

Australian Garden History Society

ACT Monaro Riverina Branch



Newsletter January 2010

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

PROGRAM FOR 2010

10 FEBRUARY

Bible Garden – Talk
& Walk

The local committee started planning late in 2009 for our 2010 program and we have a lot of exciting events in the pipeline. As well as the events outlined below we are hoping to organise day outing to both the Bungendore and Yass regions. We will also have our usual lecture series during the winter and have already confirmed Trisha Dixon to talk in June and Jill Matthews will talk about the Tiger Balm Garden in Hong Kong at our AGM in August. Information will appear in our regular newsletter as soon as details are confirmed.

FOR YOUR
DIARIES

20 MARCH

Visit to Government
House Garden

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*

BIBLE GARDEN – TALK AND WALK

WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY, 6PM

In the Bible there are numerous references to plants and trees, starting in Genesis: exactly how many separate species are mentioned (and just what they are) is a matter of ongoing research by biblical scholars and botanists.

In 1961 Dr Tatham Whitehead, Botany Professor at the University College of North Wales established a Bible Garden near Bangor Cathedral in Wales. He had put together a list of 148 plants mentioned in the Bible, and in the garden included as many of these as possible. Shortly afterwards Gerald H. Robinson visited Bangor and was inspired to create a similar garden on a large site at Palm Beach (NSW). Maintaining the garden at Palm Beach proved challenging, but sale of a large part of the property in 2006 realised sufficient funds to re-establish the garden at Palm Beach and to create a new one in the grounds of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture (ACC&C) in Canberra.

The Bible Garden at the ACC&C was opened in July 2008. Maintaining it is the responsibility of Derani Ayers (through her garden maintenance company Green Leaf Ground Care). Derani who lives in Albury is a member of AGHS.

A visit to the now flourishing Bible Garden is our first event for 2010. Margaret Roberts, Centre Manager for the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture will provide some information about the Centre, and Derani will talk about the Garden, and then guide us round it. Refreshments will be served.

The talk will be at the Visitors' Pavilion at the ACC&C (Blackall Street Barton). This is **not** the building near Kings Avenue, but is higher up near St Mark's National Theological Library. Head for the big cross and then for the building with sails over the lovely deck. Onsite parking is available.

Cost: \$10 members
\$15 non-members
[Booking form](#) - Page 5

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

VISIT TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE GARDEN

SATURDAY 20 MARCH, PM

Norm Dunn, the Head Gardener at Government House and a member of our local branch, has organised a visit to Government House Gardens on Saturday 20 March. Please put this in your diaries now and we will provide more details in the March issue of the Newsletter.

RECENT EVENTS

**30TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE GEELONG, VICTORIA,
 CULTIVATING AUSTRALIA FELIX: THE PASTORAL LEGACY
 OCTOBER**

The 30th Annual National AGHS Conference was held in the Geelong Conference Centre next to the city's Botanic Gardens. The usual pattern was followed of having a day and a half of talks and another day and a half of garden visits with a further optional day of visits as well. After the spring rain in the region we were lucky to see the country looking so well – truly Australia Felix.

The series of talks were an excellent amalgam of art, geology, architecture and history and those unfamiliar with Victoria's Western District came away with new understanding and an appreciation of it. A particular feature of the area is the rich pictorial legacy that survives of its gardens and properties and especially the work of such artists as Eugène von Guérard, Nicholas Chevalier, Louis Buvelot and others. In the first talk of the series Terrance Lane provided a fascinating insight into Eugène von Guérard's paintings of Western District properties. Von Guérard was the son of a miniaturist and this influence can be seen in his paintings – "he put everything in." The result is a series of pictures that provide a remarkably detailed record of the pastoralists' homesteads and their landscape settings. Bill Birch then gave a lucid description of the volcanic history of the region and Harriet Edquist used the "stony rises," a geological feature of the area, to explore the way the country was viewed, contrasting the pastoralist's vision of progress with the reality of the suffering of the indigenous population as the country was settled. Timothy Hubbard took us to the homesteads to explore the social role of the 19th century conservatory as a place where young people could meet under discrete supervision, but away from the suffocation of the drawing room. Three talks then focused on particular properties: Muntham, Purrumbete and Darriwill and Donna Ellis ended the day with an entertaining talk on maintaining heritage gardens in the face of drought and climate change.

Saturday's session opened with Alan Willingham's wide ranging survey of the Western District's 19th century homesteads, highlighting the influence of growing wealth on the size and style of the buildings and gardens. Talks on the gardens and homesteads of Titanga, Turkeith and Mount Nourat then followed.

The session concluded with an introduction by Jayne Salmon to the Geelong Botanic Gardens which were established in 1851 and are the fourth oldest botanic gardens in Australia. Lunch was in the gardens and we were able to admire the historic plantings and the recently renovated sections including a new arid climate garden and local native plants.

The subsequent garden visits took us first to Darriwill, originally established in the 1850s by the Hope family as a grazing property and vineyard, and now restored and replanted by Dougal and Nellie Ramsay.

