

Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch

Newsletter May 2011 No 3



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

LECTURE SERIES

12 MAY

The Garden of Ideas,
Richard Aitken

8 JUNE

*Cabbages and Roses:
The Canberra Garden*
Di Firth

13 JULY

Suzhou Gardens
Kay Johnston

**2 AUGUST
(& AGM)**

The Canberra
Horticultural Society
Merylin Condon & John
Le Mesurier

**19-22 AUGUST
2011**

AGHS National
Conference,
Maryborough: *From
Colonial River Port to
the Hinterland, its all
about the Mary*

For your diaries

5 & 6 NOVEMBER

Weekend Trip to Berry

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2011 LECTURE SERIES

THURSDAY 12 MAY, 6PM

JOINT EVENT WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

THE GARDEN OF IDEAS: FOUR CENTURIES OF AUSTRALIAN STYLE

PRESENTER: RICHARD AITKEN

Richard Aitken, whose book *Botanical Riches* was published in 2006 to popular and critical acclaim brings a lifetime of experience to *The Garden of Ideas*. He is currently the co-editor of *Australian Garden History*

About the book: *The Garden of Ideas* is embellished with an unparalleled array of images – paintings, drawings, prints, plans and photographs – each richly evocative of their time and most never previously published. Unearthed from around Australia, and many from overseas, these images carry the story of Australian garden style through the years, in the process criss-crossing social and cultural history across the wide extremes of our continent.

The Garden of Ideas is a valuable source book for the sophisticated gardener and indispensable companion for the garden historian. This publication forms part of a wider Garden of Ideas Project supported financially by the AGHS.

Venue: Conference Room, National Library of Australia

Cost: Members of AGHS and Friends of the NLA \$10, non-members \$15

Book: through FNLA office 6262 1698 or email on friends@nla.gov.au.
NO bookings to be made through AGHS



WEDNESDAY 8 JUNE, 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.

BRANCH COMMITTEE

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Margaret Bourke
Nancy Clarke,
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Marie Wood

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.



FOR SALE

Early Ainslie Gardens,
 \$15
 Fifield Garden, \$10
 Durham Hall Garden,
 \$10
 Planting the Nation,
 \$20
 Studies in Australian
 Garden History, Vol 2,
 \$20

Venue: Menzies Room, National Archives of Australia, Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes
Cost: Members \$10, non-members \$15 (incl refreshments)
Booking recommended: Booking form Page 5

WEDNESDAY 13 JULY, 6PM

HERITAGE CHINESE SCHOLAR GARDENS OF SUZHOU

PRESENTER: KAY JOHNSTON

China has the longest recorded history of gardens known. There exists a saying "above they have paradise, here we have Hangzhou and Suzhou". Suzhou claims to have retained the finest private gardens in China, and these now have UN heritage listing.

This talk will introduce people to a brief history and development of the classical Scholar Gardens, most commonly known in Australia as "Chinese" gardens. In their planning and design they combine elements of Chinese history, Daoist thought, philosophy, symbolism, literature and poetry, and, of course, the landscape planning and design that has made them appreciated and enjoyed for centuries. Pictures from the Suzhou gardens will be shown as examples.



Kay Johnston will be well known to many of you in the branch. She was, until recently, a member of our Branch committee. For this talk she will draw on a recent trip to China in 2010.



Venue: Discovery Centre, CSIRO, Clunies Ross Street, Black Mountain

Cost: Members \$10, non-members \$15 (incl refreshments)

Booking recommended: Booking form Page 5

TUESDAY 2 AUGUST, 6PM (AGM 5.30PM)

THE HISTORY OF THE CANBERRA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AS REFLECTED IN 10 EDITIONS OF THE CANBERRA GARDENER

PRESENTERS: MERILYN CONDON AND JOHN LE MESURIER

More information on this talk and the AGM will be provided in the next newsletter.

WEEKEND 5 & 6 NOVEMBER

A weekend visit to Berry with the Sydney and Northern NSW Branch of AGHS. Members of our committee have already been down with Murray Hook from the Sydney committee and it will be a great weekend. So mark it in your diary now and we will provide information as soon as details are settled.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCH

PRESERVING THE YARRALUMLA NURSERY RECORDS – ACT HERITAGE GRANT

This year the Branch received an ACT Heritage Grant of \$8,950 to digitise and preserve the Yarralumla Nursery records.

These records, still in use, illuminate a crucial part of Canberra's history. They provide a unique source of information on the planting plans and plant experimentation that was carried out to develop and establish the Garden City concept for the new capital city of Canberra from its inception and later. Of particular interest is an extensive holding of index cards that record seed acquisitions, cutting material, planting dates and comments for the period from 1913 to the 1960s and a set of ledgers recording seed acquisitions up to the present. These records are of interest to students of the planted heritage of the ACT,

botanists, horticulturalists and historians generally. Currently the records are not easily accessible and could be vulnerable to damage from fire.

The aim of the project is to scan the index cards and the ledgers and establish an interactive index that will enable them to be searched and then make the records available on a DVD and on the Archives ACT website.

The project is well underway. We have engaged Lenore Coltheart to prepare a full description of the records, their historical context, significance and what they offer potential users. This material will be used as an introduction on the DVD and website and should be the basis for an interesting article in the AGHS Journal. We have also engaged Document Imaging Services who have started scanning the records. They will produce a JPEG version for archival purposes and PDF versions for DVD and web use.

I would like to thank Nancy Clarke, Marie Wood and Roger Clarke for their help in getting the project up and running.

Tony Byrne

RECENT EVENT

VISIT TO THE YASS REGION

On Sunday 3 April we had the opportunity to visit two of the properties closely associated with the explorer Hamilton Hume - *Cooma Cottage* and *Bellevale*. About 25 members visited Cooma Cottage and Rick Williams, Curator of *Cooma Cottage*, provided us with an overview of the property and the Friends provided a very amiable morning tea.

Then most of the group went on to *Bellevale* where we enjoying the wonderful plant fair being run by the Australian Open Gardens Scheme.

Judy Pearce



OF INTEREST

2011 CANBERRA INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Sunday 22 May, 11am, Concert: *Mount Ainslie: The Revealing*

Includes a Landscape Architecture talk by Dianne Firth

Information <http://www.cicmf.org/>

FRIENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

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>. Of particular interest to our members:

2 June, Brett Odgers, *What were Walter and Marion up to in 1911?*

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

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

Sunday 12 June, theme - *Conifers for production*, guide – Richard Hart

Sunday 10 July, theme – *Food and fodder from trees*, guide – Paul Dann

NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA

Saturday 12 November

Inaugural Community Concert with acclaimed Swedish opera singer Anne Sofie von Otter, Henry Choo, Louise Page and Christina Wilson. Special performance by Robyn Archer accompanied by PJ Casey. Bookings <http://www.canberraticketing.com.au>

SAVE THE LAKE SHORE

For an update go to www.lakewarmemorialsforum.org

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.

PLEASE NOTE: Those booking by email need to pay if they cancel at the last minute. Entry Tickets will not be sent – 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"/>	Cabbages & Roses Lecture (8 June)	Members of AGHS \$10 Non-members \$15		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gardens of Suzhou Lecture (13 July)	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