



AUSTRALIAN
**GARDEN
HISTORY**
SOCIETY

SA Branch

AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY – SA BRANCH

From the Chair

Dear Members!

Firstly, I convey my apologies for the tardiness of this news-sheet. I won't call it a Newsletter, because we are reviewing the presentation of news via a printed newsletter, and this is really an 'update' for the members. Therefore, I am calling this a message "From the Chair".

Your 2009/2010 Committee

Let me introduce the Committee for 2009/2010:

Ray Choate (President and Treasurer)

Alan Betteridge (Co-Secretary)

Richard Heathcote

Jeffrey Jenkinson

Helen Livingston (Co-Secretary)

Richard Nolan

Di Wilkins

Activities for April and May 2010

Adelaide Himeji Gardens (South Terrace, Adelaide)

11th April 2010 (Sunday)

2:30 to 4:30pm

This will be a visit to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the opening in 1985 of these gardens. This will be an opportunity to visit these special gardens, and have tea in the pergola afterwards. Several speakers will be present to talk about aspects of Japan and the gardens including Trevor Nottle (who will talk about the Bagot Steam yacht expedition to Japan to collect plants) and a Japanese gardener who has been associated with the gardens for many years.

The Garden is said to blend two classic styles:- the 'senzui' (lake and mountain garden, where the imagination endows the small pond with vastness and grandeur) and the "kare senzui" (dry garden, where rocks and sand evoke the presence of water and even the sea itself).

Cost for members \$5.00; visitors \$10.00

RSVP, by 9th April 2010, please, to 8303 4064

(or ray.choate@adelaide.edu.au)

Urrbrae House Gardens; Waite Arboretum

9 May 2010 (Sunday)

2pm to 4pm

Urrbrae House was built in 1891 and has an attractive garden and rose garden, both redeveloped over the past few years. A sculpture garden in the 'Mallee Garden' is also worth a visit. The thirty-hectare Arboretum has more than 2000 labelled trees and shrubs from all over the world. This will be an excellent opportunity to visit the garden at Urrbrae House and the Arboretum. You may get some ideas for trees and shrubs for your own gardens. A Curator of the Arboretum will conduct the tour (30 minutes in the garden and over an hour in the Arboretum), and answer questions. Members can tour one or both. Afternoon tea will served in the garden.

The Waite Campus of the University of Adelaide is at Urrbrae; you can use visitor's car park (enter off Fullarton Road); alternatively you can park on Claremont Avenue with a short walk to the Gardens and Arboretum. There are free tours of Urrbrae House on the first Sunday of each month at 11am lasting about 1 hour.

Cost for members \$5.00; guests \$10.00.

RSVP, by 6 May 2010, please, to 8303 4064

(or ray.choate@adelaide.edu.au)

Activities for the remainder of 2010

Activities being planned include (dates to be confirmed in future newsletters):

- *A 'Mini-Conference' on the Backgarden
- *Annual General Meeting
- *A visit to Marble Hill
- *Talks by two overseas visitors
 - a British landscape gardener
 - an internationally renowned rhododendron expert
- *An exhibition tour ("Lost Gardens of Adelaide") with talks by the curator
- * The Annual Christmas Drinks (and garden visit)
- * The Annual General Meeting

A Mini-Conference.

It was decided to hold a mini-conference in winter. It is intended to have 6 to 8 brief papers or talks at the conference, on the theme of "The Backgarden". Several papers are already confirmed:

- An Italian post-WWII garden
- Children in the backgarden
- The Hills Hoist in the backgarden
- The Backgarden in Australian art

We would like several more papers. The talks should be about 15/20 minutes, and be informal but informative. If you have a proposed talk, please contact me, as the President.

Essay Prize 2010.

An essay prize of \$750 will be offered this year. Unlike previous years, it was decided to set a theme for the papers. It has been decided to ask participants to research and write about a "lost" garden of Adelaide or South Australia. A list of gardens will be developed, and writers can select one of these for their research and essay. Details will be posted to members soon; please encourage submissions.

Newsletter.

The Branch Committee is reviewing the newsletter, its content, and its publishing schedule. Suggestions from members will be appreciated. Please forward ideas to me.

Email Contacts for future newsletters.

If you have an email address, we would be pleased to know it. According to our membership records, just over 60% of you provided an email address. We have about 110 members in South Australia, and the resources required to send printed newsletters is considerable, involving printing, enveloping, postage, and TIME (a

precious commodity for most of us). If we are able to send your Newsletter to an email address, it will be a considerable savings of resources. If you are prepared to receive future newsletters, etc. by email, please send me your email address in order that I can update our email listing. Those members without email addresses will continue receive print copies.

Reade Park Croquet Club

The attempt to save the Reade Park Croquet Club (in Colonel Light Gardens) from collapse due to diminishing membership has apparently succeeded. After a flurry of email correspondence to those AGHS(SA) members who are on email, a contingent attended a meeting in early February, and have bolstered the membership to the point where the Club can continue. If you are interested in this popular mid-nineteenth century garden pastime, and wish to learn more about the Club or participate in activities, please contact Merylyn Kuchel at mdkuchel@bigpond.net.au. I believe we could have an interesting meeting at the Club with demonstrations of this garden pastime – we'll put this on the agenda.

In the meantime, their 'Inaugural Reade Park Croquet Gala Day and High Tea' will be held on Sunday, 21st March from 2pm. This event is open to members of the AGHS who would like to come along and have a try at Croquet!!!"

An Interesting Exhibition.

For those who are interested, the Migration Museum has an exhibition on "Home is where the heart is; South Australian immigrants in the 1950s and '60s" This is part of the 2010 Adelaide Festival but will be on show for several weeks. The Migration Museum is at 82 Kintore Avenue. Well-worth a visit, not only for this exhibition but for related exhibits.

Christmas Drinks Function 2009.

I wish to thank the hostess and host, Gillian and Jeff Jenkinson, for permitting us to hold the annual Christmas Drinks at their garden. The function was held on Sunday, 6 December 2009 at their beautiful and historic Adelaide Hills house and garden of 'St. Vigeans'. About 80 members and guests attended this function, and enjoyed the gardens of St Vigeans on a splendid early summer evening. We are most appreciative of the generosity of the owners for allowing us the privilege of meandering through their garden, which is in two sections, non-contiguous, but only about 5 minutes walking between them. I can well imagine that there will be many future functions at this magnificent garden.

VALE -- Peter Abbott-Young

Peter was a long time member of the Branch, and was actively involved in garden associations old roses, and other gardening activities. Our sympathies go to Rosamund, who has served for many years on the Branch Committee. The obituary notice was published in the Advertiser on 6th March 2010.

Gardens to Visit -- Ideas Please.

Do you know of a garden which we should visit (possibly your own)? We are always looking for ideas for garden visits, future meetings, and for related activities.

There is the possibility of some weekend excursions to visit country and regional gardens, so we would be interested in knowing about them as well --the Clare Valley or the Barossa Valley seem likely, and there will be other areas we could visit.

The Committee is compiling a list of all the gardens and properties we have visited over the past 10 years, and this will help with the planning for future garden visits.

Please contact me with information and ideas for future activities. Your suggestions, comments and ideas will be much appreciated.

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My contact information, for ideas, complaints, etc. *Most especially, suggestions!*
Don't hesitate to contact me; we'll be only as good as our corporate interest and concerns.

c/- Barr Smith Library
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Ray Choate, President
12 March 2010

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