

Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.

Bulletin of Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.

(Established March 1977)

Affiliated with Royal Australian Historical Society and
Museum and Galleries Hunter Chapter



Gardens

Volume 32, Number 4

November 2025

*The Aims of the Society are to
Discover, Record, Preserve, Advise on and Teach the History of Maitland and the
District*

Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.

Cover: The photo of Wisteria sinensis (Chinese Wisteria) was supplied by the editor.

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Lecture meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7.00pm as a forum for lectures, talks and presentations.

Committee meetings are held on the third Tuesday of even months from 5:30-7.00pm.

General meetings are held on the third Tuesday of odd months from 5:30-7.00pm.
Members are invited to attend all monthly meetings.

Meetings are held at the Society's rooms, 3 Cathedral Street Maitland.

Membership fees : \$25 (single) and \$35 (double / family)

The rooms are open between 11 and 3 on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

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Editor's Notes:

This edition of the Bulletin focuses on gardens, in particular but not exclusively Maitland's domestic gardens. This topic was initiated by observing the incredible variety of flowers provided weekly to the local church. All those flowers had been grown in parishioners' gardens. This made me wonder. What did Maitlanders grow in their gardens in the past? Have local gardens altered over the years and if so why? Sincere thanks to the many people and organisations who contributed in one way or another to this edition. Particular gratitude is due to the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens and to our patron Dr AC Archer AM.

Vale

Nita Hosking, one of the Society's earliest members, died recently at the age of 97. Nita had been particularly active during the 1980s and 1990s.

In August Society member Judy Nicholson died. Judy was the previous editor of the Bulletin and contributed many articles. She had been the local history librarian at the Maitland Library and was active in AMCAT. Judy's life was celebrated at a function in the Maitland Masonic Hall on 28 September.



Judy

Just exactly what is a garden?

An early meaning of the word “garden” comes from the ancient Persian language and signified an enclosure. It is likely that Persian gardens were places of greenery enclosed by walls. The ancient Greek word for a garden translates as “paradise”, and the Biblical Garden of Eden was quite literally a paradise.

Generally, however, the meaning of “garden” has been more prosaic.

In his popular work *The Australian Garden Book* (Sydney: Angus and Robertson 1950) Reginald Edwards wrote (rather tongue in cheek) *“What is a garden? To some people a garden is a place where one works up perspiration, gets very dirty – and grows flowers and cabbages, onions, and other vegetables of plebeian origin and background.”*

He continued *“Gardeners are often described as “common fellows” or “ladies with green fingers”. Their clothes are popularly supposed to be soaked in the malodorous liquids of the byre, their pockets filled with bits of string, rusty nails, bean seeds, and knives that won’t cut. Their hats are usually described as “battered wrecks”, or “derelicts”, and such terms also describe their shoes, which are said to be eternally covered with mud, much of which can also be found under their fingernails.*

“I don’t think any real gardener ever cared two hoots whether his shoes were muddy, nails in deep mourning, or pants in the scarecrow stage, so long as he got the ground dug over and made receptive for seed potato, or the dahlia plants and bulbs set out in season.

“Although gardening has taken a great jump forward in Australia in recent years, we are still lagging behind other countries in many respects, particularly as regards the development of a purely local gardening sense or system of design. We continue to follow the lead of the overcrowded English herbaceous border...”

At the time when Mr Edwards was writing, Australian gardeners had easy access to a wide variety of edible and ornamental plants, both native and non-native. Style and convenience, arguably, had overcome necessity in regards to the contents and design of the domestic garden. This had not always been the case, in particular in the early years of European settlement.

Eliza Nowlan

Keeping an edible garden was a necessity for the early settlers. They were, however, limited in the varieties of plants which were available to them, and gardening in Australian conditions could differ dramatically from gardening in Britain. These and other issues are evident in the correspondence written by Eliza Nowlan between 1822 and 1824, and which can be accessed in the Archives of the University of Newcastle.

In 1822 Eliza Nowlan emigrated with her husband Timothy from Ireland to Van Dieman's Land. The Nowlans had been given free government passage to Van Dieman's Land where Timothy intended to breed sheep. But he was dissatisfied with his holding and applied to relocate to New South Wales. The new land which the government allotted was on Pattersons Plains on a property which came to be known as "Eelah".

In her correspondence Eliza frequently mentions her efforts to establish a garden, which is differentiated from the fields of wheat and maize. Her garden plants include potatoes, pumpkins, lemons, oranges and melons. Eliza seems to have had a fondness for fruit, in particular watermelons: "The water melons we have are a most grateful fruit, so well adapted to the climate..."

The following excerpt is from 1824.

"Now for my garden, a subject always pleasing to me at home and abroad, and by your attention and advice respecting both it and everything else concerning us whenever you write, advice is always welcome to me and I never required it more, as I feel often confused and at a loss what to do. The seasons puzzle me and the sun perplexes me with its heat which burns up everything sometimes. I had best 4 cucumbers on three hillocks this season. The vines were burnt brown but these are no great loss. Our pumpkins and melons but a middling crop, and are so everywhere this season. Scarce any other seeds I with me grew which disappointed me not a little, from the age I suppose as I could not get them down until August which 14 & 15 months since. I got them - were in excellent preservation all the passage for I took good care of them -but I have a very neighbourly man who lives as near to us as the Castle Gardens are to you who gives me some information and shares with me anything he can spare. His name is Swan, a prisoner once, but now free by servitude. He has an excellent garden well stocked which he works at himself, and has attempted saving Tobacco last season but has failed. It grows very well here - have a few plants but will try more next season. If we could have what would answer our own use it would save us something. I got also from a friend in Sidney some vines, 8 rooted plants which are thriving remarkably well. One of them bore

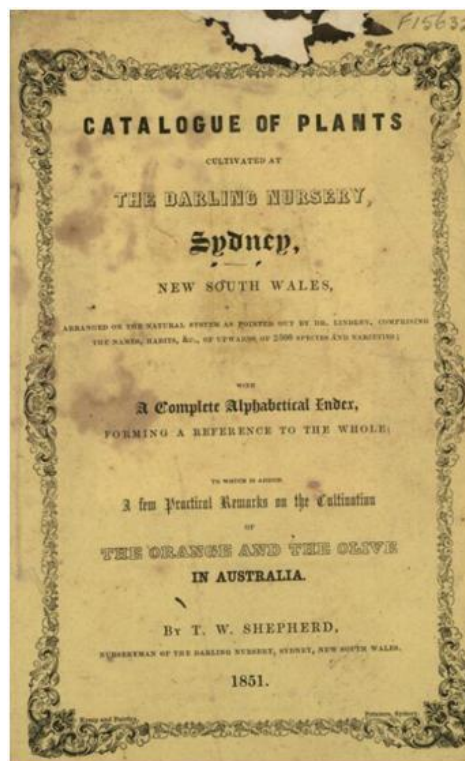
a small bunch of green grapes, and beside them I have now about 60 cuttings very healthy and strong."

