




NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY



ROSES, TENNIS & DEMOCRACY

*The story of the Old Parliament
House Gardens, Canberra*

John Gray



DO YOU HAVE THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES ABOUT THE GARDENS?

This book is a brief snapshot of these wonderful gardens.

If you have been associated with the gardens in some way and feel you would like to record your thoughts and memories, the Friends of Old Parliament House Rose Gardens Inc. would be very pleased to hear from you.

In 2010 the Friends of Old Parliament House Rose Gardens Inc. was established replacing an earlier Friends organisation. Its patrons are Mrs Tamie Fraser AO and Adjunct Professor Richard Broinowski. The Friends aim to support, promote and preserve, for future generations, the Australian Government's first parliamentary gardens as a national treasure.

As a Friend, you can meet many others who share your passion for these gardens and their lively, and at times eccentric history. Friends receive invitations to lectures, tours and events and a regular newsletter as well as notices for pruning demonstrations. The Friends have produced for sale a booklet, *There's something about a rose* and a music CD *Sunshine and roses*.

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ROSES, TENNIS & DEMOCRACY

*The story of the
Old Parliament House
Gardens, Canberra*

JOHN GRAY



Published by the National Capital
Authority to mark the 10th anniversary
of the reconstruction of Old Parliament
House Gardens as public gardens

The views expressed in this book are those of the author, and not necessarily of the National Capital Authority.

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FOREWORD

Canberra celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2013 and there were of course many extra visitors. But most visitors come to Canberra to see the two Parliaments and their surrounds, without which there would have been no Canberra.

It took 27 years to find a position between Melbourne and Sydney for the Federal Parliament building, design it and build it, and then move from its old home in Melbourne. It was always the temporary Parliament House, even though it took 61 years to move 'up the hill' to the new Parliament House site.

During those 61 years about 900 Members of the House of Representatives and Senators worked there and it was very much a second home to them. The fine gardens of this Old Parliament House helped greatly to make this a real home away from home.

There were tennis and bowls to engage the more energetic ones, but most of all there were the wonderful gardens with their roses. Roses evoke more feelings than any other flower and those Parliamentary rose gardens with their beauty and their magic must surely have affected most of those Parliamentarians.

Some did more here than hit a tennis ball, roll a bowl or eat a sandwich in tranquillity. Bill Yates who sat in both the English Parliament and our House of Representatives, tended two beehives, while representing the citizens of Dandenong, Victoria.

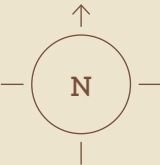
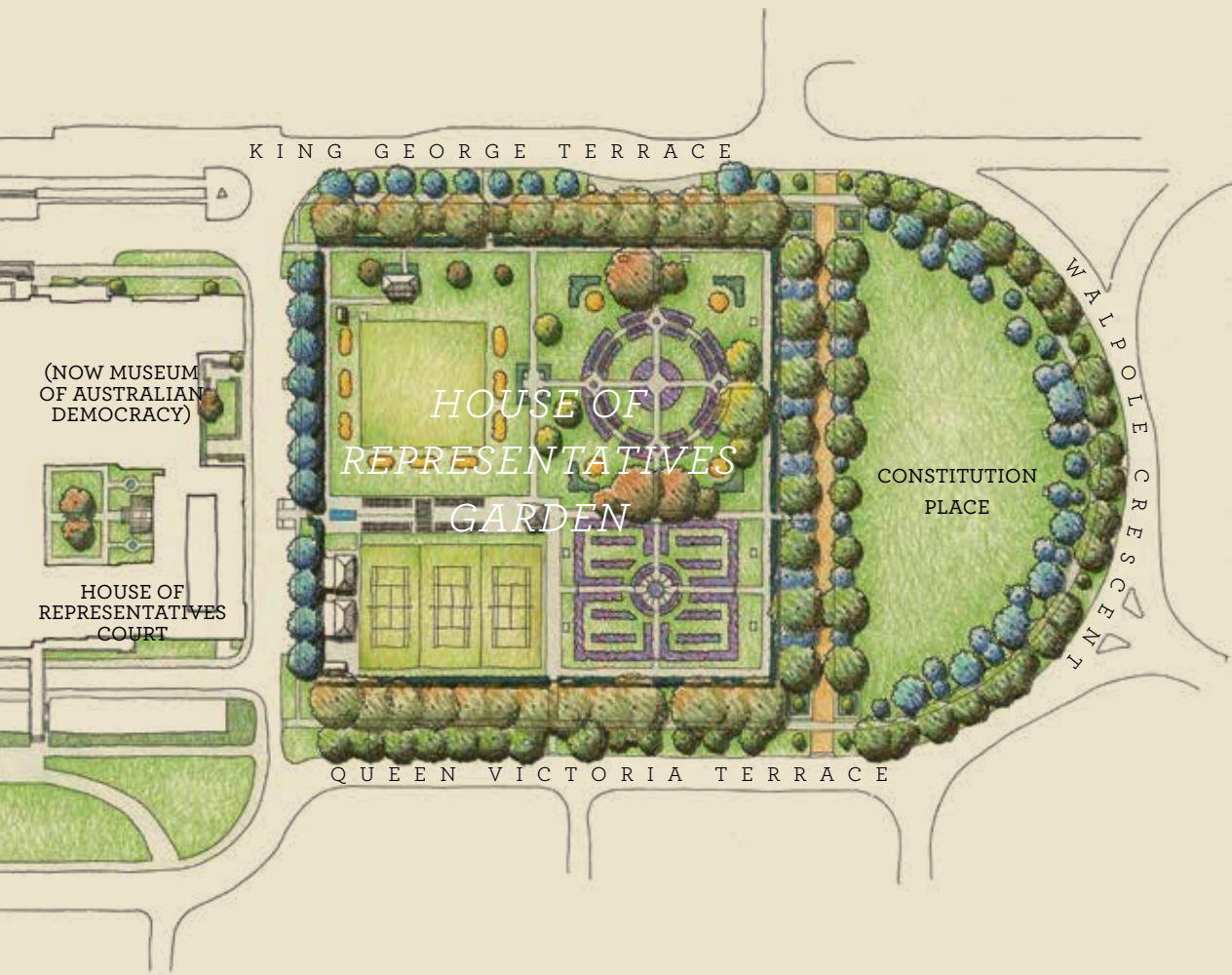
It is a great initiative of the National Capital Authority to ensure that the Gardens are maintained and promoted with this short history. It should allow the readers to experience these great gardens in a deeper way and reflect on the wider history of the Old Parliament House and the surroundings.

Roger Johnston

President

Association of Former Members of the Parliament of Australia





Explanations and abbreviations

Terms used

parliamentary gardens

a term used in the 1920s, and rarely since, to describe all the tree-planted areas contained within Queen Victoria and King Edward Terraces, and Kings and Commonwealth Avenues.

Old Parliament House Gardens

that part of the parliamentary gardens contained within Queen Victoria and King George Terraces and Langton and Walpole Crescents.

Provisional Parliament House

the original name for what is now the Old Parliament House in which the Museum of Australian Democracy is now housed.

Presiding Officers

Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the Senate.

House

abbreviated reference to Old (or Provisional) Parliament House.

Parliament Square Gardens

the gardens immediately adjacent to the Old Parliament House building.

Abbreviations for Canberra planning, design and construction agencies

FCAC Federal Capital Advisory
Committee: 1921–1925.

FCC Federal Capital Commission: 1925–1930.

DI Department of the Interior: 1930–1958.

NCDC National Capital Development
Commission: 1958–1989.

NCPA National Capital Planning
Authority: 1989–1997.

NCA National Capital Authority: 1997–present.

Other abbreviations

ALP Australian Labor Party

AHC Australian Heritage Commission

DFAT Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

NAA National Archives of Australia

NLA National Library of Australia

NMA National Museum of Australia

OPH Old Parliament House

Other explanations

areas of gardens

where stated in this book, these have been derived from measurements out to the kerb of adjacent roads and thus include the road verge.

parliamentarians

a simplified approach to their designation has been adopted in this book. All are identified with the word ‘Senator’ before or, in the case of members of the House of Representatives, the letters ‘MP’ after, irrespective of whether they are retired or currently serving. Former and current senior officers of the Parliament are recognised.

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I carried out the initial research for this book in 1994 as part of a response by consultant Conybeare Morrison & Partners • CONTEXT Landscape Design to a National Capital Planning Authority consultant brief for a master plan to reconstruct the gardens. Many assisted with my research and they are all listed in my report at that time 'A preliminary review of the history of Old Parliament House Gardens, Canberra'. Due to space limitations I am not reproducing that list in full here. However, I wish to again place on record my grateful thanks for the assistance of the Parliament's then Presiding Officers and the Secretary of the Joint House Department in giving me access to key early records. These records proved to have a significant influence over the way in which the gardens were eventually reconstructed in the early 2000s. In the years following that initial research I collected additional information on the gardens from various sources as a private project.

I am particularly grateful to Annabelle Pegrum, the former Chief Executive of the National Capital Authority, for having strongly supported the idea of this publication. Some of the history of the gardens is contained in unpublished consultant reports and related miscellaneous papers about the gardens and she very kindly provided me with access to this material through the National Capital Authority library. Included in the material made available was the very interesting register of rose patrons' comments and memories. I acknowledge the wholehearted support and help given by former and present members of the Authority's staff and its consultants and contractors. I recognise in particular staff members Andrew Baird, Sallyanne Boyle, Seona Doherty, Les Flynn, Mike Grace, Dr David Headon, Vicki Hingston-Jones, Roslyn Hull, Wendy McLeod, Pamela Owen, Rosalind Ransome, Winnifred Rosser, and Gai Williamson, and consultants Oi Choong, John Easthope and Duncan Marshall, and former Head Gardener the late Graham Evans and the present Head Gardener Dennis Dempsey. Particular thanks are extended to the National Capital Authority's Senior Landscape Architect, Rosalind Ransome. Authority staff who have provided pictorial advice and assistance include Wendy Dawes, Pedro Fortunato, Adriana Simonin and Anthony Mollett.

A number of people, including some parliamentarians, who had been associated, prior to 1988, with the Provisional Parliament House, have contributed valuable thoughts and memories on the gardens. They include: the late Morrie Adamson, Dr Robert Boden, Senator David Brownhill, Donald Cameron MP, Ian Cochran, Colin Hollis MP, Ralph Hunt MP, Robin Johnson, Tony Lamb MP, Barbara and Tony Magi, Peter Milton MP, Brett Odgers, Don Piper, Alan Reid Jnr, former Senate President Senator Margaret Reid, Senator Glenister Sheil, Ruth Schmedding (née Broinowski), the late Camilla Yates and the late William Yates MP. I acknowledge also the assistance of Dr Robert Solomon MP, former President, Association of Former Members of the Parliament of Australia.

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I am deeply indebted to Dr David Headon, former Cultural Adviser to the National Capital Authority, who has given generously of his time in providing a helping hand and encouragement at all times. I valued particularly his comments on manuscript drafts and suggestions for change. He is, of course, in no way responsible for the final manuscript's errors and shortcomings. Similarly I am grateful to Barbara Coe who has provided valuable suggestions for improvements to the draft manuscript.

The support of Malcolm Snow, the current Chief Executive of the National Capital Authority in publishing this history of the gardens is greatly appreciated.

Finally a special thank you to my ever-patient wife Pixie Gray for her support and encouragement at all times.

John Gray

Note: Professional acknowledgments for the reconstruction of the gardens can be found at Appendices 1 and 2.

PREFACE

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people and their stewardship of the land on which the Old Parliament House and its Gardens have been established.

‘A good sheep station spoiled!’ I wonder if any of those who used this oft-quoted gibe about Canberra in its early years had ever visited the gardens of the Provisional (now Old) Parliament House. These now 87-year-old gardens, which were indeed created out of a sheep paddock, rank amongst the most outstanding and historically interesting gardens in Australia today. Reconstructed recently as public gardens by the National Capital Authority, the Old Parliament House Gardens are not only of great historical and landscape beauty but they also help to draw attention to the democratic values that characterise Australia as a nation. It is not surprising that their heritage significance has been confirmed by inclusion in the Commonwealth Heritage List.

Much has been published about the events that took place in the Provisional Parliament House during the Parliament’s presence there for 61 years; however, the historic background of its gardens is less well-documented. In my view, there is a danger that knowledge of their origins as predominantly private gardens for those working in the Australian Parliament prior to 1988 could be lost with time. This book is an attempt to address these concerns. I hope others will add to it.

Bounded by King George and Queen Victoria Terraces, the gardens were conceived deliberately as an integral part of the Provisional Parliament House building. They cover approximately 10 hectares, which is roughly 10 times the

area occupied by the building itself, and they stretch from the original building to both Langton and Walpole Crescents. Originally, the garden influence extended to the building's flat roof where there was a type of roof garden in the early days, with trees and shrubs growing in large portable containers; these are no longer there.

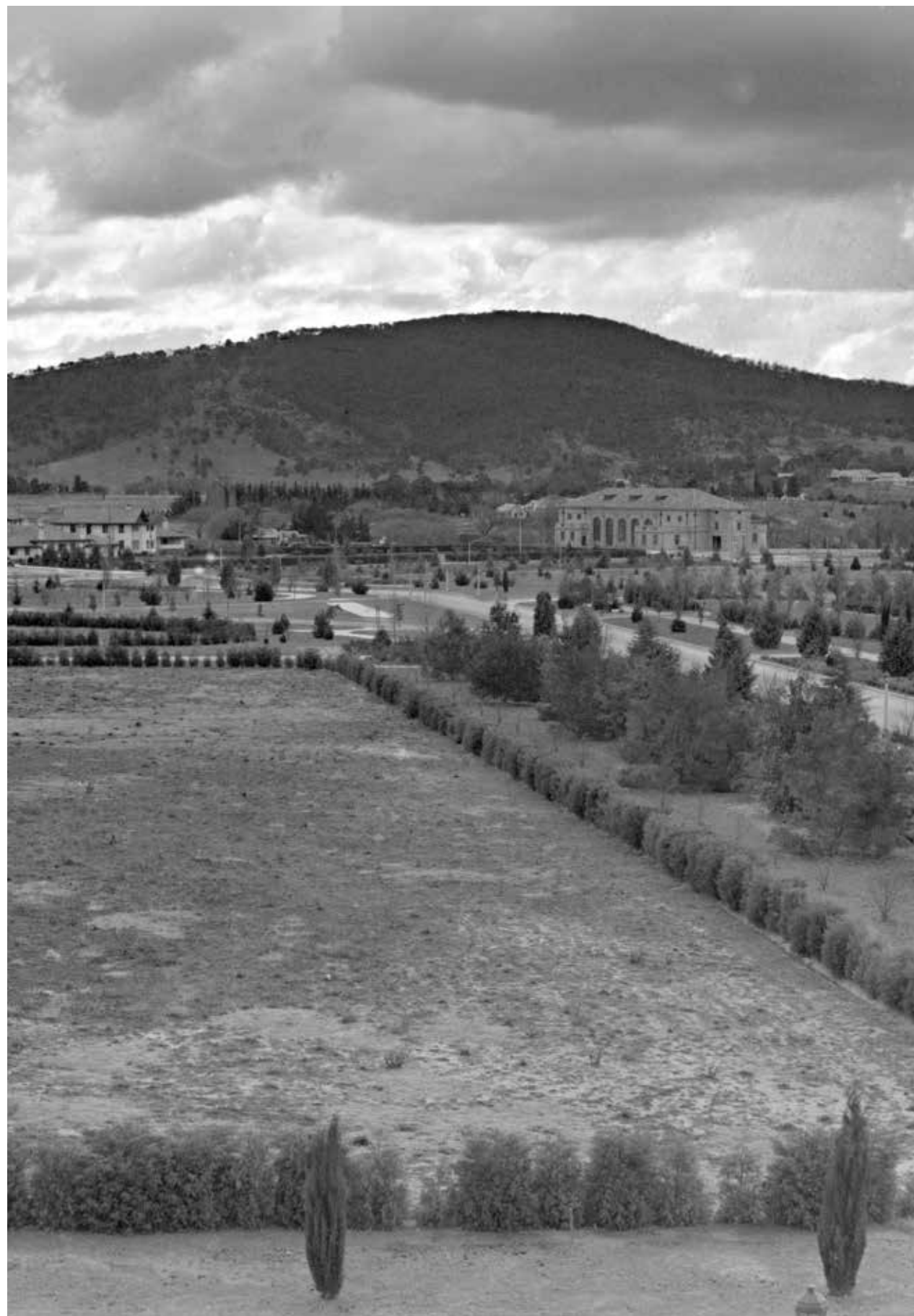
Largely through the efforts of the Commonwealth Parliament and, more recently, the National Capital Authority, the gardens have survived the passage of time. Up to 1988, when the Parliament moved from the Provisional Parliament House to its permanent building, the gardens had served approximately 600 Members of the House of Representatives and 300 Senators and their staff. Today, they are the public gardens of Old Parliament House and the House is now known as the Museum of Australian Democracy.

