

RESUME: DR HOLLY KERR FORSYTH



Holly Kerr Forsyth, PhD
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Sydney 2025
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Summary

A scholar of garden history, Holly Kerr Forsyth was awarded a PhD from the University of New South Wales in 2004. With 11 books published since 1998, she has written a weekly column for The Weekend Australian (Australia's only national daily broadsheet) from 1997 to May 2016. She has lectured in Australia and Europe and has led many horticulture, landscape, art and history-themed tours to Asia, the United Kingdom and Europe.

Employment

Current since 1995: Historian, Lecturer, Writer, Columnist, Photographer.

Education

2004: PhD, School of History, University New South Wales
1992: Diploma, Ryde College of Horticulture, Sydney
1974: Bachelor of Arts, University of Queensland

Publications

1997 – to May-2016

Weekly columns

Weekly Feature Columnist, *Review, The Weekend Australian*

In this column Holly discussed a wide range of subjects, including social geography, history, landscape and its transformation, and private and public gardens. Coast-care and other environmental projects and agricultural issues have all been addressed in more than **780** Saturday columns. The Weekend Australian has a readership of 746,000 as well as a large on-line readership.

Books

(see also App A)

2018: *The Reluctant Spy*
2018:2012: ***Country Gardens: Country Hospitality***, Melbourne University Publishing, pp261
2011: ***Seasons at Home***, Melbourne University Publishing, pp163
2010: ***Seasons in my House and Garden***, Melbourne University Publishing, pp211
2009: ***Gardeners' Book of Days***, Melbourne University Publishing, pp295
2008: ***Gardens of Eden***, Melbourne University Publishing, pp339
2007: ***The Constant Gardener***, Melbourne University Publishing, pp515
2006: ***Remembered Gardens: eight women and their visions of an Australian landscape***, Melbourne University Publishing, pp273

2000: ***Gardens in My Year*** : *Inside Australian Gardens*, Sydney, New Holland, pp192

1998: ***The Australian Countrywoman's Garden***, Sydney, Random House, pp176

1998: ***The Garden Lover's Guide to Australia***, 2nd edition. revised and enlarged, Sydney Random House, pp200

Conferences

1996: ***The Garden Lover's Guide to Australia***

Sydney, E.J. Dwyer, pp170

2008: Keynote Speaker: Heritage Rose Annual Conference, Melbourne

2004: History Teachers' Conference, Australian National University, Canberra.

The Colonial and Post Colonial Transformation of Antipodean landscapes

2003: British World Conference, University of Calgary. Claiming Agency through reconstructing landscape

2002: Environmental History Workshop, Australian National University, Canberra. Transferred spaces in the Colonial experience

Lectures

Between 2000 and 2019, Holly presented over 40 lectures, including:

2013, 2010, 2007: National Library, Canberra, a number of lectures on colonial and post colonial landscapes and the trans-national nature of garden making

2012: Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society (ADFAS), Mudgee, NSW

2010, 2011: Art Gallery New South Wales: series of 10 lectures on landscape history, from pre-history and the Paradise garden, the Mughal gardens of India, Renaissance gardens of Europe to Elizabethan gardens and the golden age of gardens in the United States

2012, 2006: Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. Lecture: It's Not all Wine and Roses' drawing on experiences when interviewing and photographing over the world.

2007, 2005: State Library, New South Wales

2000-2013: Regional Libraries, including at Wagga, Benalla, Woollahra: lectures on landscape history

2009, 2006: Australian Garden History Society, National Conferences. Lecture: Winifred West and the landscape in education

2007: Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney

1999- 2010: Botanical Gardens, Ballarat, Mildura, Geelong, various lectures on landscape history

Writers' Festivals

Holly has given presentations on her publications at the following writers' festivals:

2013: 'The Body in the Garden,' crime and garden writers' festival

2007: The Perth Arts Festival

2006: The Sydney Writers' Festival

2006: The Melbourne Writers' Festival

2006: 'Writers at Como' Historic House

2014: Plant Collectors Fair and Writers' Festival: Plant hunters of 17th & 18th centuries and their role in the transformation of landscape in Europe, the United Kingdom and the Colonies.

Community

Between 2000 and 2019, Holly has presented over 40 lectures to:

Private Clubs

Garden Clubs

Book Clubs
Garden Festivals

Exhibitions 2011: Photographic Exhibition: A Sense of Place. .Maunsell Wickes Gallery, Sydney

Professional Experience, continued 1983 – 2001: Managing Director, Holly Kerr Associates Public Relations
1978-1983: Account Director, Charles Barker Australia

1977: Lived in Europe to further language skills
Translated Japanese: Rome, Italy
1976: Joint Intelligence Office, Department of Defence, Canberra
1975: Graduate Clerk with Department of Defence, Canberra

Memberships & Community Service 2008+ : Director, University of New South Wales Foundation (by invitation)
1996+ : Member, Australian Society of Authors.
1995+ : Member, Australian Garden History Society
1986 – 1990: Board Member, Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation (by invitation)

Interests Writing, history, lecturing, family, travel, gardening.

August 2013
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Holly travels extensively, throughout the world, to take the photographs for all her newspaper columns, her books, and to use in her lectures and presentations. She has drawn on these travels, and the associated interviews conducted, to discuss comparative landscapes and their importance in trans-national cultures in her writing.

APPENDIX A
Books Published 2018: **The Reluctant Spy**
2012: **Country Gardens: Country Hospitality**, Melbourne University Publishing, pp261
Celebrates the lives of Australian country people, through a discussion of their landscapes, their gardens and their way of life.

2011: **Seasons at Home**, Melbourne University Publishing, pp163
A celebration of the house, and of good food.

2010: **Seasons in my House and Garden**, Melbourne University Publishing, pp211
Month by month in the garden.

2009: **Gardeners' Book of Days**, Melbourne University Publishing, pp295

A book for the bedside table, with an entry for each day. Literary, historical and political thoughts as well as gardening tips.

2008: ***Gardens of Eden***, Melbourne University Publishing, pp339

An illustrated discussion of the world's greatest landscapes, and their history, from the first gardens in the Middle East, to the Indian sub-continent, the Far East, Europe, the United States and Oceania.

2007: ***The Constant Gardener***, Melbourne University Publishing, pp515

A 'bible' for gardeners, covering every aspect of landscape history, plants, landscaping and garden making.

2006: ***Remembered Gardens: eight women and their visions of an Australian landscape***, Melbourne University Publishing, pp273

This book, written from Holly's PhD thesis, relates the stories of how Australian women, over 200 years, have reconstructed the landscape they found into their vision of an Arcadia. It also explores the meanings and information contained in garden spaces.

2000: ***Gardens in My Year : Inside Australian Gardens***, Sydney, New Holland, pp192

1998: ***The Australian Countrywoman's Garden***, Sydney, Random House, pp176

This book tells the stories of 21 women who own some of the oldest, most beautiful and most interesting, historically and horticulturally, gardens in Australia.

1998: ***The Garden Lover's Guide to Australia***, 2nd edition. revised and enlarged, Sydney Random House, pp200

Researching this book, Holly travelled over 40,000 km throughout Australia, interviewing current owners or custodians, many of whom were descendants of the earliest settlers, and photographing their gardens. This book describes 400 very good gardens around Australia that the public may visit.

1996: ***The Garden Lover's Guide to Australia***

Sydney, E.J. Dwyer, pp170