

Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch



Newsletter June 2010 No 4

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

WINTER LECTURES

14 JULY

The High & Low
of it
Rosemary Purdie

26 AUGUST

AGM & talk by Jill
Matthews on the
Tiger Balm Garden
in Hong Kong

24 & 25 SEPTEMBER

Visit to Grenfell with
Sydney & Nrth NSW
Branch of AGHS

24 OCTOBER

Rock Valley Spring
Walk

5 - 7 NOVEMBER

AGHS National
Conference,
Launceston: *The
Vision Splendid*

FOR YOUR DIARIES

18 SEPTEMBER

Visit to Parliament
House Gardens -
TBC

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

LECTURE WEDNESDAY 14 JULY, 6PM

THE HIGH AND THE LOW OF IT: TWO BOTANIC GARDENS IN CENTRAL CHINA

PRESENTER DR ROSEMARY PURDIE

Turpan Botanic Garden, in the Xinjiang Province of western China, and the Pamir Botanical Garden, in the Gorno-badakshan Province of eastern Tajikistan, are the lowest and second highest botanic gardens in the world.

Here in Canberra we often think that our own Australian National Botanic Garden 'does it hard' because of the years of drought conditions and reduced resources. These problems are not unique of course, but the challenges for a botanic garden are greatly magnified when it is located 80 metres below sea level (Turpan) or 2300–3000 metres above sea level (Pamir).

This talk will look at the general environments and landscapes in the regions where the Turpan and Pamir botanic gardens are located, discuss some of the challenges these locations bring and types of plants grown, and outline examples of research at each garden relevant to their locations.

Venue: Discovery Centre, CSIRO,
Clunies Ross Street,
Black Mountain
Cost: Members \$10, non-
members \$15 (incl refreshments)

Bookings: Booking form [page 5](#) or email
expertco@ozemail.com.au
and pay at the door



Pamir Botanical Garden

AGM

THURSDAY 26 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.

**BRANCH
COMMITTEE**

Tony Byrne (Chair)
Helen Elliot (Vice
Chair)
Robbie Henderson
(Treasurer)
Nancy Clarke
(Secretary &
National
Management
Committee rep.)
Kay Johnston
Rod Holesgrove
Julia Nicholls
Judy Pearce
Linda Spinaze
Marie Wood

**THURSDAY 26 AUGUST, 6PM
THE TIGER BALM GARDEN IN HONG KONG
WITH JILL MATTHEWS**

AGHS member Jill Matthews lived in Hong Kong for 18 months in 2000-02 when she was half way through her studies for a Diploma in Horticulture (Landscape Design) at Ryde TAFE. While there she joined the Hong Kong Gardening Society and with its other members, did many hours of voluntary work rescuing the private Tiger Balm Garden, then recently saved from demolition by developers. Later she advised the Hong Kong Antiquities and Monuments Office concerning possible strategies for conservation and restoration of the garden. Upon her return to Australia the results of her extensive research into the history and plants of the Garden became her thesis for her TAFE studies.

Jill returns to Hong Kong from time to time and maintains her interest in the Hong Kong Government's plans for the Tiger Balm Garden. She has also developed an interest in the other major surviving historic garden in Hong Kong, the Dragon Garden. This Garden, made famous in the West as the setting of many scenes in the James Bond movie, *The Man with the Golden Gun*, faces similar issues of conservation and restoration and threats from developers in densely populated Hong Kong.

In her presentation she will show us photos of the two gardens as they now are, and as they have been in happier times, and discuss the particular issues relating to the preservation of such gardens in Asia. She will also compare and contrast the issues facing such historic Asian gardens with those facing historic gardens in Australia.



Tiger Balm Garden

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

**Venue
Cost**

Discovery Centre, CSIRO
AGHS Members Free, non-members \$5 (incl. refreshments)
The AGHS AGM will be held from 5.30 – 6pm & we hope members will join us for that. Non-members would of course be welcome.
Bookings Booking form [page 5](#) or email expertco@ozemail.com.au and pay at the door

We have included a flyer advertising our next two winter lectures – please can you promote these if you have an opportunity to do so.

**VISIT TO PARLIAMENT HOUSE GARDENS
SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER, PM - TBC**

Committee member, Kay Johnston is currently negotiating with the Volunteer Guides' Organiser at Parliament House to secure a tour of the Parliament House Gardens which they only do during Floriade. Confirmation and booking arrangements will be included in the next newsletter, but please pencil in your diary if you want to attend.

WEEKEND AT GRENFELL

SATURDAY 24 & SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

An invitation has come from the Sydney & Northern NSW Branch of the AGHS for members of our branch to join them in Grenfell for the last weekend in September. For those who miss our weekends away this could be the perfect replacement. Rather than reformat the newsletter which was completed, I have attached information on the weekend at the end of the newsletter. **If you are interested in attending I suggest you contact the Branch quickly as they are opening the remaining places to other organisations.**

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 adobe buildings but in the post fire years was recommended for demolition. Luckily the building was saved and the adobe 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: Judy Pearce (expertco@ozemail.com.au, Ph 6257 6970).

Cost \$10 members, \$15 non-members – booking form [page 5](#) – alternatively you can email expertc@ozemail.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.

