

REVIEW

ERYLDENE HISTORIC HOUSE AND GARDEN

MAY 2021

This Review is a reduced version of our usual twice yearly publication, and reflects Eryldene's vastly reduced income and budget.



CONSERVING ERYLDENE

THROUGH TIMES OF CLOSURE

The last fifteen months have been very difficult for Eryldene with hardly any income and the need to safeguard many of our experienced volunteers from face to face contact with the public. The Trust has remained committed to its mission of caring for Eryldene by focusing on repair and repainting works for which funds were raised by the Foundation in the last three years – ceilings, vulnerable timber work to the western side of the house. Good housekeeping – the essence of conservation – has been maintained: cyclical gutter cleaning - basic to the safety of any roof and the building below it; pest eradication; airing rooms and rugs; weeding and gardening. Our volunteers with valued assistance from Ku ring gai Council have continued to work at the 'coalface' of conservation - washing and removing grime from timber work to the verandah and front fence. Council staff successfully removed vegetative mould from the masonry walls with a gentle approved solution. The rejuvenation of the camellias continues with repotting of the large camellias to start soon and we are comprehensively reviewing the garden watering system.

A WORKING BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trust Board members have stepped up to take on many of the administrative tasks needed to keep Eryldene open in the absence of a manager. They have also applied for a number of grants to support Eryldene:

We've recently received a Commonwealth Grant to repair our sandstone paths making the whole garden safely accessible to all ages and levels of mobility.

Bendigo Bank has included Eryldene in its Double the Impact program with \$ for \$ grant to upgrade our Website: From 17 May – 18 June purchase a delightful Eryldene teatowel designed by our Hon Architect, Robert Moore, to support this: Buy a tea towel or donate now at www.doubletheimpact.com.au

ERYLDENE IS OPEN

A programme of Sunday openings began on Mother's Day and will continue for each Sunday in May, July, September and November. Local musicians are giving their talents each morning and the Ku ring gai Philharmonic Orchestra will give a performance at 11am on 30th May.

Follow the Eryldene Facebook and Instagram pages for reminders about upcoming events, news or any changes to our schedule.



VALE JOHN PEARMAN

John Pearman, friend and frequent visitor to Professor Waterhouse, died recently.

John was a plant pathologist and met EGW in the late 1950s at St John's Hall, Gordon where he spoke on Camellia Diseases. Thereafter they often met to talk about plants, camellias and to water the pots.

He recalled the clutter of books, journals, correspondence on the floor and furniture of the house study, and the need to step carefully to find a chair to sit on; the one bar radiator in the middle of winter; and sitting in the garden study in summer to catch the nor easterly, while the Prof read Eastern poetry.

John recalled EGW's love of colour and perfume in the garden so that visitors were greeted with sweet smelling purple lantana at the

front gate, followed by heliotrope then lavender before reaching the lavender/grey front door. He remembered the six Callitris trees along the front fence, the hedged Lady Brisbane roses with alyssum, iris, and pomegranates between. And EGW as a great host, utterly charming with a wonderful sense of humour.

EGW told John that when Hardy Wilson was asked to build a War Memorial at Newington College, EGW suggested he build a prototype at Eryldene while the garden study and pigeon house were being constructed in 1921. And so our walled fountain was built, repeated later at Newington.

John was a valued member of the Garden Committee and gave an interview for the Eryldene Archives in 2011. He was made a Fellow of Eryldene in 2008.



ERYLDENE TUBS

Eryldene has recently sold six of these limited edition reproduction tubs to some discerning garden makers in Sydney. They have been cast in concrete from a mould taken from one of the original 36 inch concrete tubs which the Professor had made for his larger plants. Contact Eryldene for an Order Form on eryldene@eryldene.org.au.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS FOR THEIR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Thank you to Ku ring gai Council for their continued support.

Robert Albert
Stephen & Alexandra Barrat
Julian Bickersteth
Richard Bird & Lynne Walker
Frances Blackwell
Margaret Booth
Shannie Bracht
Judith Campbell
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Jill Davis
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Robin Rodgers
Margaret Saunders
Lyn Searles
Yumiko Soo
Jim & Julia Spellson
Bruce Walker
Andrew Waterhouse
Barbara Waterhouse
Tricia & Ian Waters
Edith Ziegler
And our Voluntary Advisers always assisting with Eryldene's conservation:
Julian Bickersteth, Hon Conservator; Robert Moore, Hon Architect; Colleen Morris, Hon Garden Adviser.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Become a Volunteer, be part of the passionate group who cares for and shares this beautiful place. You could make a regular commitment or help out occasionally: your involvement is welcome.



THE ERYLDENE TRUST

BOARD MEMBERS

Sheridan Burke Chair
Jonathan Karanikas Treasurer
Suzanne Bravery
Judith Coombes
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Juliet Muras, Bruce Walker
Representative of the Camellia Research Society
Hon Architect **Robert Moore**
Hon Conservator **Julian Bickersteth**
Hon Curator **Penelope Holden**
Hon Editor **Geraldine O'Brien**
Hon Garden Adviser **Colleen Morris**



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The Eryldene Trust is a registered charity set up to conserve and maintain Eryldene Historic House and Garden. All proceeds from events, memberships and donations are used for this purpose.