**Thomas Shepherd – ‘the oldest professed gardener in the Colony’**

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Thomas Shepherd is one of the contributors to the early development of the Australian foodscape who his rarely acknowledged. This article seeks to redress this through documenting his work in establishing and managing the Darling Nursery, one of the first commercial nurseries in Australia,[[1]](#footnote-1) and reviewing his writings on horticulture - letters to newspapers and his 1834 series of lectures on cultivating fruits and vegetables published as *Lectures On the Horticulture of New South Wales Delivered at the Mechanics’ School of Arts .*[[2]](#footnote-2) Shepherd also lectured on landscape gardening and these lectures are printed in *Lectures on Landscape Gardening in Australia*. I will refer to them where appropriate also.[[3]](#footnote-3)

# The making of Thomas Shepherd, Horticulturist and Nurseryman

Thomas Shepherd was born in 1779 in Kembeck in Fifeshire, Scotland. His father was Principal Gardener to the Earls of Crawford and Lindsay.[[4]](#footnote-4) ‘I was brought up to gardening from my infancy.’[[5]](#footnote-5) At school he was ‘taught nothing … but reading, writing, and arithmetic’.[[6]](#footnote-6) He left school and ‘commenced studying the profession of a Horticulturalist, I persevered … in obtaining all the education which my situation in life at that time would permit.‘[[7]](#footnote-7) He attended a ‘first rate gardener’s lodge [which] was more like a school … In the evening, the young gardeners would study, principally from books … grammar, arithmetic, geometry, trigonometry, land surveying, and mapping, mensuration, horticulture, botany, garden architecture, and geography. It was customary for the head, or principal gardener, to attend in the lodge for an hour or two in the evening, to teach the apprentices and junior men.’[[8]](#footnote-8) His learning became directed to ‘the splendid art of Landscape Gardening’[[9]](#footnote-9) after seeing some garden plans drawn up by Thomas White, a prominent landscape gardener and his future employer.[[10]](#footnote-10) One of the ‘branches of education’ he saw he needed to gain was ‘A competent knowledge in horticulture, to enable me to know the qualities of the various soils suited for the production of verdant scenery, and also to obtain the knowledge of the various sorts of trees, shrubs and flowers necessary to be employed in completing a Landscape Garden.’[[11]](#footnote-11) This knowledge of soils was later invaluable to Shepherd as nursery man and feature in the 1834 series of horticulture lectures. He furthered his education ‘under the first professional men in that capacity, which England and Scotland have produced.’[[12]](#footnote-12)

In about 1797 Shepherd moved to London.[[13]](#footnote-13) There he ‘gave designs in the modern style of Landscape Gardening for near a hundred parks, pleasure grounds, and gardens including in several Counties.’[[14]](#footnote-14) [[15]](#footnote-15)

Shepherd’s first gardening position was near his home. Here under the tutelage of the head gardener, a Mr Young, ‘he learned to experiment with plants in various positions, and study the quality of the soil.’[[16]](#footnote-16) He then worked for Thomas White as a journeyman gardener supervising the work on some of White’s commissions.[[17]](#footnote-17) On White’s death Shepherd began his own landscape gardening business.[[18]](#footnote-18) He took over the leasehold of a nursery in Romford, Essex and established a second nursery at Hackney. Both nurseries supplied plants for his practice as a landscape gardener.

In 1825 he appeared before the Committee of the House of Commons on the “State of the Agricultural Labourer in England and the best means of lessening the poor rates.” ‘His proposal was to build cottages on private estates relative to the size of the parish, and to grant an allotment of land to the various poor of the parish and encourage them to grow some food for themselves. The idea, hardly revolutionary, was introduced in England with a limited success.’[[19]](#footnote-19)

Also in 1825 he was hired as an agent of the New Zealand Company formed to establish settlements in New Zealand for the purposes of developing trade in [flax](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Zealand_flax), [kauri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kauri) timber, whaling, and sealing. He sailed with Captain James Herd on a scoping trip in New Zealand. After 10 months Herd and Shepherd concluded there was little possibility of getting the profits the Company expected and sailed for Sydney. [[20]](#footnote-20)

# The Darling Nursery

Shepherd and his family[[21]](#footnote-21) arrived in Sydney in February 1827. Prior to this Shepherd had applied for and got a grant of land in Van Dieman’s Land [Tasmania]. Just why he did this is unclear.[[22]](#footnote-22) Having landed in Sydney Shepherd asked Governor Darling to exchange the Van Dieman’s Land order for a grant of land in New South Wales.[[23]](#footnote-23) Having heard from Shepherd his experience as a nurseryman Darling agreed on condition that Shepherd establish a nursery on the land. Darling believed that ‘a nursery was very much wanted in the Colony, and if the trees were sold at a moderate price, it was likely [Shepherd] would meet with great encouragement.’[[24]](#footnote-24) [[25]](#footnote-25) Shepherd agreed.

Shepherd found a block of land near Sydney town called Rushton’s Farm, and successfully sought its allocation to him.[[26]](#footnote-26) The property was a 28 acre block, 1 ½ miles out of Sydney town between the current streets of Cleveland, Buckland, Daniels and City Road, now part of the suburb of Chippendale. The Darling Nursery was named after the Governor [in gratitude perhaps but also perhaps a canny move to lock in Darling’ support for the nursery]. Shepherd Street in Chippendale bears his name, and streets in the suburb are named for some of the plants from the nursery – Pine, Ivy, Myrtle and Rose.

Establishing the nursery was not as easy as Shepherd expected. He had to clear the ground of stumps and rocks, the ground became hard as a road after dry seasons, and there were hollows that had to be filled in.[[27]](#footnote-27) He employed assigned servants[[28]](#footnote-28) and also on occasion free labourers to assist with the work.[[29]](#footnote-29) But he also ‘often got up in the moonlight at one, two and sometimes three o’clock in the morning, and wheeled twenty barrowfuls of earth from my upper ground to the lower before day-light a distance of 500 yards.’[[30]](#footnote-30)

He grew nothing for himself on the land for the first year wanting to prepare the land properly, to understand the seasons in the colony and what to plant when for best results, and what would sell at market.[[31]](#footnote-31) In 1827 furnished with the necessary knowledge he planted a crop of potatoes which he took to market for a good return as he did with a crop of carrots. Both these crops, he wrote, were sown on land ‘well trenched and manured’ two practices that along with irrigation, were central to Shepherd’s horticultural practice and his advice on horticulture.[[32]](#footnote-32)

He continued to grow vegetables on the land and take the produce to market to off-set his costs with the nursery from their sale. He also now began to collect plants for the nursery. William Macarthur, botanist and viticulturalist[[33]](#footnote-33) and Alexander Mcleay,[[34]](#footnote-34) Secretary for the Colony, supplied Shepherd with ‘a choice collection of grafts and trees [and] … numerous species and varieties of fruit, also ornamental trees, shrubs, and flower roots; and it is to these two gentlemen, that the settlers in the colony, as well as myself are principally indebted for the numerous sorts and varieties of fruits and other trees I have sold during the last four years, which has not been less than thirty thousand fruit trees, and ten thousand other trees, shrubs, and flower roots.’ [[35]](#footnote-35) To put that figure into perspective, Sydney’s non-Indigenous population in 1833 was 16,232.[[36]](#footnote-36) Taking Shepherd at his word, over the course of four years he had sold two fruit trees for every non-Indigenous person living in Sydney.

