
AUTUMN 2022

COWRA JAPANESE GARDEN & CULTURAL CENTRE

FRIENDS OF THE GARDEN NEWSLETTER



AUTUMN IN THE GARDEN

FUTURE EVENTS

MARCH

- Exhibition Space: paintings by Dallas Nyberg

APRIL

- Exhibition Space: reclaimed metal sculptures by Mac's Garden Art
- 1 pm Sunday 10th - Sydney Bach Society

MAY

- 4th & 5th - Koyo Matsuri, Autumn Festival, free entry
 - Exhibition Space: lino prints and sculpture by Rosie Dillon
-

Welcome to our autumn newsletter! Autumn has arrived in the Garden after a most unusual cool, wet summer. With more rain than normal, the Garden is growing well and looking particularly robust and healthy. There has been a large hatching of fingerling *koi* fish and a late clutch of Australian wood ducks, with the ducklings thriving under the care of their diligent parents. Some nomadic birds have been sighted in the Garden, including a juvenile White-necked heron, also known as a Pacific heron. It is nice to think that from above the Garden must look like a green and welcoming oasis!

By late April and early May there promises to be spectacular autumn colours, perfectly timed for the autumn festival, Koyo Matsuri, held on 4th and 5th May. The Japanese word *kōyō* means 'changing autumn leaves', and the festival is the perfect opportunity to engage in *momijigari*, or 'autumn leaf viewing'. The two day festival will be filled with cultural performances and demonstrations. We look forward to seeing you at the Garden and Cultural Centre this autumn!

KOYO MATSURI: AUTUMN FESTIVAL

The Koyo Matsuri at the Cowra Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre celebrates the changing autumn colours, and is the companion of the cherry blossom appreciation of spring and the Sakura Matsuri. The festival is in its second year at the Cowra Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre, and is held on Greenery Day and Children's day, both important holidays in Japan. Entry to the festival is free of charge, and we look forward to seeing you in May!

Wednesday 4th May - Greenery Day

The program for Wednesday 4th will focus on the Garden and Japanese culture, events will include:

- Tea ceremony by the Chado Urasenke Tankokai Sydney Association Inc.
- Prominent guest speaker
- Seminars on the Garden's permanent cultural collection
- Origami demonstrations
- Book cafe



Thursday 5th May - Children's Day

The program for Thursday 5th will focus on Japanese cultural performances and children's activities, including:

- Tea ceremony by the Chado Urasenke Tankokai Sydney Association Inc.
- Taiko drumming performance by Orana Arts Youth
- Geisha kimono and makeup demonstration by the International Kimono Club, Sydney
- Japanese storytelling
- Origami workshops
- Japanese children's games and toys
- Bonsai demonstration



WHAT TO SEE IN AUTUMN

Autumn rivals spring as one of the most spectacular seasons in the Garden, with vibrant changing leaves and spectacular camellias. On your next visit to the Garden you might see:

- Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*)
- Downy Japanese Maple (*Acer japonicum*)
- Full Moon Maple (*Acer japonicum* 'Aureum')
- Japanese Elm (*Zelkova serrata*)
- Camellia (*sasanqua* and *japonica*)
- Chinese Tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*)
- Sacred Bamboo (*Nandina domestica*)
- Crepe Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)
- Flowering Apricot (*Prunus mume* 'Rosea')
- Flowering Crab Apple (*Malus floribunda*)

KIMONO: HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE

Kimono style garments were first worn in Japan around 500AD when close contact with Tang Dynasty China led to the adoption of Chinese style garments worn by the Imperial Japanese court. They consisted of a long flowing skirt worn under a wrapped, long sleeved kimono-like jacket usually made of silk.

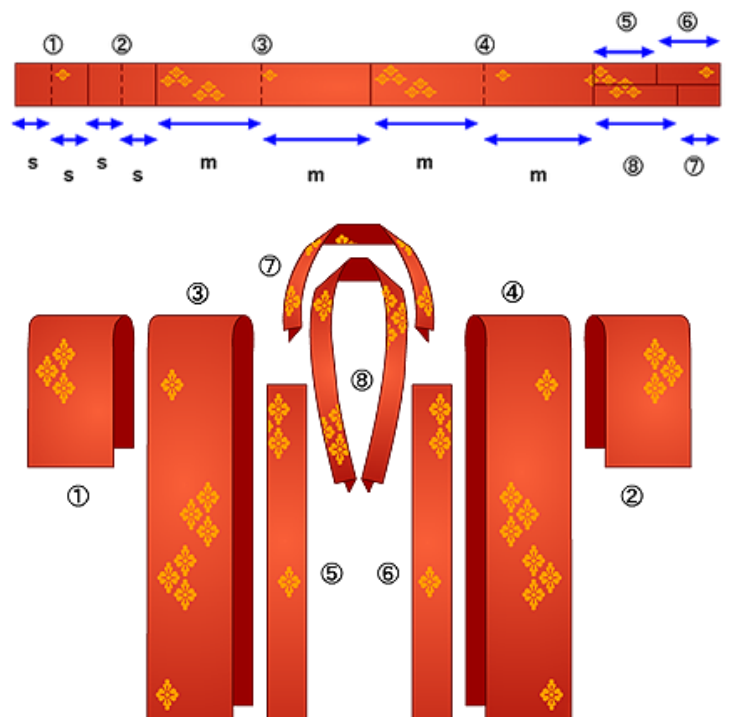
During the Nara period in Japanese history (710-784) a clothing code was instituted. One regulation that is still followed is that the robe is overlapped left over right, with a right over left overlap only used on the deceased.