"I wish I had a man who understands the care of a Garden, and Vines. It is impossible to have a garden here without a man to attend it..."

Some important themes emerge from Eliza's writings.

The variety of plants which Eliza had available for her garden at that time was indeed severely limited, and she was grateful for everything she had. Another subject which emerges from her correspondence is how mutually reliant the settlers were upon each other. Visitors were important sources of horticultural information which was shared, as were seeds and cuttings when possible.

Things were beginning to change, however. In 1816 the Royal Botanic Gardens were established in Sydney, and both the knowledge of and the availability of plants increased around the Colony. Eliza mentions being visited by a Mr Webber. In 1827 Mr J P Webber founded a short-lived local Farmer's Club. In 1842 the Hunter River Society was established in order to disseminate farming information. The next year the Society became the Hunter River Agricultural Association. Horticultural publications were also becoming available.



The following excerpts from the *Maitland Mercury* (Tuesday 8 Jan 1861 page 2) suggest what was being grown in local gardens during this period.

“Destructive and Fatal Storm”

The thunder and hailstorm of Friday evening mentioned briefly in our issue of Saturday was as we then feared much more destructive than it seemed to be in parts of West Maitland near our office.

At Campbell’s Hill West Maitland a considerable amount of damage was done to the gardens by the hailstones, which are said to have fallen as large as pullet’s eggs. The fruit trees, which were well laden with fruit, were fearfully cut up, the fruit scattered in all directions, and the vines, melons, and cabbages, were more or less destroyed. The Hospital, besides having the garden destroyed, had 80 panes of glass broken.

The gardens and farms on the Oakhampton road suffered to a frightful extent. Mr Scobie had upwards of four acres of vines destroyed. All the fruit trees were injured and the fruit knocked off. Mr John Cann had several acres of growing maize, pumpkins, and melons cut down, the same as if a reaping machine had been at work.

Mr Godfrey’s garden in the neighbourhood, containing a number of dahlias and choice flowers in bloom, was completely destroyed. Mr Cobcroft’s garden, which gave promise of an abundant crop of fruit and grapes, is described as a wreck. Mr Garvin, whose residence is on the hill at some distance to the rear, has lost windows, and had a very fine crop of potatoes completely cut up.

The mention of dahlias and other flowers in the above article shows that gardens were not only for edibles. The following was printed in the *Sydney Mail* on 8/7/1876.

Old-fashioned Plants.

However much the passing beauties of new-fashioned plants may divert the attention from old favourites, we still owe to them our chief reliance for furnishing the gardens with flowers more year through —to the old familiar plants of our boyhood days. - Our Australian gardens at present owe their beauty to the gay and elegant crimson Habrothamnus, [Cestrum] the blue Cape Plumbago, Maiden’s Blush rose, violets, daphnes, escallonias, cupheas, photinias, pansies, snap-dragons, narcissus of all kinds, laurestinus [Viburnum]. All the old favourites are hardy and well known to be of easy culture. The well-known common China monthly roses are just now the gayest of the gay; the autumn and winter time being, par excellence, the season in which they produce their

flowers in the most perfect form. For outdoor cultivation, fuchsia, Banks's Glory, Globosa major, and the neat, small flowered graciles are worthy old favourites, and keep their place to the present day as popular old-fashioned plants. To such classes of plants do we and shall we owe the ornamentation of our gardens. Novelties, like all other things bearing that name, are fleeting; a few seasons generally finish their career, and they pass into oblivion.

The Gardens of Maitland's Grand Homes

Maitland homes continued to have their useful kitchen gardens. However, in the mid to late 1800s, with Maitland's increasing wealth, impressive landscaped ornamental gardens were also appearing around large Maitland houses such as Cintra, Anambah, and Cumberland Hall. These grand gardens incorporated ornamental masonry and large trees which were intended to showcase the homes.

Cintra

Cintra, which dates from 1879, is on the State Heritage Register. Its garden had been designed by a Sydney landscape architect and included shrubs and perennials which were popular in the Victorian age such as May bush, Cape plumbago, Strelitzia, and Wisteria. The large trees around the grounds include Moreton Bay fig, Bunya bunyas, Hoop Pines, Pepper trees, and Jacarandas.





Anambah House

Anambah House, which dates from 1889, is also on the State Heritage Register. Its typical late-Victorian formal garden makes use of shrubbery and large mature trees including Bunya bunnys, pines, silky oaks, and Jacarandas in order to achieve a feeling of enclosure.



THE GARDENS AND GROUNDS OF CUMBERLAND HALL, EAST MAITLAND

By James Waddell

No person who is alive today has ever seen the gardens of Cumberland Hall in their heyday, and only a few living people can remember the building in its final years. The gardens, abandoned and forlorn for decades before the demolition of Cumberland Hall in 1960-61, had once been a showplace, exciting much admiration and providing pleasure for inhabitants and visitors alike.

All that remains is written descriptions and a handful of photographs. All traces of this once grand house and its extensive grounds in East Maitland have been totally obliterated by the brutal, modern buildings of Maitland Grossmann High School. This paper sets out to re-capture memories and images of the gardens and grounds of Cumberland Hall, starting with alienation from the Crown of the virgin site in 1856 and its development as a place of aesthetic beauty and formality. It explores how the gardens and grounds were enhanced, tended and enjoyed during the long period of proprietorship and residence by the Hon Alexander Brown MLC, and finally the sad decline of the house and grounds and their descent into ruin.

Cumberland Hall stood for exactly 100 years on the hill now occupied by the high school and was visible from a great distance. The site on which it stood was once described as:

having an extensive and glorious outlook across the Hunter and Paterson Valleys for upwards of FIFTY miles. The scenery presenting itself from the heights on which CUMBERLAND HALL stands ranges from the quiet beauty of rich cultivation farms across the hills flanking the Paterson and Allyn Rivers, to the great blue ramparts of the Barrington Tops, one of the most imposing land masses in Australia. Few places in Australia look out upon such a wonderful panorama, and much-travelled Old World visitors do not hesitate to lavish praises upon it.ⁱ

From Little Melbourne (now Cumberland) Street, the visitor was struck by its “Imposing Entrance, through massive wrought iron gates, gravelled drive, with wide sweep of terraced steps to Hall Entrance, and Verandah.”ⁱⁱ

There was a beautiful formal garden in front, sloping away towards Morpeth Road. There were gravel paths, an oval driveway around a fountain, formal garden beds, urns, and statues. At one corner of the grounds parallel with and abutting what is now Cumberland Street was a two-storey brick structure with slate roof and weathervane containing a six-stall stable, harness room and coach house, with a hay loft overhead; with a single-storey wing projecting at right angles containing “loose boxes”.ⁱⁱⁱ