He sold ‘all sorts of common fruit trees, such as apples, pears, plums, cherries, walnuts, Spanish chestnut, mulberries, nectarines, apricots, and various other sorts of tree.’[[37]](#footnote-37)[[38]](#footnote-38) In 1831 he advertised that he had ‘collected a few thousand cuttings consisting of four varieties of hardy grape vines. … The price (only in small quantities) is one shilling per hundred’.[[39]](#footnote-39)

Despite his income from the markets, Shepherd was plagued with financial problems throughout his time as a nurseryman. The orders, he said, though plentiful were usually for single plants and barely paid for Shepherd’s work preparing them and delivering them and Shepherd was often out of pocket. ‘Thus you see there is little encouragement for me to extend my operations or to import new plants which may ultimately be of use to the Colony and which I have already done at considerable expense.’[[40]](#footnote-40) Putting this together with his claim of having sold 30,000 fruit trees he must have had some big orders as well perhaps from colonists with large land holdings on which to set up orchards.

In 1833 he advised customers that ‘all Orders must in future be accompanied with the Money or an order on any respectable person in Sydney, who will receive the goods and undertake to pay the amount within three months after delivery, otherwise orders will not be attended to.’[[41]](#footnote-41) The success or otherwise of this is not recorded.

There was another matter that impinged on Shepherd’s finances. ‘Gentlemen in this Colony have been so accustomed, for many years, to obtain yearly supplies of trees from the Government Garden, which cost them nothing but the trouble of requisition, that it cannot be supposed if they can obtain trees for nothing they will come to a nursery and purchase, even at a moderate price.‘[[42]](#footnote-42) ‘Shepherd was experiencing a move from a Government free issue concept to the sale of plants by private enterprise,’ writes Victor Crittenden, ‘and he had, as a result, the difficult task of educating the public into paying for what had previously been obtained free.’ [[43]](#footnote-43)

His work was not going unrecognised or unappreciated, however. ‘Governor Darling paid me several visits, and was pleased to approve of my proceedings, and he informed me, before he went away, that one of the very best things he had done for the interests of the Colony was having established me as a Nursery man in New South Wales.’[[44]](#footnote-44)

In June 1832, a reporter from the *Sydney Monitor* wrote a glowing review of a visit to the nursery. ‘We lately took a walk to the originally barren piece of ground behind the Brisbane Distillery, and were not a little astonished to witness its having been transformed into a luxurious fruit, flower, and vegetable garden. The way Mr. Shepherd has laid out his acres appears to us to display the science in his profession of layer out of pleasure and garden grounds. … As a nursery too, it seems to us to be greatly advanced. Fruit trees … were pointed out to us innumerable as being either for sale this season, or in process for sale next. … We know of no emigrant who deserves more praise than Mr. Shepherd. His plans are judicious as regards his own well-being, and at the same time, claim a large share of the public applause.’[[45]](#footnote-45)

What impact did those 30,000 plus trees have?

It is to Mr. Shepherd the colony is indebted for cheap fruit trees of the finest sorts. He reduced the price to less than half, thereby enabling the Colonists to stock their orchards with the best sorts of fruit at a very moderate cost .. far from desiring to monopolise, by charging for them an extortionate price, he seemed to take delight, by their cheapness, to extend throughout the Colony.[[46]](#footnote-46)

# ‘To the Landholders in New South Wales’: Three letters

Three letters from Shepherd to newspapers in 1831 - published on 5 March, 19March and 23 April - are precursors to the lectures on horticulture he delivered in 1835.

The 5 March letter outlined Shepherd’s views on best practice vine growing, in particular how to avoid grape blight. Shepherd was of the opinion that blight was caused by ‘the cold southerly winds of summer.‘ He describes the measures to be taken in situating and sheltering vines and that ‘such varieties of grape vines should be selected for planting as are known to make the best wines in the colder climates.‘[[47]](#footnote-47)

The 19 March letter discusses the ideal quality of the soil for vines and how to prepare it, measures which he says ‘are equally applicable to land intended to receive such sorts and varieties of fruit trees as you may be desirous of planting.’ Essential to preparation of the ground is trenching which is necessary because ‘The land of this country, in its natural state, (as seen in the uncultivated parts of the bush) consists, at the surface, of soil formed by an accumulation of decayed. vegetable matter, with clay and sand - more or less fertile, and of greater or less depth - below which there generally lies a stiff sub-soil, impervious to water, and consequently affording little or no nourishment to plants.[[48]](#footnote-48) … Trenching is the only remedy for this natural defect in the soil; it loosens the earth, allows free access to air and moisture, and enables the roots to ramify themselves in every possible direction … and when rain falls, the ground thus prepared, instead of allowing the water to run only along the surface, is like a sponge, ready to receive it … and is there retained for months after … .’ [[49]](#footnote-49)

In the April letter Shepherd offered suggestions ‘as will guide you in the choice of the sorts and varieties of fruit trees, which you may be able to procure at present in the colony, and which my experience for nearly half a century as a nurseryman, warrants me to recommend with confidence to your notice as a commencement to your vineyards and orchards.’ As this content is repeated and expanded on in the fourth lecture on horticulture it will be described later. [[50]](#footnote-50)

How much exposure did Shepherd’s letters get via newspapers? These are estimated circulation figures in 1834 for the Sydney papers at that time.

Sydney Monitor paying subscribers 900

Herald same 900

Times same 500

Times not paying 600

Gazette very utmost 333

Australian say 444[[51]](#footnote-51)

The figures look small but need to be seen in the context of the population of Sydney at the time - 16,232. Discounting for age, literacy, financial capacity, or family composition [bearing on how many people might share the one issue] say 8,000 is the potential total subscription, then 1 in 8 people were subscribers to the *Sydney Monitor* and the *Herald*.