My intention in this book is to sketch briefly the fascinating story of these gardens so that those who visit them can have a more meaningful and enjoyable experience. I have attempted to answer some of the questions that visitors to these gardens ask. How and why were they created originally by the Parliament? In what way did the parliamentarians and others use them? How do these gardens reflect the principles of Australian democracy and Australian political life? And, perhaps most importantly, how did these gardens manage to survive, largely in their original form, to the present day? The story of their recent reconstruction as public gardens is also covered.

First time visitors can use Chapter 6, *The gardens today*, as a limited guide to the gardens. Additional information can be found on interpretive signs or plaques in the gardens and National Capital Authority leaflets with more detailed information are released from time to time. Please refer to the National Capital Authority website.

The survival of these fine gardens, largely in their original form, is a legacy of the Commonwealth Parliament's commitment from the 1920s onwards to protect and treasure them. Those who visit them in the years ahead will surely be grateful that they and future generations can continue to enjoy this symbolically significant place in Australia's national capital.

John Gray



A GARDEN SETTING FOR PARLIAMENT

... the two greens [contained by the new tree and hedge-planting] should be taken over and maintained by the Parliament after the transfer of the Seat of Government has been effected.

SIR LITTLETON GROOM, SPEAKER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Letter to Senator Sir William Glasgow, Minister for Home & Territories, December 1926

During the Commonwealth Parliament's 26 year temporary occupation of the Victorian Parliament House in Melbourne, its mature private gardens were available to federal parliamentarians for their exclusive use. They could stroll through extensive display gardens or play lawn bowls, tennis or even cricket. Given this idyllic situation, one wonders whether anyone involved with the Commonwealth Parliament ever wanted to move to the new 'bush capital'.

Not surprisingly, the Parliament decided to create similar gardens for themselves at the Provisional Parliament House in Canberra. However, as will be seen, this was not as simple as perhaps it looked at first sight.

A TREELESS SITE

The siting of the very large parliamentary building on a treeless windswept sheep paddock presented considerable design difficulties for the Federal Capital Advisory Committee led by architect/planner Mr (later Sir) John Sulman. The building was to be located at the heart of the planned parliamentary zone, then

Parliamentary gardens, late 1920s

SOURCE: NAA

The 40-hectare parliamentary gardens provided the formal landscape setting for the new parliamentary building. The subject of this book, the 10-hectare gardens around and on either side of the Provisional Parliament House, were a small part of these parliamentary gardens. Note boundary hedges are around these gardens at the sides.



known as the ‘government group’, in the plan for the national capital by Walter Burley Griffin. The solution was to set the building in large-scale gardens dominated by tree planting; this would soften the visual impact of the building, while at the same time the harsh climate of the plain would be ameliorated.

In 1924, the Parliamentary Committee on Public Works recommended that the building should front gardens ‘which in the course of time, will be beautified, so that the provisional building ... will enjoy all the advantages of the amenity’.¹ These were brave words, given the windswept nature of the area, the relatively poor soils and the difficulty of tree establishment.

STRUCTURING THE PARLIAMENTARY GARDENS WITH TREES

The architect for the Provisional Parliament House, John Smith Murdoch, saw this 40-hectare garden setting as part of the building. From the verandahs and the interior of the building the gardens were to be seen and enjoyed. He also saw them as being formal and related to the symmetrical Provisional Parliament House.²



**John Smith
Murdoch and T.
C. G. (Charles)
Weston**

SOURCES: NLA & WESTON
FAMILY COLLECTION

The overall layout for the parliamentary gardens was largely the work of John Murdoch, architect for the Provisional Parliament House. The detailed design, selection of tree species and the actual planting was left to Charles Weston, Canberra's first Superintendent, Parks and Gardens.

**Advanced tree
planting in the
gardens of the
Provisional
Parliament
House, c.1927**

SOURCE: NAA

Weston had to resort to some advanced tree planting to achieve an immediate effect for the opening of the building in May 1927.

He fabricated this horse-drawn device to transport over 200 balled advanced trees from Westbourne Woods arboretum. The device was located over the large planting hole and the tree lowered into it.



The tree layout, which reflected the broad ideas of Murdoch and the Federal Capital Advisory Committee, was finalised in 1925. The selection of tree species and the actual planting was left to T. C. G. (Charles) Weston, Canberra's first Superintendent, Parks and Gardens but influenced by Murdoch, who wanted to use only one type of tree – the poplar. This tied Weston's hands and meant that a mixed exotic-indigenous landscape eventuated rather than a purely indigenous one. Even today, poplars are a key feature of these gardens.

Murdoch also envisaged the maximum height of trees as six metres and planted at 18-metre centres. He said in a letter, 'you will realise that except for the poplars the general effect of the planting as outlined will be loose and low, the idea being that the comparatively flat buildings will not be unduly dwarfed or views of them too much obscured by trees'.³

Weston obviously thought differently and today the microclimatic benefits of his higher and thicker tree planting are clear. His 13 years in Canberra from 1913 had given him an intimate knowledge of the inhospitable nature of the windswept Limestone Plains and their constraints for horticultural work.

Planting commenced in 1925. Some advanced trees were used to achieve an immediate effect for the opening day of Parliament. The work was back-

breaking, little mechanical assistance being available. The difficult Canberra soils did not help. Gardener Robert F. Warren recorded that planting holes were dug by hand. This took from one to over three hours for each hole in the range of 1.2 to 2.4 metres in diameter.⁴

Nevertheless by May 1927, when the formal opening of the Provisional Parliament House took place, the foundation tree planting of these 40-hectare parliamentary gardens was largely in place. Many years would pass before the bareness of the site would be lost.

THE GARDENS OF THE PROVISIONAL PARLIAMENT HOUSE

The 10-hectare gardens of the Provisional Parliament House, the subject of this book, were a small part of these parliamentary gardens. They were contained within the 11-hectare elongated and oval-shaped terrace bounded by King George and Queen Victoria Terraces, and Langton and Walpole Crescents.

The gardens created at that time, with some alterations, remain today. Immediately adjacent to the front and sides of the building was a publicly accessible garden contained by Parliament Square, referred to in this book as the Parliament Square Gardens. Beyond, on each side of the building, were two rectangular-shaped tree and hedge-bordered gardens, which eventually became known as the Senate Garden and the House of Representatives Garden. Further from the building were two publicly accessible semi-circular gardens, each tree and hedge-bordered, and referred to at times as 'parklands'. These are identified in the latter part of this book as the Magna Carta and Constitution Places, consistent with their formal naming in the late 1990s.

The garden influence extended to the flat roof where there was a type of roof garden in the early days. Groups of trees and shrubs were growing in large portable containers.

**The 'roof garden'
of the Provisional
Parliament
House, c.1932**

SOURCE: NAA

The building's garden influence extended to its flat roof where there was a type of roof garden in the early days. However, due to leaks the garden was eventually roofed over.



SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES GARDENS

In 1926, these two rectangular tree and hedge-bordered areas were identified by the then Presiding Officers – Senate President John Newlands, and Speaker Sir Littleton E. Groom – as enclosed gardens to replace the ones the Parliament was leaving in Melbourne. They also decided that these, together with the Parliament Square Garden, would be brought under the direct control and responsibility of the Parliament.⁵

The idea for these two gardens came from the grounds of the Victorian Parliament House where, from 1901, the Commonwealth Parliament had sat for 26 years. The Victorian building 'was set in extensive grounds containing gardens, a bowling-green, a lawn tennis court ... and an elegant garden pavilion with stained-glass windows'.⁶ Cricket was also played there, and the grounds were well planted.^{7 & 8}

The need for management of the use and maintenance of these gardens in Melbourne was recognised when the Commonwealth Parliament's Joint House Committee met for the first time on 26 June 1901.⁹ That committee, in association with the Presiding Officers, maintained responsibility for the gardens throughout the Parliament's stay in Melbourne. A similar arrangement was to apply in Canberra.

The gardens in Melbourne were seen as the private domain of the parliamentarians. The Committee developed a number of rules about garden use, particularly during parliamentary sessions. 'Strangers' (non-parliamentarians) would not be admitted to the bowling green, tennis court or cricket ground during the meeting of Parliament, except by authority of the President and when accompanied by a member.¹⁰

The strangers working within the Victorian Parliament House were given some access to the building's facilities, including its gardens. Such privileges could be withdrawn, as journalists found on at least one occasion. In 1914, the interstate press corps was denied access to these facilities over the famous 'Lousy List Affair'. This was a list, created by the corps, which in effect placed a ban on the reporting of the speeches of certain parliamentarians. The dispute was finally resolved when an apology was typed out on the front steps in Spring Street and sent in to Senate President Thomas Givens.¹¹ Such is the drama that characterises a parliamentary building on occasions!

PARLIAMENTARIAN ACCESS TO THE GARDENS

For those working in the Provisional Parliament House in Canberra, Murdoch intended that the main access to the gardens would be through the symmetrically designed Senate and House of Representatives courtyards, which he called 'courts'. From these, the route was to be underneath an elaborate pergola, through a gate, then to a pavilion flanked with tennis courts in each garden and a bowling green in one of them.

At the suggestion of Murdoch there were to be poplar trees in each building court. On 11 October 1926, two were planted ceremonially in the Senate Court by the Marquis of Salisbury and Arthur Henderson MP (British House of Commons). These plantings celebrated the presentation that day of the new speaker's chair to the Commonwealth Parliament by the Empire Parliamentary Association. Also present were Members and Senators of the Commonwealth Parliament. Plaques were installed at the base of both trees. Gardener Charles May later planted two poplars in the House of Representatives Court under the direction of Charles Weston, Superintendent, Parks and Gardens.¹²

**Commemorative
planting of poplars
in the Senate
Court, 1926**

SOURCE: WESTON FAMILY
COLLECTION

On 11 October 1926 two poplars were planted ceremonially in the Senate Court. In this photo Arthur Henderson MP (British House of Commons), watched by former Prime Minister 'Billy' Hughes and other dignitaries, is planting one of the trees.



UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A surprise was in store for Members and Senators when they arrived in Canberra in May 1927. Despite the expenditure of £600,000 (three times the original estimate) on the new building, they were greeted with very undeveloped Senate and House of Representatives Gardens – a far cry from the attractive mature gardens they had left behind in Melbourne.

Arguments between the Parliament and the Federal Capital Commission about the provision of facilities in these two gardens started. Eventually, in late 1927 and early 1928, the tennis courts, bowling green and a concrete cricket wicket were completed.¹³

The Parliament continued to press the Federal Capital Commission for the completion of the facilities with which they had been familiar in Melbourne. Shelter pavilions and toilets in each garden became a real bone of contention. Despite the fact these were designed, no decision was forthcoming on their construction.

Arguments also ensued in 1928 about the completion of the two gardens. The Parliament wrote to the Commission indicating that it was not prepared to take over garden maintenance, pointing out that ‘thistles, docks, and other weeds are getting a very strong hold’.¹⁴ The Commission responded, stating that there were no funds available to carry out required work on the two areas.¹⁵

Many of the early occupants of the Provisional Parliament House must surely have felt that they had been cast out from the garden of paradise in Spring Street, Melbourne, and into a bush capital wilderness!

Alas, funds for the development of Canberra were rapidly drying up with the onset of the Great Depression.



2

THE ROSE GARDEN SOLUTION, 1930S

*Mr Broinowski has transformed this enclosure
[on the Senate side of the Federal House] from
a wilderness into one of the finest stretches of
green lawns and flowering beds in the Capital.*

MELBOURNE *HERALD*, MARCH 1933

By 1931, the stalemate in relation to the completion of the Senate and House of Representatives Gardens was still unresolved. No toilets and pavilions had been built and the tennis courts, bowling green and cricket pitch stood in largely barren areas. Nevertheless, over the next seven years the gardens reached a degree of completion and became better known around Australia. The reasons for this lay with a parliamentary officer and his use of the common rose.

SHAKING PEOPLE OUT OF 'DEPRESSION TORPOR'

That officer was Robert A. Broinowski, Secretary of the Joint House Department from 1930 to 1938. Known as 'Bruno', he was a good organiser and an energetic worker. He sought to create an open garden with large rose beds to complement the tennis courts and bowling green. At the same time, he conceived a plan to encourage public sponsorship for what he was doing.

Broinowski, public servant and poet, joined the staff of the Senate in 1911, eventually becoming Usher of the Black Rod (1920–1930) and later Clerk of the Senate (1939–1942). As Usher of the Black Rod, he developed a reputation as a 'stickler about formality and propriety' and attracted public attention with 'such unpopular decisions as banning poppy sellers from the precincts [of the Senate side of the House] and stopping parliamentary staff from playing ping-pong'.¹

His grandson, Richard Broinowski, has suggested some possible reasons for the rose garden scheme. In particular, he felt that his grandfather wanted Senators and their friends 'to enjoy Canberra', and that in addition he 'wanted a campaign to get involved in, something that would shake Canberrans and others out of their Depression torpor'.²

A START IS MADE

In 1931, Broinowski persuaded Senate President Sir Walter Kingsmill, to agree to the rose bed scheme in the Senate Garden.³ A start was made in 1931 with the purchase of 100 climber rose plants.⁴ These were planted in beds at the base of the tennis court fences.

However, the real challenge still lay ahead: the creation of large beds of roses. There was no concern about the performance of roses in Canberra – Alexander

Bruce, Superintendent, Parks and Gardens after 1926, was already pursuing a program of rose planting. Commonwealth Avenue was, for example, lined with roses.⁵

But how could a design be prepared and rose plants obtained without funds?

Following a meeting in June 1932 between Broinowski and the National Rose Society of New South Wales, the Society arranged for a design for rose beds in the south-west sector of the Senate Garden and donated some roses. The design was prepared by Rex Hazlewood, a self-taught professional photographer and landscape designer from Epping, New South Wales.⁶

Responding to the Society's plan and donation of 200 roses planted in 1932, Broinowski said that he would place in the garden a 'board' recognising its contribution.⁷ The beds were laid out consistent with the Hazlewood plan, except that the central rose bed replaced a proposed fountain which, for financial reasons, Broinowski dropped.⁸

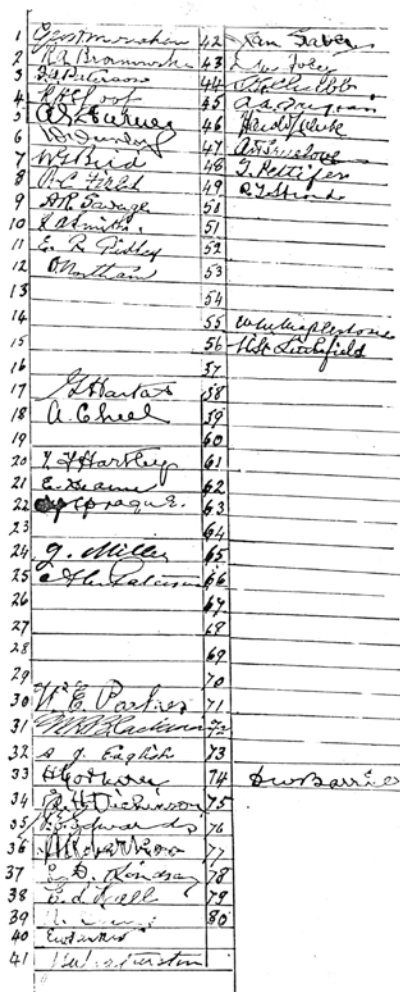
As part of the recent reconstruction of the gardens, this group of rose beds was named the Rex Hazlewood Rose Garden.⁹



**Robert
Broinowski (left)
and former Senate
President Sir
Walter Kingsmill
(right)**

SOURCES: RUTH
SCHMEDDING (NÉE
BROINOWSKI) AND NLA

Broinowski persuaded Kingsmill to agree to a rose bed scheme. These rose beds, set in irrigated grass, would complement the tennis courts and cricket pitch. To finance his scheme he conceived a plan to encourage public sponsorship.



