



Heritage is about culture. Not only the things we want to keep, but a much deeper reflection of who we are and what we value in our lives and communities.

Dr Christina Dyson Senior Associate

Christina is a landscape heritage specialist, with particular expertise in twentieth century Australian plant gardens. She has wide experience in Australian garden, designed landscape and cultural landscape heritage, as well as urban and built heritage, at world, national, state and local levels. She has particular interest in and aptitude for the assessment and management of complex cultural landscapes.

Christina holds a PhD from the University of Melbourne (Melbourne School of Design). Her thesis investigated postwar Australian plant gardens and their connections with national identity.

At GML Christina has worked on a diverse range of cultural landscape and built heritage projects, including conservation management plans, landscape heritage assessments, and heritage impact statements. She has also worked on numerous municipal heritage studies and heritage advice projects. She has appeared at panel as an expert witness for planning scheme amendments related to gardens and designed landscapes of local and state cultural heritage significance.

Qualifications

PhD, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, The University of Melbourne

Graduate Diploma in Horticulture, Burnley, The University of Melbourne

Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) in Art History & Theory and English Literature, The University of Sydney

Professional affiliations

Australia ICOMOS (Full International Member)

Chair, Victoria's Heritage Restoration Fund, Committee of Management (2016–)

Director, National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Board (2015-2021)
Chair, Buildings & Estates Committee, National Trust of Australia (Victoria) (2015-2021)

Deputy Chair, Heritage Advocacy Committee, National Trust of Australia (Victoria) (2015-2021)

Key experience

Landscape and garden heritage

- Royal Park Conservation Management Plan incorporating Aboriginal cultural values—Client: City of Melbourne, current
- Victoria's Avenues of Honour Project—Client: Department of Premier and Cabinet (Veterans Branch), 2021
- Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs, Ballarat East Conservation Management Plan—City of Ballarat, 2020
- Abbotsford Convent Fernery garden bed rejuvenation, garden design and heritage advice—Client: Abbotsford Convent Foundation, 2020
- Former John Smith & Sons Riddell's Creek Nursery Interpretation Plan—Client: David Liebich, 2020
- Penders Park, Thornbury Design review and heritage advice—Client: City of Darebin, 2020
- Kingston and Arthur's Vale Heritage Area, Norfolk Island, Cultural Landscape Management Plan—Client: Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities, 2019
- Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens Heritage Assessment—Client: City of Ballarat, 2018
- Brechin Gardens, Narre Warren Conservation Management Plan—Client: City of Casey, 2016
- Camperdown Botanic Gardens Conservation Management Plan—Client: Corangamite Shire Council, 2016
- Maranoa Gardens, Balwyn, Conservation Management Plan—Client: City of Boroondara (Richard Aitken Pty Ltd, Lee Andrews & Associates and Christina Dyson), 2015

Management plans

- Brighton General Cemetery Conservation Management Plan—Client: Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, 2020
- St Kilda Cemetery Conservation Management Plan—Client: Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, 2019
- Abbotsford Convent Conservation Management Plan Project—Client: Abbotsford Convent Foundation, 2019
- Fawcner Memorial Park Conservation Management Plan—Client: Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, 2017

- The Meeting Place Precinct, Botany Bay National Park, NSW, Conservation Management Plan—Client: Office of Environment and Heritage, 2008
- Ranelagh Estate Conservation Management Plan—Client: Mornington Peninsula Shire, 2008
- Lake Burley Griffin & Adjacent Lands: Heritage Assessment & Management Plan (led by Godden Mackay Logan)—Client: National Capital Authority, 2006
- Parliament House Vista Management Plan (led by Duncan Marshall)—Client: National Capital Authority, 2006
- Kosciuszko National Park Huts Conservation Plan (with GML)—Client: NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2005

Heritage impact assessments

- Brens Pavilion, Royal Park Heritage Impact Statement—Client: City of Melbourne, 2021
- Western Pavilion, Royal Park Heritage Impact Statement—Client: City of Melbourne, 2020
- The Gong Reservoir, Buninyong Botanic Gardens Heritage Impact Statement—Client: City of Ballarat, 2020
- Former Smiths Nursery, Riddells Creek, Heritage Impact Statements—Clients: Urban Design and Management and various private owners, 2016–2019