The three letters had additional circulation when printed in the *Post Office Directory* of 1835. Establishments and individuals paid a fee to have their name and details printed in a Post Office Directory so people could find where and how to contact them. There were over 7,000 names of individual listed in the 1835 Directory who each would have got a copy. In that Directory for the letters ‘There were some minor amendments and a short sentence was added at the end of the first letter [from Shepherd]. However the style remained the same and lends itself towards Thomas being involved in this republication of his *Gazette* letters.’[[52]](#footnote-52)

# Shepherd v ‘Bacchus’ and ‘South Wind

Shepherd also had a vineyard planted with vines brought to the colony by James Busby.[[53]](#footnote-53) He wrote extensively of his practice and his growing knowledge as a vigneron in letters to newspapers and his lecture series.

Following the publication of Shepherd’s 5March 1831 letter “Bacchus” wrote to the *Sydney Herald* critiquing Shepherd’s theory of the cause of grape blight.[[54]](#footnote-54) Bacchus gives three examples to his knowledge where blight occurred despite being situated as Shepherd advised. In the letter Bacchus makes ad hominem comments questioning Shephard’s expertise to put forward the suggestions he does. ‘ A new theory of the cause of blight in the vine and its fruit, has lately been published by a person of undoubted horticultural experience, but it is a question whether his standing in the Colony, or his opportunities of observation have been such as to warrant his arriving at a conclusion, which in my opinion, may be called rather hasty. The character of the individual alluded to, places his sincerity beyond a doubt, and though I differ from him in opinion as to the means he proposes to obviate the evil complained of, I am disposed to believe that the publication of his preventive plan, however hasty, doubtless arose from a desire to benefit the community.’

Sheperd replied on 9 May in the *Sydney Herald* with a robust defence of his expertise. ‘I am no wild speculator, nor do I offer remarks on subjects with which I am unacquainted. I was brought up to gardening from my infancy. I was educated under the first professional men in that capacity, which England and Scotland have produced. Ever since, I have had as much Practice as most men, and have conversed with, and read nearly all the modern authors on the theory and practice of horticulture; you need not therefore be surprised that I offer any remarks on the subject, although I have only been four years in this Country.’[[55]](#footnote-55)

Bacchus responded on 30 May to the effect that he had not maligned Shepherd but was only giving examples of where Shepherd’s proposals were not effective.[[56]](#footnote-56)

The matter went no further in the press, but it must have played on Shepherd’s mind. He returns to the criticisms and his authority at the end of his second lecture on horticulture. ‘What will these anonymous writers say [Bacchus and a subsequent correspondent Southwind] … when I assure them that a numerous body of respectable Settlers … have, since my letters were published, [In *the Post Office Register*. See below.] planted several hundred acres, of hardy Grape Vines in their vineyards. Some of them have already made good wine from their hardy grapes, which did not blight upon the aspects I recommended. I know the wine is good, for I drank some of it.’[[57]](#footnote-57) [[58]](#footnote-58)

In 1834 Shepherd was one of six vignerons described as ‘first -rate wine growers’ by the Editor of the *Sydney Monitor*.[[59]](#footnote-59)

# Lectures on the Horticulture of New South Wales

My experience in this Colony for the last seven years as a nurseryman and gardener, in connection with the experience which I brought with me from my native country, induces me at this time to give you a few lectures on the Horticulture of Australia, and should my instructions be the means of teaching useful knowledge, increasing wealth, and adding to the happiness of my fellow colonists in New South Wales, I shall be completely satisfied with a reward so truly honourable. [[60]](#footnote-60)

Shepherd delivered a series of four lectures in 1834 on 22 October, 5 November, 26 November and 10 December at the Mechanics’ School of Arts.‘[[61]](#footnote-61) Shepherd was a member of the institution which is consonant with his desire to provide practical advice: ‘I delivered these Lectures with the view of teaching useful, interesting and practical knowledge of such vegetables and fruits as this Colony has been found capable of producing’.[[62]](#footnote-62)

The lectures cover the same material as the letters now greatly enhanced. The content of each lecture cited in this paper is taken from the published compilation of them - *Lectures on the Horticulture of New South Wales Delivered at the Mechanics’ School of Arts.*[[63]](#footnote-63)

Shepherd begins the series with a caveat and a hope for the future of the Colony: ‘Before I commence upon the subject it is necessary for me to inform you, that although I have a knowledge of nearly all the sorts and varieties of fruits and vegetables, and other useful trees and plants which are at present cultivated in New South Wales, yet this knowledge comes far short of all the numerous and valuable productions of the earth, which are cultivated, or which may be growing indigenous in other countries, situated in a similar latitude with this; and which in the course of time, by our industry and perseverance we may by degrees be able to obtain and succeed in their cultivation here, and thereby in connection with agricultural products reap the fruits of industry, by enjoying not only the necessaries of life, but the luxuries also; and that in a few years when we have been thus supplied to the full extent, we shall also increase in wealth by bartering our over abundance with those who reside in other countries, where such articles cannot be produced from their land’.[[64]](#footnote-64) This is characteristically altruistic and generous of Shepherd and shows him again looking to the wider long term benefit for the Colony as a whole than that for the individual.

**First lecture**

The first lecture was delivered on 22 October 1834. The *Sydney Herald* summing up the content for its readership said: ‘A most interesting lecture was delivered on Wednesday evening last, at the Mechanic's School of Arts, on the subject of Australian horticulture, by Mr. Thomas Shepherd, chiefly embracing an extensive view of the advantages to be derived from irrigation, founded upon a practical experience of many years.’[[65]](#footnote-65)

Shepherd begins it with a potentially charged statement: ‘I have seen some of the best gardens in New South Wales and in general I have observed a defect in nearly all of them, which is want of reservoirs to hold water to irrigate the land.’[[66]](#footnote-66) His intention, however, is not to chastise, and he immediately goes onto explaining why a reservoir is necessary; because ‘we are subject to long droughts, severe dry heat, a great deal of sun, and not many cloudy days during summer.’[[67]](#footnote-67)

Shepherd argues that the expense on a reservoir will be recouped by the greater amount of and better quality of produce that the farmer can take to market and the labour saved in getting more out of smaller area of land. He gives examples of what he has been able to achieve with irrigation in the quantity and the quality of produce. In a practical unintended experiment he is able to compare crops of cauliflower with and without irrigation. He outlines different ways of building a reservoir suitable for the land to be irrigated - taking account of the topography and the nearness or otherwise to a suitable water source for the reservoir. He describes how to prepare different soils [loam, clay, sand] to take advantage of a good system of irrigation, harking back to his discussion on trenching in his letter of 19 March 1834.

