



Trees of History & Romance

Essays from a Mount Wilson Garden

by Michael Pembroke

Trees have inspired writers, naturalists and poets for thousands of years. Virgil, Wordsworth and Henry Thoreau were moved by them. They are the oldest organisms on earth, and have been worshipped by some as expressions of religious or national pride. Michael Pembroke provides fascinating insights into trees drawn from history, literature, poetry, mythology, botany and folklore.

These are trees and conifers that thrive in the cool climate of his Mount Wilson property, a nineteenth century hill station west of Sydney. These trees provide rich sources for his literary abilities. They have shaped history, influenced our civilisation and inspired lovers. Common species such as apple, beech, birch, chestnut, oak and sycamore are woven through this memoir. These essays provide a wonderful source of inspiration and reflection for all who love trees, beauty, poetry and history.

Michael Pembroke is a barrister, writer, gardener and amateur naturalist who writes poetry and has nurtured countless trees. He lives in Woollahra and Mount Wilson and writes and gardens at both.

Illustrator Libby Raines is a botanical artist, gardener and plantswoman who is highly respected in the Mount Wilson community.

The Foreword is by Peter Valder – one of Australia’s most loved botanists and garden enthusiasts. He is well known for his books, radio and television work.

Published by Blooming Books, AGHS members can purchase this tribute to trees at a special price.

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