SOURCE: NAA

Those working in Parliament House found themselves being swept along by Broinowski's enthusiasm for his rose garden project . They each made a personal donation of 1s.4d to purchase their rose. After planting it, their signature was affixed to the record above.

WINNING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE PARLIAMENT'S GARDENS

From July 1932 onwards Broinowski sought donations of roses from many sources, in turn widening the support for the gardens around Australia. When these gifts were planted, he identified each with wooden boards nearby. The National Rose Associations of Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia contributed, although the latter's initial contribution was stopped in Fremantle on quarantine grounds. This led to accusations from the wife of one parliamentarian from that state of 'un-federal treatment'.¹⁰ Contributors included the Brisbane and North Sydney City Councils, Goodyear Tyre and Rubber Co (Aust) Ltd and the NRMA.¹¹ It seems that the English cricket team of 'bodyline' bowling fame also contributed during their Ashes 1932–33 tour.¹²

Individuals working within Parliament House soon found themselves contributing one shilling and four pence to purchase a rose.¹³ After planting their bush they were asked to sign a chart now preserved at the National Archives of Australia. One of the signatures is that of R.H.C. Loof, a retired Clerk of the Senate, who remembered clearly the day he planted his rose and its location.¹⁴ Other signatures include those of: Tom Pettifer, No. 48 (housekeeper); Harold White, No. 46 (later Sir Harold White, head of the National Library of Australia); and Wilfred Blackman, No. 31 (clerk).

Seventy years later Blackman's two children, Mrs Elaine Gregory and Mr Graham Blackman, sponsored a new rose in their father's name. Blackman's daughter, Elaine, commented that one 'of my earliest memories is hearing Dad talking about "Bruno" – a famous and well-loved name in our house'.¹⁵

Broinowski also supplemented his rose beds with plants from foreign sources. Contributions included lily bulbs from Japan and bulbs from Holland.^{16 & 17} In July 1937, the Canadian Central Experimental Farm sent five different rose types and Broinowski offered, in return, to send roses for planting in the gardens at Parliament House, Ottawa.¹⁸

In 1932, Broinowski established new horseshoe-shaped rose beds in the north-east sector of the Senate garden.

As part of the recent reconstruction of the gardens, this group of beds was named the Broinowski Rose Garden.

The transformation of the Senate Garden could not have been achieved without the support of Sir Walter Kingsmill. Unfortunately his death in 1935 meant that he did not see the rose garden scheme completed. Broinowski had the sad duty that year of scattering his ashes, on behalf of his wife, in the Senate's new rose beds.¹⁹

ENLISTING THE SUPPORT OF DAME MARY HUGHES

In August 1933, Broinowski turned his attention to the House of Representatives Garden, writing to Dame Mary Hughes GBE, the wife of former Prime Minister 'Billy' Hughes, to propose a 'Ladies' Rose Garden'. She agreed and wrote to the wife of every federal parliamentarian, suggesting a donation of roses at one shilling and four pence each.²⁰

The new set of rose beds was established in the south-east sector of the garden. By early September 1933, Broinowski had planted 'Daily Mail' roses donated by Dame Mary Hughes in the centre bed. Roses were also donated in the name of Mrs (later Dame) Enid Lyons AD GBE, the Prime Minister's wife.²¹ Fifty-five women contributed roses, one of whom was Broinowski's young daughter.²² In 2004, as Mrs Ruth Schmedding, she donated more roses as part of the reconstruction of the rose gardens that her father had created.

From left Lady Penelope Gullett, Dame Mary Hughes GBE and Dame Enid Lyons AD GBE, c.1955

SOURCE: NLA

All three, as wives of well-known parliamentarians, were involved in the 1930s with the establishment of the Ladies' Rose Garden. All had roses planted there in their name. Enid Lyons was later elected to Parliament in her own right in 1943.



THE WOOL INDUSTRY CONNECTION

In 1935, the Graziers' Federal Council of Australia proposed that the leather upholstery covering the President's chair in the Senate Chamber be changed to woollen fabric to emphasise the importance of the Australian wool industry. The Council was perhaps trying to repeat the 'wool sack' on which the Lord Chancellor has sat in the British House of Lords since it was placed there by King Edward III to remind his barons of the importance of the wool trade.²³

While the Council's proposal was rejected, it does seem to have prompted Broinowski to initiate the next rose garden in the north-east sector of the House of Representatives Garden. On 17 March 1937, he wrote to Miss Sibella Macarthur-Onslow, referring to 'her gracious offer to present ... a number of roses in memory of John Macarthur'.²⁴ Macarthur-Onslow was a great grandchild of John and Elizabeth Macarthur, and a sign recognising Captain John Macarthur as the founder of the merino wool industry in Australia was added.²⁶

One hundred 'Etoile de Holland' red roses were planted in a large circular bed in May 1937.²⁵ This was followed the following year by a further donation of 50 'shot silk' roses as a memorial to Elizabeth Macarthur.²⁷

As part of the recent reconstruction of the gardens, the large circular bed was named the Macarthur Rose Garden. Mr Donal Dwyer recently sponsored a rose there, pointing out that his ancestor, Edward Thistleton, had been a convict who worked for John and Elizabeth Macarthur at Camden in the 1820s and 1830s.²⁸

IT AIN'T CRICKET!

In November 1936, Broinowski tried to remove the cricket pitch, established since 1928 in the north-west sector of the Senate Garden. This horrified cricket enthusiasts! The minutes of the Joint House Committee do not record his reasons, but it is likely that he was planning another rose garden. The proposal was defeated and no further rose gardens were created in either the Senate or House of Representatives Gardens.²⁹ Supplementary bedding displays were, however, added in both gardens in later years.

TREES FOR SHADE AND BEAUTY

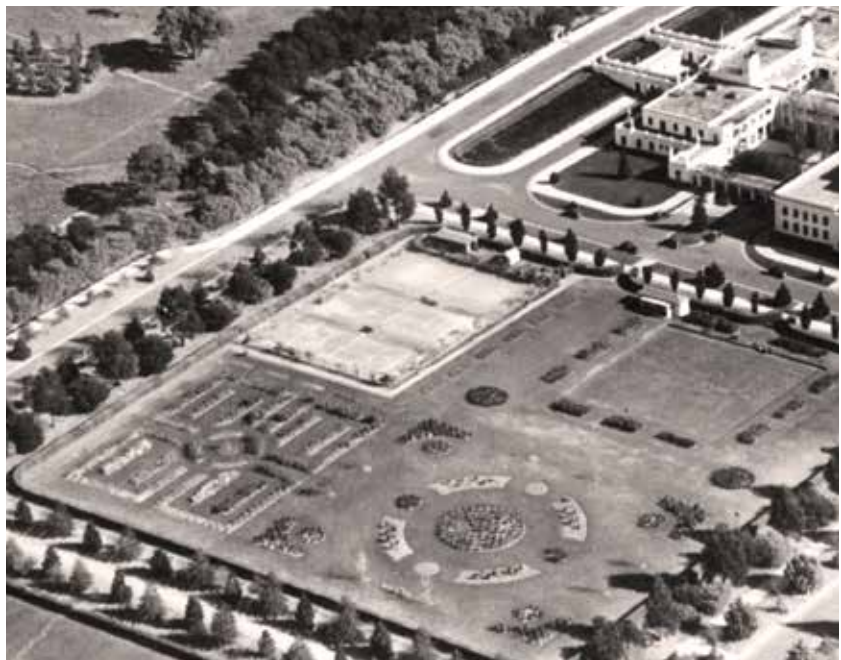
While the two enclosed gardens were planned largely as formal and open, dominated by rose beds, Broinowski decided that some tree planting for shade and aesthetic reasons was needed. The planting proceeded in 1933 to a design by Alexander Bruce, the then Superintendent of Parks and Gardens. In each garden the planting comprised eight trees, two in a formal arrangement on each side of the north-east sector of the House of Representatives Garden and the north-west sector of the Senate Garden.³⁰ Four different types were used: Southern nettle tree, Desert ash, Silver maple, and Thornless honey locust.³¹ All are of northern hemisphere origin.

There is a Canadian connection to this planting. Henry (Jo) Gullett MP, the Member for Henty between 1945 and 1955, was reasonably sure that the Canadian Government had contributed the silver maples in both gardens. This followed, he said, his father's attendance at the Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa in 1932. His father, Sir Henry Gullett MP, was Member for Henty between 1925 and 1940.³² Jo Gullett also recalls that successive Canadian High Commissioners had a keen interest in these particular silver maples.³³

The House of Representatives Garden, c.1938

SOURCE: NLA

A view of the garden at the conclusion of Robert Broinowski's term as Secretary of the Joint House Department, showing, in the lower left corner, the square Ladies' Rose Garden and, to the right, the circular one established in memory of John Macarthur. These two rose gardens were added between 1933 and 1937, the bowling-green and tennis courts having been there since 1927.





The Senate Garden in the 1940s

SOURCE: NLA; STRANGMAN COLLECTION

A view of the garden demonstrating Robert Broinowski's influence on it during the 1930s. The rose gardens, widely spaced tree planting and the carefully clipped hedges illustrate how he brought the garden to its completed condition. As a journalist remarked in 1936, these greatly admired gardens owed much to his enthusiasm.

A PAVILION OF SORTS

While Broinowski made good progress with the gardens in the 1930s, he would have been disappointed that he had been unable to achieve the construction of the originally planned pavilions and toilets. John Smith Murdoch had designed these in 1927 for both gardens. Broinowski had to settle eventually for only one pavilion, not to Murdoch's design, built some 10 years later for the bowling green in the House of Representatives Garden.³⁴

The bowling green pavilion was dismantled and relocated to its current position on the northern end of the bowling green when the House of Representative annexe building was built in 1985.

ROSES – A LASTING INFLUENCE

In his eight-year term as Secretary of the Joint House Department, Broinowski was particularly successful with his publicly supported rose garden solution. Despite the economic restraints of the Depression, he had firmly stamped his special mark on the gardens of the Provisional Parliament House. This achievement attracted praise from many quarters. One journalist went on record a comment in the Melbourne *Herald* of 16 January 1936, stating that the 'admired national rose garden in Parliament House grounds owes much to his enthusiasm'.

To this day, roses – the most planted bush in the world – remain a key feature of the Old Parliament House Gardens.



A SPECIAL PLACE FOR MEMBERS & SENATORS

During each Parliamentary Session I used to organise a Tennis Tournament between the Senate and the House. We played doubles in two teams of eight pairs ... Political pairings involving political opponents having to win for the match, against the opposing Chamber became a salutary experience, which turned out to be most beneficial for the Parliamentary entente cordiale.

FORMER SENATOR DR GLENISTER SHEIL

Letter to National Capital Authority, July 2005

The Provisional Parliament House and its gardens, c.1938

SOURCE: NLA

For those working in the overcrowded House, the building courts, roof-gardens and outside gardens were a valuable safety valve. Here were landscape places close to the Parliament to which they could retreat from the 'pressure cooker atmosphere' of the building.



For the parliamentarians, press reporters and staff working in the overcrowded House, the gardens were a valuable safety valve. Here were landscape places close to the Parliament to which they could retreat from the 'pressure cooker atmosphere' of the building.

At the same time, they could remain in close contact with their offices.

Parliamentarians were given first priority for the facilities. The nature and extent of garden use changed greatly over the years. A brief sketch, by no means definitive, is presented here to provide some insight into how the gardens were used between 1927 and 1988.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION, REFLECTION AND ENJOYMENT OF NATURE

In the early years, the roof gardens and the building courts would have been popular. However, due to roof leaks, the former were eventually covered over. The latter were quiet places within earshot of the division bells. Nevertheless, their quality deteriorated as the Parliament grew and they became overused and fully enclosed by buildings.

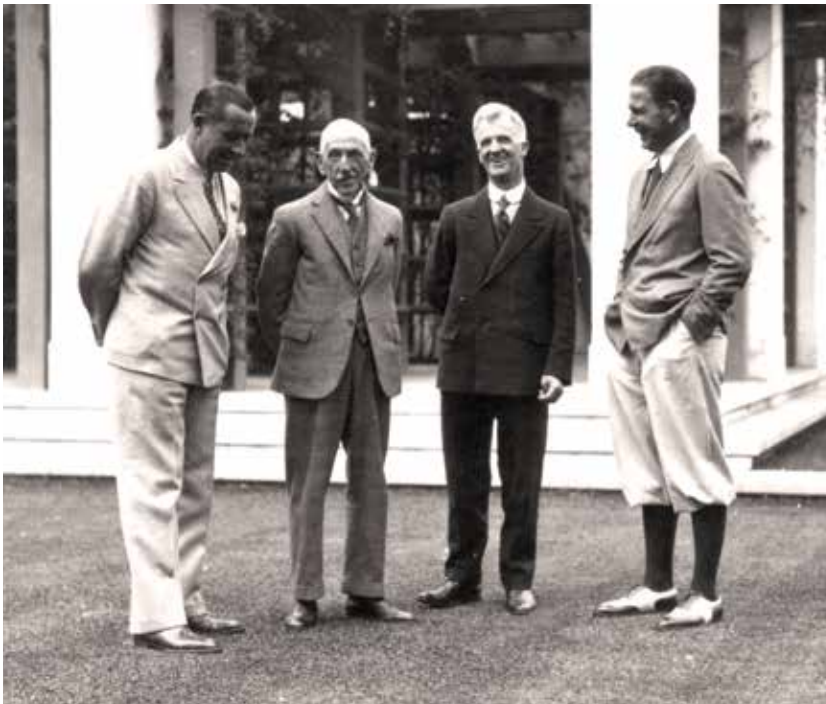
The Senate and House of Representatives Gardens did not experience these problems. The clipped hedges and tall gates served an important role in maintaining privacy. Many parliamentarians and staff enjoyed their lunch there, and political deals were no doubt finalised or speeches practised on occasions.

Despite his heavy commitments, gardeners often saw former Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies in the gardens.¹

MEMORIES FROM THE PAST

In the view of former MP Jo Gullett in 1994, parliamentary privacy was strengthened by a ‘club atmosphere’, a feature of Parliament in the 1940s and 1950s. He recalled that parliamentarians, whatever their political party, tended to meet one another more frequently on an informal basis and ‘make their own fun’ in what was still essentially a country town.

He even said that, as a consequence of this ‘club atmosphere’, Members were ‘so much less nasty to each other ... than they are now’.² A former Liberal Party Whip, Gullett recalled playing tennis against then ALP Whip Fred Daly MP. He also remembered having afternoon tea by the tennis courts, tea and scones being brought out on a trolley from the House.³



Former Prime Ministers ‘Billy’ Hughes and James Scullin meeting visitors in the House of Representatives Court, c.1930s

SOURCE: NAA

In the early years the building courts were well used by members. They were quiet places within earshot of the division bells. They were also used for functions and group photographs.

Senator David Brownhill also has happy memories of the gardens and has created a permanent reminder of them at his residence. He has established a 'Senate Rose Garden' based on 12 roses which were being dispensed with by the parliamentary gardeners. His garden has been opened twice as part of the Open Gardens Australia scheme and this special rose garden draws 'great comments'.⁴

Mr Ross Pettersson remembers well the gardens in his youth. He and his brother used to play in the gardens while their mother, Mary Pettersson, a Hansard Reporter, worked in the building. They would play chasings between 'the maze-like rows of roses'. For Pettersson, the gardens were 'a special secret place with the lovely smell and colours of roses all hidden with tall thick hedges'.

He recently sponsored a rose as a 'living memorial' to his mother.⁵

BRINGING THE GARDENS INSIDE

The principle of the gardens supporting the floral decoration needs of the House was inherent in Broinowski's move to establish rose and other floral bedding displays. The late John Pettifer CBE, who lived and worked at Parliament House from 1933 to 1982, clearly recalled gardeners coming into Parliament House with large bunches of flowers.⁶ These were principally for floral decorations in the refreshment rooms, although their use spread later to other parts of the building.

On special occasions the gardens were in demand for floral decoration. During the visit of Queen Elizabeth II in 1954, long-term Canberra resident Dawn Waterhouse was invited to arrange flowers and 'had great pleasure in selecting blooms from the rose gardens'.

