

# Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch

Newsletter September 2011 No 5



Australian Garden History Society  
[www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au](http://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](mailto:expertco@ozemail.com.au)

## BRANCH DIARY

### LECTURE

#### 5 OCTOBER

*Cabbages and Roses:  
The Canberra Garden  
Di Firth*

#### 5 & 6 NOVEMBER

Weekend Trip to Berry

### For your diaries

#### 9-11 NOVEMBER 2012

AGHS National  
Conference, Ballarat,  
*Gardens of a Golden  
Era*

## Gardens in Ainslie open on Sunday 18 September 11 am to 3 pm - AGHS members invited!

On Sunday 18 September a special fundraising event for Ainslie Primary School should be of interest to many of AGHS members.

Ainslie School is raising funds to create a vegetable garden at the school and as part of their special day 10 gardens in the Corroboree Park area will be open to view. The starting point is Ainslie School.

There will also be some talks on fruit trees, and a few homes will be open including Beaufort House and the house the Queen Mother visited. Afternoon tea will be available at Baker Gardens Pre-School where there will be a sustainability display by the ACT Government at Baker Gardens Pre-school.

The cost for the garden visits is \$5 per adult (all the gardens!). Children from the school will be helping and are keen to have lemonade stands along the route.

To support this effort the ACT Monaro and Riverina Branch of AGHS has donated copies of our booklet *Early Ainslie Gardens* (which describes five gardens in the Corroboree Park area). This should be a lovely way of spending a spring day.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

REMINDER: LECTURE: WEDNESDAY 5 OCTOBER, 6PM

*CABBAGES AND ROSES: THE CANBERRA GARDEN*

PRESENTER: DR DIANNE FIRTH

Canberra's residential blocks were originally designed to be large enough to sustain a family in fruit and vegetables. Parallel with this utilitarian function was an aesthetic delight in flowers. The popularity of garden exhibitions and competitions was such that workers and low level public servants could compete with senior officers and departmental heads for the best roses, dahlias and cabbages. This talk will look at the changing nature of Canberra's gardens from 1926 to the present and consider the implications of urban consolidation on Canberra's 'Garden City' image.

**Dianne Firth** is a member of our branch of the AGHS. Her research interest is in the theory and practice of Landscape Architecture as expressed through the design, implementation and management of designed landscapes. She teaches Design Studio and Landscape History in the Faculty of Arts & Design at the University of Canberra. Commonwealth and Territory authorities, councils, boards and committees draw on her research and seek her advice.

**Venue:** Menzies Room, National Archives of Australia, Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes

**Cost:** Members \$10, others \$15 (incl. refreshments)

**Booking recommended:** You can book by contacting Nancy Clarke, [nclarke@grapevine.com.au](mailto:nclarke@grapevine.com.au), 6248 6549, or use the Booking form Page 5. Nancy has contacted all those people who booked for this lecture in June.

**BRANCH  
COMMITTEE**

**Helen Elliot**, Chair  
**Margaret Bourke**  
**Sue Byrne**,  
**Nancy Clarke**,  
 Secretary & NMC  
 Representative  
**Robbie Henderson**,  
 Treasurer  
**Rod Holesgrove**  
**Louise Moran**  
**Julia Nicholls**  
**Judy Pearce**,  
 Newsletter Editor  
**Linda Spinaze**  
**Marie Wood**

**BERRY WEEKEND: 5 & 6 NOVEMBER: ACT & SYDNEY JOINT  
BRANCHES EVENT**

Some information about this event was included in the August Newsletter, but we now have some additional information on the weekend. Numbers are limited therefore early bookings is recommended.

On the Saturday at 11am we will be welcomed to Berry in the fabulous garden of well known horticulturist and AGHS member Hazel King where we will enjoy a cuppa before setting off on our tour for the day. On Sunday morning we will meet at 10am in the grounds of the very grand Berry Courthouse where we will inspect the new garden which the 'Friends' have restored and recreated under the supervision of Hazel. The later start will enable those of you who wish to attend the local town markets or just enjoy a leisurely start to the day.

There are 4 other gardens to enjoy over the weekend before lunching on the Sunday in the grounds of the Department of Recreation & Sport's property where we will be able to look at the internationally award winning gymnasium, enjoy the ambience of the old buildings & gardens and take a look at the new landscaping recently installed.

Full instructions on where to meet will be sent on registration. Some details on local restaurants will also be included. A map will be provided on arrival in Nowra.

**Costs:** For both days are Members \$100, Non members \$130. Boxed lunches and teas for both days are included but delegates need to make their own arrangements for accommodation, breakfast & evening meals.

**Accommodation:** You may want to investigate accommodation before booking. Set out below are some accommodation suggestions.

**Bookings:** Please complete the booking form on page 5

**Enquires:** Judy Pearce, [expertco@ozemail.com.au](mailto:expertco@ozemail.com.au), 62576970 (day with answer machine).



***Lovely property in Berry belonging to  
Libby & Urwin Hannan***



***Berry Courthouse***

**Accommodation** in Berry  
 Information provided by the Berry Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Inc.

**Accommodation South Coast Association NSW** (Booking Service)

P.O. Box 338 Berry M:0427105 659

**Berry Bangalee Motel**, IOA Princes Highway, Berry 4464 1305

**Berry Inn**, 122 Queen Street, Berry 4464 2064

**Berry Village Boutique Motel**, 72 - 76 Queen Street, Berry 4464 3570

**Bounty Motor Inn**, 271 Princes Highway, Bomaderry 4421 2233

There are also numerous cottages and bed and breakfast places, which often require a minimum stay of two nights.