He gives advice on where to build a vegetable and fruit garden:

A garden should be placed in a situation where you can at any time have a supply of water to irrigate it. It should be sheltered from all cold and boisterous winds, from whatever quarter they may blow. Let part of it be facing the north, north-west or north-east, and the remaining part to be facing the south, south-east , or south-west. It should not be in too low nor too elevated a situation, but a medium between the two. The sub-soil in all cases should be dry, or such as will not retain much moisture for any length of time, after heavy rain; the surface earth for at least two or three feet deep, should be a fine light rich loam, not subject to binding in the dry season, or it should be so light as the sand in an hour-glass, which cannot retain moisture. [[68]](#footnote-68)

# Second, third and fourth lectures

[November 1834, 26 November 1834, 10 December 1834]

These three lectures are in effect a single extended lecture as Shepherd himself indicates in his opening words to the second lecture:

Gentlemen – When I had the honour of addressing you in this place, on the Horticulture of Australia I promised that my next lecture [note the use of the singular] should commence with a detailed account of all the fruits and vegetables known to me, which are or have been cultivated in this Colony; and that I should, at the same time, explain the proper methods to be adopted for the production of each species separately, which I will now do as briefly as possible.[[69]](#footnote-69)

The entries are of differing lengths which Shepherd explains at the end of the second lecture: ‘I have been as brief as possible on the culture of those vegetables which I consider of inferior importance and have dwelt at greater length on those generally interesting [presumably to him]. It is more easy to expand than to condense information on this useful subject but I hope I have shown you that this is one of the most important topics connected with Colonial prosperity.’[[70]](#footnote-70)

The second lecture deals with vegetables and herbs. Those he covers are: asparagus, rhubarb, artichoke, celery, beet, parsnip, carrot, potato, pea, bean, turnip, cauliflower, brocoli (sic), cabbage, Scotch kail (sic), Brussels sprouts, sweet potato, sea kail (sic), salsify, scorzonera, onion, leek, pumpkin, cucumber, vegetable marrow, mushroom, endive, lettuce, radish, spinage (sic), mustard and cress, water cress, parsley, mint and penny royal, marjoram, savory thyme, sage, balm, rue, tansy, fennel, horse-radish, garlic, shallot (sic), love apple (tomato), capsicum, cardoon, and lavender. [[71]](#footnote-71)

Those that are ‘generally interesting’ and have longer texts are asparagus [three pages], artichokes [two pages], celery [two pages] and cabbages [two pages]. Those which he considers of ‘inferior importance’ include parsnips [a quarter page], broad beans [five lines], salsify and scorzonera [one paragraph together], the vegetable marrow [three lines], the love apple [four lines], and all the herbs which are two to four lines long.

The fruits he covers are: apple, pear, cherry, plum, apricot, nectarine, grape vine, fig, pine apple, loquat , medlar, mulberry, quince, orange, lemon, citron, shaddock, pomegranate, guava, olive, cherramolia or custard apple, strawberry, gooseberry, currants, raspberry, Cape gooseberry, rose apple, pedanga or Brazilian cherry, melon, filbert, hazel nut, Spanish chestnut, almond, native currant, banana, caraca, democarpus or lichee, date, plantain, mango, Maclurea and hibiscus subduriffa (rosella).[[72]](#footnote-72)

Going on his earlier criteria of length of entry, those he finds ‘generally interesting’ are the apple [three pages], pear [two pages], the apricot [two pages], grape vine [11 pages including a page on making raisins], the melon [two pages]. Those which he considers of ‘inferior importance’ include the medlar [six lines], the democarpus or lichee [five lines], the date [four lines], the plantain [five lines], the mango [four lines] and the hibiscus subdariffa [five lines][[73]](#footnote-73).

Shepherd notes that besides those he has named ‘other species and varieties have lately been imported from the East Indies, China, the Mauritius and England.’[[74]](#footnote-74) The varieties go unnamed unfortunately.

The basic information he generally provides for most vegetables and fruit is the varieties of it growing in the colony, when and how to sow seed or plants, the best soil in which to grow it or how to improve the soil, whether to trench or not, when to irrigate it and when to harvest it.

THE TURNIP- This Colony produces excellent turnips. We cultivate the following varieties, all of which have succeed very well: the early Dutch ,the mouse-tail, early stone, yellow, Scotch, Swedish, white Norfolk, red tipped, and several others. Turnips should be sown upon new ground, if it can be had, of fine light sandy loam: but, in general they will do very well in good garden soil, if it is light, with a little rotten dung. Sow your first and principal crop in February and March: sow a second crop about the last week in April: a third crop may be sown in July and August, and the last crop about December or January. All the crops should be sown upon a southerly aspect, and kept clear from weeds. Flooding will be of service to young turnips, if not over done, for if once they get stunted with too much drought they seldom recover. The Swedish turnip should be sown in a seed bed, in a moist shady situation, in September and in January: afterwards plant them for a crop, upon a good rich loamy soil, in rows about a foot or eighteen inches between the rows, and about seven or eight inches in the row: keep the ground clear from weeds and irrigate when necessary - they will do best if planted upon a southerly aspect.[[75]](#footnote-75)

He included two native plants.

… New Zealand spinage [***Tetragonia tetragonioides* -** warrigal greens in Australia] succeeds very well ; it should be sown very thin upon a moist sandy piece of ground and it will produce spinage for months. So the seed at any time.[[76]](#footnote-76)

The Native Currant [*Acrotriche depressa*]– This has been too much neglected as regards cultivation for general use. Although plenty of fruit may be found in the neighbourhood of Sydney, yet many persons in the Colony may not be able to obtain any, and in consideration of its usefulness I would recommend its cultivation. The native currant may be easily obtained from seeds, which should be sown in August or September, upon a light rich sandy border in the shade. The year following the plant may be taken out of the ground, and afterwards transplanted into a light sandy soil, about three feet apart in the row and four feet row from row. The fruit of the native currant having a sharp acid flavour, answers very will by mixing with other fruits which are of themselves too flat, and consequently the native currant is a valuable fruit for preserving, to mix occasionally with other fruits, and at the same time maybe used by itself for tarts, and its much liked by many persons.[[77]](#footnote-77)

The cultivation method of some is very detailed and so the entry is lengthy – asparagus, artichoke, grapes, Sea kail, apples, pine apples. Cultivation notes on others are cursory – the vegetable marrow, the broad bean. Some are noted as being worth cultivating but as being ignored – broccoli, the leek, sea kail (but he expects this will be a regular vegetable in a few years). Some are noted as not doing well in the Colony – spinage, mustard, cress.

There is a greater number of varieties of some: apple [two pages of varietal names]; pear [20 plus varieties]; radish [more than 10 varieties]; pea [10 plus]; plum [a dozen]; the apricot [a dozen]. Shepherd notes that fewer potato varieties are grown in the Colony than in England.