Her family recently planted a rose to celebrate Mrs Waterhouse's association with the Provisional Parliament House.⁷

A practice developed in the 1930s of supplying cut flowers to Members and Senators when Parliament adjourned and the parliamentarians were heading back to their homes. And thereby hangs a tale. In 1936, this practice attracted criticism from the Audit Office, not because the flowers were being taken away, but rather because of the cardboard containers that were being supplied to carry them. In 1936, the Chief Auditor reported that it was noticed during a recent audit that £2. 10s. - had been expended on the purchase of 144 cardboard cases.

He concluded that ‘the purchase is not a proper charge against public funds’. The Presiding Officers agreed that, in future, parliamentarians would pay a charge of sixpence for a box!⁸

The dependence of the Parliament on the gardens for floral material expanded in the postwar years.⁹ By the early 1980s, gardening staff were providing as many as 3,000 roses each sitting week in addition to other types of cut flowers.¹⁰ Leading Hand Robin Johnson, because of his special cut flower expertise, handled much of this work from 1984 onwards. When the House was sitting, the flowers had to be cut and delivered to all offices before 10am.¹¹

ANYONE FOR TENNIS OR BOWLS?

Tennis was the most popular recreation. Occasionally, friendly battles were fought over the use of the five courts. In 1952, one Member complained that he was unable to play on a tennis court during the lunch hour as it was monopolised by Fred Daly MP (from the opposite side of the House); he had booked it for the lunch hour for each sitting day of the entire parliamentary session. The Joint House Department asked that the two members make some mutual arrangements. However the Member, obviously intent on putting Daly



The House of Representatives tennis courts

SOURCE: LOUISE WATSON

The courts both here and in the Senate garden were popular and tournaments between the Senate and the House of Representatives were keenly fought.

From left Peter Milton MP, John Scott MP and Allen Blanchard MP trying to decide who wins at a game of bowls in a lunch break, 1987

SOURCE: PETER MILTON MP

In the background are the squash courts and annexe buildings, both of which have since been removed.



in his place, refused and gave notice of intention to book this particular court in lunch hours for the whole of the next session. The rules were quickly changed to prevent block bookings thereafter!¹²

During each Parliamentary Session in the 1970s and 1980s, Senator Glenister Sheil organised a doubles tennis tournament between Members and Senators. He recalls particularly ‘Mr Bob Hawke and Mr Ian Viner (from opposing parties), in an otherwise most unlikely pairing, being in the last match played on which winning the trophy rested. I think both gentlemen carried a congenial memory of the match for the rest of their lives – they won’.

Sheil and others entertained visiting VIPs who enjoyed tennis. ‘Senators and Members used to take cut lunches down and we had fun watching people like, US Vice-President Bush ... John Newcombe and Tony Roche.’¹³

From time to time staff tennis competitions were staged. Included were the Parliamentary Staffs’ Association Edwards Cup and the final of the Philip Morris National Press Club Tennis Tournament.

The bowling green attracted less competition for use but it was well patronised by staff.¹⁴ From time to time bowls competitions were staged. In 1946, for example, the Parliamentary Staffs' Association Tournament was run.¹⁵ In 1985, the Presiding Officers approved the formation of a Parliamentary Bowls Club.

NEW RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

The diversification of sports played in Australia in the post-war years brought calls for new recreational opportunities. Squash courts were constructed in 1965 and parliamentarians and staff pursued other sports including volleyball, fly-fishing and golf.

In a speech in the House, Fred Daly MP criticised the construction of the squash courts. Obviously enjoying himself, he said that squash was too much for most of the parliamentarians. He claimed one 'nearly went to sleep' in the chamber while another had 'become cranky and irritable'. He added it was 'almost like a lot of old men playing a schoolboy's game in an attempt to keep fit'. Not unexpectedly, all the parliamentarians named were from the opposite side of the chamber!¹⁶



John Pettifer CBE in 1994. He played tennis with his friends in the Senate Garden in his youth.

SOURCE: JOHN GRAY

John Pettifer, the son of resident housekeeper Tom Pettifer, lived in the family apartment in the Provisional Parliament House between 1933 and 1939; the Senate Garden was his backyard! He later worked in the House and rose to the position of Clerk, House of Representatives.

Former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser recalls one regular garden user who was approaching retirement. 'He always came out with a golf club ... and he would chip all around the garden.'¹⁷ Perhaps concerned for the safety of others, golf-practice nets were installed by the Parliament in 1986.¹⁸

A PART OF THEIR LIVES

The gardens were a popular place, particularly at weekends, for those who worked in the House. Some brought their families along. Many children of parliamentarians and staff 'grew up' in the gardens. Mrs Tamie Fraser recalls she used to bring their children to the gardens and have a sandwich with her husband. The 'children would muck about ... and we would play tennis. The gardens were part of our lives for a very long time'.¹⁹

In his youth, John Pettifer used to play tennis in the Senate Garden with his friends. The son of resident housekeeper Tom Pettifer, he lived in the family apartment in the House between 1933 and 1939. The Senate Garden was his backyard.

One group of tennis players recently sponsored a rose in the reconstructed gardens in memory of their many tennis games in the gardens. From 1958 to 1988, the foursome of Brett Odgers, Vic Martisius, Alf Preece and Tony Magi played Sunday morning tennis on the Senate tennis courts.²⁰

The annual visit to the gardens of Santa Claus, and other similar events organised by the Parliamentary Staffs' Association, are still remembered.

THE DANGERS OF LOCKED GATES

The gates of the Senate and House of Representatives Gardens were locked at night and gardeners had to avoid locking someone in. One gardener, Bobby Blanden, remembered the day he had to ask Prime Minister Robert Menzies to vacate the gardens so that he could lock up. Fortunately, Menzies acceded to the request with good grace and, as he left, he handed his half-smoked cigar to Blanden. The gardener kept the cigar for many years as a reminder of his meeting with the Prime Minister.²¹

Occasionally some garden visitors missed the lock-up deadline and found themselves in trouble. Captivated in late 1964 by the handsome man she was with, the 'sweet smelling beautiful roses' and a proposal of marriage, Barbara Doughty thought little about deadlines until it was too late. Tony Magi's first task as her future husband was to climb 'the heavily spiked gates' to enable her to be rescued.

Forty years later the couple sponsored a rose in the reconstructed gardens in memory of their fondly recalled experience.²²

PRIVILEGED BEES

The placing in 1976 of a parliamentarian's beehives in the north-east corner of the House of Representatives Garden marked the beginning of an interesting period for those working in the Provisional Parliament House. On 1 April, in a phone conversation with Speaker Billy Snedden, Mr (later Dr) William Yates MP, a registered beekeeper in Victoria, sought permission to bring two hives to the garden.²³ Snedden, thinking it was an April fool joke, agreed and later informed Yates that the Presiding Officers had no objections.²⁴ Shortly afterwards the bees arrived.²⁵

Later that year the two beehives found their way into Question Time with a question from none other than Yates himself. Perhaps recently chastised for not registering his beehives in the ACT, he asked Tony Staley MP, Minister for the Capital Territory, whether 'bees have been entering the Australian Capital Territory without his prior consent?' Staley prefaced his reply by saying this was 'a bee of a problem' adding that Yates's bees 'need my consent'. Staley concluded his reply by posing a question to the Speaker, 'are parliamentary bees privileged bees?'²⁶ Notwithstanding the possibility of his bees being privileged, Yates applied for and subsequently obtained registration of his two hives.²⁷

The beehives created great interest amongst members, senators and staff. Yates's honey was popular and was available in the refreshment rooms. On one occasion, following an 'argy-bargy' with former Opposition Leader Gough Whitlam in the chamber, Yates sent Whitlam a jar of honey expressing his wish that the gift might 'sweeten him up'.²⁸



William Yates MP (left) presenting his bee smoker to Curator Guy Hansen of the National Museum of Australia, 1995

SOURCE: JOHN GRAY

William Yates has many happy memories of the House of Representative Garden and his experiences as the keeper of two beehives there in the mid 1970s. The hives created great interest amongst members, senators and staff and his honey was popular. As a reminder of those days he presented his bee smoker to the National Museum of Australia.

A number of incidents arose out of the presence of the bees. On one occasion following the servicing of the hives and Yates's return to the House, it was discovered that he had failed to extinguish properly the contents of his bee-smoker. This had set off the Parliament's fire alarm system and filled the Prime Minister's office with smoke! On another occasion, following his remark to a colleague that one of the queen bees had died, Yates found it necessary, several hours later, to quash a rumour that Queen Elizabeth II had passed away!²⁹

Yates's parliamentary term concluded in 1980 and, probably to the relief of officials, the bees departed with him.

In memory of his 'privileged bees', Yates later donated one item to the National Museum of Australia: his errant bee-smoker.



Former Minister for Health Neil Blewett MP (left), and former Leader of the Opposition Andrew Peacock demonstrating heart resuscitation in the gardens, 1983

SOURCE: *THE CANBERRA TIMES*

As the years progressed, the Provisional Parliament House became so overcrowded that Ministers decided to launch some of their policies and programs in the gardens.

A HOUSE BURSTING AT THE SEAMS

As the amount and quality of available space within the over-crowded House deteriorated with the passing years, the press started to use the gardens more frequently. Television broadcasts occurred there more often with the advent of colour television.

Parliamentarians also started to launch their policies and programs there.³⁰

**A reception for
the Prince and
Princess of Wales
in the Senate
Garden, 1983**

SOURCE: NAA

Former Prime Minister Robert Hawke MP and Mrs Hawke accompanied the Prince and Princess to this reception where they met many young persons representing Canberra community organisations. The overcrowded House was no longer able to accommodate functions of this size.



In November 1983, for example, there was a launch by Dr Neal Blewett MP, the then Minister for Health, of an Apex Clubs of Australia National Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training program.³¹ Neal Blewett and Opposition Leader Andrew Peacock were pictured in *The Canberra Times* demonstrating heart resuscitation in the gardens.³²

The gardens also became an attraction for official functions.³³ In earlier years, the building courts had been suitable for official events, such as welcomes for official visitors and afternoon teas following the opening of Parliament. On 28 February 1974, Queen Elizabeth II opened the second session of the 28th Parliament, 1,200 guests being invited to celebrate the event; afternoon tea was served in the Senate Garden. This seemed to set a precedent for other similar formal events.³⁴

In 1983, two major receptions were held in the Senate garden. The first was in honour of the Prince and Princess of Wales on 25 March, while the second was a garden party following the opening of Parliament on 21 April 1983.³⁵



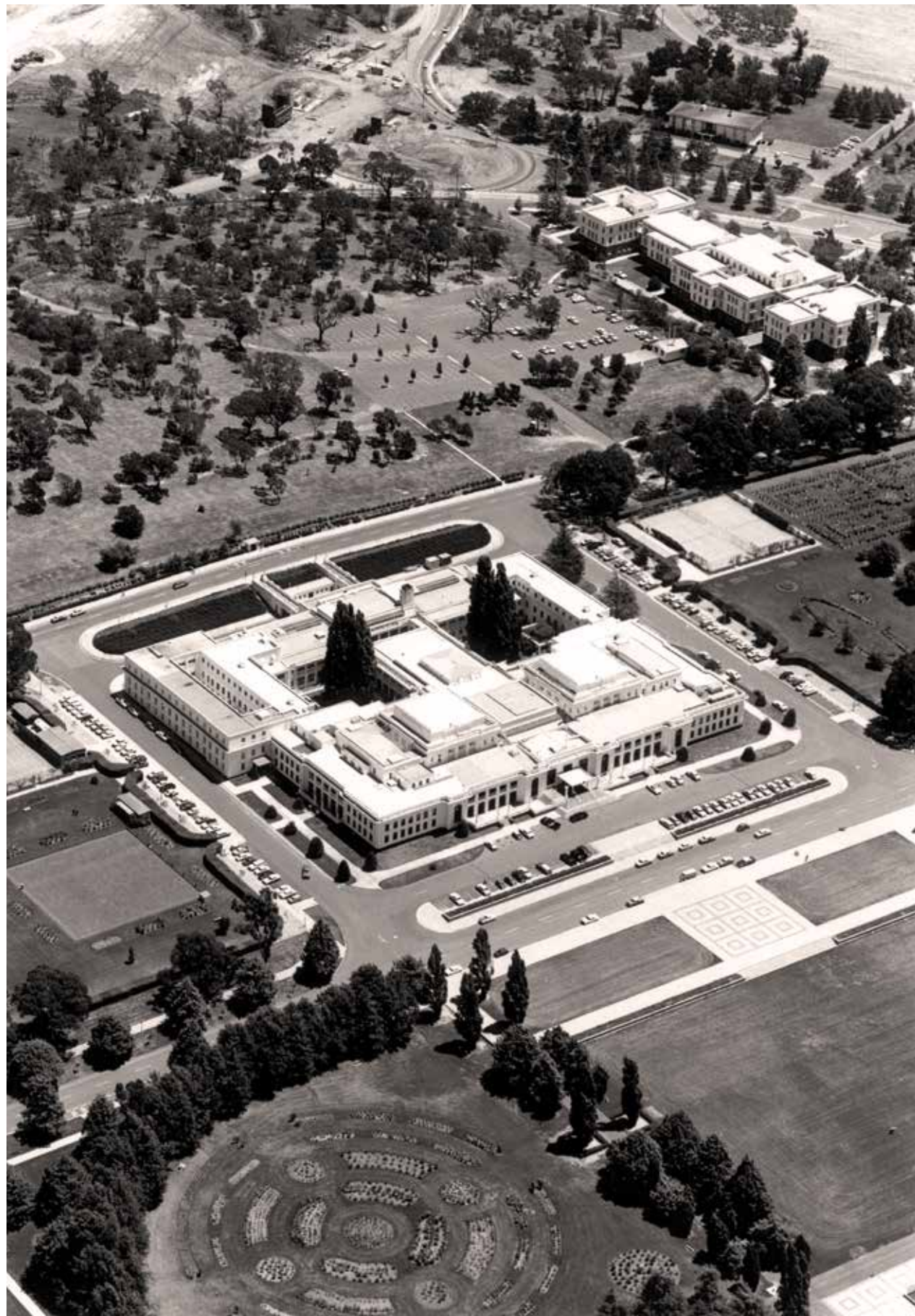
**A garden party
in the Senate
Garden following
the opening of
Parliament by
Queen Elizabeth II,
1974**

SOURCE: NAA

Previously this function would have been accommodated in the building courts but this became impossible as the Parliament grew in size.

A CONVENIENT SAFETY VALVE

For busy parliamentarians, the gardens of the Provisional Parliament House were a convenient safety valve during their demanding parliamentary sessions in Canberra in an over-crowded building. Undoubtedly, many who used them would have gratefully acknowledged those who had the foresight and skill to create them back in the 1920s and 1930s. This was indeed a special place for parliamentarians and others who worked in the building.



CONSERVED BY THE PARLIAMENT

The Government ... ignored the advice of the Australian Heritage Commission on the heritage implications of a proposed child-care centre to be built near the Old Parliament House [in the House of Representatives Garden] ...

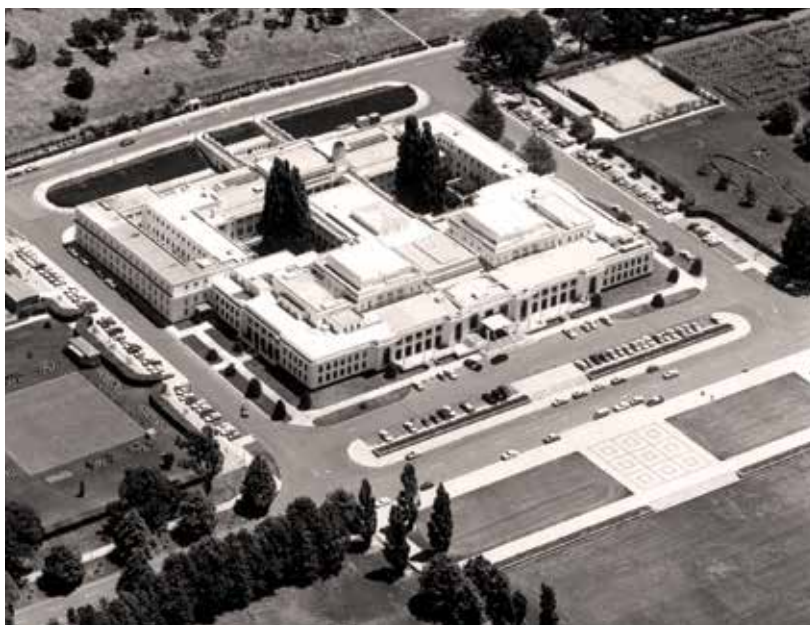
SENATOR MARGARET REID

The Canberra Times, 31 March 1989

The Provisional Parliament House, c.1970

SOURCE: NAA

By the 1970s alterations had been made to accommodate an increasing number of persons working in the building. New car parks and building extensions at the sides had eliminated parts of the Parliament Square Gardens in the immediate vicinity of the building and the original connection between the building courts and the gardens had been lost. A squash court building had been erected in the Ladies' Rose Garden. Fortunately, the Parliament had resisted attempts to remove the hedges surrounding the House of Representatives and Senate Gardens.



