



Heritage is 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 Principal

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, regional 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 landscape and built heritage projects, including conservation management plans, heritage assessments, and heritage impact statements. She has also worked on numerous municipal heritage studies and heritage advice projects. She has appeared at VCAT and planning panels as an expert witness for planning scheme amendments related to historic plantings, gardens, parks, designed and scenic landscapes of local and state heritage significance.

Qualifications

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

Graduate Diploma in Horticulture, The University of Melbourne

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

Key experience

Landscape heritage

- Eureka Stockade Memorial Gardens, Conservation Management Plan—Client: City of Ballarat, 2024
- Brisbane City Botanic Gardens, Conservation Management Plan—Client: Brisbane City Council, 2024
- Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout, Strategic Heritage Planning Advice—Client: DCCEE, 2024
- Royal Park, Conservation Management Plan Incorporating Aboriginal Cultural Values—Client: City of Melbourne, 2024
- Great Alpine Road Western Gateway, Bright, Preliminary Landscape and Heritage Assessment—Client: Alpine Shire, 2023
- Camp Reserve, Castlemaine, Landscape Heritage Advice on Cultural Significance—Client: Mount Alexander Shire, 2023
- 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

- RAAF Curtin, Heritage Management Plan—Client: Department of Defence, current
- RMC Duntroon Gardens, Heritage Management Plan—Client: Department of Defence
- Little Sisters of the Poor, Northcote, Conservation Management Plan—led by Andronas Conservation Architecture, 2023
- Puckapunyal Military Area, Heritage Management Strategy (Cantonment)—Client: Department of Defence, 2022
- 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—Client: Abbotsford Convent Foundation, 2019
- Fawkner 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

- Buchan Caves, Heritage Impact Statement—Client: Parks Victoria, current
- Camp Reserve, Castlemaine: Heritage Impact Statement—Client: Mount Alexander Shire, 2024
- Warburton Redwoods, Heritage Impact Statement—Client: Parks Victoria, 2024
- Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens, Daylesford, Heritage Impact Statement—Client: GbLA, 2024
- Ryder Pavilion, Royal Park, Parkville, Heritage Impact Statement—Client: City of Melbourne, 2022
- Brens Pavilion, Royal Park, Parkville, Heritage Impact Statement—Client: City of Melbourne, 2021
- Western Pavilion, Royal Park, Parkville, 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

- Officer South Employment PSP: Post-contact Heritage, VCAT—Client: Cardinia Shire, 2024
- 82–88 Carlton Road, Dandenong North, VCAT—Client: City of Greater Dandenong, 2023
- Punt Road Oval, Richmond, Expert Evidence Amendment C405—Client: City of Melbourne, 2022

- 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

- Mildura Heritage Study, Part B Stage 2—Client: Rural City of Mildura, 2022–2024
- Heritage Advice (Built Form, Landscape & Horticultural 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
- LGBTIQA+ Heritage Study, Stage 2—Client: City of Yarra, 2024
- LGBTIQA+ Heritage Study, Stage 1—Client: City of Yarra, 2023
- Maldon Central Area Heritage Review—Client: Mount Alexander Shire, 2023
- Restoring Community War Memorial and Avenues of Honour Grants Program, Heritage Advice—Client: Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (Veterans Branch), 2023
- Balwyn, Heritage Study Peer Review Stage 3—Client: City of Boroondara, 2023
- Wattle Road, Hawthorn Heritage Review—Client: City of Boroondara, 2023
- RMC Duntroon, Heritage Advice—Client: Department of Defence, 2022
- St James Park, Hawthorn, Succession Planting Heritage Advice—Client: City of Boroondara, 2022
- Elwood Precinct (HO8), Stage 1 Heritage Review—Client: City of Port Phillip, 2021
- Punt Road Oval (Richmond Cricket Ground), Heritage Review—Client: City of Melbourne, 2021
- Mildura Heritage Study Part B Stage 1—Client: Rural City of Mildura, 2020–2021
- Hoddle Grid Heritage Review—Client: City of Melbourne, 2018–2020
- Boroondara Municipal Wide, Heritage Gap 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
- 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

Professional background

Principal, GML Heritage Victoria (formerly Context), July 2024–present

Senior Associate, GML Heritage Victoria (formerly Context), 2020–July 2024

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

Professional affiliations/memberships

Australia ICOMOS (Full International Member)

National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

Australian Garden History Society (Honorary Life Member)

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

Chair, Buildings & Estates Committee, National Trust of Australia (Victoria) (2015–2021)

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

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

Conference papers, presentations, lectures and teaching

Subject lead, lecturer and studio lead, Urban and Landscape Heritage (Intensive), Master of Urban and Cultural Heritage, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, The University of Melbourne, September–October 2024

Dyson, C, guest lectures: 'Cultural Landscapes' and 'Cultural Landscape Heritage: Identifying, Understanding, Conserving, Managing', Master of Urban and Cultural Heritage (Intensive), The University of Melbourne, Semester 2 2021 and 2022

Dyson, C, Guest Lecture, Master 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

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