

BRANCH CUTTINGS

Issue 29 - June 2009

This branch is affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society & National Trust of Australia (NSW)

A WALK ON THE WILDSIDE! with Alan Yuille

Manly has had a tumultuous history. It is full of beauty but rather wild. The spearing of Arthur Phillip may be a great example of the reaction to the forces that try to tame the place, although Philip appears to have reacted with grace to his spearing, he named the place Manly, to celebrate the manly bearing of the indigenous people. While the urban fabric sits heavily on the area around the ferry wharf and beachfront, there are still areas of almost wilderness nearby on North Head, as well as below the water. The urban areas also have their wildness late on Saturday evenings when the streets throb from the noise of the pubs.

It is a busy place, usually very happy and most of the urban streets are dominated by pedestrians. There are some wonderful built spaces and public places, going back to the mid nineteenth century. These include the ocean and harbour promenades and the Corso.

Leisure and recreation have been major forces in Manly's development, closely followed by real estate speculation and this pattern continues today. A lot of Manly's historic fabric has been destroyed, or buried, but a lot remains, although we have a constant battle to slow the erosion of the built heritage.

Few great gardens remain in Manly, apart from the grounds of the former *St Patrick's Seminary* and neighbouring *St. Paul's School* but there are some lovely late c.19th, early c.20th street-scapes and public gardens. Everywhere there are great views across the harbour or ocean.

I have fallen in love with Manly. It is a beautiful place to walk around, with great swimming and surfing too. I am sorry I won't be able to

get you to play with the blue groper swimming on the Bower Headland, or the sea horses by the swimming enclosure west of the ferry wharf, unless you bring your togs, but I would like to show you some of the other things that I love about Manly.

Starting at the ferry wharf, we cross the road to *The Corso* which has recently been refurbished but

remains a wonderful pedestrianised urban space, first built to plans developed by leading landscape architect, Bruce McKenzie, thirty years ago. The current scheme uses more expensive materials than his original: Chinese granite pavers replace cement

bricks; stainless steel and subtle lighting make an interesting nightscape and water jets of varying heights create interest and excitement.

Walking along *East Esplanade Promenade* we note the eclectic mix of architecture from 19th century terraces to high rise. The Victorian semis are 1870s, the pair of Italianate villas are 1880s. *Manly Yacht Club*, 1892 on the site of the former Gentlemen's

Baths was where boy Charlton swam against Takaishi from Japan. Between the promenade and road are fine examples of 19th and 20th century plantings of Norfolk Island pines, hibiscus and figs. We'll note the rare 'broken column' memorial, harbour-front rockeries and steps (typical of municipal and improvised stone heritage) and the old boatshed, former *Manly Rowing Club* c1874, one of Manly's oldest remaining structures. On the harbour side are fantastic views across beach and cove to bushy Dobroyd Head beside Balgowlah.



St. Patrick's Estate Hospitality School



Ocean pool, Shelly Cove

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear members & friends

In April we celebrated Pittwater's Church Point, Scotland Island and Lovett Bay housing, gardens and bush with Craig Burton and Susan & Bob Story from *Tarrangaua*. Craig's guiding was insightful.

New England gardens were the focus of a terrific AGHS tour with Clive & Sarah Lucas and Lynne Walker. The Northern NSW sub-branch launched a great exhibition of garden photographs from archives to a capacity crowd at *Saumarez*, Armidale. The exhibition continues into June and is generating a lot of public interest. Not bad for 13 local members!

In May was a self drive tour to two 'Cow Pasture' gardens in Sydney's south-west. *Varroville* featured in the previous newsletter but as much a treat was *Denbigh* at Cobbitty. This is an intact continuously functioning farm on its original 1812 grant with a rare group of early buildings and plantings in a rural setting, now unusual in Sydney. The McIntoshes are also looking for a sensitive gardener to help them out, so, all ears to the ground and let us know of one.

In late May Warwick Forge revealed the wonders of the gardens of Juan Grimm in Chile and Roberto Burle Marx in Brazil. Grimm caused a stir at a recent garden design conference in Melbourne and both featured in Monty Don's '*Around the World in 80 Gardens*'. Both countries have climatic, botanic and historic links to Australia that we could learn more about.

In June we ramble around Manly and North Head with Alan Yuille and Terry Metherell. The area has a variety of interwar housing, the grand *St. Patrick's Estate*, ex-Defence lands opening up and bushland. This will be a very interesting walk - make sure you don't miss it.

Members who missed out on getting a copy of *Lost gardens of Sydney* have another chance: the Historic Houses Trust recently reprinted Colleen Morris' classic book. AGHS's sponsor logo is on its imprint page.

A recent publication of interest is *William Robinson – the Wild Gardener*, by Richard Bisgrove, Frances Lincoln, 2008. He deserves credit for crystallising (if not creating) the modern, informal English cottage and landscape garden. Like Walling his influence was wide through prolific writing.