OF INTEREST

2010 THE UN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY

Since the last piece in this Newsletter the World Monitoring Centre for Biodiversity under the auspices of the UN Environment Program and the Convention on Biological Diversity have produced their Global Outlook #3. This is a very sobering document see <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/latenews/PressReleaseGeo3.htm>

In it they summarise the position as reported around the world as:

The 2010 biodiversity target has not been met at the global level. None of the twenty one sub-targets accompanying the overall target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 can be said definitively to have been achieved globally, although some have been partially or locally achieved. Despite an increase in conservation efforts, the state of biodiversity continues to decline, according to most indicators, largely because the pressures on biodiversity continue to increase. There is no indication of a significant reduction in the rate of decline in biodiversity, nor of a significant reduction in pressures upon it. However, negative trends have been slowed or reversed in some ecosystems. There are several indications that responses to biodiversity loss are increasing and improving, although not yet on a scale sufficient to affect overall negative trends in the state of biodiversity or the pressures upon it.

It is worth reading in full though, there are a few good glimmers, but we have to do better!
Max Bourke (resident jeremiad)

**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>.

MINDERS OF TUGGERANONG HOMESTEAD (MOTH)

Sunday 11 July, 2pm

Venue: Tuggeranong Homestead, Johnson Drive, Richardson

Talk by Leonie Norton, writer of the best-selling book *Women of Flowers*, about a number of women botanical artists working in Australia since colonial times. Leonie's book will be on sale and as well MOTH will have a stall of books and greeting cards.

\$10 entry includes afternoon tea

Further information and bookings: Jenny Horsfield 6231 4535

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 11 July, theme - *Trees for our needs*, guide – Ross Lapworth

Sunday 8 August, theme – *Trees for parks in Canberra*, guide – Jim Laity

For further information on the program Friends of ACT Arboreta, 6288 7656 or 6281 1587

AUSTRALIAN OPEN GARDEN SCHEME

New program for 2010-2011 will be released in July

<http://www.opengarden.org.au/>

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FESTIVAL

2 – 15 August 2010 - Information at <http://www.sciencefestival.com.au/>

**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/>

WEEKEND AT GRENFELL

- Date:** Saturday/Sunday 25/26th September commencing 11am Saturday 25th
Event: A trip to Grenfell to visit 4 private gardens and *landra Castle Pastoral Estate*
Venue: Meet at 11am Taylor Park, adjacent to the museum, Grenfell
Cost: Members \$110 Guests \$125 includes talks, all garden entries, 2 picnic lunches, Saturday afternoon tea, Saturday bus and notes

A weekend trip to the to the central west is planned for September to visit landra Homestead Pastoral Estate and four private gardens based in the pretty township of Grenfell which is nestled in surrounding hills and defined by its crooked main street. A highlight will be a visit to Mt Oriel homestead, colloquially known as landra Castle, originally established on 32,000 acres owned by George Henry Greene from 1878-1911. It is of outstanding significance as arguably the largest and most progressive wheat property and wheat farming enterprise of its time in Australia. landra is listed on the NSW State Heritage Register.

The homestead is built on the core of an earlier one, rebuilt in early concrete in the High Victorian style. It is also technically significant for features such as early water reticulation, telephone and electrical systems in the house. There are the remnants of its former garden and a number of mature trees. Greenethorpe village grew beside landra railway station. It was a model township laid down in 1909 by Crawford Greene, son of George Henry.

landra homestead is a distinctive and idiosyncratic example of the Federation Romanesque architectural style with Tudor influences reflecting its dramatic design and situation and its feudal-like role in the history of the area. The residence was designed by an unknown English architect, and is an exceptional example of reinforced concrete. Built between 1908-c1910, it has a front wing with external walls being hollow and internal walls solid. There are fifty-seven rooms over two storeys (plus attics) and it cost an estimated 63,000 pounds. The concrete on the exterior has been rendered to resemble sandstone.

Participants will meet at 11am Saturday 25th at Taylor Park, adjacent to the museum, to see panoramic photographs from 1918 and hear Catriona Glanville, an AGHS member, talk about progress in her old garden. Enjoy a picnic lunch in the park then board the bus to three country homestead gardens – Bogolong, Pinnacle and Myee with afternoon tea in one of the gardens. An optional dinner at the pub on Saturday night: country baked dinner and dessert for \$15. On Sunday self-drive to view Clare Park garden on the way to landra Castle and garden.

Accommodation in the immediate area is very limited with more being available some 30 minutes away in Cowra and Young, both larger towns.

The fee includes talks, all garden entries, 2 picnic lunches, Saturday afternoon tea, Saturday bus and notes. Bookings are essential to confirm numbers for both the bus and for catering. Bookings & enquiries: Telephone: Jeanne Villani: 9997 5995 or Email: Jeanne@Villani.com

PLEASE NOTE: Payment confirms Booking. Payments for all events must be made prior to the event by cheque to Australian Garden History Society and mailed to: Peter Cousens, 93 Lennox Street, Newtown, NSW, 2042 or by Internet bank transfer to: Australian Garden History Society Sydney & Northern NSW Branch, ANZ Bank, Centrepoint Branch. BSB 012 040 Account 1017 62565 Payment must include your name and the function you are booking for.

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 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"/>	The High & Low of it: Lecture (14 July)	Members of AGHS \$10 Non-members \$15		\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Tiger Balm Garden Hong Kong: Lecture (26 August)	Members of AGHS Free – but please book Non-members \$5		\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rock Valley Spring Walk (24 October)	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**