Initial period and establishment of the garden

Eventually, the grounds occupied by Cumberland Hall totalled nearly 11 acres; but initially their extent was only four acres, being two adjoining suburban allotments of two acres each. They formed part of a development plan whose central feature was an extension of Melbourne Street on a diagonal angle from Morpeth Road up the hill and past the gaol towards Narang Street, at odds with the orientation of the existing township grid.^{iv} The elevated extension of Melbourne Street became known as Little Melbourne Street as early as 1904,^v re-named Cumberland Street in 1949.^{vi}

Suburban allotments on this plan were submitted to public auction on 27 February 1856, and the two on which Cumberland Hall was built were purchased by Enoch Cobcroft

(1817-1905) to whom title deeds were issued on 29 October 1856. A grazier, speculator and opportunist, Cobcroft had spent many years managing his family's squatting runs in the Moree and Tamworth districts. He was capable of exciting extraordinary admiration and affection by some,^{vii} yet he was reviled by others.^{viii} He had once been tried at Maitland Circuit Court for cattle stealing at Liverpool Plains, but had been acquitted;^{ix} and his many business disputes not infrequently ended in civil litigation.^x

In 1857 Cobcroft embarked on a grand enterprise that involved the erection of his ostentatious, three-storey "Northern Stores" of brick and stone on the corner of Melbourne and Lawes Streets, East Maitland; and the erection of a correspondingly grand house on his four acres on the hill. Cobcroft called for tenders for the masonry work of this house, to be of two storeys, in August 1858.

On 1 January 1859 the *Northern Times* observed that a large house was in course of erection by Enoch Cobcroft on the gaol hill in East Maitland. It continued:

In front of this intended mansion is a magnificent garden which, for extent, situation, culture, and appearance, is superior to any we have seen in the district. We should be glad, indeed, to see a taste for gardening more generally diffused.^{xi}

Establishment of the garden was evidently a priority for Cobcroft, even though the house was only in the early stages of construction. The surveyor who had previously planned these allotments considered their soil to be very inferior, hardly fit for any agricultural or gardening purpose.^{xii} However, by January 1861 Cobcroft's garden gave promise of an abundant harvest of fruit and grapes; but it was destroyed by a fierce storm which also broke many windows in his new residence, still in the course of erection. The back windows, some of which had been glazed with stained glass, were dashed in with such force that some of the fragments were driven in to the plaster of the walls of the rooms.^{xiii}

Finally, at the end of 1861 (about three years after it was started) completion of the building was signalled by a flurry of advertisements by Enoch Cobcroft and his wife, who gave her address as "Cumberland House, East Maitland",^{xiv} seeking a laundress, an experienced gardener, a female general servant, a female cook and a respectable nurse girl. By 1868 Mrs Cobcroft called it Cumberland Hall.^{xv}

Part of the four-acre grounds was laid out as a garden, with the remainder enclosed as a paddock. The water supply was solely that collected from the roofs and stored in underground tanks, and the land was well situated for drainage.^{xvi} In 1870 a traveller, having noticed a well-built court house in front of the gaol, observed:

A little further to the right, on the Morpeth-road, stands a fine lofty building, built evidently when money was "easy," its numerous and well-formed balconies, three floors high [sic], its prominent position, catching every "gale" wafted from the sea on one side, and commanding the finest view of the whole district for miles on the other, with a well-stocked garden and orchard in front and

about it, also well-arranged stables and out-offices, exhibiting rare taste for the beautiful in the spirited and kind-hearted owner, Mr Enoch Cobcroft.^{xvii}

In 1865 Cobcroft became a member of the Acclimatisation Society of New South Wales, whose objects were “the introduction, acclimatisation and domestication of all innoxious animals, birds, fishes, insects, and vegetables, whether useful or ornamental.”^{xviii} He sent to the Singleton Show some bulbs of arrowroot in their natural state, and jellies made from the manufactured arrowroot.^{xix} He donated ducks, pigeons and a bustard to the public aviary at the Botanic Gardens in Sydney, and frequently exhibited pigeons, ducks, rabbits, poultry and pigs.^{xx}

Zenith of the garden during the Alexander Brown period

Cobcroft vacated Cumberland Hall about the end of 1870, but did not sell it until 1878. The new owner was Alexander Brown (1851-1926), nephew of the wealthy coal barons J. and A. Brown, and manager of their company in Newcastle. With “baronial expansiveness”^{xxi} Brown made his home at Cumberland Hall for the next 48 years, and died there in 1926. He entered colonial politics in 1889 and is best remembered as the Hon Alexander Brown MLC.

The Brown family had an extravagant lifestyle at Cumberland Hall, and newspaper items at different times attest to the employment by Brown of a groom, coachman, housemaid, nursemaid, needlewoman, governess, girl, cook, laundress and gardener.^{xxii} A granddaughter who lived there with Brown prior to his death in 1926 recalled that there were 14 domestic staff at the time, including a butler, a cook, a chauffeur, housekeepers, stablemen, and a gardener.^{xxiii}

For 22 years, a man called William Champion was employed by Brown as gardener at Cumberland Hall. Champion had previously been employed at the Botanic Gardens in Sydney, which he left in order to go to the Mudgee gold diggings. When he died in 1911 he had been an invalid for about 11 years, meaning that Champion must have gone to Cumberland Hall about 1878.^{xxiv}

On ground in front of the house falling away towards Morpeth Road a formal garden of geometric design, with gravel paths arranged in parallelogram, is visible in contemporary photographs. Bordering the paths were garden beds and ornamental shrubs planted in a row. Here was the scene as it was described at the end of the Brown period:

The Grounds are attractively laid out with Rockeries, ornamented with Chinese and Japanese Pottery, Statuary, Fountain, old Cannon, &c. Exceptional Rose Garden, Lawns, Paddocks, and Kitchen Garden.^{xxv}

The garden had probably reached its zenith around the turn of the century. A photo taken in 1924 shows that the design of the garden had been altered little from its layout in

earlier decades, and rows of neatly-tended rose bushes give an appearance of dignity. But many trees and shrubs present in earlier decades have been removed; and while the overall impression is of a garden well-maintained, it appears less vigorous, less luxuriant, and less complex than in earlier times. It was neat and dignified, but had become sparse when compared with its own heyday.