For some he gives basic information of their use: artichokes are served with melted butter in England and with cream in Scotland, the dried boiled bottoms of old artichokes are powdered an used in soups; celery for salads and soups; red beet for pickling and garnishing; parsnips are eaten with salt meat and fish and make good ale; pumpkin is good for pies and puddings if mixed with an acid fruit; sweet potatoes are boiled and eaten with meat; salsify and scorzonera boiled and eaten with melted butter [though they are unknown but by gardeners]; apples make good cider, pies, puddings and are a good dessert and there is a good deal of information about ways of preserving them; pears could be made into perry [an alcohol drink which has exportable possibilities]; plums for pies and the damson for wine; apricots for tarts and as a dessert.

Shepherd acknowledges that his advice is limited to ‘the neighbourhood of Sydney where only I have had experience in the Horticulture of Australia. But I must also observe, that I have doubts whether these instructions will be equally beneficial, in some of our colder districts, such as Argyle and Bathurst, where I am informed the frost and cold are severe than in Sydney.[[78]](#footnote-78) Yet he says this is only of concern to a handful of vegetables which will need to be sown earlier in the year avoid frosts.

He then makes a curious statement: ‘I now conclude my second Lecture, hoping that such persons as may be unaccustomed to gardening , may be benefited by the practical observations which I have given and which are entirely from my own knowledge , without the assistance of a borrowed word or line from any book…’[[79]](#footnote-79) Had he been accused of plagiarism? Crittenden says ‘It would be idle to pretend that he sat down and wrote this [the lectures] out of his own head although possibly much of it was based in his personal experience. Shepherd had access to gardening books and used them. Like all writers constructing such a work he consulted other books to ensure his information was correct for this is how reference books are compiled.’[[80]](#footnote-80)

# The publication: *Lectures on the Horticulture of New South Wales*

Shepherd’s lectures were well-received with reviewers agreeing that there would be benefit in publishing them.

Upon the whole we congratulate the Colony on having so complete a body of practical horticulture, the sole production of an experienced and intelligent gardener, who has for years been making experiments and adapting the principles of his art to the climate of Australia.[[81]](#footnote-81)

We beg to call the notice of the Public to the Lectures now in progress at [The Mechanics’ School of Arts]. Those delivered on the Horticulture of Australia, by Mr. Shepherd, will be more esteemed hereafter than now; as every succeeding year will give increased experience of their practical value. It is to be hoped that Mr. Shepherd will have these Lectures printed in a convenient shape - that of a child's small school book; so that they may be in the hands of all practical gardeners throughout the Colony.[[82]](#footnote-82)

in January 1835 notice was given of the intent to publish Shepherd’s lectures ‘in a convenient form for general use, and revised and corrected by Mr. Shepherd. It will not exceed two shillings or two shillings and sixpence in price, and will be put to press as soon as a sufficient number of Subscribers have been obtained to cover expenses’.[[83]](#footnote-83)

One measure of Shepherd’s impact in the Colony is that a ‘sufficient number of Subscribers’ did come forward for the lectures to be published in 1835 as *Lectures on the Horticulture of New South Delivered at the Mechanics’ School of Arts*. Shepherd was canny enough to dedicate the book to dedicate the book to Brigadier General Patrick Lindesay (whose father Shepherd’s father had worked) saying quite openly that ‘Their dedication to you will add greatly to their favourable reception with the Colonists’.[[84]](#footnote-84)

The book also was well-received.

It must be gratifying to the Members of the [Mechanics’ Institute] to learn that Mr. Shepherd has made arrangement for publishing these important lectures in a portable form, for the benefit of all those in the Colony who wish to profit in their horticultural operations, by the experience of the oldest professed gardener in the Colony.[[85]](#footnote-85)

Mr Shepherd’s Pamphlet - This important work, of eighty closely printed pages, presents a valuable assistant to the practical horticulturist of New South Wales, particularly such as have not had the advantage of experience in its very peculiar soil and climate. … From a sense of its importance to the Farmer of this Colony, we take leave to recommend it, as a companion to the field and the garden, which none should be without.[[86]](#footnote-86)

The call for it to be a ‘convenient shape – like a child’s school book’ and the emphasis from reviewers on the portability and size of the book may be a comment on the other book with horticultural information that was circulating in the Colony at that time. Between 1828 – 1833 Robert Howe compiled and printed the *Australian Almanack* (sic). Like other almanacs it contained a miscellany of information. The content for the 1828 edition for example was inter alia Orders of Knighthood, rules and Orders of the Supreme Court, tidal information, phases of the moon and their influence on weather and astronomical observations.’[[87]](#footnote-87) In 1828 the *Almanack* also included sections on Horticulture and The Orchard [subsequently titled Trees]. The content of these sections did not vary from year to year. It covers much the same area as Shepherd’s lectures on Horticulture in New South Wales. From 1830 a new section was included, ‘Fruits and Vegetables, Memoranda of, by Mr Fraser’[[88]](#footnote-88). Fraser was the Colonial Botanist in charge of the Botanic Garden. Fraser’s items also are similar to those of Shepherds albeit in general much briefer. Fraser died in December 1831. The Memorandum was published unchanged in the 1882 *Almanack* but was dropped from the 1833 issue. The memorandum is just three and a half pages long. In all, the horticultural material in the *Almanack* is just six pages long whereas Shepherd takes 38 pages to cover similar ground, nine of them devoted to the grape.

With the death of Fraser and the *Almanack* ceasing publication Shepherd’s book filled the gap in horticultural information[[89]](#footnote-89) and was certainly less cumbersome at 80 pages than the *Almanacks* which ran to 200 plus pages, were filled with matter extraneous to horticulture and were more expensive than Shepherd’s book. The 1831 *Almanack,* for example, was 271 pages long and sold for 7s and 6d to subscribers of the *Sydney Gazette* and 10s to others [[90]](#footnote-90)

There are no circulation figures for Shepherd’s book, so assessing its impact is difficult. There is one comment that is suggestive.

The late Mr. Thomas Shephard, of the Darling Nursery, in 1834 delivered four Lectures on the Horticulture of Australia which were afterwards published, and have been found of great use to Settlers and Emigrants.[[91]](#footnote-91)

# Death of Thomas Shepherd

Shepherd never got to deliver any but the first lecture on landscape gardening on 17th June 1835. He took ill after the first lecture on landscape gardening and never recovered. He died on August 30th or 31st according to two death notices.[[92]](#footnote-92)

His obituaries were adulatory.

