

# Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch



Newsletter August 2010 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

### 10 SEPTEMBER

Visit to Southern  
Highlands

### 22 SEPTEMBER

Possible visit to  
Parliament House  
Gardens

### 24 OCTOBER

Rock Valley Spring  
Walk

### 5 – 7

### NOVEMBER

AGHS National  
Conference,  
Launceston: *The  
Vision Splendid*

## FOR YOUR DIARIES

### 5 DECEMBER

Visit to Lambrigg and  
Branch end of year  
event

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### VISIT TO TWO GARDENS IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

FRIDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

The AGHS Southern Highlands Branch have invited our members to join them on an outing in September. I have attached details to the end of the newsletter. Members should book directly with the Southern Highlands branch as outlined in the material.

### VISIT TO PARLIAMENT HOUSE GARDENS

WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER, PM - TBC

Kay Johnston is still valiantly trying to organise a visit for us. We have now been advised that weekend visits have been cancelled and because of the uncertainty of when the House will be sitting it is difficult to confirm a week date at the moment. However we have asked for a tour on the afternoon of 22 September, and if we get it I will email members to let them know.

If you are getting a paper copy of the newsletter, but would be interested to join the tour if it goes ahead, then please ring Nancy Clarke on 6248 6549, and we can then call you if we get a confirmation

### ROCK VALLEY SPRING WALK

SUNDAY 24 OCTOBER

Rock Valley, Tidbinbilla is a relict cultural landscape that conveys layers of history – over 70 years of farming, several decades of use as a park depot, and more recently, its devastation in the 2003 bushfire. Rock Valley homestead was one of the district's pise buildings but in the post fire years was recommended for demolition. Luckily the building was saved and the pise ruin stabilised and roofed. The post fire garden, although just a few trees and shrubs is of interest for the way it reestablished itself. The garden is now managed by the Tidbinbilla Pioneers Association in collaboration with the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve.

The October visit will give members of the AGHS an opportunity to hear the Rock Valley story on site, walk around the cultural landscape remnants and discuss future landscape management.

To find Rock Valley — after leaving the information centre, travel along Tidbinbilla Ring Road for approximately 2 km and there is a large sign for Rock Valley on your right. We will meet at Rock Valley at 10.30 am and after the visit move on to one of the picnic areas and enjoy a picnic lunch together. Bring your own picnic lunch and remember there are no toilets at Rock Valley. We thank Juliet Ramsay for planning this event for us.

**Further information:** Nancy Clarke, [nclarke@grapevine.com.au](mailto:nclarke@grapevine.com.au), Ph 6248 6549.

**Cost** \$10 members, \$15 non-members – booking form Page 4 – alternatively you can email [nclarke@grapevine.com.au](mailto:nclarke@grapevine.com.au) and pay on the day.

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

**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 NEWS****2010 AGM**

The 2010 AGM was held on Thursday 28 August at the Discovery Centre, CSIRO. In his report, the Chair, Tony Byrne, outlined the activities during another very successful year. He commented on the continued contribution we have been able to make to the English Garden Project (commenting on the plans for upgrading the garden and renovating Hobday's Cottage). We have also applied for an ACT Heritage Grant to have the records of the Yarralumla Nursery digitised and have them listed on the ACT Heritage Register. We will know if we have been successful in obtaining the grant in mid-September.

He thanked our committee members, their partners and other AGHS members for their volunteer assistance and support during the year and make special thanks to Kay Johnston who is retiring from the committee this year, after eight years involvement including serving as Branch Treasurer and later as Deputy Chair. She has made a wonderful contribution to our program with her many excellent ideas and she will be really missed.

Margie Bourke, who was not able to attend the meeting, has agreed to once again join our committee.

After the very short AGM Jill Matthews gave an illustrated talk to us about the Tiger Balm and Dragon Gardens in Hong Kong and Singapore.

**2010-2011 BRANCH COMMITTEE**

Tony Byrne, Helen Elliot, Nancy Clarke, Robyn Henderson, Margie Bourke, Julia Nicholls, Judy Pearce, Rod Holesgrove, Linda Spinaze and Marie Wood. Office Bearers will be confirmed at the next committee meeting.