From time to time attempts were made to change the gardens. These came from two directions. Firstly, there was pressure to make alterations because of changing fashions in garden design and rising maintenance costs. Secondly, because of the constantly increasing number of people working in Parliament House, there were proposals for parts of the gardens to be allocated to buildings and car parks.

As will be seen, the gardens' original design principles were compromised on occasions by these alterations. Fortunately, some proposals were opposed and abandoned.

GARDENS NEED GARDENERS

Both the Parliament's gardeners and those from the Department of the Interior's Parks and Gardens Section played a significant role in the conservation of the gardens. The decision in 1926 by the Presiding Officers to have gardeners under the Parliament's direct control was a wise one. The Parliament, through the Joint House Committee, was thus able to exercise direct control over the way key parts of the gardens were maintained and conserved. The Committee was a valuable watchdog.

Broinowski's vision of an open landscape character for the Senate and House of Representatives Gardens, with a strong emphasis on displays of roses, annuals and perennials, continued to be fostered. The important tree-planted areas bordering the gardens, maintained by the Parks and Gardens Section, were also conserved.

It is regrettable that the names of most of the staff who skilfully cared for the gardens have not been documented. They deserve better recognition. The number of parliamentary gardeners varied over the 61 years – in the 1940s there were three, and by 1984 the number had risen to seven.^{1&2}

Information on parliamentary foremen gardeners is also limited. The first was the English-trained Charles May who commenced on 10 January 1929 at the age of 36 at an approximate salary of £300.³ May, who had previously worked under Charles Weston, had continuous service in that position until 18 April 1958,⁴ with the exception of war service.⁵ The names of Foreman Gardener appointments from 1958 to 1979 have yet to be confirmed. In December 1979,



**Charles May, the first
parliamentary foreman
gardener**

SOURCE: *THE CANBERRA TIMES*

The English-trained Charles May served the Parliament as foreman gardener from 1929 to 1958. The gardeners played a significant role in the conservation of the Provisional Parliament House Gardens.

Simon van den Heuval, a trained greenkeeper, was appointed. He served until 1988, being joined in 1984 by Robin Johnson, a Leading Hand who had trained in horticulture in Britain and specialised in cut flower floriculture.⁶

All the staff obviously had a great sense of pride in what they were doing. Claire Foster-Brinkman recalls how much her father, Jack Foster, loved the gardens in which he worked. 'My mother and I often met him for lunch there' and he would 'show our visitors around the House and the gardens.'

Recently she sponsored a 'Mrs Herbert Stevens' rose in his name in the reconstructed Rex Hazlewood Rose Garden.⁷

Interviews of the Parliament's gardeners by Dr Dianne Firth and Michael Richards provide some insight into how the gardens were maintained and conserved.^{8 & 9} They reveal many of the problems that the gardeners faced. Predators, for example, such as hares, cockatoos and possums, were a continuing problem – possums liked the climbing roses and the parrots were accused on one occasion of nipping 2,000 to 3,000 flowers off the daffodils in one night!¹⁰

Many Members and Senators found the traditional horticultural emphasis of the gardens stimulating, often discussing plants with the gardeners. Foreman Gardener Simon van den Heuval recalls that some had a keen interest in horticulture.¹¹

At times the gardeners were challenged when Members and Senators sought new initiatives. In 1946, for example, the gardeners were asked by Prime Minister Ben Chifley (after a visit to London) to mount spring tulip displays – a difficult task, at that time, from a horticultural point of view.^{12 & 13} Despite early failures, these displays were continued in the 1950s, but eventually abandoned.^{14 & 15}

DETERIORATION OF BROINOWSKI'S ROSE GARDENS

The shortage of labour, including the absence of Charles May during World War II, took its toll on the rose gardens.¹⁶ Not only were the roses deteriorating, but the wooden rose bed sponsor identification signs, established by Broinowski in the 1930s, were rotting away. The location of sponsored roses was thus lost. By 1994, the only sponsor signs left were the metal ones for the John and Elizabeth Macarthur roses in the House of Representatives Garden.



The only rose bed sponsor signs remaining in 1994

SOURCE: JOHN GRAY

By 1994, the only rose bed sponsor signs left were the metal ones for the John and Elizabeth Macarthur roses in the House of Representatives Garden. The wooden signs established by Broinowski in the 1930s had rotted away.

Efforts were made to rejuvenate the rose gardens in the post-war years and it is believed that many of Broinowski's original rose varieties were changed then. In 1951, over 2,000 new roses were planted in preparation for Princess (later Queen) Elizabeth's visit in 1952. The royal tour was, however, cancelled when King George VI died on 6 February 1952.¹⁷

ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE THE GARDENS' CHARACTER

The renewal of the development of Canberra in the 1950s raised questions about the on-going costs of maintaining an expanding garden city. It was at this time that the Australian Government decided to remove most of the hedges in public areas and thin many of Charles Weston's early tree plantings.^{18 & 19} The intention was to reduce landscape maintenance costs.²⁰

These new policies led to changes by the Department of the Interior in those parts of the gardens of the Provisional Parliament House where the Parliament did not have direct control. Weston's important peripheral tree-planting was thinned and the hedges surrounding the two semi-circular gardens, adjacent to Langton and Walpole Crescents, were removed.

As the Department was responsible also for the maintenance of the hedges surrounding the Senate and House of Representatives Gardens, their part-removal was also proposed in October 1951. The Minister for the Interior's view was that 'it would enhance the appearance of the general surroundings of Parliament House if they [these gardens] could be seen from the road and were at least partly opened by the removal of the hedge'.²¹ The Joint House

Committee strongly opposed the proposed removals; however, by September 1953, the Department had refused to cut them.²² Eventually, the Committee agreed with the Minister, Sir Wilfrid Kent Hughes MP, to accept responsibility for their maintenance.²³

Despite continuing concern about the cost of hedge maintenance, the Joint House Committee never gave in to those who wanted the hedges removed.²⁴ Without doubt the Committee would have realised that the gardens' character would have been completely lost if that had occurred.

Further attempts were made to change the open landscape character of the gardens. In 1954, a new plan was put forward by the Department of the Interior, which proposed a large reduction in rose beds and a greater use of shrubs to achieve intimacy. The plan was not executed.²⁵ However, the Presiding Officers did make some limited changes. In the 1970s, additional trees were added to the Parliament Square Gardens and the Senate and House of Representatives Gardens to provide more shade. Also in the early 1980s, tall shrubbery replaced the roses in the Senate horseshoe-shaped rose garden.

This garden is now restored as the Broinowski Rose Garden.

INSURGENTS AND HEDGE FIRES

Fires were an unfortunate outcome of retaining the old hedges. These were caused largely by insufficient regular maintenance, which resulted in a gradual increase in the width of the hedges, and in turn a build-up of a large amount of flammable dead wood inside.

The first and perhaps the only person to admit to having been involved in starting a hedge fire was Alan Reid Jr, son of a well-known parliamentary journalist. The occasion was a competitive tennis game in the Senate Garden being played by his parents, who had left a box of matches on the top of the net post – just too high for the four year old Reid Jr, but not for his brother, older by two years. One strike of a match by the boys and one section of the hedge had caught fire. A short three-metre section was burnt by the time the fire brigade arrived. By 7pm that night, ABC radio was reporting the fire, adding that 'they're investigating the possibility of insurgents'. Both insurgents were in real trouble with their father!²⁶



The hedges surrounding the House of Representatives Garden, 1999

SOURCE: NCA

By the 1990s the hedges had become overgrown and the entrances obscured. This was caused largely by insufficient maintenance, resulting in a gradual increase in the width of the hedges, and in turn a build up of a large amount of flammable dead wood inside. Hedge fires occurred from time to time.

An increasing number of hedge fires occurred in both gardens in later years.²⁷ Most were more spectacular than the Reid Jr fire and burnt long stretches of hedge, in one case up to 60 metres.²⁸

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY IN THE SENATE GARDEN

There were a number of attempts to replace parts of the gardens with substantial buildings or parking areas; some failed, others succeeded. These structures were mostly unrelated to the gardens themselves.

The first attempt came while the rose gardens were still under development in the 1930s. Three days before Christmas 1933, the Commonwealth Government announced that the site for the National Library would be in the Senate Garden. For Robert Broinowski, this would have been a tremendous blow, given all the work he had put into establishing the gardens to that point. With the help of the Presiding Officers and the press, he threw himself immediately into achieving a reversal of this decision. By early January he was successful, and the Government then went ahead with the library elsewhere.²⁹

If the Cabinet's original decision had not been reversed, the gardens would have been entirely different today. Broinowski's determination to fight the proposal was vital.

ALTERATION TO THE PARLIAMENT SQUARE GARDENS AND THE BUILDING COURTS

There were some building proposals that could not be avoided and they were to have unfortunate consequences for the gardens.

In 1942, the construction of the first office wings to accommodate parliamentarians and staff enclosed the two building courts and eliminated parts of the Parliament Square Gardens. The critical pedestrian connection between the courts and the other gardens was thus eliminated. Murdoch's design was altered yet again when two of the loggias surrounding each court were filled in. Three of the four fountains were also removed.³⁰

Over time, the character of the courts changed. The two poplar trees became very large and unsafe. In 1979, much of the grass was removed and replaced with pavers. At the same time the masonry and timber pergolas were demolished and replaced with unusual timber ones.³¹ Some indigenous planting was established.

The growth in the number of parliamentarians and staff also created pressure to accommodate car parks. These intruded into the Parliament Square Gardens when they were constructed at the front and sides of the building. They were also constructed at the rear of the hedges of the Senate and House of Representatives Gardens in Queen Victoria Terrace, where some of Weston's original planting had to be removed. The growing conditions for the remaining trees were greatly affected and subsequent losses occurred.

On the positive side, 13 additional rose beds, containing 236 bushes, were established in the Parliament Square Gardens at the front and sides of the building.³² These new rose beds effectively complemented Broinowski's original rose garden theme and helped to relieve the starkness of expanded car parking in the public areas surrounding the building.

SQUASH COURTS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES GARDEN

Interest in establishing a squash court at the Provisional Parliament House dated back to 1934 when designs were prepared for a court at the rear of the building.³³ It never proceeded. Further discussions in 1959 also came to nothing.³⁴

The proponents were not to be outdone, for in 1965 the courts were constructed in the Ladies' Rose Garden. Much to the consternation of Jim Fraser MP, who was an opponent of the courts, the action had proceeded without reference to the Joint House Committee.³⁵

Surprisingly, there was no apparent concern that the squash courts had replaced over one quarter of the Ladies' Rose Garden, established 30 years previously by Robert Broinowski. Given that an incinerator and compost area had already been established in this rose garden, it seems likely that the origin and significance of the Ladies' Rose Garden were completely unknown in 1965.



The squash court building in the Ladies Rose Garden, 1994

SOURCE: JOHN GRAY

This building was constructed in 1965 amidst opposition from some members of the Joint House Committee. It eliminated one quarter of the Ladies' Rose Garden, established 30 years previously.

OFFICES AND A CHILD-CARE CENTRE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES GARDEN

In 1986, while the new Parliament House was under construction, an office annexe (fortunately temporary) was constructed in the House of Representatives Garden. This two-storey building destroyed the original open character of the garden and resulted in the relocation of the bowling/tennis pavilion to its present position.³⁶

While the annexe did not result in controversy due to its temporary nature, a proposal for a child-care centre nearby did. The Joint House Committee first considered such a centre in 1976 but the matter did not proceed.³⁷ However, with the departure of the Parliament in 1988, the Cabinet agreed to the establishment of a centre in the House of Representatives Garden.

Without any apparent knowledge that the centre and its play area were to occupy much of the Ladies' Rose Garden, the Joint Standing Committee on the New Parliament House confirmed the Government's decision in March 1989. There was, however, a dissenting report from Senators Michael Baume, David MacGibbon and Margaret Reid, and James Dobie MP, all of whom had heritage and other concerns.³⁸ Both the Australian Heritage Commission



Former Senate President Margaret Reid, a strong supporter of the gardens of Old Parliament House

SOURCE: SENATOR MARGARET REID

In 1989 Senator Reid campaigned against the construction of a building in the Ladies' Rose Garden established over 50 years previously. Fortunately it never proceeded and garden lovers can now enjoy this fully restored garden.

and the National Trust expressed concern while Senator Reid initiated press criticism.³⁹ Her primary concern appears to have been the heritage implications of the decision. The Committee met again in December 1989 and confirmed its original decision, with another dissenting report. Senator Reid spoke against the proposal in the Senate.⁴⁰

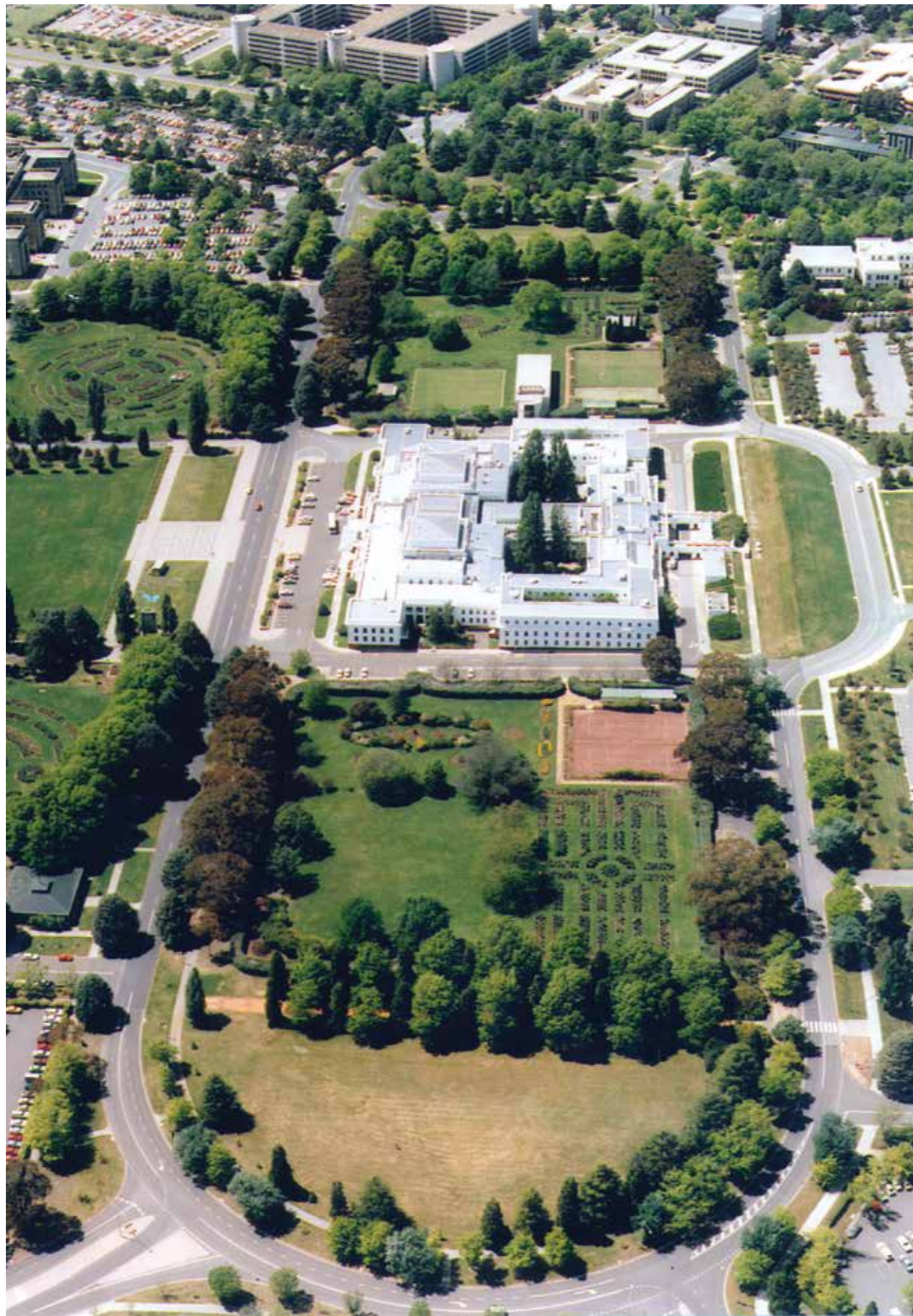
As it turned out, the Senate did not endorse the Committee's majority decision and the child-care centre did not proceed.⁴¹ Senators had saved Broinowski's then 50-year-old Ladies' Rose Garden from destruction.