Contemporaneous with [the death of another citizen] has been the death of Mr. Thomas Shepherd, of the Darling Nursery - who has been long known and respected by the principal men in the Colony, for the uprightness and integrity of his character, and for the enthusiasm and perseverance with which he devoted himself to the every day labours of his profession.[[93]](#footnote-93)

To sum up his contribution the Australian foodscape: there is first his nursery and the ‘fruiting’ of Sydney with tens of thousands of fruit trees, particularly given access to them by the relatively well-heeled; his contributions to the emerging wine industry [a mini thesis across three publications]; his promotion of the horticultural triad - manure, trenching and irrigation; his lectures and publications which were the most comprehensive at the time and based on a thorough knowledge through practice of how to get the best for vegetables and fruits in the Sydney soil and climate context and by application Australia-wide soil and climate conditions.

Shepherd wrote what could be his epitaph in the fourth lecture on landscape gardening:

‘I have now only to state that I have had no other motive, or ambition, or interest, than the satisfaction and pleasure which I feel in having faithfully fulfilled my promise to Governor Darling …. to render every assistance in my power for the general improvement of the Colony, so far as gardening is concerned … My conscience tells me I have done so, and disregard any attempt made by any persons to dispute it.’[[94]](#footnote-94)

1. ‘George Suttor is generally considered to be the first nurseryman in Australia … In 1798 he was put in charge of eighteen boxes of plants to take to the Colony of New South Wales…[after some delays] he arrived in Australia in November 1800…he took up 186 acres of land he was granted at Baulkham Hills … he called the property Chelsea Farm … in the *Sydney Gazette* of May 1804 George Suttor advertised for sale a variety of young fruit trees.’ McMaugh, Judy, *Living Horticulture. The lives of men and women in the New South Wales nursery industry*, Nursery and Garden Industry NSW & ACT, 2006 pp. 1-2 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Shepherd, Thomas, *Lectures on the Horticulture of New South Delivered at the Mechanics’ School of Arts* 1835 accessed at [Lectures on the horticulture of New South Wales : delivered at the Mechanics School of Arts, Sydney (nla.gov.au)](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Thomas Shepherd, *Lectures on Landscape Gardening in Australia*, 1836 , NSW State Library digitisation

   <https://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE3713151> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Shepherd [*Horticulture* p.iii,](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. ‘To the landholders of New South Wales’, Original Correspondence, *The Sydney Morning Herald* 9 May 1831 p.8 accessed at [09 May 1831 - Original Correspondence. - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/12843026) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Shepherd *[Landscape Gardening](https://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE3713151)* [p.14](https://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE3713151) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Shepherd [*Landscape Gardening* p.14](https://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE3713151) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Shepherd[*Landscape Gardening*](https://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE3713151)pp. 12-13 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Shepherd [*Landscape Gardening*](https://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE3713151)p.21 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Shepherd *[Landscape Gardening](https://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE3713151)* p.15 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Shepherd *[Landscape Gardening](https://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE3713151)* p.21 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Shepherd here is referring to Capability Brown, Humphrey Repton and Thomas White. Crittenden, Victor, ‘A Shrub in the Landscape of Fame. Thomas Shepherd Australian Landscape Gardener and Nurseryman’, Mulini Press, Canberra 1992 p.9 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Johnson, Louise B, *Thomas Shepherd (1779 - 1835) Monograph on An Early Colonial Nurseryman* 2020 p.2 [2022.1827.pdf (wordpress.com)](https://wheelerfamily111646407.files.wordpress.com/2022/05/2022.1827.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Shepherd*[Landscape Gardening](https://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE3713151)* page 21 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. ‘It is hard to discuss Shepherd’s landscape gardening for we do not know of one work actually done by his hand.’ Crittenden, Victor, ‘A Shrub in the Landscape of Fame. Thomas Shepherd Australian Landscape Gardener and Nurseryman’, Mulini Press, Canberra 1992 p.13 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Crittenden p.10 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Crittenden p.10 [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Crittendenp.11 [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Crittendenp.14 [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. For a detailed account of Shepherd in New Zealand see Johnson, Louise B, *Thomas Shepherd*  [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. ‘On the *Rosanna*, Thomas was accompanied by his family which then comprised his second wife Jane Susan née Henderson (1797-1863) whom he had married on 30 November 1823, and their son Thomas William (1825-1884); and son John Joslin (1812-1856), and daughter Elizabeth Joslin (1813-1874), both born to Sarah Joslin his first wife, whom he married in 1804 and who died in 1818.31 Thomas and Sarah had two sons prior to John Joslin: Alexander (baptism 1808)32 and Thomas Galloway (baptism 1810)33 who seems to have

    died in infancy because subsequently the family referred to John Joslin as Thomas’s ‘second son’. Johnson, Louise B, *Thomas Shepherd*  [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Johnson suggests: ‘‘Thomas ‘worked hard in [his Hackney] nursery for very little more income than that of a labourer’, and perhaps this prompted him to consider emigration.’ Johnson, Louise B, *Thomas Shepherd* p.3 [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Shepherd [*Landscape Gardening*](https://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE3713151) p.60 [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Shepherd [*Landscape Gardening*](https://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE3713151)pp. 60 - 61 [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. ‘Settlers needed access to more and more plants and seeds as well as to fruit tree properly raised and grafted onto healthy stock…Many seedings and young trees were distributed to settlers form the Botanic Gardens but it was not set up as a general plant nursery, it fulfilled too many other functions … The time had now come in the colony for a more systematic distribution of seedlings and grafted trees to provide for the increasing number of gardens and orchards … In addition great interest was being shown in growing grape vines.’ Crittenden pp.40,43 [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Crittenden p.3 [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Shepherd [*Horticulture*](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588) p. 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. #### ‘Assignment’ meant that a convict worked for a private employer. Private employers did not have to pay their assigned convicts for the work they did. But they did have to provide them with food, clothes and a place to live. Shepherd’s assigned workers were given ‘an allowance of 20 lbs best beef, 12 lbs first flour, 1 ½ lbs sugar, 4 oz tea &c, for a week’s ration, and 4 s per week to find clothes’ Shepherd [Horticulture](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588) p.3