We would welcome a couple more committee members so if you are interested please contact our chair, Tony Byrne on [tonybyrne@effect.net.au](mailto:tonybyrne@effect.net.au), phone 6247 3642.

We have also begun planning for the 2011 calendar, so if you have any suggestions for talks or visits please let Tony know.

**MISSING NEWSLETTERS**

The ACT Monaro and Riverina Branch of the AGHS (our Branch!) was established in 1986, and branch newsletters were sent to members to keep them up to date with activities. Recently we checked the files where we keep items of historical interest in and were concerned that we are missing a number of issues of this newsletter. If any of the "old" members has a copy of one that we are missing we'd be most grateful if you would lend it to us so we could copy it and return it to you.

For the early years of the Branch we are missing numbers 15 (1990) and 36 (1995). For the later years issues are not numbered, but for the period from 1997 to 2001 what we have seems very thin indeed. We know we are missing some but don't know just how many. During these years most of the issues had beautiful illustrations of plants on the front cover.

- For 1997 we have two issues – they are for February (this one is numbered, as 41) and October
- For 1998 we have three issues – February, May and November
- For 1999 we have none (we know there was at least one in June as we have half of it)
- For 2000 we have only May (and half of January's issue)
- For 2001 we have February, July and November.

If you are able to help with any of these missing issues, please contact Nancy Clarke ([nclarke@grapevine.com.au](mailto:nclarke@grapevine.com.au), or ring me on 6248 6549) so we can arrange to borrow and copy them. We would be truly grateful.

## RECENT EVENTS

### JULY LECTURE

#### *THE HIGH AND THE LOW OF IT WITH DR ROSEMARY PURDIE*

On 14 July the Society heard a fascinating talk by Rosemary Purdie on the lowest and second highest botanic gardens in the world. Rosemary having served as a senior Federal Government botanist and as the ACT Commissioner for the Environment was very well qualified for her subject.

A particular feature of her talk was the unique characteristics of these gardens resulting from the great extremes of climate and topography. The lowest botanic gardens in the world, at – 80m, is the Turpan botanic gardens in Xinjiang province in Western China and the second highest at 3,900m is at Khorog, in Tajikistan, Central Asia.

The audience was captivated by her excellent power point presentation, including Rosemary's illustrated journey from Turpan across Western China and the Taklamakan desert (after the Sahara the largest real desert in the world) into the mountains of Tajikistan, eventually arriving at Khorog.

**Rod Holesgrove**

## REQUEST FOR HELP

We have received a request for help from Carey Martin - the Sydney Botanic Gardens suggested that we might be able to help.

*I am trying to source osage orange/maclura pomifera, preferably viable seed, so that I can propagate it to use in quantity as a hedge on my property (about 35k east of Cowra at 700m elevation) boundary. For me it has several uses: the fruit is a natural source of dye, the thorns are a deterrant to all sorts of things such as humans on one side and the goats getting out on the other, and because it is hard to source, other people might want to buy a plant later with the increased interest in natural dyes.*

*Would any of your members have this plant or the fruit, or do you have suggestions as to where I can source it. Cuttings are OK - more than one or two would be good from different plants as there are male and females and (in my ignorance) I think it might be better for the gene pool to mix things up a bit?*

*Anyway, I'd appreciate some help.*

**Carey Martin**, [carey.martin@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:carey.martin@industry.nsw.gov.au), Ph: (02) 4931 6560 (w)

## OF INTEREST

### AUSTRALIAN OPEN GARDEN SCHEME

The program and guidebook are now available for 2010-2011. For more information go to <http://www.opengarden.org.au/>

### FRIENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

From **Wednesday 1** to **Tuesday 7 September** the ANBG volunteer Guides will be conducting Wattle Walks at 11am, and from **Saturday 11 September** to **Sunday 10 October** they will have spring flower walks at 11am and 2pm.

