

Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch

Newsletter December 2011 No 7



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

NEXT EVENT

17 FEBRUARY

Ramble in O'Connor
and Lyneham

EARLY EVENING RAMBLE IN O'CONNOR AND LYNEHAM

FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY, STARTING AT 5.30PM

We will visit the O'Connor wetlands of David and Banksia Street and perhaps the wetlands being developed in Lyneham. The evening will end with a visit to Lainie and David Shorthouse's garden in Lyneham, and of course refreshments.

We will meet at the David Street Wetlands at 5.30. If you are running a little late you will be able to catch us there. We suggest that coming west on Macarthur Avenue you turn left into Pedder Street and park alongside the O'Connor Oval. That way you can walk to the David Street Wetlands which are directly behind the O'Connor shops and then later across to the Banksia Wetlands. We will drive to the Shorthouse's.

For your diaries

**9-11 NOVEMBER
2012**

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

Cost: \$10 members, \$15 non-members including refreshments - booking form page 6.

BRANCH COMMITTEE

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



Banksia Street Wetlands (from Wetland's website)

NEWS FROM THE BRANCH

NEW COMMITTEE CHAIR

Unfortunately Helen Elliot is unable to continue as Branch Chair and Louise Moran was endorsed unanimously at the last meeting to take her place. We thank Helen for all her efforts made on behalf of the Society, and for her leadership and friendship and we look forward to working with Louise in 2012.

Your **Committee wishes members a very happy Christmas** and looks forward to welcoming you to events in 2012. Remember if you have any suggestions to make about visits or lectures please send them through to the Secretary, Nancy Clarke, either by mail to the above address, or by email to nclarke@grapevine.com.au.

REID SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE COTTAGE GARDENS DESIGN COMPETITION

As reported in our August Newsletter The Reid Residents Association with support from ACTEW Corporation and our branch of the Australian Garden History Society had invited students enrolled in the second year of the Bachelor of Arts in Landscape at the University of Canberra to present a design proposal for a sustainable heritage garden. The designs were exhibited in Reid in November, and several of the committee members attended the prize giving. The successful students were:

- Benjamin Nicholas, 1st prize for a design for 41 Euree Street
- Johnathon Lane, 2nd prize for a design for 45 Anzac Park
- Anton Mozqueira, 3rd prize for a design for 30 Euree Street
- Daniel Carey, highly commended for a design for 41 Euree Street

We thank Sue Byrne for acting as the Branch Liaison person on this project.



LAKESIDE WAR MEMORIALS

Members have no doubt been following the saga of the proposal to build two large memorials to World Wars I and II at Rond Terraces at the foot of Anzac Parade. Last September copies were sent to members of the submission made by John Dwyer, National Chair of the AGHS, to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories. In strongly opposing the proposal John highlighted our role as the Australian leader in concern for and conservation of significant cultural landscapes, parks and gardens through committed, relevant and sustainable action. He lodged the AGHS's objections to the proposed structures on grounds both of threat to Canberra's cultural heritage landscapes (highlighting their national importance), and the processes used to assess and determine the outcome of the proposal - including the lack of expertise in cultural heritage conservation on the Canberra National Memorials Committee.

The parliamentary committee subsequently agreed the proposal didn't fit within relevant guidelines, would substantially alter the existing landscape, and should not proceed. However, the final decision is in the hands of the Environment Minister Tony Burke. The proponents are now proposing a new version which would reduce the height of the memorials. The Canberra Times has been reporting on the latest proposal and is running a short poll (<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/height-of-controversy-memorial-design/2390674.aspx>) on reactions to it. As at 12 December, 71% were against the memorials in any form.

John Dwyer and the national Committee remain as concerned as ever about the new/revised proposal and intend to oppose it on behalf of the AGHS as a whole. The ACT branch committee will stay in close touch with them to ensure we speak as a single organisation. Meanwhile, if you are opposed to the proposed memorials you may wish to take action yourself - eg via the Canberra Times poll, writing to the Minister, or via the Lake War Memorials Forum (www.lakewarmemorialsforum.org).

Dr Louise Moran
Chair, AGHS ACT Branch

RECENT EVENTS

BERRY WEEKEND: NOVEMBER ACT & SYDNEY JOINT BRANCHES EVENT

About 20 ACT Branch members along with a good contingent of Sydney members enjoyed perfect weather and emerald green fields at Berry over the weekend of 5 – 6 November. We had a wonderful start with morning tea at the attractive garden of Hazel King.



Some whimsical artwork at Chester Hill

we were impressed by the many features of the garden- giant Chinese gooseberry vine, swimming pool, but no more so than Chris's ingenious 6 compartment rotating vegetable, chook run.

Our last garden was Carol and Tony Hampson's garden on the main street of Berry. On both days the Berry Garden Club provided sandwiches and a splendid array of home made cakes for lunch. Lunch settings were very pleasant and imaginative. On Saturday under shady trees on the edge of the Showground oval and on Sunday at the Department of Recreation and Sport, which was followed with an inspection of the extensive grounds and facilities.

