

Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch

Newsletter June 2009



Australian Garden History Society
www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au

ACT Monaro Riverina Branch, PO Box 1630 CANBERRA ACT 2601
For an e-copy of the newsletter email expertco@ozemail.com.au

BRANCH DIARY

Forthcoming Events

WEDNESDAY 8

JULY,

**Charles Lane Poole
and the Growth of
Trees**

John Dargavel

WINTER LECTURE SERIES: FINAL LECTURE
WEDNESDAY 8 JULY, 6PM (FOLLOWED BY DRINKS)

CHARLES LANE POOLE AND THE GROWTH OF TREES
PRESENTER DR JOHN DARGAVEL

Charles Edward Lane Poole (1885-1970) was one of Australia's most remarkable foresters. Born in England and trained in France, his tumultuous career took him from the Cape, the Transvaal and Sierra Leone to Western Australia, Papua, New Guinea and finally to Canberra as the Commonwealth's first Inspector-General of Forests. His wife, Ruth, designed the furniture and interiors of the Lodge and Government House when they were opened in 1927. They were both keen gardeners. He was passionate about forest conservation that had to be based in science. This talk will briefly sketch his life before concentrating on his scientific work on the growth of trees in natural forests, arboreta and plantations.

THURSDAY 27

AUGUST

**AGM & talk by
Catherine O'Neill**

Dr John Dargavel is an honorary Visiting Fellow in the Fenner School for Environment and Society at the Australian National University where he is actively engaged in forest history research. He is the immediate past President of the Australian Forest History Society. He is the author of more than 70 published papers covering forest management, industrial and labour history, trade, forest and environmental politics, and cultural aspects of landscape and remembrance. His book on Australian forest history, *Fashioning Australia's Forests* (Oxford University Press) was published in 1995 and a biography, *The Zealous Conservator: a life of Charles Lane Poole* (University of Western Australia Press) in 2008.

SATURDAY 12

SEPTEMBER

Sherwood Spring Walk

16 – 19 OCTOBER

AGHS National
Conference, Geelong

**FOR YOUR
DIARIES**

SUNDAY 27

SEPTEMBER

Visit to Cherry Dell,
Exeter

Venue: Conference Room, National Library of Australia

Cost: Members \$10, non-members \$15

Booking recommended: nclarke@grapevine.com.au, or booking form Page 6

N. B. We would really appreciate any assistance that members can give publicising this lecture to friends and colleagues. We have included a flyer for this purpose.

SATURDAY 28

NOVEMBER

Visit to Braidwood (incl
Manar) and end of year
drinks

AGM FOLLOWED BY
A TIME AND PLACE, AN ILLUSTRATED TALK BY
CATHERINE O'NEILL

THURSDAY 27 AUGUST (AGM 5.30PM, TALK 6PM)
CONCLUDING WITH DRINKS

Many of our members who went to the National Conference in Albury in 2007 met Catherine and all were impressed by the beautiful watercolour maps (or plans) she had produced of one of the gardens we visited. She is a Landscape Designer who works with gardens of all periods, heritage through to modern. Her aim is to map the gardens she is working on, recording them as they are at exactly that point in time. By adding watercolour sketches to the maps she provides a special sense of place and time.. Catherine will talk to us about her activities, how she tries to capture the feeling of a garden, and then how, hopefully, to translate that on to the paper.

Venue: Discovery Centre, CSIRO, Clunies Ross Street, Black Mountain
Talk, 6pm: Members free, Non-members \$5 (can pay at the door). Bookings preferred to help with catering arrangements, email Judy Pearce expertco@ozemail.com.au

BRANCH COMMITTEE

Tony Byrne (Chair)
 Kay Johnston (Vice Chair)
 Robbie Henderson (Treasurer)
 Nancy Clarke (Secretary)
 Jill Scheetz (National Management Committee rep.)
 Helen Elliot
 Geoff Evans
 Michaela Hill
 Rod Holesgrove
 Judy Pearce
 Linda Spinaze

SHERWOOD SPRING WALK

SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

JOINT EVENT WITH NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERS

The Sherwood site is a remnant garden first established by Henry and Eliza Phillips in 1863. Very little surface evidence of the homestead where the Phillips' raised their family remains, other than a number of exotic trees, but in spring the area blossoms with daffodils which may or may not date back to the time of the Phillips occupation. Catching the display at its best is tricky – contingent on drought, frost and rain but join us anyway to see what we can find of the secret garden on the edge of the forest.

We will need to go into the site as a party as access to the site is through the once dense pine forests devastated by the 2003 bushfires. Bring the children, a picnic, something to sit on, and your camera.

Meet along the left hand side of the Brindabella Road, just past the Uriarra Homestead at 10.30am. From there we will drive, first to the Blue Range camp ground – site of an Italian internment camp during WW2 – and then on to a spot where we can park cars and walk into the Sherwood site. If you have any doubts about where to meet please contact Judy Pearce.