During the Edo (isolation) period (1603-1867) the kimono as we know it developed, an ankle length wrapped garment with long square sleeves and held by the wide obi belt, and has largely remained unchanged.

Worn as everyday wear until the 1950's and 60's, in more recent times kimono are worn for special occasions such as weddings, funerals, graduations and special festival days, as well as for tea ceremony. Many of the patterns on kimono relate to the seasons and are worn a few weeks before the seasonal motifs appear, in anticipation. For instance, in spring, cherry blossom patterns are worn before the flowers appear.

Kimono (*ki* meaning “to wear from the shoulders” and *mono* meaning “thing”) are made from a single long bolt of fabric, called *tanmono*. This bolt of fabric always has the standard dimensions of 11.5m long and 26cm wide for women and 12.5m long and 42cm wide for men. An entire *tanmomo* is used to make a kimono, and the pieces are cut and sewn as shown in the diagrams below. Women’s kimono are long, a vestige of the trailing length that was held by hand or loosely tied. The extra length has been formalised into the tuck of fabric, called *ohashiori*, which is under and below the wide obi belt.



CULTURAL CENTRE: NEW DISPLAY CABINETS

New display cabinets and updated labeling show the Garden's cultural collection to its best extent, inviting visitors to learn more about Japan's unique culture and history. Displays will change throughout the year based on seasons and cultural events, allowing regular visitors opportunity to appreciate more of the cultural collection.



PROFILE: VOLUNTEERS AT THE GARDEN

Name: Denis Fogarty

Position: Garden Volunteer. Started volunteering mid 2020.

What made you interested in volunteering?

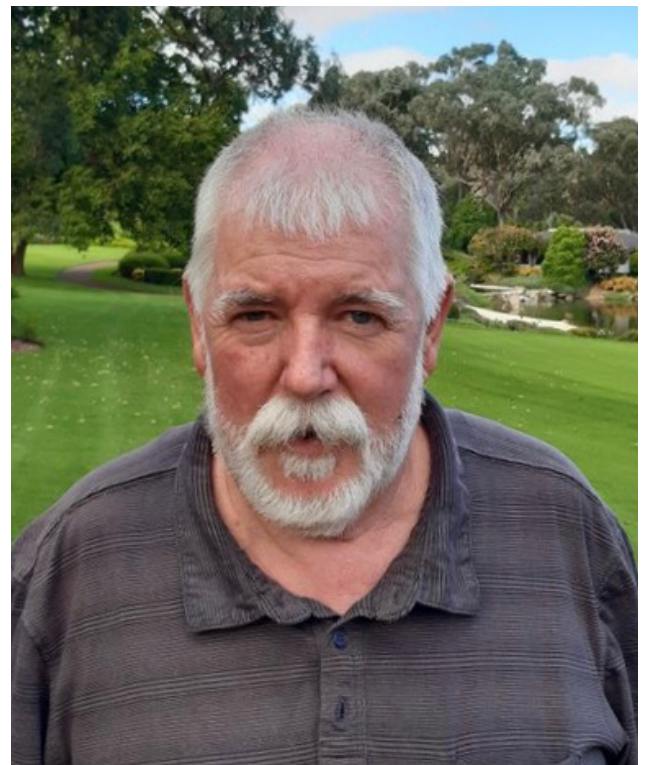
I chose volunteering as a way to 'give something back'. Volunteering at the gardens seemed a logical but enjoyable fit.

Has gardening been a life long hobby of yours or a relatively recent interest?

I became interested in gardening after reading a book by Jeffery Hodges called "Natural Gardening and Farming" some 40 years ago. He was way ahead of the curve covering topics like mycology, mycelium, soil fungi, bio dynamics, permaculture, hot composting, mulching. Terms that have only come into general use in the last decade or so.

What is your favourite spot or season in the Garden?

My favourite part of the garden is the whole garden. The way it blends its natural features like the giant rocks, old growth native trees, and



distant vistas with the plants, shrubs and trees found in traditional Japanese gardens.

Since you have started volunteering what is the most interesting thing you have learnt?

People of all ages and nationalities just love our garden. Their high level of praise is outstanding. They highlight the pleasure and sense of calm they feel when viewing the garden.