

AUSTRALIAN HOUSE & GARDEN

PRESENTS

'REFLECTION'

DESIGNED BY IAN BARKER GARDENS

For MIFGS 2016, the Ian Barker Gardens team have set out to do something a little bit different from previous years. The purpose of our show garden 'Reflection' is to create a visual depiction of a person's memory of a garden they experienced in their childhood.

The brief below is a fictional person's recollection of a garden by a lake, which was owned by their grandparents. Later in life, they often reflect back on their childhood years and relive the memories that were created in this garden...



"As I sit in my comfy armchair by the window and the golden late-afternoon sunlight streams in and warms my face, I look down at the faded crocheted blanket covering my lap and close my eyes. Suddenly, I am transported back to the past as a wonderful memory begins to stir.

I can see my grandmother sitting in her chair amid a field of flowers, illuminated by the sun's glow. She is crocheting the very same blanket that now covers my lap. Every so often, she would look up from what she was doing and smile as she watched my brothers and I running amok in the garden. My memory is a little hazy now but I can still recall the profusion of assorted plants growing in an almost wild and untamed fashion. There were so many wonderful shapes and textures to see and touch, I would never tire of my explorations through the flowers and foliage.

My grandparents thought they were the luckiest people in the world to have the stunning Lake Windermere at their back door. Sometimes my brothers and I would sit on the edge of the boathouse and kick our feet about in the water. So full of energy we were in those days, we would spend hours at a time jumping off the deck into the lake, competing to make the biggest splash!

I always hoped I might find my way back to the garden at Lake Windermere; to feel close to my grandparents once more. Sadly, it was never to be. The only place the garden, and my grandparents exist now is in my memories. But, if I close my eyes in the late afternoon as the sun streams in and warms my face, I can transport myself back. For a few brief moments at least, it's as if no time has passed at all."