Expert evidence

- 2-14 Monbulk Road, Belgrave Expert Evidence, VCAT—Client: Yara Ranges Shire, 2021
- 60-70 Konyung Road, Mt Eliza Expert Evidence, VCAT—Client: Mornington Peninsula Shire, 2021
- Mervyn Davis garden, 6 Fairview Street, Hawthorn Expert Evidence, Amendment C284—Client: City of Boroondara, 2019
- Clover Cottage and Garden, Berwick, Statement of Evidence, Casey Planning Scheme Amendment C231—Client: City of Casey, 2018
- East West Link Planning Panel, for Precinct 3: Royal Park (Western Portal), Expert evidence in relation to Royal Park, Parkville—Client: City of Melbourne, 2014

Heritage studies, assessments and advice

- St James Park, Hawthorn—Client: City of Boroondara, current
- Punt Road Oval (Richmond Cricket Ground) Heritage Review—Client: City of Melbourne, 2021
- Hoddle Grid Heritage Review—Client: City of Melbourne, 2018–2020
- Boroondara Heritage Study Stage 2—Client: Boroondara City Council, 2016–2020
- City of Manningham Heritage Advisor—Client: City of Manningham, 2018–2019
- Moonee Valley 2017 Heritage Study—Client: City of Moonee Valley, 2019
- Johnston Street Signalisation Project, Abbotsford Convent—Client: Abbotsford Convent Foundation (led by Urban Initiatives), 2018
- Heritage advice (landscape, horticultural & built heritage) and heritage assessments of individual places and precincts for various municipal councils including the cities of Boroondara, Moreland, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Casey, Yarra, Knox, and Cardinia Shire, 2015–present
- Royal Park, Parkville, Cultural Heritage Significance Assessment—Client: City of Melbourne (for Christina Dyson), 2013
- Cardinia Shire Heritage Study Review, Stages 1 & 2—Client: Shire of Cardinia, 2006, 2008

- Darebin Heritage Study—Client: City of Darebin, 2007
- Glenferrie Sports Ground & Grace Park Precinct Heritage Assessment—Client: City of Boroondara, 2006

Professional background

Senior Associate, GML Heritage (formerly Context), 2020–current
Associate, Context, 2016–2020
Senior Consultant, Context, 2015–2016
Co-editor Australian Garden History, Australian Garden History Society, 2008–2015
PhD candidate, Melbourne School of Design, University of Melbourne, 2008–2015
Heritage Consultant, Context, 2006–2009
Heritage Consultant, Godden Mackay Logan (now GML Heritage), 2000–2006

Awards

Winner, 2013 Mike Smith Prize by the National Museum of Australia and the Australian Academy of Science, for an unpublished essay on an aspect of Australian environmental history, 2013
Winner, Energy Australia National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards: Conservation Management Plan category, for Lake Burley Griffin & Adjacent Lands—Heritage Assessment & Management Plan, 2010
Winner, Energy Australia National Trust Award NSW – Conservation Management Plan Award, for The Meeting Place Precinct, Botany Bay National Park, NSW, Conservation Management Plan, 2009
Winner, PIA NSW Planning Excellence Award – Heritage, for The Meeting Place Precinct, Botany Bay National Park, NSW, Conservation Management Plan, 2008
Winner, PIA Victoria Planning Excellence Award – Heritage, for Ranelagh Estate: Conservation Management Plan, 2008
Winner, Energy Australia National Trust NSW Heritage Awards – Conservation Management Plan, for Kosciuszko National Park Huts—Conservation Strategy, 2006