In their heyday, Brown was clearly fond of showing off his house and grounds to visitors. Brown occasionally opened his grounds to the public for charitable fund-raising events such as open-air or promenade concerts, garden fetes and bazaars. On these occasions, members of the public paid admission for entry to “the fine grounds attached to Cumberland Hall”^{xxvi} where they could spend an evening “in the domain of flowers”.^{xxvii} Fairy lamps and lanterns typically adorned the front of the house, the fountain and the shrubbery;^{xxviii} and marquees and refreshment tables were arranged in the grounds.^{xxix}

For such events the verandah of the house was often used as a stage for performances by choirs, soloists, quartets, Highland pipers and dancers, military bands and other entertainers. On a notable occasion in 1902, Cumberland Hall served as the venue for a bazaar and garden fete for two days and two nights. Electric power was still a novelty; and by special arrangement with the Government and the Brush Electrical Engineering Company of Sydney, electricity was delivered from a generating plant in the gaol by means of wires carried across into the grounds of the house where it fed four powerful arc lamps, and many smaller coloured arc lamps which had been set up. By this means the grounds of Cumberland Hall would be brilliantly illuminated at night:

The position selected for the bazaar is an excellent one, and it can be seen a long distance away. To-night, under the bright electric light, the grounds will be visible for miles; and the pleasure to be derived from a visit to the pleasant grounds, should be in itself sufficient to attract large numbers of people. Once there, they will be delighted with excellent music and other means of entertainment.^{xxx}

On a hot, windy day in February 1903, while the Hon Alexander Brown and his wife were on a voyage to America, dry grass on Morpeth road below his residence caught fire. Fanned by a strong wind, the fire quickly spread to the paddock attached to Cumberland Hall. The flames rushed up the hill, scattering poultry that were feeding there. The fire quickly caught hold of the house where Brown’s groom lived, and caught the palings of the garden in front of Cumberland Hall. Six cottages on the hill were threatened, and Cumberland Hall itself; and the groom’s house near Cumberland Hall was destroyed. About a hundred men were engaged fighting the flames, which were apparently extinguished; but fire broke out again several hours later in the paddock, and took a further hour to subdue.^{xxxi}

Brown died on 28 March 1926 at Cumberland Hall, and his widow continued to live there until her own death in 1929. In a long list of property to be disposed of in a

clearing out sale at Cumberland Hall in 1926 were four large dog kennels, bird cages, baskets, large feed boxes, flower stand, flower pots and pipes, and a large fountain.^{xxxii} Following the death of Mrs Brown the executors made preparations to sell the entire property by auction on 20 November 1929, but it was resumed pre-emptively by the State Government for school purposes.

Decline of the garden and its descent into ruin

The State Government had intended to use the site for building a new Girls' High School, then accommodated in cramped conditions in Church Street, West Maitland. But the Great Depression had started, and the Government had not the funds to build a new high school at that time. Brown's executors had employed a caretaker and a gardener at Cumberland Hall, both of whom were retained following resumption; but their services were dispensed with in April 1930 to cut costs. In their place, the house was let to Herbert Hitchcock for a nominal rent, in return for his acting as caretaker of the house and keeping the grounds in reasonable order.^{xxxiii}

In February 1932 Cumberland Hall was pressed into service as an annex for Maitland Boys' High School, and was occupied by six classes of First and Second Year boys. Writing in the school magazine in June 1932, one of the boys left the following description of the grounds:

Situated on a hill in East Maitland stands Cumberland Hall, the old residence of the late Alexander Brown. Cumberland Hall is bordered on one side by the Morpeth Road and by Little Melbourne Street on the other. The Hall has very beautiful and extensive grounds containing courtyards, pleasant walks and many flower beds and trees, such as oaks, gums and many others of different kinds. At various spots in the garden are marble statues and ornamental bowls for flowers and in the centre of the gravel drive, there is a big fountain, which however, is now out of use.^{xxxiv}

After describing the house, he continued:

In one corner of the grounds are the stables and some old sheds, now used by the school boys for their bikes. Over the stables are rooms where the groom and the stablemen used to sleep at night. Then farther down the yard are the old pigeon and fowl houses, where the master of the mansion kept his feathered stock.^{xxxv}

During the period of 11 years in which Cumberland Hall was used as an annex for the Boys' High School, the garden was abandoned and much of the grounds were cleared of rockeries and out-houses; and a double portable classroom was placed on the eastern side of the house.^{xxxvi} In March 1938 members of the East Maitland Municipal Council criticised the State Government for the unsatisfactory and unsanitary conditions of Cumberland Hall, including its out-buildings, which were in a state of disrepair and dilapidation.^{xxxvii} One of the ways in which the Government responded to that criticism was to call tenders for the demolition and removal of the large brick stables.^{xxxviii} Early in the 1939-45 war air raid trenches were excavated in front of the house, above Morpeth

Road. The trenches were dug by work parties of school boys, who hastened to crouch in the trenches during evacuation drills.^{xxxix}

Cumberland Hall was vacated by the Boys' High School in 1943; and with no new Girls' High School yet in sight, the main house was let for a term of 15 years to a wealthy widow, Helen Church, who "loved and admired" it and "lavished money and work on it".^{xi} But while the house "bloomed again", "[t]he gardens, though well tended, never again reached their peak".^{xli} In 1945 Mrs Church offered rooms in Cumberland Hall to her niece, Cecily Mitchell, who is well remembered in Maitland as a local historian and watercolour artist; and Cecily and her family lived there for two years.^{xlii}

Much of the old garden had been excluded from the area let to Helen Church, which was separated from a paddock by a wire fence. Cecily Mitchell attempted to beautify the courtyard behind the house with camellias in pots, but the location proved too windy. Bats settled in to the nearby Moreton Bay Fig and were "horrid", and possums came into the house. There was a sheep to eat the grass. Cecily's husband, Sydney Mitchell, restored a tennis court on the western side of the house which dated back probably to Alexander Brown's time. It had wire netting and white markings on the grass and terminated in a cut three or four feet deep. The family often invited friends to tennis parties at Cumberland Hall on Saturday afternoons.^{xliii}

Helen Church herself vacated Cumberland Hall by 1947, her departure being signalled by an advertisement for the sale by auction on her account of "Superior and Antique Furnishings, Sundries, etc."^{xliv} Cumberland Hall was thereafter divided into flats, sub-let by Mrs Church and later by her executors.