A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT

The retention of much of the original character and charm of the gardens by the Presiding Officers and the Joint House Committee over their 61-year period of stewardship was a remarkable achievement. As we have seen, there were a number of occasions when major fundamental alterations could have been made. Fortunately, there were enough Members, Senators and staff who cared at critical moments. We should be eternally grateful to those who fought to conserve the gardens.

It is regrettable that with the departure of the Parliament, the gardens were effectively ignored for a number of years. Robin Johnson, who had previously worked in the gardens, became Foreman Gardener in 1988 and served in that position until late 1991. His gardeners were reduced to three and he was instructed to restrict the gardens to a 'very minimum maintenance level'. Some floral display beds were closed off and a rose bed in the Senate garden was removed.⁴² For any Foreman Gardener, this was an impossible situation in which to be placed. By the early 1990s, the ageing gardens were in urgent need of attention; deterioration was evident.

Would the gardens of the Provisional Parliament House survive this situation?



PLANNING FOR PUBLIC GARDENS, 1990S

Because of the historical and heritage merits of the Provisional Parliament House it should remain basically as it is ...

The most appropriate future use would be as a museum related to the Australian Constitution, Federation and the Commonwealth Parliament.

RECOMMENDATIONS 2 & 3

Report on the Future of the Provisional Parliament House, Joint Standing Committee on the New Parliament House, May 1984

Despite the Parliament's decision in 1984 to retain the Provisional Parliament House, uncertainty about what to do with its gardens persisted. As will be seen, some 10 years would pass before clarity on the future of the gardens emerged.

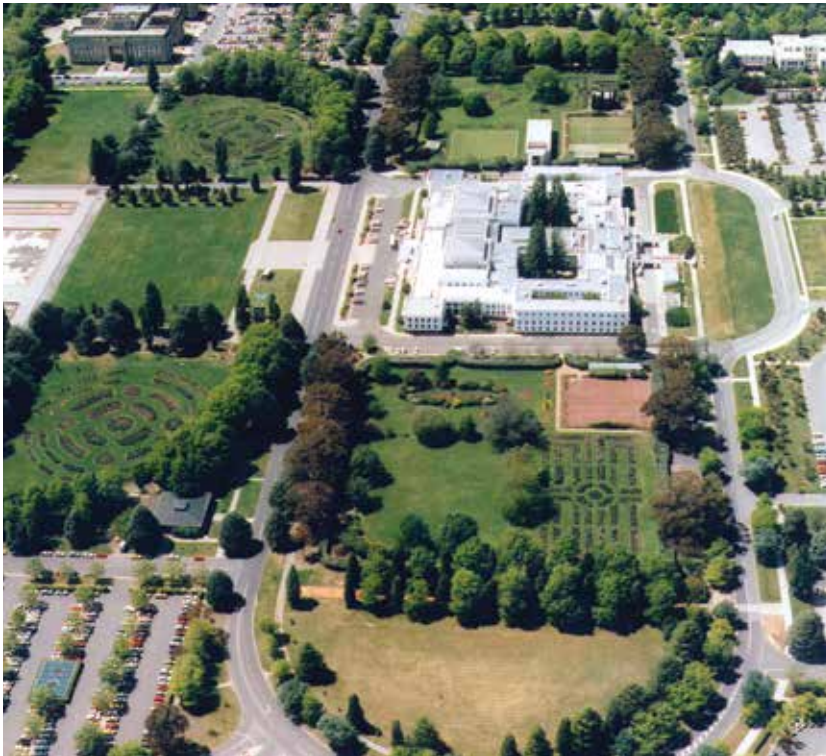
GARDENS WITH AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

The first response to the Parliament's decision to retain the 61-year-old House and its gardens came in 1986 when a conservation plan for Old Parliament House – the Tanner Plan – was produced. This dealt largely with architectural issues and, in a limited way, with the gardens' history. The exception was the two building courts, that, it was proposed, would be restored and reconnected to the gardens by removal of the post-1927 south-east and south-west wings.¹

The uncertainty about the gardens was reinforced by their aged and altered condition and, after 1988, the cutback in their maintenance. In addition, as we have seen, two large buildings unrelated to their garden location remained in the House of Representatives Garden: the temporary annexe and the squash courts. There was also the Australian Government's decision to replace the Ladies' Rose Garden with a child-care centre which, as seen in the previous chapter, was, fortunately, reversed later.

In 1989, the government decided on the redevelopment and public use of the building.² The assumption at this time appears to have been that the Tanner Plan proposals to remove the post-1927 additions would prevail. There was, however, a degree of dissatisfaction about this plan. In 1992 Ian McShane, a professional historian, went public with an article in the *Public History Review* arguing that too much emphasis was being placed on the original 1927 building.³ He was also critical of the citation for the building's entry onto the Commonwealth Heritage List.⁴

The matter eventually came to a head in November 1992. The Joint Standing Committee on the Parliamentary Zone expressed concern with the 'current inaction' to open the building to the public. It remained also to be convinced about the wisdom of removing many of the post-1927 additions.⁵



The Provisional Parliament House and its gardens, with the Senate semi-circular garden in the foreground, 1994

SOURCE: NCPA

The aged, altered and poor condition of the gardens, together with cutbacks in their maintenance, was of concern by the 1990s. Some rose beds had been eliminated or converted to shrubs; the hedges were overgrown or sections had been burnt. Some trees required replacement. Two buildings, unrelated to the gardens, remained in the House of Representatives Garden. Car parks were interfering with the growth of trees and there was uncertainty about the future of the two semi-circular gardens. A plan for reconstruction of the gardens as public gardens was urgently needed.

An important step was taken on 15 December 1992 when the building was formally re-opened by former Prime Ministers Sir John Gorton and Gough Whitlam. The National Museum of Australia was appointed to manage the public use of the building and, in particular, its interpretation. This was followed eventually with a new conservation plan produced by the Department of Communications and the Arts, which differed from the previous one, particularly in relation to the removal of the post-1927 additions.⁶ Most of these proposed removals were not to proceed.

RESTORATION OF THE BUILDING COURTS

The first landscape restoration took place in 1996, when the courts were partially restored to their original 1927 condition. The replacement poplar trees, clones of the original ones, were replanted ceremonially, thus recalling the original formal planting referred to in Chapter 1. In the Senate Court, Senator Margaret Reid

and the UK High Commissioner Sir Roger Carrick planted the two replacement trees on 11 October 1996, the 70th anniversary of the original planting.⁷ On the House of Representatives side, Minister for Communications and the Arts, Senator Richard Alston, with the assistance of retired Senator Reg Bishop, planted the replacement trees on 9 May 1996. Plaques have not been installed at the base of each tree to commemorate these events and the original 1926 ones have been stored elsewhere. The only plaques in the courts now are those on the three restored fountains, which were activated on 15 October 1997 by former Senate President Senator Margaret Reid.⁸

The reconstructed pergola structures bear little relationship to the original elegant masonry and timber ones through which access previously to the gardens was gained via elaborate gates.

DISPELLING UNCERTAINTY

The National Capital Planning Authority (NCPA), which had been established at the time of ACT self-government in 1989, sought to dispel the uncertainty about the future of the gardens by commissioning a conservation study. The Patrick & Wallace study, led by horticulturist John Patrick, uncovered useful information; it also concluded that the gardens were of 'great significance as a representative of a public garden of the 1920s and as a setting for the buildings of Old Parliament House itself'.⁹ However, the history of Broinowski's rose gardens was not covered.

In 1992, amidst mounting concern about the condition of the landscape of the Parliamentary Zone, the NCPA initiated another study.¹⁰ This raised questions about the Old Parliament House Gardens and expressed concern about the poor condition of trees, paths and irrigation systems, and identified the need to replant hedges and maintain them regularly.¹¹ Fortunately, the Australian Government transferred responsibility for land management in the Parliamentary Zone to the NCPA on 1 July 1992.¹²

PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE GARDENS AROUSED

There was limited public interest in the gardens until the mid-1990s. John Pettifer CBE, a retired Clerk of the House of Representatives, suggested in 1993



A garden tour in what remained of the Ladies Rose Garden, 1995

SOURCE: NMA

Walking tours were introduced in 1995 by the National Museum of Australia. These were a catalyst for increased public interest in the gardens. The person second from the right is Mrs Ruth Schmedding, a daughter of Robert Broinowski. Sixty years previously her father had sponsored a rose in her name in this garden.

that the gardens should be made better known to tourists and residents. He stated that few Canberra residents were aware of their existence.¹³

Pettifer was correct. There was no directional or interpretive signage and very few people knew the location of the obscure entrances through the hedges. The Senate Garden was, at times, used for weddings but the lack of public toilets meant that large crowds could not be accommodated. There were no garden tours, except during Canberra's Floriade spring festival.¹⁴

Realising the problem, the National Museum of Australia in 1995 introduced at certain times of the year an occasional walking tour, commencing in the building courts.¹⁵ This was based largely on the history revealed in the NCPA's Conybeare Morrison • CONTEXT Master Plan.

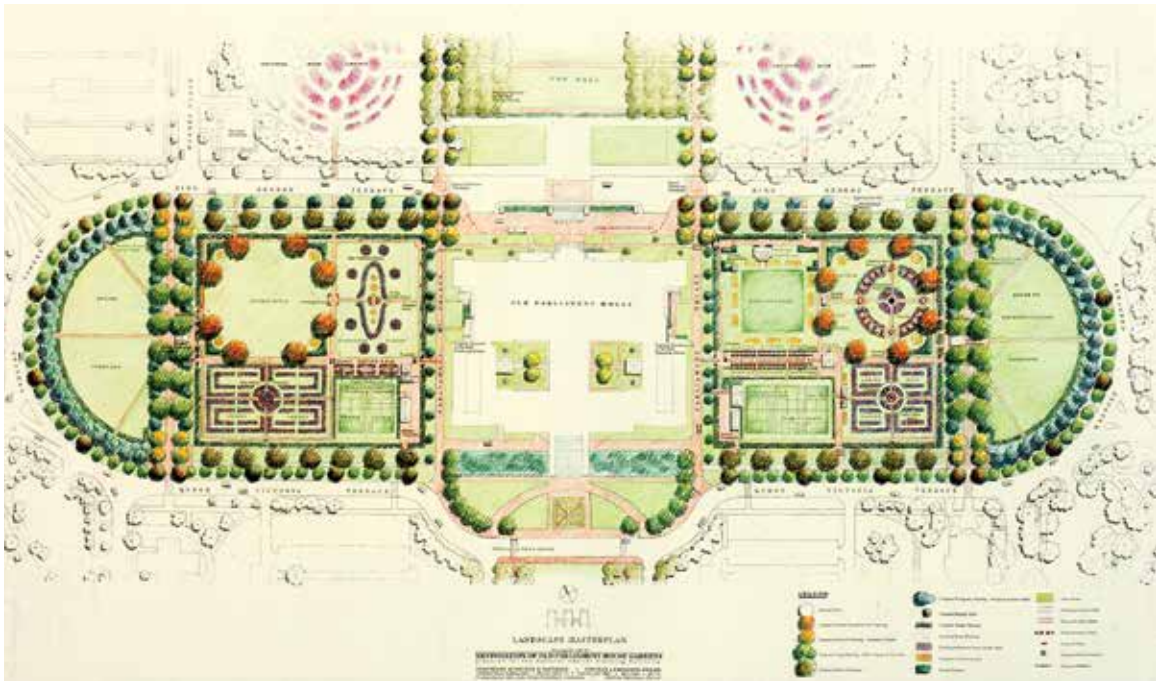
The walking tour was a catalyst for an expanding interest in the gardens, particularly for Canberra residents. However, for most visitors to Old Parliament House, the entrances to the gardens were still difficult to find. For self-guided visitors, the access route from the building courts to the gardens was not feasible in management and security terms – an unfortunate deficiency since the gardens were conceived as an integral part of Old Parliament House.

THE CONYBEARE MORRISON • CONTEXT MASTER PLAN

The NCPA, now fully responsible for the gardens, took a further step in 1993 by commissioning consultant Conybeare Morrison & Partners • CONTEXT Landscape Design in association with John Gray Consultant Canberra, to prepare a master plan for their reconstruction. In preparing this, the project team, led by Bill Morrison and Ms Oi Choong, initiated a comprehensive analysis of the history and condition of the existing gardens and their relationship to Old Parliament House and the Parliamentary Zone. Research by John Gray of old official records revealed both the long-forgotten stories about the creation of Broinowski's rose gardens and information on the Parliament's use and conservation of the gardens during its 61-year occupation. In addition, the poor condition of the ageing horticultural components of the gardens was documented and plans for their restoration developed.¹⁶

The resulting 1994 plan detailed a strategy for the restoration of the gardens. The plan's design concept sought to reconstruct, as far as practicable, each of the components of the gardens as originally conceived by John Murdoch, Charles Weston and Robert Broinowski. The character of the original Parliament Square Gardens was to be re-created, largely by reducing the extent of peripheral bitumen roads in favour of pedestrians and landscape. The original structure, layout and character of the Senate and House of Representatives Gardens were to be preserved. This was to include the replacement of the old hedges and some of the trees, and removal of the parliamentary annexe and squash court buildings. The two semi-circular gardens were to be 're-connected' to the other gardens and enriched with new uses, including a re-instatement of the original hedges and additional gate openings.

At the same time there was a need to draw together all parts of the gardens to create a coordinated public garden associated with the re-use of Old Parliament House and to add garden features consistent with the gardens' new role for public use. Pergolas, toilets, kiosks, lighting, a pathway network and more entrance gateways in the hedges were envisaged – the latter to solve the problem of the inadequate public visibility of the hedge-enclosed Senate and House of Representatives Gardens. Pergolas, arbours, sculpture and fountains were proposed, while facilities for the on-going maintenance of each garden were also needed.



The National Capital Planning Authority's draft plan for the reconstruction of the gardens as public gardens, 1994

SOURCE: NCPA

This plan, prepared by Conybeare Morrison * CONTEXT Landscape Architects was based on extensive research of the gardens and their use in the past almost 70 years. Following fine-tuning over the next six years, it became a long-term strategy for reconstruction of the gardens as significant public gardens in the Parliamentary Zone.

An interpretive concept was proposed. The historic analysis demonstrated that these gardens have high interpretive value for a number of key reasons. Firstly, they were created by the Parliament itself during the first century of the Australian federation. Secondly, key people and events, over the 61 years of their occupation by the Parliament, had been associated with the gardens. Thirdly, they are gardens of immense horticultural and design interest. And finally, roses have been a key element in the gardens throughout their history, reflecting the great interest in this shrub in Australia throughout the twentieth century, an interest that has shown no sign of waning.

In 1994 this plan received a National Award of Merit from the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects.

FINE-TUNING AND HERITAGE CONSIDERATIONS

Over the following six years the National Capital Authority reviewed the plan in detail and fine-tuned it in association with the Australian Heritage Commission, the Governing Council of Old Parliament House and other related agencies.

Given the gardens' historic background, extensive consideration of heritage issues was needed. The gardens are covered by three overlapping entries in the Commonwealth Heritage List:

- Parliament House Vista
- Old Parliament House & Curtilage
- Old Parliament House Gardens.

The National Trust has a number of classifications covering the Old Parliament House and its gardens, while the Australian Institute of Architects has registrations on their Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture.¹⁷

In accordance with established procedures, the gardens were fully photographed.¹⁸

SEPT-CENTENARY OF MAGNA CARTA, 1997

During this fine-tuning process several significant events occurred that were to have an influence on the NCPA's final plan. These events related well to the Parliament's desire, expressed in 1984, that the Old Parliament House be preserved as 'a museum related to the Australian Constitution, Federation and the Commonwealth Parliament'. The first was associated with the 700th anniversary of the 1297 version of the Magna Carta.