Conference papers, presentations and lectures

Dyson, C, 'Cultural Landscape' guest lecture, Masters of Urban and Cultural Heritage (Intensive), 'Cultural landscape heritage: identifying, understanding, conserving, managing', The University of Melbourne, September 2021.
Dyson, C, Guest Lecture, Masters of Urban and Cultural Heritage (Intensive), The University of Melbourne, September 2021.
Dyson, C and Jackson, R, 'Management of the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area's cultural landscape', conference paper for Culture: Conserving it Together, ICOMOS Conference, Fiji, October 2018
Dyson, C, 'Frederick S Tuckfield of Clover Cottage, Berwick: Camellia Grower', presentation to the Camellia Ark Project annual meeting in Mooroolbark, 9 September 2018
Dyson, C, 'Planting identity: wildflowers in the suburbs', presentation to the Lyceum Club, Melbourne, 3 September 2015
Dyson, C, 'A history of gardening with Australian plants', presentation to Garden Ambassadors, Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, 13 July 2015
Dyson, C, 'History Saves Landscapes', presentation at 'Cultivating Community: Garden making and public history' (speakers Richard Aitken, Christina Dyson, and Sharon Willoughby), Making Public Histories Seminar Series, an initiative of the Institute of Public History, Monash University and the State Library of Victoria, State Library of Victoria, 25 September 2014
Dyson, C, 'Heritage Saves Landscapes', guest lecture, Urban and Landscape Heritage (Masters elective), Melbourne School of Design, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, The University of Melbourne, 24 September 2014

Dyson, C, 'Manipulating History: The Natural Australian Plant Garden, 1945–1985', Second World Congress of Environmental History, 8–12 July 2014, Guimarães, Portugal, hosted by the University of Minho and the International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations

Dyson, C, Guided 'Walk and talk', Royal Park, Parkville, Melbourne for the Australian Garden History Society (Victorian Branch), February 2013

Memberships

ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)

National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

Australian Garden History Society (Honorary Life member)

Articles, books and reviews

Dyson, C, 'Rethinking Australian natural gardens and national identity' in James Beattie (Ed.), *Gardens at the Frontier: New Methodological Perspectives on Garden History and Designed Landscapes*, Routledge, 2018

Dyson, C, 'Rethinking Australian natural gardens and national identity, 1950–1979', in *Studies in the History of Gardens and Designed Landscapes: An International Quarterly*, 36 (1), 2016, pp 53–64

Dyson, C, 'Book Review: Peggy James, *Cosmopolitan Conservationists: Greening Modern Sydney*', in *Historical Records of Australian Science*, 24 (2) 2013, pp 344–346

Dyson, C, 'Living fossils and mouth-watering stones: manipulating history in the post-WWII natural Australian plant garden', unpublished essay awarded the 2013 Mike Smith Prize by the National Museum of Australia and the Australian Academy of Science

Dyson, C, 'Conserving significance within a context of change: a case study of the Glenferrie sports ground and Grace Park precinct', *Studies in Australian Garden History*, Vol. 3, 2012, pp 35–47

Dyson, C and Aitken, R, 'Honouring Nina Crone', *Australian Garden History*, 23 (3), January/February/March 2012, p 3

Dyson, C, 'Netscape: The Cultural Landscape Foundation', *Australian Garden History*, 25 (2), October/November/December 2013, p 22

Dyson, C and Aitken, R, 'Inviting gestures: scholarship, heritage, and advocacy', *Australian Garden History*, 24 (4), April/May/June 2013, pp 3–4

Dyson, C and Aitken, R, 'Reviewing the cultural history of gardens', *Australian Garden History*, 25 (1), July/August/September 2013, pp 3–4

Dyson, C and Aitken, R, 'Modernist gardens: conserving a vulnerable heritage', *Australian Garden History*, 25 (2), Oct/Nov/Dec 2013, p 3

Dyson, C, 'Notes from a hillside villa', *Australian Garden History*, 22(2), October/November/December 2010, p 32; 22(3), January/February/March 2011, p 25; 22(4), April/May/June 2011, pp 24–26; 23(1), July/August/September 2011, p 24

Dyson, C, 'Vulnerable scenery: the shifting dynamics of a natural aesthetic in Australian postwar gardens', conference paper, (Un)loved Modern, Australia ICOMOS Conference, Sydney, 7–9 July 2009

Dyson, C, 'Nation and garden design', *Australian Garden History*, 19(5), May/June 2008, pp 8–11

Vos, C, 'Designs on History' (conference report), *Australian Garden History*, 18(4), February/March/April 2007, pp 5–8