Total walking will be less than 5 k on easy forest tracks. We plan to be back in civilisation by 3.00pm.

Further information: Judy Pearce (expertco@ozemail.com.au, Ph 6257 6970).

Cost \$10 members, \$15 non-members – booking form page 6

Please make sure you include your phone/email so we can contact you if we have to cancel because of heavy rain.

SPRING VISIT TO EXETER

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

Trip to include a visit to Cherry Dell - details in next newsletter.

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

AGHS NATIONAL CONFERENCE GEELONG

16 – 19 OCTOBER

Geelong is the setting for this year's AGHS conference. From the 1850s it has been a bustling and lively city, a disembarkation point for those seeking their fortunes on the Victorian goldfields and from even earlier days, a gateway to the rich pastoral lands to the west.

This year's conference entitled *Cultivating Australia Felix* explores the theme of pastoral expansion and a series of distinguished speakers will examine the pastoral legacy, the gardens and homesteads built in the area opened to European settlement after the journeys of Major Thomas Mitchell in 1836.

The theme will be explored in three ways – through artists' recording of the settled and natural landscape, through oral history, especially by descendants of significant properties – a rare opportunity to hear them first-hand – and through on-site visits. A highlight is a day in the heart of the Western District, exploring the distinctive volcanic landscape and visiting historic gardens and properties not open to the public. Optional day: Monday 19 October.

Branch News

AGM THURSDAY 27 AUGUST, 5.30-6PM

This will be a short meeting, but an important one and we urge all members to be present. **Please consider** standing for the committee as we would really welcome some new members. If you are interested in standing please contact the Chair, Tony Byrne, tonybyrne@effect.net.au, phone 6247 3642. (See page 1 for venue details)

Planning for 2010

The committee is starting planning for 2010 at the September meeting, so if you have any suggestions for the program can you please contact the Chair, Tony Byrne, tonybyrne@effect.net.au, phone 6247 3642.

AGHS News

Nina Crone Award for Australian Student Garden History Writing

The Nina Crone Award is granted annually to encourage students in the writing of Australian garden history. The award comprises a prize of \$1,000 and a certificate – and the prospect of publication in the Society's journal, *Australian Garden History*.

Papers should be for original research relating to Australian garden history and should be limited to 1,000 to 1,500 words. Photographs and illustrations may be included.

Closing date for final submission - 30 September 2009

Expressions of interest, in the form of a brief abstract of 50 -100 words, should be submitted by 30 June 2009. Submissions can be sent electronically to info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au or by post to Australian Garden History Society, 100 Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne 3004

Eligibility and basis of submissions

The award is open to **students only**, nationally. Articles must be on a topic related to Australian garden history and must not have been previously published. All associated research must have been completed within the last two years.

Recent Events

MICALAGO STATION, SATURDAY 18 APRIL

We had a perfect autumn day for our visit to Micalago Station in mid April. We were warmly welcomed by Susie and David Ryrie who gave their time generously to introduce their garden and station property.

Micalago was initially settled by Captain Francis Rossi in the 1830s and subsequently sold to Colonel Stewart Ryrie in 1859. His son Alexander settled there and it has remained in the Ryrie family ever since. The homestead and garden form a wonderful organic whole. The homestead consists of a number of buildings of different ages. There is the original cottage built by Rossi, a large addition dating from the 1880s and further sympathetic alterations by Professor Leslie Wilkinson in 1945. These along with other out-buildings form a series of intimate courtyards and gardens through which the visitor walks to finally emerge into the main part of the garden and the vista of paddocks and the foothills of Tinderry Mountains behind.

Despite the effects of drought, the garden offers much to explore. Against a wall in one of the courtyards we admired a beautiful tree peony. Prominent near the homestead is a large Chinese Cypress and an ancient apricot with spreading branches, now well supported. On one side of the garden is a well proportioned pergola which leads into a grove of oaks and elms that were starting to glow with early autumn colour. Across an adjacent paddock is a large cottonwood resplendent in yellow against the dry grass. Behind this cottonwood is the hill that forms the background to George Lambert's iconic *The Squatter's Daughter*, painted

on one of his visits to Micalago Station and now to be seen in the NGA.

With David Ryrie as a guide we were also able to visit the shearing shed and an adjacent blacksmith's shed. It was not hard to imagine the hive of activity there in the days when all the shearing stands were in use. Behind the shearing shed was a virtual museum of farm equipment including a line up of old Massey Ferguson tractors and a well preserved bullock dray.

We ended the afternoon with afternoon tea on the homestead verandah and a chance to talk further with Susie and David about the challenges of managing the garden through an extended period of dry years. Once again our thanks to them for their hospitality and the chance to wander in a truly enchanting garden.

