

Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch



Newsletter April 2010 No 3

Australian Garden History Society
www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au

ACT Monaro Riverina Branch, PO Box 5008, LYNEHAM ACT 2602
For an e-copy of the newsletter email expertco@ozemail.com.au

BRANCH DIARY

WINTER LECTURE SERIES

12 MAY

A Virtual Walk
around the Lake
Shirley Pipitone

2 JUNE

Literary Landscapes
Trisha Dixon

14 JULY

The High & Low
of it
Rosemary Purdie

FOR YOUR DIARIES

26 AUGUST

AGM & talk by Jill
Matthews on the
Tiger Balm Garden
in Hong Kong

5 – 7

NOVEMBER

AGHS National
Conference,
Launceston: *The
Vision Splendid*

BRANCH NEWS

CORRECTION

In the last newsletter I indicated that Kay Johnston was the Vice President. This was incorrect, it is Helen Elliot (sorry Helen)

Nancy Clarke, our Secretary, has done a fabulous job in the last month or two documenting branch activities since 1986. It will be a terrific resource for future planning. She has suggested that we number our newsletter each year so it is clear if one is missing – I have started with this issue, Judy Pearce, Editor

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

WINTER LECTURE SERIES

WEDNESDAY 12 MAY, 6PM

A VIRTUAL WALK AROUND THE LAKE

PRESENTER SHIRLEY PIPITONE

Shirley Pipitone recently completed a Master of Landscape Architecture at the University of Canberra. In 2009 she was commissioned by the National Trust of Australia (ACT) to undertake a study of the social value of Lake Burley Griffin and its surrounds.

In this talk Shirley will take us on a virtual walk around the lake and talk about the reasons people gave for visiting places around the lake, and their comments about each place.

Venue: Conference Room, ALIA House, 9 -11 Napier Close, Deakin
Cost: Members \$10, non-members \$15 (incl. refreshments)
Booking recommended: Booking form Page 5. Numbers limited so book early.

WEDNESDAY 2 JUNE, 6PM

JOINT EVENT WITH FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

LITERARY LANDSCAPES

PRESENTER TRISHA DIXON

Trisha Dixon explores the links between writers and their landscapes - and explores the question 'does landscape shape people or are people drawn to a landscape that reflects their personality?'

Trisha will talk on writers as diverse as Sardinia's Nobel laureate for literature, Grazia Deledda; Charmian Cliff and George Johnston who lived on the island of Hydra in the Greek Islands; Iris Origo at La Foce in the Val D'Orcia in southern Tuscany; Prince Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa in Sicily, author of "The Leopard"; our own Nobel laureate Patrick White; and a handful of local writers. Trisha's talk will be illustrated with images - both her photographs and historical images.

Venue: Conference Room, National Library of Australia
Cost: Members of AGHS and Friends of the NLA \$10, non-members \$15
Book through: FNLA office 6262 1698 or email on friends@nla.gov.au.
NO bookings to be made through AGHS

**BRANCH
COMMITTEE**

Tony Byrne (Chair)
Helen Elliot (Vice
Chair)
Robbie Henderson
(Treasurer)
Nancy Clarke
(Secretary &
National
Management
Committee rep.)
Kay Johnston
Rod Holesgrove
Julia Nicholls
Judy Pearce
Linda Spinaze
Marie Wood

WEDNESDAY 14 JULY, 6PM***THE HIGH AND THE LOW OF IT: TWO BOTANIC GARDENS IN CENTRAL CHINA*****PRESENTER DR ROSEMARY PURDIE**

Turpan Botanic Garden, in the Xinjiang Province of western China, and the Pamir Botanical Garden, in the Gorno-badakshan Province of eastern Tajikistan, are the lowest and second highest botanic gardens in the world.

Here in Canberra we often think that our own Australian National Botanic Garden 'does it hard' because of the years of drought conditions and reduced resources. These problems are not unique of course, but the challenges for a botanic garden are greatly magnified when it is located 80 metres below sea level (Turpan) or 2300–3000 metres above sea level (Pamir).

