
WINTER 2022

COWRA JAPANESE GARDEN & CULTURAL CENTRE

FRIENDS OF THE GARDEN NEWSLETTER



FUTURE EVENTS

JULY

- Exhibition Space: ceramics by Troy Jones

AUGUST

- Exhibition Space: paintings, drawings, and sculpture by Linda Chant

SEPTEMBER

- 24th - Sakura Matsuri, Cherry Blossom Festival

WINTER IN THE GARDEN

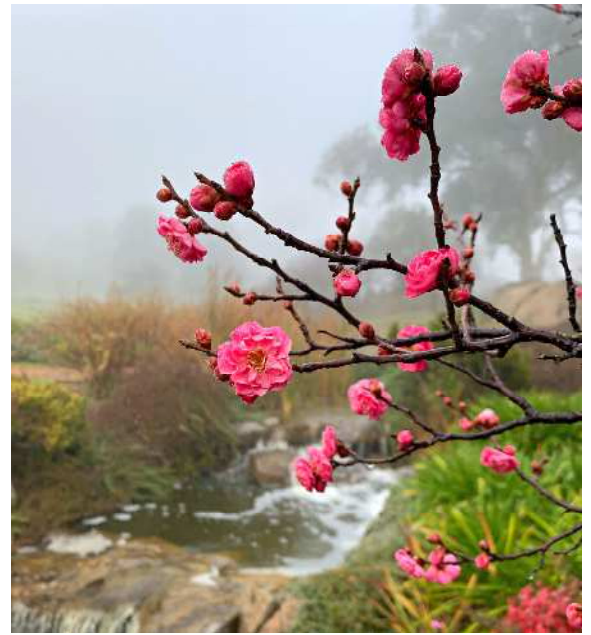
Winter days at the Garden have been misty and cool, with lush greenery and early blooming apricot to interest visitors. We like to think of winter as an opportunity to appreciate the shapes of the plants and trees which would otherwise be hidden by leaves or flowers in other seasons.

Although a little way off, Spring is definitely in the forefront of our minds, and with Spring comes the Sakura Matsuri - Cherry Blossom Festival. Disrupted for the last two years by the pandemic we are excited to be able to hold the festival again this year on Saturday 24th September. A day of cultural performances, activities, stalls, and of course cherry blossom, tickets are available through a [link on our website to trybooking.com](https://trybooking.com)

WHAT TO SEE IN WINTER

Although a quiet time in the Garden, winter does offer points of interest. On your next visit to the Garden keep an eye out for:

- Flowering Apricot (*Prunus mume* 'Rosea')
- Cherry Plum Myrobalan (*Prunus cerasifera* 'Nigra')
- Rosemary 'Blue Lagoon' (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)
- Coastal Rosemary (*Westringia fruticosa*)
- Thryptomene saxicola
- Japanese Flowering Quince (*Chaenomeles japonica*)



THE CONCEPT OF MA IN GARDEN MAINTENANCE AND LIFE



The concept of *ma* 間 has been described as a pause in time or an emptiness in space. *Ma* can be found in Japanese architecture, artwork, garden design, and poetry, and can relate to all aspects of life.

Ma can be found in the negative space in *ikebana* flower arranging, and the purposeful space brings invisible energy to the whole. Also, the intentional pause at the end of a respectful Japanese bow, which allows enough space and *ma* to convey meaning.

The gardening team at the Cowra Japanese Garden uses the principles of *ma* to inform their maintenance. An awareness and appreciation of the intentional use of *ma* in the Garden can enhance your visit.

Some aspects to consider:

- Suggestion and subtly in design engages the viewer, allowing them to complete the uncompleted.
 - Empty space is a powerful amplifier, helping to create a whole that is more engaging than the sum of individual parts.
 - Asymmetrical balance is natural, dynamic, and meaningful.
 - Observe the interval, space or void between two or more stationary objects - the space between two rocks or trees for example - the incorporation of space is both aesthetic and philosophical, a void in which people, things or events can manifest.
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LADY MACINTYRE DOLL COLLECTION

Catherine Bennett, Cultural Centre Volunteer

Lady Judith McIntyre, whose husband Sir Laurence "Jim" McIntyre was Australian Ambassador to Japan from 1960 to 1965, collected souvenir dolls during their travels through Japan. The collection contains over 440 dolls and was donated to the Garden by Sir Laurence and Lady Judith McIntyre.

The dolls, mostly in pairs, represent particular regions in Japan showing each region's traditions, materials and products. Some dolls are souvenirs from particular places such as famous *onsen* and the stages in the ascent of Mt Fuji.



Dolls representing the Mt Fuji ascent

The pair of dolls in the photo above is a souvenir from one of the four '5th stations', 五合目, on the ascent of Mt Fuji or Fujisan. The four '5th stations' are accessible by road and railway and then the climb is by foot. The official period for climbing is from July 1 to September 10 when the weather is most favourable with little chance of snow or severe winds.

This pair of dolls in the photo to the left represent the Ainu or Utari people, the indigenous people of Japan who live mostly in Hokkaido, the most northern of the four main islands and in Sakhalin and Kuril Islands further north. The Ainu language is distinct from Japanese. The dolls show some of the bold, distinctive patterns that are embroidered on



Dolls representing the Ainu people

Ainu garments, as well as tattoos that Ainu women traditionally wore around their mouths and sometimes on their forearms.

To the right are a pair of dolls from Aomori prefecture, the northernmost prefecture on the main island of Honshu. Divided north to south by the Ou Mountains the climate in the western part of the prefecture is influenced by monsoons from the Sea of Japan that cause heavy snowfalls in winter.

These dolls from Aomori prefecture are wearing traditional hooded cloaks made of straw, shaped to shed the heavy rain and snow which falls in the mountainous regions.



Dolls from Aomori Prefecture

STAFF PROFILE

Name: Helen Daly

Position: Customer Service and Cultural Centre.
Started October 2020.

Background: Born in Cowra, studied Japanese at Cowra High School and Cultural Anthropology at university. Worked as an English Language teacher in Ehime prefecture, Japan 2019-2020.

What is your favourite season in the Garden?

Autumn is such a lovely time in the Garden! In Australia we are so used to native evergreen trees that when autumn leaves start to change it can be spectacular. It was only when I started working at the Garden did I realise that cherry trees have two spectacular times of year, with blossom in the spring and vibrant colours in autumn.

What have you found interesting about the Cultural Centre?

While studying anthropology at university I became fascinated with cultural items and the significance they hold.

When considering the conservation of artwork and cultural objects 'agents of deterioration' are often mentioned, such as incorrect temperature or light levels. Interestingly, one of these 'agents



of deterioration' is an items dissociation from its history. This shows that an object within its historical or cultural context holds a lot of meaning, and can help people learn and understand about the past and the present. Hopefully in the future the Cultural Centre can help visitors understand the cultural and historical significance of Cowra's connection with Japan.



GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

Peter Woods has been a volunteer at the Cowra Japanese Garden since 2016. The Garden would like to acknowledge his voluntary service over the years and thank him for his dedication. Volunteers at the Garden and Cultural Centre have been an important part of the work done since its establishment. If you are interested in volunteer work at the Garden feel free to get in touch!

Sadly our manager, Shane Budge, will be finishing up at the Garden on July 22nd.