From this time onwards, the condition of Cumberland Hall deteriorated quickly. Neither love nor money was expended on its upkeep. The servants' quarters and kitchen had long been let and occupied separately from the main house, and a weatherboard cottage in a far corner of the grounds (said to be the former residence of the coachman) was also tenanted separately. Part of the grounds of Cumberland Hall had long been grazed under licence. Finally, in July 1959, the Minister for Education decided to go ahead with the construction of a new Girls' High School in East Maitland, which would require the demolition of Cumberland Hall. The Government Real Estate Office was requested in November 1959 to obtain vacant possession of the premises and site, and notices to quit expiring in 1960 were served on the various tenants and licensees.^{xlv}

A photo of Cumberland Hall taken circa 1959 shows a scene of neglect and decay. The house looks out over a paddock of fireweed, bordered on the western side by a majestic Moreton Bay Fig, a towering Bunya Bunya Pine, and dense masses of mature Olive marking the line of a broken timber fence. A three-strand wire fence stretches across the front of the house, as if to deter the encroachment of wrack and ruin beyond a final defensive line. To the east of the house a second Bunya Bunya Pine stands out from a group of old, dark trees whose branches shelter a fowl roost. Tubs of flowers appear

beside the house. Near the bottom of the paddock some old rose bushes and a Cypress Pine have somehow survived the destruction of the rest of the garden.^{xlvi}

The demolition of Cumberland Hall occupied the better part of a year, and an aerial photo dated 29 July 1961 shows virtually nothing left on the scarred site, apart from the old trees that surrounded it. Even the trees were about to disappear.^{xlvi}

The story of Cumberland Hall is indeed a sad one. Its private owners, Cobcroft followed by Brown, were intent on creating and maintaining a place of aesthetic beauty including extensive gardens. The gardens and grounds were beautifully cared for over many decades, providing a showplace admired and enjoyed by many. By acquiring the property for public purposes in 1929 Government authorities showed vision and foresight, but they and their successors had little interest in either the buildings or the grounds as a place of beauty.

The circumstances which had allowed a property of such charm and physical extent to be developed on the periphery of a township, far beyond the resources of ordinary people, were rare. The story of Cumberland Hall and its grounds parallels that of other great houses with adjacent small estates that sprang up in Australia in colonial times from sources of wealth which could not be sustained over time. Many of them eventually disappeared, or their estates greatly contracted in extent, due to declining fortunes, changes of ownership, and the growing pressure of urban development across time.^{xlvi}

ⁱ *Maitland Daily Mercury*, 15 November 1929, p.10 (advertisement).

ⁱⁱ *Ibid.*

ⁱⁱⁱ Report of 15 November 1870 by Colonial Architect for the Under Secretary for Public Works on properties offered for lunatic asylums, in NSW State Archives NRS-905-250-[1/2365], Colonial Secretary Letters Received 77/1961.

^{iv} James Waddell, *Remembering Cumberland Hall: the rise and demise of a great house at East Maitland*, published by its author, Melbourne, 2004, pp.3-4.

^v *Maitland Daily Mercury*, 16 November 1904, p.1 (advertisement).

^{vi} Government Gazette No.189, 30 September 1949, p.2926.

^{vii} Waddell, *Remembering Cumberland Hall*, pp.5, 42.

^{viii} *Maitland Mercury*, 22 September 1859, p.1 (open letter from John Borthwick addressed to Enoch Cobcroft).

^{ix} *Maitland Mercury*, 15 September 1847, p.2 ("Maitland Circuit Court").

^x Waddell, *Remembering Cumberland Hall*, pp.5-8, 43-44.

^{xi} *Northern Times*, 1 January 1859, p.2 ("East Maitland").

^{xii} Waddell, *Remembering Cumberland Hall*, p.3.

^{xiii} *Maitland Mercury*, 8 January 1861, p.2 ("Destructive and fatal storm").

^{xiv} *Maitland Mercury*, 14 December 1861, p.3 (advertisement).

^{xv} *Maitland Mercury*, 8 December 1868, p.1 (advertisement).

^{xvi} Report of 15 November 1870 by Colonial Architect for the Under Secretary for Public Works on properties offered for lunatic asylums, in NSW State Archives NRS-905-250-[1/2365], Colonial Secretary Letters Received 77/1961.

^{xvii} *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 26 March 1870, p.10 ("Towns and Villages of New South Wales"). As Cumberland Hall comprised two storeys and cellars, it was misleading to say it had "three floors".

- ^{xviii} *Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 November 1861, p.5 (“Acclimatisation Society”); and 30 May 1865, p.5 (“Acclimatisation Society”).
- ^{xix} *Sydney Morning Herald*, 29 August 1865, p.3 (“Hunter River Agricultural and Horticultural Association”).
- ^{xx} *Sydney Morning Herald*, 3 December 1864, p.7 (“List of donations and additions to the public aviary, Botanic Gardens, during the month of November”); *Sydney Mail*, 16 May 1863, p.6 (“Hunter River Agricultural and Horticultural Association”); and *Maitland Mercury*, 30 August 1866, p.2 (“Hunter River Agricultural and Horticultural Association”).
- ^{xxi} Clem Lloyd, Patrick Troy and Shelley Schreiner, *For the Public Health: The Hunter District Water Board 1892-1992*, Longman Cheshire Pty. Ltd., Melbourne, 1992, p.51.
- ^{xxii} Among many examples, see *Maitland Mercury*, 2 February 1884, p.4 (coachman); 30 January 1886, p.1 (housemaid); 10 May 1881, p.5 (nursemaid); 17 April 1886, p.1 (needlewoman); 16 June 1888, p.5 (governess); 4 February 1888, p.1 (girl); 19 August 1883, p.1 (cook); 30 October 1886, p.1 (laundress); 16 February 1903, p.3 (groom); 2 November 1911, p.4 (gardener).
- ^{xxiii} Waddell, *Remembering Cumberland Hall*, p.51.
- ^{xxiv} *Maitland Daily Mercury*, 2 November 1911, p.4 (“Death of Mr. W. Champion”).
- ^{xxv} *Maitland Daily Mercury*, 15 November 1929, p.10 (advertisement).
- ^{xxvi} *Maitland Mercury*, 24 December 1887, p.4 (“The promenade concert at East Maitland”).
- ^{xxvii} *Maitland Mercury*, 24 December 1887, p.4 (“The promenade concert at East Maitland”).
- ^{xxviii} *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 19 December 1896, p.8 (“Promenade concert”).
- ^{xxix} *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 19 December 1896, p.8 (“Promenade concert”); and 19 April 1902, p.6 (advertising).
- ^{xxx} *Maitland Daily Mercury*, 23 April 1902, p.2 (“Mechanics’ Institute Bazaar and Garden Fete”).
- ^{xxxi} *Maitland Daily Mercury* 16 February 1903, p.3 (“Fire at East Maitland”).
- ^{xxxii} *Maitland Daily Mercury*, 8 October 1926, p.8 (advertisement).
- ^{xxxiii} Waddell, *Remembering Cumberland Hall*, p.54.
- ^{xxxiv} Alex. Fleming, “Cumberland Hall”, in *The Magpie – Maitland Boys’ High School Magazine*, Volume XVIII, No.1, June 1932, pp.79-80.
- ^{xxxv} *Ibid.*
- ^{xxxvi} Waddell, *Remembering Cumberland Hall*, pp.55, 57.
- ^{xxxvii} *Maitland Daily Mercury*, 2 March 1938, p.6 (“Cumberland Hall”).
- ^{xxxviii} *Maitland Daily Mercury*, 21 May 1938, p.12 (advertisement)
- ^{xxxix} Waddell, *Remembering Cumberland Hall*, p.58.
- ^{xl} Cecily Joan Mitchell, *Hunter’s River*, published by the Administrator of the Estate of Cecily Joan Mitchell, Newcastle West, 1973, p.28.
- ^{xli} *Ibid.*
- ^{xlii} Waddell, *Remembering Cumberland Hall*, pp.61-62.
- ^{xliii} *Ibid.*
- ^{xliv} *Maitland Mercury*, 8 October 1947, p.6 (advertisement).
- ^{xl} Waddell, *Remembering Cumberland Hall*, p.66.
- ^{xli} *Ibid.*, p.65.
- ^{xlii} *Ibid.*, p.69.
- ^{xliiii} See, e.g., Joy Hughes (ed.), *Demolished Houses of Sydney*, Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales, Glebe, 1999; and Colleen Morris, *Lost gardens of Sydney*, Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales, 2008.