This talk will look at the general environments and landscapes in the regions where the Turpan and Pamir botanic gardens are located, discuss some of the challenges these locations bring and types of plants grown, and outline examples of research at each garden relevant to their locations.

Venue: Discovery Centre, CSIRO, Clunies Ross Street, Black Mountain

Cost: Members \$10, non-members \$15 (incl refreshments)

Booking recommended: Booking form Page 5

We have included a flyer advertising our winter lecture series – please can you promote these if you have an opportunity to do so.

RECENT EVENTS**VISIT TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE GARDEN
MARCH****FOR SALE**

Early Ainslie
Gardens, \$15
Fifield Garden, \$10
Durham Hall
Garden, \$10
Recording Gardens,
\$10
Planting the Nation,
\$20
Studies in Australian
Garden History, Vol
2, \$20

**Documentary Film:
A Gardener's City**
\$34.95 Members;
\$39.95 Others,
postage \$7.95

Branch member and Head Gardener Norm Dunn provided members and friends with a very comprehensive tour of Government House Gardens on a beautiful autumn afternoon. The property is large, covering 54 hectares. Most of the garden has developed without an actual plan, but a 5 year Landscape Management Plan has recently presented for consideration by the many authorities who must be consulted before a decision is made concerning the garden. There are 4200 trees on the property, all identified, expansive lawns and individual gardens of varying age from the late 1930's to 2008 all bringing their own colour throughout four seasons of the year

There are 9 gardeners in all split into two groups, gardening and grounds maintenance, with an additional three gardeners at Admiralty House in Sydney. Norm talked to us about the highly sophisticated mechanised systems for watering, fertilization, pest control and management of native animals/birds that are in place, and policies for replacing and replanting.

He pointed out many of the ceremonial plantings throughout the gardens, including the first planting by the Duke and Duchess of York in 1927 when they came to open Parliament. Apparently there has been no consistent policy for choosing the species for official planting: some have died, and others threaten to outgrow the space chosen for them. The management plan will address these problems.

The gardens include a flower garden, which provides cut flowers for the house, and a heritage orchard, surviving from the days when the property functioned as a sheep station. The oldest tree is a Eucalyptus melliodora, estimated to be over 300 years old. Recent extensions to the House had to respect the root zone of this tree, by supporting the structure on carefully located piers.

Our favourite part of the garden would have to be The Wild or English Garden which was laid out and planted by Lady Gowrie, with help from her friend Ethel Anderson. It includes a memorial fountain to Patrick Hore-Ruthven, the son of Lord and Lady Gowrie, who was killed in the Second World War. The design of this garden was influenced by the work of Edna Walling and Paul Sorenson. Other gardens have been laid out by successive Governors-General and their wives. The most recent addition to the garden is the Bravery Garden, suggested by Sir William Deane to recognise Australian bravery awards.

There is a moving population of about 55 Eastern Grey Kangaroos, obtained so that they would be at hand for viewing by visiting dignitaries, and at the moment only one Red Kangaroo (for whom they are hoping to find some "mates", since the two species do not mingle,)



Norm Dunn with Chairman, Tony Byrne

Government House had just been open for the Smith Family Day, but Norm suggested that a very nice time to visit is when it is open for the Australiana Fund – this year on 26 September. It is also possible to enjoy a one hour walking tour of the gardens of led by members of The Australiana Fund. Conducted in association with Southern Cross Cruises, visitors are ferried to Government House most Thursday mornings. All profit from the tour goes to The Australiana Fund. Enquiries and Bookings: Southern Cross Cruises (02) 6273 1784.

We really appreciated the time Norm was able to spend with us, and hope to see him at an AGHS event in the near future.

Neil Porter & Judy Pearce



Remember when we all had lawns?

OF INTEREST

2010 THE UN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY

Saturday 22 May is International Biodiversity Day.

CANBERRA & REGION HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2010
DATES: 14 – 24 APRIL

Full details of the festival can be found at
http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/heritage/heritage_festival2

“OUR HERITAGE AT RISK” 2010

Our Heritage at Risk is intended to raise awareness of heritage issues in Australia by identifying those places and objects we value which are at risk. In October each year a national panel of heritage practitioners selects ten places or objects from nomination by each state and territory National Trust. This program is managed by the Australian Council of National Trusts.