<http://www.stayz.com.au/accommodation/nsw/south-coast/berry>

## EVENT IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER

MORNING TEA AT REDFORD PARK

This event is organised by the Southern Highlands Branch – for more information contact Lyn Esdaile, [garlynar@bigpond.com](mailto:garlynar@bigpond.com), 4887 7122. The booking form provided by the South Highlands Branch is attached.

Mr James Fairfax AO has very kindly consented to open his garden and house in mid spring for morning tea, a stroll through the large garden, and an inspection of the house. At that time the garden will be at its best with the many flowering shrubs at their peak and the magnificent giant trees in their new spring leaf.

Over the last 40 years the garden in its surrounding 483 acres has been extended and improved with walks, formal areas, exotic trees and specialist areas of cold climate planting.

When Mr Fairfax took over Retford Park he inherited a park of over grown trees. One of the first tasks was to remove several large conifers to give the garden more light and space, and to prune and reshape deciduous trees. With the assistance of the late English garden designer John Codrington, new areas were created including the front fountain path with its distinctive mounds of *teucrium fruticans*, *artemisia* and *agapanthus*-all hardy plants which cope with both the heat and cold of the Southern Highlands.

In 1968 Guilford Bell designed and built the striking pool pavilion and adjoining pools. Sculptures by Clement Meadmore and David Wilson add extra elements to the blue swimming pool while another sculpture by Donald Friend complements the gentler surrounding of the smaller pool.

***Information from Southern Highlands Homes, Canongate Partners, 2003, pp 76-83***

**Directions to Retford Park:** Please enter the driveway to Retford Park in Old South Road Bowral almost opposite the junction of Bowral Street and Old South Road. Please follow the AGHS signage and directions of the parking attendants.



## Australia's Open Gardens: 3 LARGE COUNTRY GARDENS Corryong Weekend of 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2011

This is your chance to visit these *three lovely private gardens at the height of Spring*. These gardens, which have *never been seen before*, are part of the Australian Open Garden Scheme 2011-2012. (Page 124 of the National Garden Guide). The Gardens are located in unique and beautiful settings within the picturesque valleys of the Corryong district. Three distinctly different styles will be identified, but each will impress the visitors with its beauty, creativity and attention to detail.

**The Wattles** (148 Lavertys Rd. Lucyvale) Kaye and David's garden is surrounded by farmland, and mountain views. An informal garden that relies mainly on rain water it includes granite sand paths edged with granite rocks collected from the farm. The garden around the house has camellias, rhododendrons, bulbs and perennials, flowering cherries, a birch/ hazelnut grove and mature fruit trees. A large lawn at the front of the house leads to a birch grove underplanted with bulbs, a rustic boathouse with jetty, wisteria covered pergola a large pond with a small seasonal stream, roses, box hedges, cherry trees and the drive is edged with agapanthus and mature trees. There is vegetable gardens, citrus and fruit trees, an apple tree hedge, chooks, many mature deciduous trees under-planted with bulbs.

**Tandara** (40 Thowgla Rd. Corryong). Tom and Thea Newton's country garden and arboretum is situated on the outskirts of Corryong with wonderful views of the valley and mountains. The garden commenced in 1997 with a great mix of trees, shrubs and perennials. The meandering paths take you from one area to another in this colourful garden. Roses, bulbs, shrubs, grevilleas and bottlebrush are combined with conifers to create structure and foliage colour to the garden. The large productive orchard and vegetable garden provide fresh produce. The young arboretum has a significant collection of conifers, deciduous trees and natives which attracts many species of birds. The garden and arboretum covers an area of 1.4ha (3.5 ac). In the adjoining paddocks are the alpacas, goats and donkeys.

**Aquila** (17 Sullivan St. Towong). The garden of Dr & Mrs Richard Barkas, located at the foot of the Snowy Mountains has 180deg panoramic views to the snowcapped main range and the meandering Murray River. This is a beautiful garden in the romantic style. It spills down the hillside towards the river linking with the landscape beyond. Curved pergolas of wisteria and rose, clipped hedges, crabapples, maples, pears and an edible veg & herb garden. Mature trees to the west of the home provide cool shade. Rock steps & walls, character fowl house and an Astronomical Observatory are features. The garden also references the owners' passion for astronomy more directly. A Solar System array, moon window, Scorpius pergola and impressively, Aquila himself, a majestic Eagle, sits perched high above his garden territory. Visitors are also invited to view the sun through the special solar telescope mounted on the observatory deck.

**Getting there:** Nestled in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, west of Mt. Kosciusko and 124 kilometres east of Albury/Wodonga, Corryong is a beautiful small town with much to offer. Drive to Corryong via the Murray Valley Highway.

**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 [nclarke@grapevine.com.au](mailto: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"/>	<b>Cabbages &amp; Roses</b> Lecture (5 October)	<b>Members of AGHS \$10</b> <b>Non-members \$15</b>		

**Return with payment to: AGHS, P O Box 5008, Lyneham ACT 2602**  
Make cheques out to **Australian Garden History Society**

**BOOKING SLIP for weekend in Berry: Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 November**

**Name**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Address**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mobile:** \_\_\_\_\_

Number of places you require: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of people attending:	Member
_____	Yes/No
_____	Yes/No
_____	Yes/No

**Total Payment: \$100 members, \$130 non-members:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Return with payment to: AGHS, P O Box 5008, Lyneham ACT 2602**  
Make cheques out to **Australian Garden History Society**

**Or return the form and pay by: Direct Credit** (special arrangement for this event) to ServiceOne

Account name: **AGHS**

**BSB: 801 009, Account no: 1062165.**

Please make sure you include the following reference information:

**Nowra trip followed by your first initial & surname.**