the syllabus in both colleges to be as close as practicable, allowing students to move between colleges recognition of academic transcripts.

In addition, LDI has assisted CIT form a new commercial relationship with one of our key sponsors - Vectorworks - with the introduction of educational software for the college and students. This will provide them with the industry's most professional landscape design and documentation packages.

Upon completion of the course graduates of CIT are expected, with their newly honed skills, to be in demand in the landscape architecture and design sectors.

***LDI is delighted with this innovative move by CIT***

# Calendar

## JULY

### 14 JULY QUEENSLAND, DESIGN SOIREE

Unveiling a new year of design excellence

### 19 JULY BEAT-UP

7pm. National webinar for students

### 20 JULY VECTORWORKS WEBINAR

12:30pm. Working with the Vectorworks Plant Tool. National webinar by Vectorworks

### 21 JULY SYDNEY CATCH-UP DRINKS

6pm. Four In Hands Hotel, Paddington

## AUGUST

### DATES TBC TRAINING COURSE

Planning for Non-planners Course for Landscape Professionals by the Planning Institute of Australia NSW (2x 3 hour sessions)

### 8 AUGUST SYDNEY COFFEE CATCH-UP

10am. North-West Sydney Coffee Catch-Up. The Fiddler, Rouse Hill

### 24 AUGUST QUEENSLAND, SOILS SEMINAR

Centenary Landscape Supplies

## SEPTEMBER

### DATES TBC TRAINING COURSE

Preparing for Approval Submissions Course by the Planning Institute of Australia NSW (2x 3 hour sessions)

### 6 SEPTEMBER LANDSCAPE EXPO

Landscape Expo, Ryde TAFE, NSW. A TLA event. LDI will be running a session on the Contractor & Designer Relationship.

### 23 SEPTEMBER TOOWOOMBA CARNIVAL OF FLOWERS

## OCTOBER

### DATE TBC SYDNEY EVENT

Danks Street tour with Adam Robinson (time TBC)

### 21 & 22 OCTOBER HARTLEY VALLEY GARDEN FESTIVAL, NSW

Join LDI Members to visit the gardens.

## NOVEMBER

### 2 NOVEMBER AILDM/LDI AGM

AILDM/LDI Annual General Meeting via Zoom (time TBC)

### 23 NOVEMBER QUEENSLAND, THE VALLEY CRAWL



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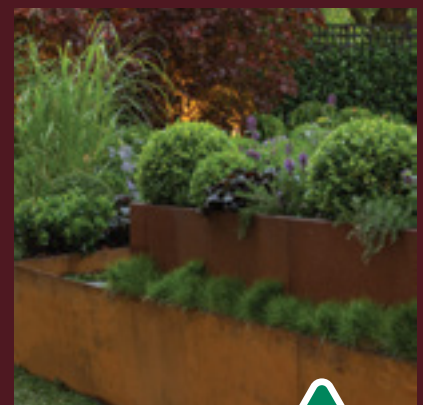
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