



'Grass half full or grass half empty? Valuing native grassy landscapes'

Friends of Grasslands' forum 30 October – 1 November 2014

Friends of Grasslands Inc. (www.fog.org.au) supporting native grassy landscapes

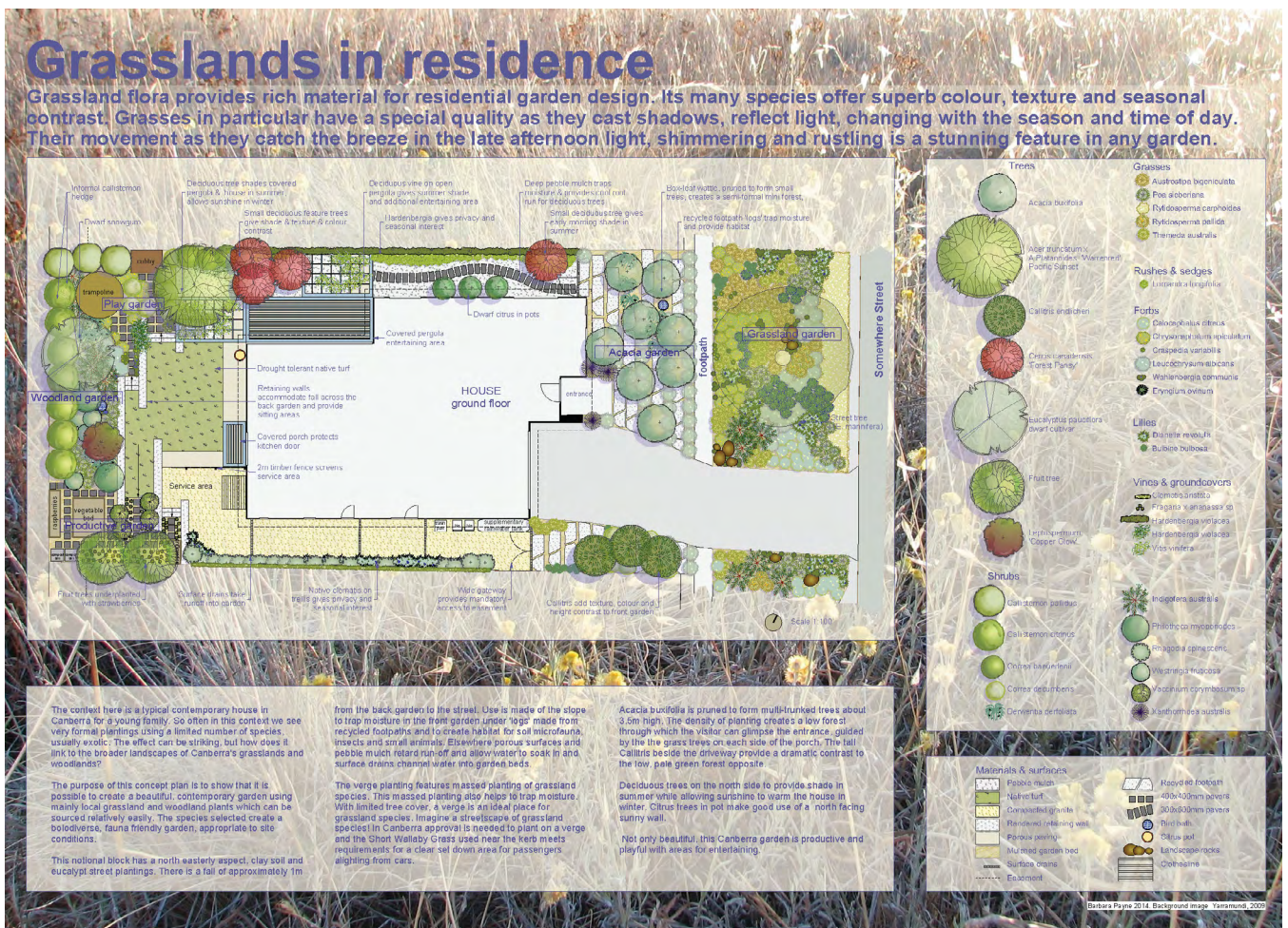
POSTERS

Grasslands in residence

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Grassland flora provides rich material for residential garden design. Its many species offer superb colour, texture and seasonal contrast. Grasses in particular have a special quality as they cast shadows, reflect light, changing with the season and time of day. The movement of grasses as they catch the breeze in the late afternoon light, shimmering and rustling, can be a stunning feature in any garden.

The context here is a typical contemporary house in Canberra on a sloping site, with a north-easterly aspect, clay soil and eucalypt street plantings. Use is made of the slope to trap moisture and create habitat; plants are selected to create a biodiverse fauna-friendly garden, appropriate to site conditions. Porous paving and paths allow water to soak in, and recycled materials are used where possible. The design intent is show that it is possible to create a beautiful drought-tolerant productive garden for a family with young children, using mainly local grassland and woodland plants which can be sourced relatively easily.



Barbara Payne is a local landscape architect with an interest in designing with native plants. Introduced to FOG through work as a project officer with the National Capital Authority, she has a particular interest in grassland species and Southern Tablelands ecosystems. She volunteers with Friends of Grasslands and the Southern Tablelands Ecosystems Park (STEP). She designed the Stage 2 (understorey) Masterplan for the STEP area in the National Arboretum Canberra.