Sue Byrne



Photos: Tony Byrne

LECTURE: *ELLIS ROWAN, MARIANNE COLLINSON CAMPBELL & EDWARD GOSTELOW: FLOWER PAINTERS*

Barrie Hadlow, formerly at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, has since retirement worked on a series of projects at the National Library of Australia, identifying Australian flowers depicted in works in the Library's collections. He spoke briefly of this work, but the majority of the evening was dedicated to Rowan, Campbell and Gostelow. Barrie provided fascinating insights into the lives and work of the artists, and this was followed by viewing time. NLA Pictures Librarian Sylvia Carr and her staff had brought out a wonderful collection of paintings by these three late nineteenth /early twentieth century "flower painters" for close inspection by those at the talk.

The Library has an outstanding collection of the work of Ellis Rowan's (1844-1922). It has also created a splendid website that provides details of her life and digital images of many of her paintings: <http://www.nla.gov.au/exhibitions/ellisrowan/home.html>. Some of her paintings also feature in the Library's current exhibition ***Treasures Gallery 2010: a Preview.***

Marianne Collinson Campbell of Duntroon's work was mostly represented by an astonishing album including eighty seven refined watercolour paintings of Australian flowers, butterflies and fruit, cut out and pasted in the scrapbook. The works were painted over a very long period - between 1843 and 1883, although most date from the earlier part of her life. Images from it have been digitised and are accessible on the library's website and there is an article about Campbell (by Ann Nugent) in the March 2009 issue of the NLA News - <http://www.nla.gov.au/pub/nlanews/2009/march09/story-3.pdf>

The third artist, Ebenezer Edward Gostelow (1867-1944) is also well represented in the Library's holdings. A schoolteacher who taught in many country schools in New South Wales including Broken Hill, Gostelow was also an accomplished watercolour painter of wild flowers, as well as birds. There is a decidedly Art Deco feel to many of his works. Again there is a good article about him (by Christobel Mattingley) in the NLA News: <http://www.nla.gov.au/pub/nlanews/2005/nov05/article5.html>

Nancy Clarke

LECTURE: CHARLES DARWIN – GARDENER, MAX BOURKE

This truly memorable lecture given by our past president in June to AGHS members and Friends of the National Library of Australia was a sell out, and we are extremely grateful to Max for preparing such an excellent presentation for us. Also a big thank you to Sharyn O'Brien and Sarah Jaensch from the NLA who helped make this such a successful event.

Max has provided the following comments and references for those members who want to follow up particular aspects of the talk.

<http://darwin-online.org.uk/>

<http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/>

<http://darwin.baruch.cuny.edu/biography/down/> (good pictures of the garden on this site)

http://www.aboutdarwin.com/timeline/time_01.html (timeline and other material)

But as well there are superb books such as Janet Browne's truly magisterial two volume biography (a very good read about Victorian England too, and it even got me more interested in Jane Austen than I was inclined to be):

Browne, Janet (1996) *Voyaging (Part 1) and The Power of Place (Part 2)*, Princeton University Press, paperback, New Jersey.

Her equally good biography or 'The Origin of Species' itself:

Browne, Janet (2006) *Darwin's Origin of Species – A Biography*, Allen and Unwin, Crow's Nest.

And a really insightful book by the science writer, David Quammen:

Quammen, David (2006) *The Reluctant Mr Darwin*, W.W. Norton and Co, New York

More recently, indeed as I was finishing writing this, Steve Jones' new book *Darwin's Island – The Galapagos in the Garden of England*, Little Brown, London, 2008 was published.

Max Bourke

Of Interest

ICOMOS CONFERENCE 7 – 10 JULY

Join the group of internationally renowned experts on conserving 20th Century heritage places who will be meeting in Sydney , 9518 7722, hayleym@conexion.com.au

HIGHLANDS GARDEN SOCIETY WINTER SEMINAR SATURDAY 18 JULY

Bowral, 9am – 1pm, Cost: \$25

Also in Bowral, Friday 17 July ; Talk on the work of Jocelyn Brown by Stuart Read
Information on both events 4888 2140 or 0425 248 691

SUCCESSFUL ROSE PRUNING SUNDAY 9 AUGUST

At Lanyon Homestead with Graham Williams, Lanyon's Head Gardener

Cost: \$20, bookings & payments by 5 August

historicplacesbookings@act.gov.au, 6235 5677

BOOKING SLIP

Booking slips need to be returned no later than one week prior to the event to assist committee with planning.

Names

Contact phone: (Evening/W/E) _____

Email: _____

Tick	Event	Cost	Numbers attending	Amount Incl \$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charles Lane Poole Lecture <i>(8 July)</i>	Members \$10 Non-members \$15		\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Time & Place <i>(27 August)</i>	Members \$0 Non-members \$5	Or email numbers to expertco@ozemail.com.au	\$ _____ Pay now or at the door
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sherwood Spring Walk <i>(12 September)</i>	Members \$10 Non-members \$15		\$ _____

Return with payment or attendance numbers to:
AGHS, GPO Box 1630, Canberra ACT 2601