    [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Shepherd [*Horticulture*](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588)p.2 [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Shepherd [*Horticulture*](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588)p.4 [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. Shepherd *[Horticulture](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588)* p.3 [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. The Honourable Sir William Macarthur (December 1800 – 29 October 1882) was an Australian [botanist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Botanist) and [vigneron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winemaker#Vigneron). He was one of the most active and influential horticulturists in Australia in the mid-to-late 19th century. Among the first viticulturists in Australia, Macarthur was a medal-winning wine-maker, as well as a respected amateur botanist and noted plant breeder. [William Macarthur - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Macarthur). ‘William Macarthur … imported plants from all over the world … These were planted and tended on the Camden and Elizabeth Farm estates.’ Crittenden, Victor, ‘A Shrub in the Landscape of Fame. Thomas Shepherd Australian Landscape Gardener and Nurseryman’, Mulini Press, Canberra 1992 p.50 [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. The Honorable Alexander McLeay, Secretary for the Colony of New South Wales was developing his large garden at Elizabeth Bay. Crittenden, Victor, ‘A Shrub in the Landscape of Fame. Thomas Shepherd Australian Landscape Gardener and Nurseryman’, Mulini Press, Canberra 1992 p.50 [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. Shepherd *[Horticulture](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588)* pp.3-4 [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. [Demographics of Sydney - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Sydney) [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. Shepherd *[Landscape Gardening](https://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE3713151)* p. 61 [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. Shepherd’s was not the only nursery in the Colony. Other than Chelsea Farm noted above in 1830 Frederick Meurant advertised ‘To New Emigrants, Connoisseurs and Horticulturalists &c. A choice collection of the finest and best flavoured fruit trees ever raised in the Colony for public Sale at his Seven Hills nursery - peaches, nectarines, apricots, apples, pears, plums, quinces, almonds, of very peculiar sweetness, Green-age, orange of the finest peel, lemon, Manilla, cherries, black heart and Mayduke, grapes, black and white, of growth one, two, and three years and bearable next year, partaking of the most delicious flavour. ‘Select and Very Superior Fruit Trees’, *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* 8 May 1830 p.2 accessed at [08 May 1830 - Classified Advertising - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/2195080?searchTerm=fruit%2C%20trees%2C%20Nursery). I could find nothing further about Meurant’s nursery. It is never mentioned in the press nor alluded to by Shepherd or others. [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. ‘Grape Vine Cuttings’, The *Sydney Herald* 4 July 1831 p.1 accessed at [04 Jul 1831 - Advertising - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/12843221) [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. Shepherd *[Landscape Gardening](https://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE3713151)* p.4 [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. Shepherd [*Horticulture*](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588) p.5 [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. Shepherd *[Landscape Gardening](https://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE3713151)* pp. 61 - 62 [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. Crittenden p.54 [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. Shepherd *[Landscape Gardening](https://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE3713151)* p.62 [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. ‘Mr. Shepherd’s Nursery’, Domestic Intelligence, *The Sydney Monitor* 2 June 1832 p.2 accessed at [02 Jun 1832 - Domestic Intelligence. - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/32141328) [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. ‘Mr Shepherd of the Darling Nursery’, The *Sydney Monitor* 23 September 1835 p.2 [23 Sep 1835 - Mr. Shepherd OF THE DARLING NURSERY. - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/32149771) [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
47. ‘To the Landholders in New South Wales’, Original Correspondence, *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* 5 March 1831 p. 3 accessed at [05 Mar 1831 - Original Correspondence. - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/2199400?searchTerm=thomas%2C%20shepherd) [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
48. Shepherd was right about the soil in Australia generally being poor but wrong about the cause. ‘Australia has had a relatively stable geological history without constant weathering of newly thrown up rock. The result of this has been that overall Australia has some of the oldest and poorest soils: nutrients have been drained or blown away without being replaced’. Van Reyk, Paul, *True to the Land. A History of Food in Australia* Reaktion 2021 pp. 11-12 [↑](#footnote-ref-48)
49. ‘On the Cultivation of the Vine’, Original Correspondence, *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* 19 March 1831 p.3 accessed at [19 Mar 1831 - Original Correspondence. - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/2199643) [↑](#footnote-ref-49)
50. ‘To the Landholders in New South Wales’, Original Correspondence, *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* 23 April 1831 p.3 accessed at [23 Apr 1831 - Original Correspondence. - Trove ‘To the Landholders in New South Wales’, Original Correspondence, (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/2200251?searchTerm=pickle) [↑](#footnote-ref-50)
51. ‘Estimated Circulation of the Sydney Newspapers, The *Sydney Monitor* 8 October 1834 p.3 accessed at [08 Oct 1834 - ESTIMATED CIRCULATION OF THE SYDNEY NEWSPAPERS. - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/32147330) [↑](#footnote-ref-51)
52. Johnson, Louise B, *Thomas Shepherd* p.12 [↑](#footnote-ref-52)
53. For more on James Busby and vines see Louise B, *Thomas Shepherd* pp. 14-17 [↑](#footnote-ref-53)
54. ‘To the Editors of the ‘Sydney Herald’, *Sydney Herald* 25 April 1831 p.4 accessed at [25 Apr 1831 - TO THE EDITORS OF THE "SYDNEY HERALD." - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/28654017) [↑](#footnote-ref-54)
55. To the Landholders in New South Wales’, Original Correspondence,9 May 1831 p.3 accessed at [09 May 1831 - Original Correspondence. - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/12843026?searchTerm=thomas%2C%20shepherd)Top of Form [↑](#footnote-ref-55)
56. ‘To the Editors of the Sydney Herald’, The *Sydney Herald* 30 May 1831 p.4 [30 May 1831 - TO THE EDITORS OF THE "SYDNEY HERALD." - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/12843088) [↑](#footnote-ref-56)
57. Shepherd *[Horticulture](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588)* pp.33-34 [↑](#footnote-ref-57)
58. Shepherd was in fact wrong. ‘Xanthomonas ampelina is an exotic plant pest causing bacterial blight of grapevine.’ Department of Primary Industries [Bacterial blight of grapevine (nsw.gov.au)](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/plant/insect-pests-and-plant-diseases/bacterial-blight) [↑](#footnote-ref-58)
59. ‘History and description of modern Wines by Cyrus Redding’, the *Sydney Monitor* 5 November 1834 p.4 accessed at [05 Nov 1834 - History and description of modern Wines, by Cyrus Redding. - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/32147531). The other vignerons were William Macarthur, Sir John Jameson, Mr. Meyer, Mr. King and Mr. Manning. [↑](#footnote-ref-59)
60. Shepherd *[Horticulture](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588)* p.4 [↑](#footnote-ref-60)
61. ‘Schools of Arts and Mechanics’ Institutes came out of a progressive, forward-thinking movement that emerged in Scotland with the aim of providing open access to education for the working classes who were excluded from more formal and traditional education. Whereas Schools of Arts concentrated on literature, history and the arts, Mechanics’ Institutes provided vocational training for mechanics who worked with their hands: skilled tradespeople like carpenters, bricklayers, stonemasons and blacksmiths … The School quickly became the centre of Sydney’s intellectual, cultural, social and political life. The members’ lending library provided valuable access to books, journals and newspapers; the talks and lectures were well attended; and various clubs and social activities kept members entertained.’ [Our History | SMSA](https://www.smsa.org.au/about-us/our-history/) Sydney Mechanics’ School of Arts [↑](#footnote-ref-61)
62. Shepherd [*Horticulture*](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588)p.iv [↑](#footnote-ref-62)
63. Shepherd [*Horticulture*](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588) [↑](#footnote-ref-63)
64. Shepherd *[Horticulture](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588)* p.5 [↑](#footnote-ref-64)
65. The *Sydney Herald* 27 October 1834 p.3 accessed at [27 Oct 1834 - DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE. - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/12850816) [↑](#footnote-ref-65)
66. Shepherd [*Horticulture*](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588)p.5 [↑](#footnote-ref-66)
67. Shepherd [*Horticulture*](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588) p.5 [↑](#footnote-ref-67)
68. Shepherd [*Horticulture*](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588) p.9 [↑](#footnote-ref-68)
69. Shepherd *[Horticulture](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588)* p.14 [↑](#footnote-ref-69)
70. Shepherd [*Horticulture*](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588)p.32 [↑](#footnote-ref-70)
71. Shepherd [*Horticulture*](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588)p.14 [↑](#footnote-ref-71)
72. I have found nothing that indicates what the caraca fruit is and the information I found on the Macluria says nothing about it having an edible fruit. [↑](#footnote-ref-72)
73. # For more on the hibiscus sabdariffa and its use in Australia see van Reyk , Paul [This delicious fruit. Notes on the rosella sabdariffa in Australia.](https://compost.sydney/2023/08/15/this-delicious-fruit-notes-on-the-rosella-hibiscus-sabdariffa-in-australia/)