View of the town of East Maitland published in 1886 in the "Picturesque Atlas of Australasia". From left to right note Cumberland Hall, Wormley House, Glenellen, Morpeth Road and branch railway. Note Speen View cottage in foreground, gaol wall on horizon, and old St Stephen's Presbyterian Church beyond the Great Northern Railway line.



Cumberland Hall, circa 1900. By kind permission of the late Mrs Shirley Brown, "Glenthorne", Allyn River.



Front garden Cumberland Hall c. 1900, looking north towards Morpeth Road. By kind permission of the late Mrs Shirley Brown, "Glenthorne" Allyn River.



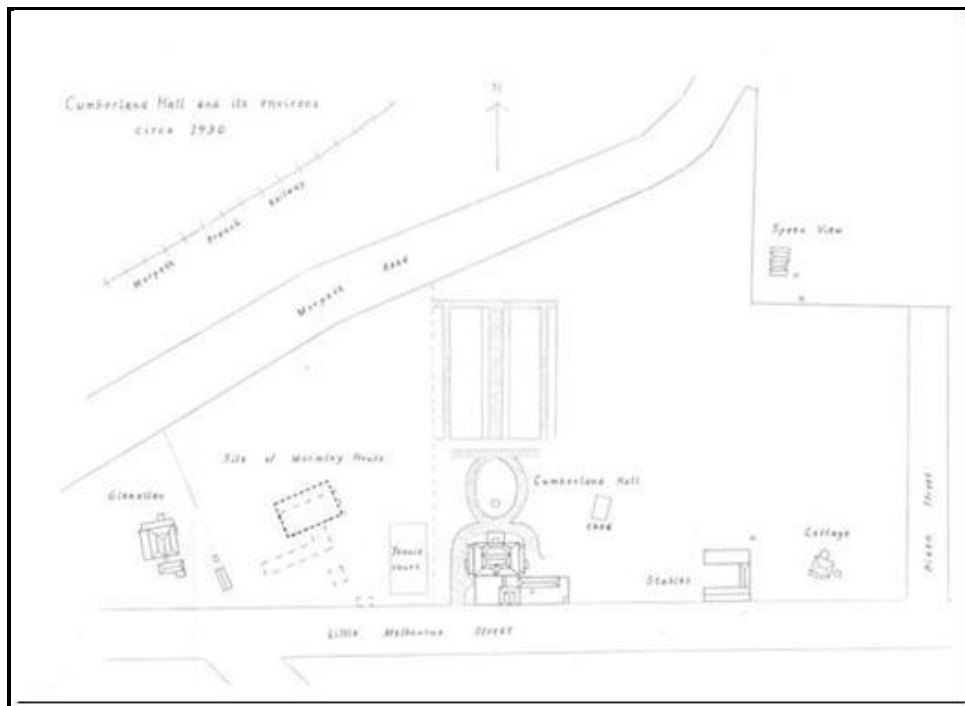
"View from A. Brown's Grounds." View from Cumberland Hall garden towards Morpeth Road and the farmlands beyond, photographed on 30 March 1924 by Wal Pryke. Newcastle Libraries Collection (373 000005)



Front garden Cumberland Hall, photographed on 31 March 1924 by Wal Pryke. By kind permission of his step-daughter Mrs Jeannette Massey, Tenambit.



Cumberland Hall in dilapidated condition circa 1959. Newcastle Libraries Collection (373 000020)



Cumberland Hall and its environs, circa 1930

The Wilga Abrahams Memorial Rose Garden

by Stephen Abrahams



The Wilga Abrahams Memorial Rose Garden is located in the grounds of Grossman House, which is a National Trust owned house in Church St, Maitland.



The garden was established in 1973 by the Hunter Valley Rose Society, particularly under the direction of Wilga Abrahams. She was a noted rose grower and an authority on Heritage roses.

The garden was dedicated to her in 1976, and there is a brass plaque at the entrance.

Other members involved included Barbara Horn, Margueritte and Stan Parkes, Shelia Galbraith and Shirley Langton.

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The garden is situated on the southern side of what was previously class rooms belonging to Maitland Girls High.

All roses are of a heritage type, large shrubs and climbers, and are repeat flowering.

Types include Noisettes, Bourbons and hybrid Musks.

Of the 44 original plantings in 1973, 14 remain. These have been supplemented with varieties sympathetic to the original plantings. There are currently 30 roses.

Plans exist from 1973, 2003, 2013 and 2024.

The garden is easily accessible to the public via an unlocked gate to Church Street and has been much loved by the people of Maitland for decades.

Since 2017, Wilga's son Stephen has restored and maintained the garden. The overall aim is to retain the original 14 bushes as well as subsequent plants.

While the Wilga Abrahams Memorial Rose Garden is small by some standards, It impresses with its compactness, health and history. Church Street is a busy pedestrian route, the local primary school is next door, and the impressive St Marys Anglican Church is directly across the street. The rose Cornelia greets everyone with hundreds of buds and blooms.

Publicly accessible Rose gardens like this one are important depositaries of plants, especially long lasting ones like roses. They are like a library of plants for future generations of viewers and gardens.



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The dates of the following three roses indicate the year bred.



Blush Noisette 1814



Mme Isaac Pereire 1881



Else Poulsen 1925

And Speaking of Roses ...

The rose garden at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Lochinvar was recently renovated. The workers are the Rev. Amanda Brockwell, Jan Collingwood, and Allan Thomas.





The following article first appeared in the February 2017 Bulletin.

The History of the Maitland and District Garden Club

This year another local organisation is celebrating its 50th anniversary – that is, the Maitland and District Garden Club. The following article has been written by Terry Hughes, the Garden Club's Newsletter editor.

On March 25, Maitland Garden Club celebrates its 50th year of existence. It was not the first, but it is the longest continuous existing garden club in the Hunter Region.