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>. Members may be particularly interested in:

**Thursday 14 October**, *The Boxvale Track*, John Carter

**Thursday 21 October**, *Forty Years Recollection of the Gardens*, Murray Fagg

### 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 12 September**, theme - Food and fodder from trees, guide – Paul Dann

**Sunday 10 October**, theme – *History of Australian arboreta*, guide – Max Bourke

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](mailto: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)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Entry Tickets will not be send – your name will be on the attendance list

**Names** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact phone:** (Evening/W/E) \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Tick	Event	Cost	Numbers attending	Amount Incl \$
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rock Valley Spring Walk</b> (24 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**

## Southern Highlands Branch Early Springtime at Stratford House and Camden Park Friday 10 September 2010

### Program

10:00 am – Welcome to Stratford House: morning tea and garden visit

11:45 am – 12:30 pm – Travel to Camden Park

12:30 pm – 1:00 pm – Camden Park and House - Picnic lunch (bring a chair or rug)

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm – Guided tours of house and garden

Start the day with us at Stratford House, the property of Bill and Gail Douglass, long-standing Branch members who are opening their splendid garden to us for a few hours. Their house was built in 1888; the associated cold-climate garden has been the focus of their labours since they took ownership nearly four decades ago. You'll have a chance to see *Camellia japonica* and *reticulata* in bloom, alongside the less common *Camellia higo* and other rare and unusual specimens that Gail has lovingly collected, propagated and cultivated over the years in their five-acre space.

Then come to Camden Park, opened exclusively for us on this occasion. There we'll meet Edwina Macarthur Stanham, a 7th generation member of the Macarthur family, in whose keep the property has been from the start.

We'll take a few moments for a picnic lunch before setting out on the afternoon's program. First, Edwina will show us around the ground floor of the house, its rooms adorned with many original furniture items and paintings (there's also wine from the early vineyards). Afterwards Colin Mills, the head gardener, will see us about the garden, narrating it for us as we go. There is a story to tell: the owners have been working in it (and on it) with volunteers to restore portions to the character and plan of the 1800s. **As an added attraction, Colin has indicated that there will also be plants on sale – plants suitable for our cooler local climate.**

In order to keep costs down, we've declared this a 'self-drive' affair. So come with a friend: share the car and your own picnic lunch to enjoy in the grounds of Camden Park. It should be quite a day, **come rain or shine!** Ticket price has been set at a modest \$25.00 a head, covering the two Camden Park tours, morning tea as well as an afternoon cup of tea or coffee at Camden Park

**Please book early as places are limited.**

For further information contact **Sue Trudeau** on **(02) 4872 3887**

### **Directions to Stratford House: 20 Rockford Road, Tahmoor**

Travel along Hume Highway from Mittagong and take the Bargo exit.

Continue along Remembrance Driveway through Bargo, over the Bargo River bridge, past Stratford Road on the right, and the Tahmoor Village Inn (also on the right).

Take the next road on the right, which is Rockford Road, and continue along Rockford Road for about 500 metres.

**Stratford House** is on the right.

Parking will be in the paddock past the house gate – follow the signs!

**We will provide a map to Camden Park on arrival at Stratford House.**

### **Southern Highlands visit Booking Form**

Please complete and return the section below

<b>Booking Form (no tickets will be issued)</b>			<b>Members and guests - \$ 25.00</b>		
<b>Your name:</b>					
<b>Email:</b>			<b>Phone:</b>		
<b>Address:</b>					
<b>Names of guests:</b>					
<b>Total Payment: \$</b>		<b>By Cheque: yes / no</b>		<b>By Direct Credit: yes / no</b>	

Please return the form and payment details to: *The Secretary, AGHS, PO Box 2327, Bowral NSW 2576* by **Tuesday, 7 September 2010 at the latest.** Make cheques payable to the ***Australian Garden History Society.***

**Or pay by:**

**Direct Credit** to ANZ Bank: Account name: Australian Garden History Society (NSW Branch)

BSB: 012 547, Account no: 2375.14077. Please make sure you include the following reference information:

**10 September, followed by your first initial & surname.** You can email your RSVP to [strudeau@trudeau.com.au](mailto:strudeau@trudeau.com.au)