The following day brought to life landscapes we had seen in the paintings by von Guérard and others. We started at Purrumbete, well known for its lake setting and the art nouveau murals in its entrance hall. We were also impressed by a beautiful red waratah in full bloom. We then visited Wuorong where John Menzies welcomed us with a bagpipe recital (surely a first for AGHS) where we admired a legacy of mature exotics (oaks elms and cedars), terraced gardens and another lake setting. We finished the day at Meningoort, a bluestone homestead set high on a hill with a magnificent vista and an extensively restored garden by its current owners, Stewart and Beverly McArthur.

All in all the 30th National Conference was a great success and a credit to the Victorian Branch.
Tony Byrne

VISIT TO MANAR AND END OF YEAR DRINKS

NOVEMBER

Hugh and Kim made us feel very welcome at our end of year function in Manar. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to visit this historic garden, and to end our year in such a convivial and relaxing manner. It was obvious by the large turnout of members how keen we all were to visit the garden. As usual the committee provided very tasty refreshments.

Judy Pearce



Manar November 2009

FROM THE AGHS NATIONAL OFFICE

Protocols for the taking and publishing of photographs of private gardens visited by the Australian Garden History Society.

These protocols have been introduced to protect the privacy of garden owners following a visit to their gardens organised by the AGHS. These protocols cover two areas:

1. Photographs of private gardens taken for the personal use of the photographer
Prior to a visit to a private garden those responsible for organising the visit should:
 - Ascertain from the garden owner, prior to the visit, whether the taking of photographs for personal use is permitted. Note the response on file.
 - Inform visitors, prior to the visit, of the wishes of the garden owner. If the taking of photographs is permitted visitors should be informed of this together with the conditions attached i.e. for personal use of the photographer and any other specific conditions set down by the owner.
 - Gather contact information of garden owner to facilitate fulfilling the requirements set out in para 2.

2. Photographs of private gardens taken and used in any form of publication, whether commercial or otherwise, by the photographer or other person(s)
This protocol applies to all forms of publishing including branch newsletters, journals and the World Wide Web.
- If photographs are specifically taken for or personal photos are to be used for publication the author/publisher should:
 - Seek preliminary advice from those responsible for arranging the visit to determine the suitability of the request set out below and to obtain contact details.
 - Make a request in writing to the garden owner outlining the nature of the publication and the extent of its distribution. Branch newsletters for example will be distributed to AGHS members but will also be published on the AGHS website and the garden owners should be made aware of this.
 - The photographs in question should be included with the letter of request
 - The request must ask for permission to be granted in writing. If permission is not forthcoming photographs cannot be published.

AGHS October 2009

OF INTEREST

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>. Of special interest:

Thursday 4 February: *The International Year of Biodiversity*

Presenter: Max Bourke (AGHS member)

The United Nations has declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity.

Why and what does it mean in relation to climate change?

Much is being done, unnoticed, by private philanthropy to protect biodiversity around Australia and the world. What is going on and where ?

Thursday 18 February: *The Importance of Seed Collecting*

Presenters: Franz Grossbechler and Mark Jones

An active field collector and a Greening Australia Seed Bank representative present different facets of an extremely pertinent subject: plant species survival.

Thursday 25 February: *The Deep Cultural Roots of the ANBG*

Presenter: David Headon

Most Australians, if quizzed, would probably say that the ANBG has a short history, one that goes back only a few decades to when John Gorton was Prime Minister - or perhaps, in germination, a little further back to a few botanists at the ANU in the university's foundation years. . In fact, the roots of the Gardens go far deeper, back into Federation history at the turn of the century, and back even further into the nineteenth century, when 'Botanic Gardens' became an integral part of the burgeoning British Empire and its cultural and social expansion.

Thursday 18 March: *Albury Children's Garden*

Presenter: Paul Scannell (AGHS member)

Paul takes us through the planning and development of a children's garden at Albury Botanic Garden. The experiences and practical solutions to problems are explained by one of Australia's foremost garden managers.

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:

30 & 31 January: Ginninderra Homestead

Talk at 2pm Saturday 30 January by Deb & Shirley Wills, Heritage Roses Australia
468 Parkwood Road, Via Macgregor

13 & 14 February: COGS Cook Community Garden

Talks at 10.30 & 2 each day
Bindudi Street, Cook

6 & 7 March: Farm, Food, Feast at Allsun Farm

A celebration of locally grown organic autumn produce, 1318 Dicks Creek Road Gundaroo

If you happen to be at the coast these two gardens sound interesting

6 & 7 & March, both at Denhams Beach, Batemans Bay

Bronwyn's garden

16 Kennedy Crescent

Rob's Patch

5 Sturt Place

6 & 7 March: Barham Community Good Gardens

Barham Recreation Reserve, Barham

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 Nancy Clarke at nclarke@grapevine.com.au and pay on the day.

Names _____

Contact phone: (Evening/W/E) _____

Email: _____

Tick	Event	Cost	Numbers attending	Amount Incl \$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bible Garden Talk & Walk (10 February)	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**