There are no existing members who were foundation members back in 1967, but we still have some local residents who remember how things began. One is Barbara Horn of Lorn. She says that a few keen gardeners in the Maitland district met informally to swap gardening ideas. She said the club was the brainchild of Lorna Hopson, who asked the young Barbara to help her create and distribute a notice to gardeners in Lorn and Maitland to test the response from the rest of the community. As a young newly married potential member she offered to roneo off and deliver flyers (no photocopiers in those days) asking interested people to come along to discuss the formation of a garden club in Maitland. To their surprise about 30 very interested people turned up to

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hear representatives of Cessnock Horticultural Bureau and Millfield Garden Club (both clubs no longer in existence) outline how their clubs functioned. They stressed that to succeed, meetings need to be friendly occasions with sharing of ideas. An advisory committee was set up to call the first meeting of Maitland and District Garden Club as they voted to name it.

More roneoed notices were distributed around town advertising the first meeting of the new club on March 17, 1967 at 7.30 pm in the old Maitland Library Activities room opposite the Town Hall. It struck a chord in the community with forty people turning up at the first meeting. The first executive was elected with well-known gardening enthusiasts such as Mr. & Mrs Alan Hopson, Mr. G. Kembry, and Mr & Mrs Richard Ribee voted in to lead the club in its formative years.

The structure of the monthly meetings held on the last Friday night of the month with Guest Speaker (presented with a cake), Show Bench display of flowers and arrangements brought by members, plus a raffle with prize supplied by members still survives to this day. There is also an In Your Garden segment for members to discuss gardening problems and find solutions in a co-operative way. For the record, the first guest speaker was local nurseryman, Mr. Lintott, with advice on growing shrubs plus donating a shrub to be raffled.

By August, with the stairs a problem, the club meetings moved to the CWA Hall (later demolished to make way for a shopping complex) and then to a renamed CWA Hall in Church Street, Maitland where they remained for many years. The latest move was not until the beginning of 2010 when meetings transferred to the Masonic Hall in Grant St. near the Town Hall.

Over the years the club has been involved in many activities besides the meetings. Weekend coach trips to district nurseries were a regular feature with the luggage compartment stacked with purchases on the return journey. We visited plant shows and open garden properties. We visited other clubs and hosted visiting clubs from around the state. We organised flower shows, assisted charity fetes such as Mai-Wel and Benhome, planted trees and shrubs in community parks, organised working bees at elderly members' gardens, donated gardening books and magazines to Maitland Library to name a few activities at random.

One major effort was for the Bi-centennial year in 1988. Working with the Heritage Park committee, we planted a huge number of trees around the cliff face and clumps throughout the park. Most people don't realise the effort it took to create the natural-looking tree-lined park they see today (see the following photographs of the task).



There have been a few changes over the years. Saturday afternoon meetings were introduced for the three winter months. We joined the Garden Clubs of Australia in 1982 to get the benefits of belonging to a national body from which to get advice and comprehensive insurance for our activities. Our President, Geoff Hicks is currently the Garden Clubs of Australia Organiser for Hunter South Zone. In February each year some of us assist long-time member Adele Cockburn, who has been Chief Steward of Horticulture at the Maitland Show for the last thirty years.

In 1999, new member Terry Hughes produced the first edition of a club newsletter which someone cheekily suggested be called "Digging Dirt" and it still appears each month. In the last decade, Geoff Hicks agreed to write a full-page article for the *Maitland Mercury* on gardening topics which appears now each Wednesday. No fee: he saw this as a chance to make the public aware that we existed and hopefully attract new members.

So what of the future of our club?

Garden clubs are not so necessary now in providing information about growing things. Click on to the internet and you can find many pages of advice on any gardening topic. We know this as our large library of books and collection of videotapes never gets touched these days. Modern couples often both work or have young children to look after which makes going out at night difficult. (Though Geoff and Judy Hicks recount how they attended meetings in their early days with children in carry baskets – they were keen). Also we found how difficult it was to change the meeting time to suit people. Older members would prefer to meet during the day, but when? It would be impossible to park near our present venue during a week day and guest speakers would be more difficult to arrange. Others members still work and can only come at night. So at the moment we are still tied to Friday night.

On the optimistic side, our club provides a social function where people can talk with others, have a laugh, enjoy a cuppa, have a winge over why their roses aren't blooming or their fig tree isn't producing, maybe get good old-fashioned advice face to face, or learn something new from a guest speaker. At the moment our numbers are down from the good years, but we were all younger then. Lower numbers and higher costs also mean it is not possible to arrange those highlights of the year – the coach trips. What we need is a influx of young 50-year-olds (or any-year-olds) to guarantee the club's future and people who are willing to take on some of the executive duties that make a club continue to function smoothly.

Some Personalities Who Helped Make the Garden Club



Thelma Ribee and her husband won more than 20 champion & reserve champion prizes in Maitland Garden Competitions. Here she sits amid the flowers in 1993. Both Thelma and Dick Ribee were foundation executives of the club.



Elva Wood ("Woodsie") d. 1995 who looked after the Trading Table for 23 years. Her blue mini would be over-flowing each month as she ferried the plants for sale to members. Older members still have stories of her dedication.



Jeanie Burgess "on her knees" in her prize-winning garden which won top prizes in Maitland & *Sydney Morning Herald* Garden Competitions in the late 1960s. Jeanie joined the club in its first year. She was appointed a Life Member in 1998 and died 2007



Claire Simmons was a longtime active member and Trading Table Supervisor from 1987 to 2007. She won many awards for floral art throughout the district. She died at 96 in 2012 still a member of the club.



Peter Way, President for 19 years, back in 1982, when the club sponsored the Annual Flower Show in Pender Place.

Peter drove the club members on our bus tours in earlier days, and was renowned for his champion dahlias.



Betty Laidler's speciality was Floral Art. She demonstrated and judged all over the Hunter. She was always an active member with her daughter Llonida. Here she is pictured at the 1981 Annual Spring Fair run by the Garden Club. In 1995 she won the national Joan O'Brien Award for Floral Art Excellence.

Betty acted as club historian for many years collecting photos and cuttings of our activities.

Left. Our long-serving duo, Judy and Geoff Hicks in their garden in 1983 with son, Bradley (6) and daughter, Melanie (8). Judy has been Treasurer and then Secretary off and on since 1982, while Geoff has been Treasurer and then President since 1989. As well, Geoff is at present Garden Clubs of Australia Organiser for Hunter South Zone. Geoff has written a weekly gardening page for the *Maitland Mercury* for the last ten years to help publicise the club.



Adele Cockburn, Show Bench Supervisor for many years and a skilled floral art exhibitor. Here she demonstrates in the 1970s how to create a prize-winning terrarium, one of her specialities.

Adele has been Chief Steward of Horticulture at the Maitland Show for the last 30 years.



Barbara Horn, foundation member who was guest speaker at our 40th anniversary in 2007. Barbara has been a guest speaker at district clubs on numerous occasions. She has been a selector with the Open Gardens Scheme.

