

Dry Stone Walling Workshop at 'Turkeith'

Design • Materials • Tools • Techniques for Heritage and Contemporary Applications

About David



1970's David served as an understudy to a landscape gardener who specialised in different forms of stonemasonry. This early stewardship led to various opportunities within the landscape industry as it was beginning to emerge as a stand alone discipline within the construction Industry.

1980's Study took him into the recently established field of Landscape Architecture at RMIT. He went onto to partner in a landscape gardening firm with commissions varying from private residences to large public spaces.

1990's David founded 'The Right Branch' to provide a specialist service to the Construction Industry from heritage projects to sculptural commissions. Changing economic times required an extension of earlier skills gained - enter Dry Stone Walling. David is currently working on the construction of a massive dry stone wall as part of a private commission just outside Melbourne. Other major projects include:

- Malvern Valley Golf Course entrance
- The township of Ternag's entrance
- The construction of "Tanderum" sculpture on Herring Island
- Gateway entrance at Melbourne University's Glenormiston Campus.

In November 2001, David was awarded the *Master Builders Association of Victoria/ISS Institute Fellowship*. The purpose of the Fellowship continues to be to revive the high level skills and knowledge required to maintain heritage sites and to translate those capabilities into contemporary contexts.

'Turkeith'



The Turkeith Country Garden was designed for the Ramsay family, in 1904/4 by William Guilfoyle who designed the Melbourne Botanic Gardens.

It reached maturity in the 1930's, 40's and 50's – then it endured a gradual decline in maintenance which extended until 1986 when the Gordon family took over. A restoration programme, which has been in place since then, is gradually restoring this fascinating old garden to its former glory.

Part of the charm of the Turkeith garden is its isolated situation at the centre of a 2000 hectare working sheep station on the basalt plains. Magnificent oaks, elms, pines, palms, cypress and gums are the major mature trees dating from the earliest plantings, and many different species have been added since 1986, including magnolias, oaks, sycamores, elms, hawthorns and fruit trees. Under these trees are a wide range of shrubs, hardy perennials and drought tolerant plant, and a splendid range of bulbs all year round. The major attraction of this garden, however, is Guilfoyle's marvellous flowing design.

Photographs courtesy
Helen Page, Australian Garden History Society

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Introduction

Dry Stone Walling is one of the few crafts that still uses the principles handed down since man created 'the enclosure' to protect himself from tempest, enemies and agrarian pursuit. Dry Stone Walling has been with man through the ages as it was easily adapted into various lifestyles, because of the ease of its availability and its longevity.

Today, Dry Stone Walling is a craft that is slowly being left behind as building technologies produce time efficient constructions. These constructions do not have the aesthetic appeal, or the versatility of natural stone in today's built environment.

David's Fellowship and this workshop is part of a strategy to revive and expand the use of dry stone work so as to maintain heritage sites, but also to create new work.

The techniques can be applied not only to residential gardening/landscaping works, but also in the construction of functional and decorative projects as part of public and domestic landscaping and in general to create beautiful, everlasting environments - from atriums in buildings, art pieces in public spaces, corporate team building exercises, garden walls and seats, BBQ areas, entranceways - to add lasting value to the spaces in which you work, live or play.

Suitable for...

**Architectural conservators
Architects • Archaeologists
Heritage Advisors • Stonemasons
Urban Designers • Landscape
Architects and Gardeners
Historians and those interested
in Heritage Environments • and
organisations such as Heritage
Victoria, the National Trust,
Australian Garden History
Society and the Landscape
Industries Association of Victoria.**

About the workshop

Topics covered include:

- Terminology
- Types of stone
- Setting out
- Preparing foundations
- Frame construction and string lines
- Stripping out

Context

Be part of a team to work on constructing walls on an historical property. This special event will be the construction of a section of dry stone wall that will be part of the complete entrance to Turkeith.

Take away knowledge and understanding of the craft of Dry Stone Walling. Build on this knowledge with your new found ability to add value to landscape environments whether contemporary or historic, for corporate or commercial clients, or create garden features around your own home such as feature seats, entrances, walls or sculptural elements - life long creations.

Venue

The historical property of 'Turkeith', end of Mooleric Road, via Birregurra (10 minutes east of Colac on the Princes Highway).

Date•Time

Sunday, 2 May 2004 commencing promptly at 9.30am.

Project

To complete the front entrance of the property "Turkeith".

Format

The workshop comprises lecture, demonstrations, group and individual discussion and a hands-on project.

Participants will work under David's supervision on the construction of the wall.

Fee

\$90 plus GST, which includes materials, equipment, morning and afternoon refreshments.

A copy of David Long's 'Dry Stone Walling Report' will be available for purchase on the day. It sets out the places he visited whilst overseas, the different designs, techniques and materials .

As we are on a farm, catering on site is not available, so pack your own lunch box full of tasty treats to enjoy on the day.

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New Inspiration. New skills.

Program

Sunday 2 May 2004

- 9.30am Arrive at the homestead
ISS Institute welcomes workshop participants
- 9.40am **Presentation by David Long**
- 10.15am *Discussion*
- 10.30am Morning Break - refreshments
- 11.00am **Demonstration on site by David Long**
Stone selection; working stone; laying; finishing
Discussion
- 12.00pm **Lunch**
- 12.45pm **Participants work under David's supervision**
on constructing a section of wall
- 3.00pm Afternoon Break - refreshments
- 3.30pm Continue project
- 4.15pm Reconvene at the homestead to discuss "Where to Next!"
- 4.30pm Session concludes



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ISS Institute proudly acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government and its founders the Palladio Foundation and the Australian Multicultural Foundation and firms and individuals who contribute funds and in-kind goods and services.

With appreciative thanks to Lachlan and Janet Gordon for their hospitality and generosity in providing access to their property for the day's proceedings.

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