    [↑](#footnote-ref-73)
74. Shepherd[*Horticulture*](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588)p.15 [↑](#footnote-ref-74)
75. Shepherd *[Horticulture](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588)* p.23 [↑](#footnote-ref-75)
76. Shepherd*[Horticulture](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588)* p.29 [↑](#footnote-ref-76)
77. Shepherd [*Horticulture*](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588)pp.73 – 74 Shepherd is one of two persons to champion the fruit. In 1830 ‘A Friend’ wrote to *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* deploring the loss of native currant bushes around Sydney, urging their protection and giving a recipe for making jam from the fruit.’ Value of the Native Currant’, The *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* 5 August 1830 p.3 accessed at [05 Aug 1830 - VALUE OF THE NATIVE CURRANT. - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/2195693?searchTerm=native%2C%20currant) , Native Currant Jam was also one of the items in the first cookery book published in *The Housewife's Guide; or an Economical and Domestic ART- OF COOKERY, containing Directions for Marketing, Instructions for Dressing Butchers' Meat, Poultry, Game, Fish, Vegetables, &c ; likewise for Preparing Soups, Broths, Gravies, and Sauces; also the Art of Potting, Collaring, Pickling, Preserving, and Making Wines: to which is added the different Branches of Modern Pastry and Confectionery, &c. &c. &c*. *Parramatta Chronicle and Cumberland General Advertiser* 10 February 1844 p. 3 accessed at https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/228249271?searchTerm=yeast [↑](#footnote-ref-77)
78. Shepherd [*Horticulture*](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588)p.31 [↑](#footnote-ref-78)
79. Shepherd [*Horticulture*](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588)p.31 [↑](#footnote-ref-79)
80. . Crittenden p.112 [↑](#footnote-ref-80)
81. ‘Mechanics’ School of Arts’, The *Sydney Times* 7 November 1834 accessed at [07 Nov 1834 - SYDNEY MECHANICS SCHOOL OF ARTS. - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/252811516) [↑](#footnote-ref-81)
82. ‘Mechanics’ School of Arts’ The *Sydney Monitor* 19 November 1834 p.3 accessed at [19 Nov 1834 - Quarter Sessions, Campbell Town. - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/32147640) [↑](#footnote-ref-82)
83. *The Sydney Herald* 1 January 1835 p.3 accessed at [01 Jan 1835 - Advertising - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/28654403) [↑](#footnote-ref-83)
84. Shepherd [*Horticulture*](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1504681579/view?partId=nla.obj-1504734588) [↑](#footnote-ref-84)
85. *The Australian* 23 December 1834 p.3 accessed at [23 Dec 1834 - CAMPDELL TOWN. - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/42008944/4251686) [↑](#footnote-ref-85)
86. MR. Shepherd’s Pamphlet’, *The Sydney Herald* 16 April 1835 p.3 accessed at [16 Apr 1835 - DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE. - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/12851928) [↑](#footnote-ref-86)
87. *Australian Almanack for the Year of Our Lord 1828* accessed at [(January 1828) (nla.gov.au)](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2967740548/view?partId=nla.obj-2967807693#page/n5/mode/1up) [↑](#footnote-ref-87)
88. *Australian Almanack for the Year of Our Lord 1830* accessed at [(January 1830) (nla.gov.au)](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3086948521/view?partId=nla.obj-3086949913#page/n12/mode/1up) [↑](#footnote-ref-88)
89. Newspapers did also carry paragraphs on gardening tasks for the week/month. They were very short given the medium in which they were run, and perhaps not as convenient as having all the information for the full cycle of a fruit or vegetable in one place. For example: ‘Garden - Cabbages sown this month will not go to seed. Onions may shortly be sown, also Lettuces. Strawberry beds should be well cleaned and dressed, also pinch and prune vines. ’Diary. Memorandum for the Ensuing Week’, *The Monitor* 13 April 1827 p.3 accessed at [13 Apr 1827 - DIARY. - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/31758343?searchTerm=garden%2C%20notes%2C%20diary) [↑](#footnote-ref-89)
90. ‘Australian Almanack for the Year of Our Lord 1831’ *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* 1 January 1831 p.1 accessed at [(1831) (nla.gov.au)](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2978005444/view?partId=nla.obj-2978006195) [↑](#footnote-ref-90)
91. Shepherd *[Landscape Gardening](https://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE3713151)*  [↑](#footnote-ref-91)
92. Louise B, *Thomas Shepherd*  [↑](#footnote-ref-92)
93. ‘The Late Thomas Shepherd of Darling Nursery’, *The Sydney Monitor* 9 September 1835 p.2 accessed at [09 Sep 1835 - The Late Mr. Thomas Shepherd, OF THE DARLING NURSERY. - Trove (nla.gov.au)](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/32149684) [↑](#footnote-ref-93)
94. Shepherd [*Landscape Gardening*](https://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE3713151) pp. 61- 62 [↑](#footnote-ref-94)