The ACT and Riverina Branch Committee extends its deep appreciation to Hazel King and Murray Hook along with other members of the Sydney Branch for their efficient organisation and excellent choice of gardens for the Berry visit.

Rod Holesgrove

VISIT TO NALYAPPA, YAOUK WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM: NOVEMBER

Many members joined the Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra on a visit to an

important private arboretum established by Val and Maurie Henderson. It was a glorious time to be travelling through the countryside. On the way to the property Max Bourke and other knowledgeable participants provided information on the countryside and their trees, grasses and weeds.



Val and Maurie accepting our gift

We were given an excellent brochure compiled by members of the **Southern Tablelands Ecosystem Park (STEP)** which describes and illustrates the 16 species of Eucalyptus typical of the forests and woodlands of the Southern Tablelands region of NSW. STEP was established in 2002 with the aim of establishing a regional botanic garden, conservation and education resource in the heart of Canberra. It is now established on Lot 100 at the National Arboretum Canberra and welcomes individuals, community Groups, schools and others to visit or join this exciting project. Working bees take place each Thursday from 8.30-11.30 am, and our members would be very welcome to assist. For more information about STEP and Lot 100 visit www.STEP.asn.au.

We also learnt about **Kosciuszko to Coast (K2C)**, an organisation working with landholders between Kosciuszko and Namadji National Parks and the Coast (K2C region) to conserve and recover our grasslands, woodlands, riparian and wetland areas, small

bush birds, arboreal mammals and treasured forest communities and species. For more information on this organisation visit <http://k2c.org.au/>

It was a privilege to meet Val & Maurie and visit their property and to marvel at what two people can achieved single handedly over many years.

Judy Pearce

VISIT TO BUNHYBEE & LISDALEEN: DECEMBER

About 35 Branch members were delighted to have a double headed event to finish our program for 2011. Despite the forecast of rain, the day was perfect for a bush outing and a country garden visit. We thank Linda Spinaze and Roger Clarke (Bunhybee) and Helen Geier (Lisdaleen) for their hospitality, and Committee members for the wonderful food.

Linda and Roger's Bunhybee Grasslands

Linda Spinaze and Roger Clarke generously invited us to visit their grasslands property some 35 km south of Braidwood. Linda (a Branch Committee member) had purchased the property from the Nature Conservation Trust for its conservation value a few years ago. At this stage there is no dwelling on site, though there is a designated site, and they have aspirations! It is unusual in that although the property had been grazed, this had happened only lightly and there is a wonderful diversity of native species and few incursions of exotic grasses. Roger and Linda had prepared wonderfully helpful documentation including a list of the 275 species identified as on the property, nearly all of them native. We took a pleasant walk through the grass, on the gently sloping hill, learning about different grass species and the splendid range of flowering forbs (SOME of us knew what these were, but many didn't and were delighted to find that what we had thought were herbaceous wild flowers have a proper name). We admired snow gums, trigger plants, brachycome in abundance, many billy buttons, fringe lilies, and the fine open view, disturbed a flock of quail that whirred away when we walked among them, acquired a good few grass seeds in our socks, and generally had a lovely time before driving on to Lisdaleen. For more information and some excellent photos, see www.rogerclarke.com/Bunhybee.

Nancy Clarke



Bunhybee Grasslands

End of year drinks at Lisdaleen.

The committee were delighted to hold their end of year drinks at Lisdaleen, Bombay Road, a property approximately 15kms. west of Braidwood.

Lisdaleen is the home of renowned artist, Helen Geier, and covers approximately 400 acres with 5 acres of beautifully maintained garden. Helen was generous enough to allow us into her airy, light-filled studio, built on the property to her own specifications and in which she had on display a number of her completed and partly completed art works.

After a short talk about her career as a painting teacher, post-graduate student and now full-time artist, Helen took us on a tour of her garden which is dominated by huge Cupressus and eucalypts together with many introduced species with lawn areas surrounded by roses, grasses, flax, succulents and diverse lilies and perennials. A large rose-covered pergola (with resident cockatoo) lines the north side of the house and a stone terrace overlooks the back lawn with more large Cupressus, banks of roses and old apple trees which encompass a small original stone cottage. The orchard alongside the drive includes apples, crab apples and berries with a large dam – well-filled due to the recent rain – hosting clumps of reeds and grasses.

Throughout the garden are numerous and varied sculptures all blending easily into the calm, country atmosphere.

Our thanks to Helen for her hospitality and generosity in providing such a perfect setting for our final event of the year.

Julia Nichols



Helen Geier and her garden (photos Robyn Sim)

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 and pay on the day.

Names

Contact phone: (Evening/W/E) _____

Email: _____

Tick	Event	Cost	Numbers attending	Amount Incl \$
<input type="checkbox"/>	O'Connor/Lyneham Ramble (17 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**