In 1997, the Australian Government, at the suggestion of the Australia-Britain Society, decided to name the western semi-circular garden 'Magna Carta Place'.¹⁹ This built on the naming, 45 years previously, of the adjacent Langton Crescent to commemorate the first 50 years of the Australian federation.²⁰ Archbishop Langton had influenced King John to seal the original Magna Carta, near London in 1215.

On 12 October 1997, the Chief Justice of Australia, Sir Gerard Brennan, unveiled a plaque formally naming the area as Magna Carta Place. This event commemorated the significant 700th anniversary, to the day, of the sealing by King Edward I of the important 1297 issue of the great charter, a copy of which is on permanent display in the permanent Parliament House.

The Australia-Britain Society went on to construct a monument in Magna Carta Place as a place for reflection on the significance of the great charter. Prime Minister John Howard formally opened this on 26 September 2001.

CONSTITUTION CONVENTION, 1998

In 1998, the Australian Government decided to name the eastern semi-circular garden 'Constitution Place'.²¹ This built on the naming, 45 years previously, of the adjacent Walpole Crescent to commemorate the first 50 years of the Australian federation.²² The name selected is a reminder of the origins of the Australian Constitution in the British Parliament in 1900 and of Sir Robert Walpole, who is generally regarded as the first person to serve as a British Prime Minister.

On 13 February 1998, at the conclusion of the much-publicised historic Constitutional Convention in Old Parliament House, a plaque was unveiled by Prime Minister John Howard to commemorate the event. The convention had been called to discuss a possible change to the almost 100 year-old Australian Constitution to create an Australian Republic.

CENTENARY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, 2002

Another event of significance would influence the final master plan: the passing of the Commonwealth Franchise Act in 1902. This opened the way for women to vote in federal elections and be elected to the Commonwealth Parliament.

To commemorate the centenary, in 2003 the Australian Government announced that a fountain would be constructed in the House of Representatives Garden at Old Parliament House. This comprises a seven-metre-long water pond and associated time-line recording the milestones and significant achievements of women in the Commonwealth Parliament.

Senator Kay Patterson officially opened the fountain on 2 December 2004.

FUTURE OF THE GARDENS ASSURED

In the 15 years that followed the Parliament's decision in 1989 to refurbish the Old Parliament House, the gardens moved from a state of uncertainty to a situation where their future was assured. It is difficult to believe, for example, that in 1989 there was a government commitment, fortunately never realised, to replace the poorly preserved Ladies' Rose garden with a building.

Today the Old Parliament House Gardens rank amongst the most outstanding and historically interesting public horticultural gardens in Australia.



THE GARDENS TODAY

The Old Parliament House and its Gardens hold many memories for me and I am delighted that they have been returned to their former glory. I am particularly pleased that so many members of the Australian public have supported the project by sponsoring roses to celebrate a special occasion in their lives or to commemorate that special someone.

MRS TAMIE FRASER, PATRON, ROSE GARDENS RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT,
OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE GARDENS

Booklet commemorating the re-opening of the Senate and House of Representatives Gardens, December 2004

With parliamentary approval of the final master plan in April 2000, the reconstruction of the Old Parliament House Gardens was completed by December 2004.¹ The National Capital Authority's Senior Landscape Architect, Rosalind Ransome, played a key role in finalising the plan and achieving the gardens' reconstruction.

The community's involvement in the project was remarkable. The rose patronage scheme and the Australia-Britain Society's Magna Carta monument were both supported financially by an overwhelming number of people. In total some \$1.3 million was contributed.

The reconstructed gardens attracted two awards in 2006: the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (ACT Group) State Award of Merit (Design) and the Australian Institute of Architects (ACT Chapter) State Heritage Award.

PARLIAMENT SQUARE GARDENS

As we have seen, John Smith Murdoch, the architect for the House, ensured that his building was set back from its surrounding Parliament Square road so that it could be seen and appreciated in a garden setting. The gardens at the front and sides were simply lawn with widely spaced, mostly low-tree planting. However, this design was lost over the years due to building extensions and expanded car parking. The gardens today are only a remnant of the original ones.

As these gardens are the 'public address' to the Commonwealth Parliament, modifications were made in an attempt to improve what remained. In the 1970s, trees were added at the sides of the building and shrub planter boxes constructed at the front. In the 1980s, rose beds were established at the front and sides, relating sensitively to the Broinowski rose garden theme.

Of particular interest are the standard roses at the front of the House; some are the original plantings. Variety labels may be found near most of these as follows: Adolf Horstman, Bonny Hamilton, Bridal Pink, Caid, Francis Phoebe, Friesia, Gold Bunny, Iced Ginger, Janina, John F. Kennedy, Just Joey, Kalinka, Kerry Gold, Madame A. Meilland, Marlena, Mr Lincoln, Nana Mouskourie, Orange Bunny, Queen Elizabeth, Sonia, Sutters Gold, Traumerei, and Trau Merii.

The unlabelled trees include Claret ash, English holly, Liquidambar, Roman cypress, and silver birch.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE GARDENS

The original design, layout and character of these two gardens have been retained. In particular, the borders of formal tree and hedge planting, enclosing irrigated grass spaces divided into four quadrants containing patterned rose gardens or recreation facilities, have not been altered. A new pathway network surrounds each garden, defining the quadrants and, in turn, directing visitors, including those using wheelchairs, into each rose garden. The latter are watered with a unique in-ground drip irrigation system. The east-west path is aligned

The House of Representatives Garden as a public garden, 2006

SOURCE: NCA



The original structure, layout and character of this garden have been preserved. A new pathway network carries visitors, including those wheel-chair-bound, into each rose garden; there are additional gates in the hedges. A refreshment pavilion, public toilet and change facilities have been added. Wisteria-planted pergolas and climbing-rose arbours provide additional summer shade. The annexe and squash buildings have been removed.

with the central paths in the two building courts, and there are additional entrances in the hedges for the public. In the House of Representatives Garden, the parliamentary annexe and squash courts have been removed.²

Replacements (with the same species) of some of the older trees and all of the hedges were required.³ New, better performing varieties of the original hedge species were used.⁴ At a cost of \$330,000 the hedge replacement program was commenced on 12 October 2000 and took several weeks.⁵

As seen in the previous chapter, a new fountain has been added to the House of Representatives Garden to commemorate the centenary of women's suffrage. It comprises a seven-metre long water pond and associated time-line. Along the time-line, one finds the milestones and significant achievements of women in the Commonwealth Parliament. At the beginning of the line, the four women who stood unsuccessfully for the 1903 election are remembered.⁶ There follows the names of 16 women, all of whom have served the Parliament from 1943 onward.⁷

**Mrs Janette
Howard and
Senator Kay
Patterson viewing
the Centenary of
Women's Suffrage
Commemorative
Fountain, 2004**

SOURCE: NCA

In 2004 Senator Patterson officially opened the fountain in the House of Representatives Garden. With its associated time-line it commemorates women's suffrage and the milestones and significant achievements of women in the Commonwealth Parliament





The Senate Garden as a public garden, 2006

SOURCE: NCA

The original structure, layout and character of this garden have been preserved. A new pathway network carries visitors, including those wheel-chair-bound, into each rose garden. There are additional gates in the hedges, including one adjacent to the Magna Carta Place. A refreshment pavilion, public toilet and change facilities have been added. Wisteria-planted pergolas and climbing-rose arbours provide additional summer shade.

A number of new elements have been added as part of the reopening of the gardens to the public. Included are refreshment pavilions, public toilets and change facilities, lights for tennis players and a maintenance facility building. John Murdoch's 1926 drawing of a proposed garden pavilion inspired the designs for these. Wisteria-planted pergolas and climbing-rose arbours, both using recycled ironbark timber beams, provide additional summer shade.

The trees within and surrounding these two gardens include Arizona cypress, blue gum, Canadian silver maple, cherry plum, claret ash, desert ash, English oak, hawthorn, incense cedar, Japanese flowering cherry, Liquidambar, Lombardy poplar, maiden's gum, pin oak, Roman cypress, rowan, silver birch, southern nettle tree, sugar maple, thornless honey locust, and white poplar.

The original rose bed patterns cut into the grass have been restored; however, reinstatement of the original rose selections and arrangements proved to be impossible. Former Foreman Gardener Robin Johnson was able to provide some information on the location of some rose types and post-1988 changes

**A rose arbour in
the Macarthur Rose
Garden, 2006**

SOURCE: NCA

The climbing-rose
arbours provide
additional summer shade.
They add diversity and
interest to the garden,
and assist in achieving
the cultivation and
display of a wide variety
of roses for the enjoyment
of visitors.



to the Gardens, but most of the original roses had been lost and replaced, and the sketchy paper records provided insufficient evidence to make confident statements about the original rose gardens.⁸ It was decided, instead, to select new roses for the reconstructed four rose gardens and the tennis court fences systematically. Rose specialist Peter Cox, in 1995, proposed a theme for each garden that was then refined and modified by rose specialist Milton Simms during the reconstruction phase.⁹

On the Senate side, the Rex Hazlewood Garden traces the history of the rose, with a display of roses from Asia in the eastern half of the garden, and from Europe in the west. Along the centre of the garden the culmination of many years of rose cultivation is displayed through the resulting early Hybrid Tea and Floribunda roses. The Broinowski Garden displays mainly English shrub roses bred by David Austin.

On the House of Representatives side, the Ladies' Garden displays Hybrid Tea and Floribunda roses set out according to colour and the Macarthur Garden displays roses popular at the turn of the century including Tea and China roses and Noisette climbing roses for the new arbours. Climbing roses raised by Australian rose breeder Alister Clark during the 1930s are planted on the tennis court fences in both gardens.¹⁰

Milton Simms made the final selection of the rose collection for the gardens. This was an exacting task pursued over many months.¹¹ Regrettably, Milton died a year after the completion of the gardens; he has been honoured with a seat overlooking the Rex Hazlewood Rose Garden.

Companion perennial planting has been added in a sensitive manner to a design by National Capital Authority Senior Landscape Architect Rosalind Ransome and the existing bedding displays have been refurbished.

The surviving roses, particularly those with historical, horticultural or social value, were saved where possible. In a number of cases, roses of interest or unknown variety were placed in a small garden adjacent to the bowling green pavilion for later identification. The remaining roses were, where practicable, transferred to the Rotary Club of Hall for sale to the community to raise funds for local charities. Some \$13,000 has been distributed to 10 worthwhile community projects.¹²



**Jim Lloyd MP,
Minister for
Territories, Local
Government & Roads,
formally opening the
reconstructed gardens
on 2 December 2004**

SOURCE: NCA

Following the opening, the reconstructed Ladies', Macarthur, Broinowski and Rex Hazlewood Rose Gardens were officially launched by, Mrs Janette Howard, former Deputy Prime Minister Doug Anthony, Mr Richard Broinowski and Mr Laurance Hazlewood respectively.

**Mr Doug Anthony
MP, Chair,
Governing Council
of Old Parliament
House and former
Deputy Prime
Minister officially
launching the
reconstructed
Macarthur Rose
Garden on
2 December 2004**

SOURCE: NCA

This garden commemorates the contributions of Captain John Macarthur and his wife Elizabeth Macarthur to the founding of the Australian wool industry.



Given that a wide range of views exists in the community about how best to restore heritage places, it is not surprising that there was some debate about the restoration of these two gardens. Through letters to *The Canberra Times*, some individuals expressed their concerns about the change of hedge species and the insertion of additional gateways in the hedges.¹³ There was also discussion about the National Capital Authority's approach to the replacement of the existing roses with new ones.¹⁴ In an article in the journal, *Australian Garden History*, former head of the Australian Heritage Commission and Old Parliament House Max Bourke expressed reservations about the Authority's plans. He questioned whether it would have been better to use a more 'low key' approach.¹⁵ In finalising its plans, the National Capital Authority and the Australian Heritage Commission took into account these criticisms.

Reconstruction of both gardens, estimated to cost \$6.7 million, was commenced in June 2003.¹⁶ Mr Jim Lloyd, Minister for Territories, Local Government & Roads, formally opened them on 2 December 2004.¹⁷

ROSE PATRONAGE SCHEME

The cost of replanting all the rose gardens was borne by a large number of patrons as part of a rose patronage scheme. This was formally launched by the scheme's patron, Mrs Tamie Fraser, on 7 November 2002.¹⁸ It resembled the one launched some 70 years earlier by Robert Broinowski.

NCA staff member Winifred Rosser liaised with patrons on the scheme.

The public was invited to sponsor roses at a cost of \$100 each. This covered bed preparation, planting and ongoing maintenance for 10 years. For each rose, there was a patron or patrons, their names being recognised on plaques placed nearby. In those cases where individuals, groups or organisations were sponsoring a number of roses, a separate 'patron rose bed' was created.

By 2005, over 3,000 individuals and/or organisations from all over Australia had become patrons. Some 4,200 roses were planted, the scheme raising over \$400,000.¹⁹

A great variety of individuals and organisations were patrons. Among them were early Canberra citizens; construction workers at the Provisional Parliament House in the 1920s; prominent Australians; rose lovers; families of children who passed away; Provisional Parliament House staff; schools; garden clubs; municipal and shire councils; and national organisations. Roses were also sponsored to mark special events including anniversaries, the birth of a grandchild and Mother's Day.



Mrs Tamie Fraser, Patron of the rose patronage scheme, at the formal opening of the reconstructed gardens on 2 December 2004

SOURCE: NCA

In 2002 Mrs Fraser launched the rose patronage scheme for the replanting of the rose gardens. By 2005, over 3,000 individuals and/or organisations from all over Australia had sponsored roses. Some 4,200 roses were planted under the scheme.



From left, Freda Bashford, Sylvia Wolstencroft and Mary McGrath receiving a certificate recognising their sponsorship of a rose planted in the name of their father, Harold Larwood MBE, 2003

SOURCE: THE CANBERRA TIMES

Harold Larwood was the controversial 'bodyline' bowler in the English Cricket Team that toured Australia in 1932–33.

There is the inevitable cricket story. A rose, apparently contributed in 1932–33 by the touring English cricket team of 'bodyline' bowling fame, became the catalyst for other new sponsorships in the contemporary scheme. In 2003 the English cricket team sponsored a rose;²⁰ shortly after this, the daughters of Harold Larwood MBE, the controversial 'bodyline' bowler, sponsored a rose in his memory.²¹

In 2004, the rose patronage scheme was extended. A record of rose patrons' comments was established. Almost 600 comments were received and these have been placed in a register. It is clear from these that many patrons had very special reasons for sponsoring a rose in the gardens.

There are many interesting stories in the register. For example, one rose has been named for Berenice Bergsma, the first woman to cross the Owen Stanley Ranges, while fighting still raged in New Guinea during World War II. There with the 7th Australian General Hospital, she was known to the troops as 'Bondi Sunshine'.²² Hazel Craig, who worked for Prime Ministers Lyons, Curtin, Chifley and Menzies, and for the latter in his retirement, has been remembered with a rose.²³ Anthony Lamb MP has remembered his father, Lt Hamilton Lamb, MLA Victoria, the only sitting member of Parliament to die for Australia while on active service during World War II.²⁴

A number of former parliamentarians who served in the Provisional Parliament House have sponsored roses. Some recognise their former parliamentary colleagues; several are in the Ladies' Rose Garden. Many former Prime Ministers have been specifically recognised there with a rose. In addition, some former parliamentarians have sponsored roses to express gratitude to their wives for their support while in Parliament. One of these is Ralph Hunt MP, who sponsored a rose for Miriam Hunt, 'the hero of my twenty years of parliamentary service'.²⁵

With the conclusion of the scheme in 2014, new arrangements to assist and recognise patrons will apply. The existing interpretive signs in the gardens will be updated to explain the scheme and the important role that patrons have played in the reconstruction of the gardens. These signs will be supplemented with additional detailed patron and sponsor information on the National Capital Authority's website, www.nationalcapital.gov.au in order to assist patrons and sponsors when they visit the gardens to see both their rose and how it is performing. Ground level signs in the rose beds identifying rose varieties will continue to assist patrons. Due to vandalism and misadventure problems, the formerly-installed patron plaques are to be removed and archived for posterity. To further assist patrons a booklet 'Old Parliament House Gardens Guide' will be available on the National Capital Authority's website to help them to locate and identify roses. This rose guide is also available in the Museum of Australian Democracy at the Old Parliament House reception desk. These new arrangements will continue to ensure that patrons can make their visits to the Gardens 'an emotional time as memories flood back'.