The community is invited to participate in this process between February and April each year by recommending to each state and territory National Trust places or objects under threat.

State and Territory “Our Heritage at Risk” lists will be released in July, and the National Top Ten “Our Heritage at Risk” list will be announced on 23 October 2010.

Further information visit www.heritageatrisk.org.au

MY FAVOURITE THINGS: GARDEN WORKSHOP

Sunday 2 May: 10.30am – 12.30pm

Venue: Lanyon Homestead

Graham Williams leads a relaxed outdoor workshop where you will learn how to reproduce your favourite garden plants. Graham will discuss both vegetative and non-vegetative propagation, including collecting, preparing and storing seeds and taking cuttings. The workshop will be followed by tea and coffee on the verandah.

Cost: \$20

Bookings & payment: by Wed 28 April: historicplacesbookings@act.gov.au or 6235 5677

FRIENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS LUNCHTIME LECTURE SERIES

Lectures on a variety of topics are offered at 12.30pm on most Thursdays. Details on all the lectures can be found at <http://www.anbg.gov.au/friends/calendar.html>.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN GARDEN SCHEME

Details of gardens opening the Australian Open Garden Scheme are available at <http://www.opengarden.org.au/> Members may be interested in the following openings.

Sat 24 April: Kunsthau: Harris Hobbs Art House

Special event including afternoon tea – bookings essential

24 & 25 April: Coombe Wood

Range Rd, Mittagong

Collector's park-like garden filled with a wide variety of choice plants. Rare species of trees and shrubs.

1 & 2 May:

Donnelly's Cottage, 27 Modury St, Bungendore

Charming garden surrounding 1880's cottage. Heritage variety of plums, pears, apples and roses. Water tanks & recycled materials introduce a contemporary theme of sustainability.

Tirra Lirra, 72 Ellendon Street, Bungendore

A classic country garden full of perennials and herbs. A woodland opens to a classic loggia.

8 & 9 May:

Yarran, 211 Ellsmore Road, Bundanoon

Plantsman's paradise of unusual species and

Kings Cottage, 29 Kings Road, Moss Vale

WESTBOURNE WOODS ARBORETUM WALKS

Free guided two hour walks through the grounds of the Royal Canberra Golf Club are held every second Sunday of the month, starting at 9.30am at the entrance to Royal Canberra Golf Club, Bentham Street, Yarralumla

Sunday 9 May, theme - *Trees large and small*, guide – Roger Hnatiuk

Sunday 13 June, theme – *Conifers for production*, guide – Richard Hart

For further information on the program Friends of ACT Arboreta, 6288 7656 or 6281 1587

**AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION 2010 CONFERENCE**

Dates: 26-30 September

Theme: Leading change – Living for one Planet

The call for papers and workshops is now open. Speakers will include Richard Baker, Greg Bourne, Tim Flannery, Clive Hamilton, Carmen Lawrence & Ursula Rakova. For further information on the conference and call for papers go <https://www.conferenceco.com.au/aaee/>

AGHS BOOKING SLIP

Booking slips need to be returned no later than one week prior to the event to assist committee with planning. It is easier for your voluntary committee to get payment in advance but if you have difficulties paying by cheque please send the booking slip or email expertco@ozemail.com.au and pay on the day.

(Please note: tickets will not be sent for events – those booking by email need to pay if they cancel at the last minute)

Names _____

Contact phone: (Evening/W/E) _____

Email: _____

Tick	Event	Cost	Numbers attending	Amount Incl \$
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Virtual Walk around the lake Lecture (12 May)	Members of AGHS \$10 Non-members \$15		\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	The High & Low of it Lecture (14 July)	Members of AGHS \$10 Non-members \$15		\$ _____

Return with payment to:

AGHS, P O Box 5008, Lyneham ACT 2602

Make cheques out to **Australian Garden History Society**