My memories of Gardens in 60s & 70s

by Jennifer Buffier

Growing up in the 1960s and 1970s in Maitland I remember gardening was a pastime, a hobby and sometimes an essential household project (the vegetable/fruit garden) for my parent's and grandparent's generations.

There was the practical side of gardening - the vegetable garden. Then there was the decorative garden, the pleasure garden which showed off your home. Home entertainment was more the standard; we did not seek entertainment outside the home and church very often.

The sixties was a time when many of the females stayed in the home and did not go out to work. These ladies kept house, cooked meals, raised the children, volunteered at schools and churches and gardened. There were few sporting Mums. Not all families had a car in the 60's and it was most unusual to have a second car. Push bikes, motor bikes, buses and trains were quite often the main form of conveyance for the bread winner. These ladies were very house proud. To have a beautiful garden and fresh flowers in the home was the norm. Magazines of the day, the *Women's Weekly*, *Woman's Day* and *New idea* all had gardening sections and sometimes free seed packets attached.



House side garden in spring

Visiting relatives and friends at their home often included a stroll around the garden, showing off any new plants the owner had acquired. Comparing notes on how to grow, fertilise and prevent pest were exchanged. Cuttings of admired plants were often given as a parting gift. Rarely was a plant purchased from a nursery or shop. If you purchased from a shop, it was usually packets of seeds. Seeds seemed to germinate better back in the sixties than they do now. Is it the seed, or did that generation have a greener thumb?

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As a result of sharing plants, the same plants were found in many gardens. The most favoured cutting was the geranium or the rose, although my mother could get many other plants to strike.

I still have in my garden some roses and geraniums grown from cuttings from my mother's garden which she propagated for me. Two roses were originally from her mother's garden. I wonder where Nanna acquired them.

Mum was very proud of her garden especially the 3 diamond gardens at our Dagworth property (see photos). The centre diamond was mostly permanent perennial plants with decorative stones. The two end diamond gardens were mass planted with annuals she grew from seed. These annuals varied from season to season and year to year. Primulas, linarias, lupins, calendulas, stocks, snapdragons, pansies, violas, alyssum (both white and purple), nasturtiums, dahlias, cornflowers, cynaglossum, salpiglossis, ageratum, celosia, scabiosa and many others were grown.



Picking Nanna's flowers 1975

Mum was on a weekly roster at St Paul's Church, near Maitland Park, to both provide flowers and decorate with flowers. Sometimes this was for weddings on the Saturday afternoon. Flowers were often taken to school to decorate the teacher's desk. I can remember Mum swapping cuttings with Mrs Perry, the cleaner at St Ethel's. I still have a rose in my garden, a pink polyantha rose that originally came from the garden at St Ethel's Public School. The original rose no longer exists. It was destroyed, along with the school playground, when they built the by-pass in the 80s.

Apart from seed packets my mother spent very little money on her garden in the 60s. I rarely saw her visit a plant nursery. There were few in existence then. The garden was mostly plants that were either "begged, borrowed or stolen" Yes stolen – well if it is on the footpath in a public place, who do you seek permission from?

Flower bulbs were swapped or given away as they multiplied. Eventually Mum had various colours and shapes of daffodils and jonquils, freesias, iris, gladiola and lilliums.

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Today, many gardens are bare or have a basic structure of trees, shrubs and decorative grasses. The colourful gardens of the 60s and 70s are few and far between now. In many cases you can pick the age of the resident by the style of their garden.

With most houses having two working parents it is understandable that the garden work of the past has been swapped for an easier care garden style. In the last few years there seems to be a bit of a resurgence in growing your own vegetables, especially the heritage varieties. Concern over chemicals and genetically modified plants may be part of the cause for this resurgence in “growing your own”.



Jennifer in 1976



Jennifer's younger sister June in 1987

Jennifer has also provided the following photo which was taken by Ed Tonks in 1988, and which is a reminder that there has been a tradition of Maitland municipal gardens.



Two Personal Memories by Maitland CWA Members

Note: The Country Women's Association has a strong emphasis on agriculture which goes back to the original aims of the organisation. The CWA has a State Agricultural and Environmental officer, and there is an A & E office bearer in each branch. Every year an Australian primary product is chosen for study. Even before the formation of the State Ag & Environment Committee, the Maitland Branch held its own specific agricultural promotions. For several years it sponsored a Maitland Pumpkin Day. The idea for a local pumpkin promotion was appropriate for the Maitland area, the residents of which are known colloquially as "pumpkin pickers", which is also the name of the local footy club. And we now know that growing pumpkins locally goes back at least to the time of Eliza Nowlan.

Gardening was an interest of mine from a young age having parents who were keen gardeners. The interest continued after marriage, especially when we moved to an acreage. Fruit and nut trees were adding to the growing.

Commencing a Community garden was very enjoyable at Rutherford Anglican Church property with Parishioners and family.

During this time, I entered a competition for "gardening hints" through the CWA. Winning the competition, our Community Garden was pictured on the cover of the Yellow Pages phone book. It was a great advert encouraging more people to enjoy gardening. So good for one's wellbeing.

(My photo was on the front cover)

By Dawn Vallance

Memories of my childhood visiting Grandparents gardens

By Barbara Heckman

I can remember when I was very young in the 1940- 50's visiting my grandparents on weekends, usually a Sunday, Mums parents had a lovely flower garden along their front fence, each season filled with a variety of flowering plants, dahlias, roses, chrysanthemums, daisies, poppies, asters, diosma, delphiniums, bluebells, Daphne, lavender, and in a cool area, lily of the valley. Then to the backyard to see my Grandfather Knipes' (of Irish descent) very neat, well set out vegetable garden. It was his pride and joy to walk us around the vegetable beds wearing his hat and smoking his pipe, explaining how the plants had grown. They grew all their own vegetables, and we would go home with baskets of vegetables and fruits, apricots, peaches and plums that were in season.

My other grandparents lived at Barwon Grange (now a National Trust property in Geelong). The house was set back from the street with a long drive, bordered with red hot poker plants, bushes and trees. The property was large, with a conservatory on the side of the house, and in my memory rows of indoor pots of plants, ferns, succulents and orchids. Outside there were lavender gardens, a rose garden, and low hedges. I remember one tree that my grandfather had pruned into a shape like a large umbrella, and at Easter my sister and I found hidden Easter eggs, and other times it was a fairy tree with little gifts. At the front of the house overlooking Barwon River, there was a large round garden with a fountain; from there we walked down to the river to gather bullrushes. My grandfather was also a keen vegetable gardener who grew vegetables and fruit trees to provide for his large family.



And Finally...

The following two photos are from “Nowland’s Lochinvar Coach House and Setting” (SHR 02077).



Two Bunya Bunya nuts which fell in October



The walled courtyard, with camel's foot and Lady Banks' rose