MAGNA CARTA AND CONSTITUTION PLACES

The original structure, layout and character of these two places have been largely preserved. In particular, the border of formal tree planting enclosing irrigated grass space has not been altered, although the hedges, which once surrounded these areas, have not been reinstated. There are path connections to the adjacent rectangular Senate and House of Representatives Gardens.

The trees bordering these two Places include Deodar, English oak, hawthorn, incense cedar, Lombardy poplar, pin oak, and white poplar.

In 1996, Sir John Mason KCMG, Chairman of the Magna Carta Committee of the Australia–Britain Society, proposed the construction, based on public donations, of a monument at Magna Carta Place. The design resulted from a competition launched in Australia and Britain.²⁶ The winning design, by Alastair Falconer and Marcus Bree, celebrated the relationship between the people of Australia and the United Kingdom and their shared belief in the rule of law, freedom of speech and assembly, as well as the sovereignty of Parliament embodied by the Magna Carta. The proposal was approved by the Parliament in November 2000 and the first sod turned by Australia–Britain Society National President Marjorie Turbayne on 27 February 2001.²⁷

The monument was an Australia–Britain Society Centenary of Federation project incorporating a substantial Centenary of Federation gift from the government of the United Kingdom. The society obtained donations from over 650 individuals and organisations to achieve the \$900,000 required for the project. The major donors were the United Kingdom and Australian Governments, the Council of the Centenary of Federation, the Australian Capital Territory Government, the Australia–Britain Society, the Friends of Magna Carta, and Air Vice Marshal H D Hall CB CMG CBE AFC RAF (Retd), Deputy Chair of the Magna Carta Committee.

**Prime Minister
John Howard
formally opening
the Magna Carta
monument, 2001**

SOURCE: JOHN GRAY

The monument celebrates the relationship between the people of Australia and the United Kingdom and their shared belief in the rule of law, freedom of speech and assembly, as well as the sovereignty of parliament embodied by the Magna Carta.





**Air Vice-Marshal
H D Hall, at the
Magna Carta
monument
completed in 2001**

SOURCE: NCA

This monument was an Australia–Britain Society Centenary of Federation Project incorporating a substantial Centenary of Federation gift from the Government of the United Kingdom. Air Vice Marshal Hall (pictured) played a major role in its construction.

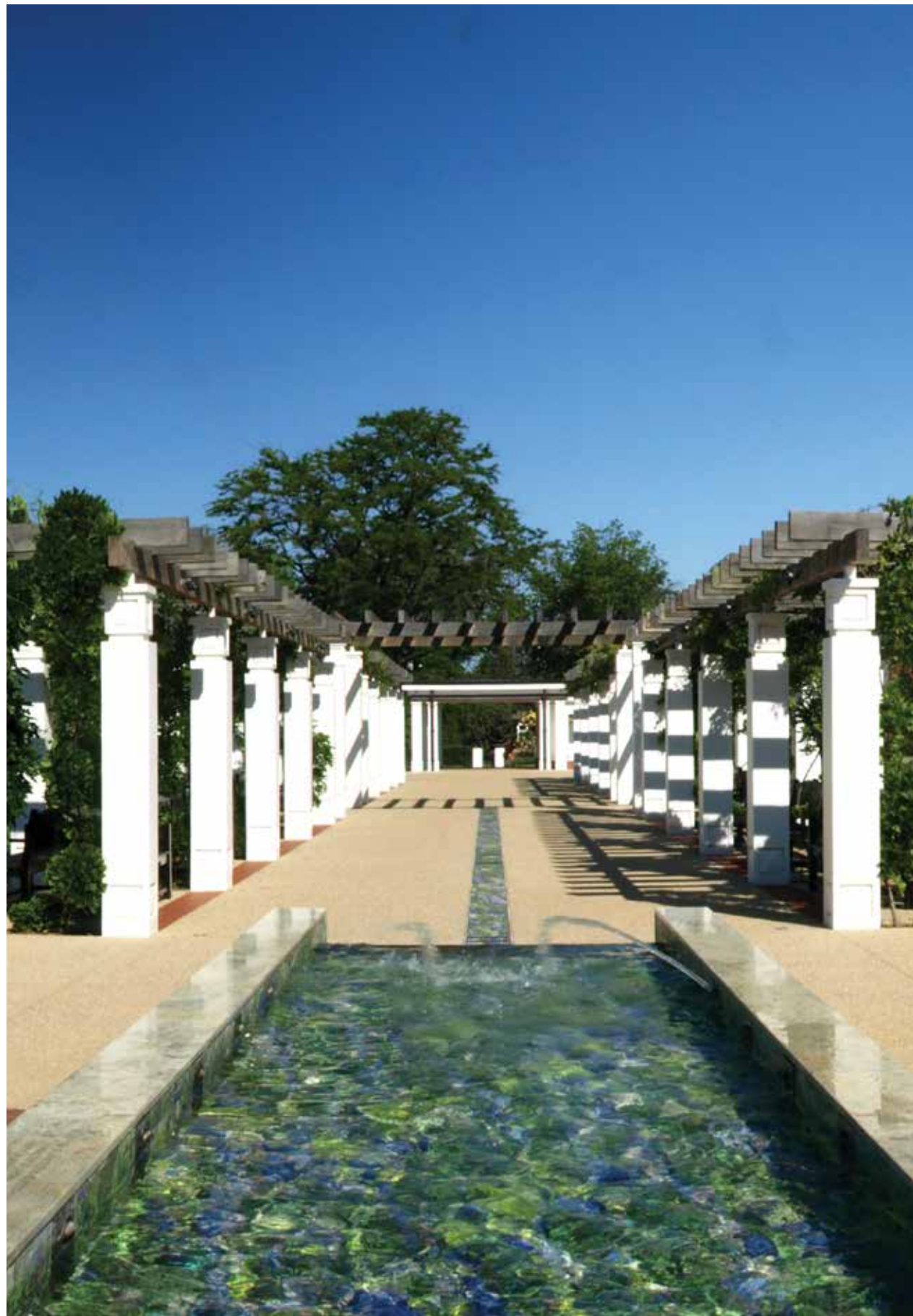
PROFESSIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A list of those who contributed to the planning, design and reconstruction of the gardens is at Appendix 1.

A list of those who contributed to the planning, design and construction of the Magna Carta monument is at Appendix 2.

GARDENS WITH A SPECIAL QUALITY

The extraordinary involvement and support by the community in the reconstruction project have given the gardens a special quality. Mrs Tamie Fraser remarked that the sponsored rose gardens give ‘the whole place quite a spiritual quality. When people put their money and their heart into having a rose planted, they come back and have an association and stake in the gardens themselves. People from as far away as Esperance, Christmas Island, Mackay and Broome have all given roses to the gardens. So all Australia is here really’.²⁸



7

A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

The [reconstructed] gardens are an absolute delight and they are going to give an enormous amount of pleasure to a great many people.

FORMER PRIME MINISTER MALCOLM FRASER

Interview on ABC TV, Stateline (ACT), 2 December 2004

The survival of these 80-year-old gardens, largely in their original form, is a legacy of the Commonwealth Parliament's commitment from the 1920s onwards to create, protect and treasure them. That commitment was evident not only while the Parliament met in the Provisional Parliament House, but also in the two decades that have since passed. As we have seen in this short history, there were a number of occasions when major fundamental alterations could have been made to the gardens, but fortunately, there were enough Members, Senators and staff who cared at critical moments. We should be eternally grateful to those who fought to conserve the gardens over the years.

The National Capital Authority's reconstruction of the gardens reflects well the Parliament's decision to retain the Old Parliament House as a public place to 'provide visitors with an understanding of and background to Federation, the Australian Constitution and the role of the Parliament in Australia's form of democratic government'.¹ The reconstructed gardens we see today are not only of major historical, heritage landscape and horticultural interest but they also help, in their reconstructed form, to draw attention to the democratic values that characterise Australia as a nation. In particular, the NCA responded positively to public interest in the 1990s in the centenaries of federation and women's

**The Founding
Committee of the
Friends of Old
Parliament House
Gardens Rose
Gardens**

SOURCE: MALCOLM BEAZLEY

(From left to right):
Andrew Smith,
Genevieve Jacobs
(President of the Friends),
Gary Rake, Wendy
McLeod, Dr Malcolm
Beazley AM (Vice-
President of the Friends),
Sarah White, Anne
Knowler, Jacalyn Luby,
and Fred Knowler.





**Mrs Tamie Fraser
AO planting a rose
in the gardens with
the assistance of
Head Gardener
Dennis Dempsey**

SOURCE: MALCOLM
BEAZLEY AM

Mrs Fraser is one of the
Patrons of the Friends of
Old Parliament House
Rose Gardens.

suffrage, the sept-centenary of Magna Carta and the Australian republic issue by introducing new symbolic elements that add new meanings to the gardens. In this regard the gardens complement the Australian Government's decision in recent years to establish a *Museum of Australian Democracy* in the Old Parliament House.

A unique feature of the reconstruction of the gardens was the community's intense interest in, and support for, the project. Over 650 individuals, groups, governments and organisations contributed the \$900,000 required to build the Magna Carta monument, while the cost of planting over 4,200 roses was borne by a large number of patrons. These contributions together add up to approximately \$1.3 million.

The National Capital Authority sought to build on this community interest in the gardens. In 2010, the *Friends of Old Parliament House Rose Gardens* was established, replacing an earlier Friends organisation. The organisation, with Mrs Tamie Fraser and Mr Richard Broinowski as joint patrons, aims to promote and preserve for future generations the gardens as a national treasure.

The NCA has introduced a policy of horticulture volunteers, who number 62. Under the guidance of the head gardener, they assist with the care of the

**Head Gardener
Dennis Dempsey
with four of the
horticultural
volunteers**

SOURCE: NCA

The volunteer team is from left Dennis Dempsey, Jenny Moore, Libby Osborne, Nadene Edwards (Team Leader), and Rodney Berrill.



gardens and their development as a world class attraction. At the gardens in their distinctive uniforms, on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis, volunteer activities include dead-heading of roses and other flowering plants, weeding and maintenance of garden beds. Training is an important part of their program. They feel honoured to be part of these nationally significant gardens.

In addition to these horticulture volunteers, the NCA has 21 volunteer guides involved in the interpretation of the National Capital of whom two have been trained to interpret in the Old Parliament House Gardens, concentrating on the historic, horticultural and symbolic elements of the gardens.

Clearly the use of these now public gardens is entirely different from that which prevailed prior to 1988. The Senate and House of Representatives Gardens then were largely the private domain of parliamentarians and others working in the Provisional Parliament House. These users have long since gone, but they and their families and friends will retain, for the rest of their lives, an attachment to a place that was dear to them.

There are several different types of users in the gardens today. Some want to explore the gardens' pre-1988 history; others are interested in the important symbols of the Australian democracy, including the Magna Carta and



Mark and Amanda Dempsey celebrate their wedding in the vicinity of the Macarthur Garden

SOURCE: AMANDA FINTAN

The Old Parliament House Gardens have become a popular place for weddings. During 2006–2007 140 weddings were celebrated there, the gardens now being one of the most popular places in Canberra for such ceremonies.

Constitution Gardens and the Centenary of Women's Suffrage Fountain. There are the rose lovers who are now able to enjoy a remarkable collection of roses and, of course, the tree lovers who can enjoy some of the oldest planted trees in the National Capital. There are the patrons of roses, many of whom have memories surrounding the rose planted on their behalf in the gardens. There are also a variety of other visitors including those on a family picnic, or a tennis game, along with groups of school children just letting off steam after a visit to the nearby Electoral Education Centre in Old Parliament House.

To these can be added those individuals celebrating a special event in a special place. In the year 2006–2007, for example, there were 246 officially recognised events in the Old Parliament House Gardens. Some 140 of these were weddings, the gardens now being one of the most popular places in Canberra for such ceremonies.²

The Old Parliament House Gardens will continue to change as the years pass; unlike buildings, they are organic in nature. Within five years, the pergolas and rose arbours were providing shade for visitors during the heat of summer. Many of the trees planted in the 1920s and 1930s will have to be progressively replaced. Other changes may well occur which reflect new community aspirations. Future generations will perhaps see the need to incorporate into the

A group of school children in the Senate Garden

SOURCE: NCA

This group of school children are enjoying their lunch in the garden after a visit to the nearby Electoral Education Centre in Old Parliament House.



gardens new symbols consistent with the fundamental principles of Australian democracy and Australian political life. Also, the public will undoubtedly find new ways to enjoy the gardens, as the parliamentarians did during their six decades of occupation.

Safeguards are obviously necessary to ensure that changes do not destroy the gardens that need to be protected for future generations. The National Capital Authority has prepared a draft heritage management plan that sets down an understanding of the gardens' heritage values, conservation policies and implementation strategies for future management. This plan is an obligation under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

The retention and reconstruction of the Old Parliament House Gardens as a permanent public place in the national capital's Parliamentary Zone has been a highly successful initiative. Those who visit them in the years ahead will surely be grateful that they and future generations can continue to enjoy this special place in Australia's National Capital.

The Old Parliament House Gardens comprise one of the nation's treasures.





APPENDICES, BIBLIOGRAPHY, END NOTES & INDEX

APPENDIX 1

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE RECONSTRUCTION OF OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE GARDENS, 2004

Landscape Design Architect	Oi Choong
Design Architect	Bill Morrison
Rose Planting Designer	Milton Simms
Design Development Landscape Architect	John Easthope
Companion Planting Landscape Architect	Rosalind Ransome
Garden history and landscape management advice	Dr John Gray OAM
Horticultural advice	Ray Gurney
Horticultural advice	Mark Carmody
Rose advice	Peter Cox
Project Management	John Hindmarsh (ACT) Pty Ltd
Master Plan Landscape Architecture	CONTEXT Landscape Design Pty Ltd
Landscape Architecture	John Easthope & Associates Pty Ltd
Architecture	Bligh Voller Nield Pty Ltd
Electrical Engineering	Barry Webbs & Associates (ACT) Pty Ltd
Civil Engineering	Brown Consulting (ACT) Pty Ltd
Structural Engineering	Rogers + Jefferis Consulting Engineers
Hydraulic Engineering	Young Consulting Engineers

SOURCE: NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY

APPENDIX 2

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF MAGNA CARTA MONUMENT, 2001

Design Architect	Alastair Falconer
Consulting Exhibition Designer	Marcus Bree
Consulting Cost Manager	Garry Eggleton
Consulting Cost Manager	Ron Rodgers
Project Manager	Weathered Howe Pty Ltd – John Cillekens
Architecture	A P Falconer Architecture
Dome fabrication & text plaques	Urban Arts Projects, Brisbane
Building works	Kane Constructions, Canberra
Etched mural designs	Chris Meadham & Silvia Velez
Etched stonework	Traditional Stoneworks, Wagga Wagga – John Sheppard
Time capsule	Nicholas Faulkner & Associates, UK

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See Page 4 for abbreviations used in these end notes

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13	NAA, Weston, T C G, CRS A6180/3, item 13/7/73/3.
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The 87 year-old Old Parliament House Gardens rank today amongst the most outstanding public gardens in Australia. Roses remain a dominant element.

Between 1927 and 1988 they served 900 parliamentarians. For those working in the then overcrowded Provisional Parliament House, they were a valuable safety valve. Here were landscape places close to the Parliament to which they could retreat from the pressure of working in the building.

In this book John Gray sketches the story of these gardens. He records why they were originally created by the Australian Parliament, how the parliamentarians used them, how they have been converted to public gardens and in what way the gardens now reflect the principles of Australian democracy.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr John Gray OAM is a retired landscape architect. He has spent much of his professional career in Canberra. In the 1980s he was Director, Landscape Architecture, National Capital Development Commission. He is a Fellow (retired) of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects.

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In his retirement he has been researching Canberra's landscape history. He has been adjunct Professor in Landscape Architecture at the University of Canberra. In the 1990s he was a volunteer guide in the Old Parliament House after which he introduced the first walking tour for the Old Parliament House Gardens. He was also involved with the creation of the Australia-Britain Society's Magna Carta monument in these gardens.



BY THE SAME AUTHOR

The Glebe Park Story: The evolution of Canberra's main inner city park from Canberry glebe
A park for a nation: The story of Commonwealth Park in Australia's National Capital.