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## **RESUME DR HOLLY KERR FORSYTH**

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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 wrote a weekly column for *The Weekend Australian* (Australia's only national daily broadsheet) from 1997 until 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 – 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)**

2012: ***Country Gardens: Country Hospitality***, Melbourne University Publishing, pp261 (now in its fourth printing.)  
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***, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. revised and enlarged, Sydney Random House, pp200  
 1996: ***The Garden Lover's Guide to Australia***  
 Sydney, E.J. Dwyer, pp170

Holly is currently working on four non-fiction titles and has completed her first work of fiction.

## Conferences

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 2016, Holly presented over 50 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  
 2016: Private Club: 'The Spirituality of Landscape.'  
 2016: Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. 'The Importance of Gardening.'  
 2014: Plant Collectors' Fair and Writers' Festival: 'Plant hunters of 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and their role in the transformation of landscape in Europe, the United Kingdom and the Colonies.'  
 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.

Holly continues to present lectures around Australia and the world, including on cruise ships.

**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

**Community** Between 2000 and 2016, Holly has presented over 20 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.

**APPENDIX A** 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.

**Books Published** 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. Now in fourth printing.  
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***, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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