Member Joan Lawrence drew attention to *Flower Hunters* by Mary & John Gribbin, Oxford University Press, 2008. This includes Ray, Linnaeus, Banks, Masson of the Chelsea Physic Garden and Thunberg. Sadly only one is a woman: artist and explorer, Marianne North whose paintings have long been housed in Kew Gardens.

Recent advocacy concerned proposed zoning and heights around *Redstone*, a 1935 Walter Burley Griffin house in Telopea near Parramatta – seeking retention of a sympathetic setting for this 'prairie' house once set in orchards.

We also wrote seeking sensible outcomes in an Upper House inquiry into NSW's planning system. This is under threat with a focus on speed and cutting red-tape: at the expense of the best outcomes to retain and enhance our parks, gardens and environment.

Another letter was jointly prepared with the ACT, Monaro & Riverina Branch, offering its new owner information on *Hartwood Station's* garden, near Conargo. This Riverina farm was recently bought by the *Nature Conservation Trust of NSW*, to restore significant habitats and on-sell with covenants.

The NSW Heritage Council has adopted a thematic approach to 2009-2010 State Heritage Register listings, favouring Aboriginal, Convict, Governor Macquarie era places and those reflecting World War 1 and II. The Branch will be seeking listing of key early parks – 1810's *Hyde Park* and *Macquarie Place* and *Richmond Park* (Market Square) as examples.

Another interest is early town planning: the grids of the five Macquarie towns: Windsor, Richmond, Pitt Town, Castlereagh and Wilberforce. Members may individually like to write to the Minister for Planning, Kristina Keneally MLA, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000 on these issues. http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07_subnav_19_02.htm

A recent joy is the re-opening of *Paddington Reservoir Gardens* – a new park on the site of the old reservoir, cnr Oxford St. and Greens Road. This has been closed since a partial roof collapse in 1991. Imaginative adaption sees it now as an 'underground' park with hanging gardens - more information at:

www.sydneymedia.com.au/html/3842-paddington-reservoir-gardens-opens.asp?orig=Home

Another was *the (sydney) magazine's* recent 'Streetlife' focus on a garden in King's Cross: cnr Bayswater Road & Ward Avenue, on a narrow strip next to *Hensley Hall*. Over 8 years Barry Minhinnick, the caretaker of the building, has created an 'art-garden' with sculpture, fencing, seats and found materials. "*All kinds of people come up to me, from street kids to old ladies. Bus drivers toot their horns when they go past and cops stop to talk*" he says. The power of gardens to cheer us up! And finally, *Broughton Hall's* gardens in the *Rozelle Hospital* grounds were successful in gaining a NSW Heritage grant to allow revitalisation of the irrigation and pond systems and revival. This is a long overdue project, one highlighted in 2008's *Lost gardens of Sydney*. Bravo!

Stuart Read. Tel: 9326 9468 or email: stuart1962@bigpond.com

NEW MEMBERS

The Branch would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new local members:

Felicity Barry, Barbara Beasley, Margaret Brennan, Michelle Cavanagh, Simon Coventry, John Edwards, Michael Edwards, Patricia Fraser, Lionel & Jennifer King, Robin Matthews, Brett McDowell & Somboon Langsopha, James Quoyale, Paul Rappoport, Elizabeth Thwaites, Samantha Tucker and Paul Wallace

AGHS FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

Date: Sunday 14th June 1pm - 4pm

Event: Manly, Shelly Cove and North Head wander - Alan Yuille will lead us through a most interesting part of Sydney, with interwar flats, Catholic castles, ex-Defence sites, harbour-side parkland and bushland see article page 1 & 8

Venue: Meet at Manly ferry wharf in the forecourt near the Bavarian Beer, Bear statue

Cost: AGHS members: \$15 Guests: \$20 includes light refreshments. **Bookings essential.**

JULY

Date: Wednesday 15th July 6.30pm for 7pm - 8.30pm

Event: Garden of Memory - Talk by John Pearman about *Cairnsfoot* in Arncliffe see article page 7

Venue: Annie Wyatt Room, National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill

Cost: AGHS members: \$20 Guests: \$30 includes light refreshments. **Bookings essential** - tickets will not be available at the door.

AUGUST

Date: Wednesday 5th August 6pm - 8.30pm

Event: AGM (short meeting) and talk by well known landscape architect Bruce Mackenzie - Exploring Six Gardens – Five Houses and One Apartment - see article page 4

Venue: Annie Wyatt Room, National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill

Cost: AGHS members: \$20 Guests: \$30 includes light refreshments **Bookings essential.** Tickets for the talk will not be available at the door

Date: Sunday 30th August 2pm - 4pm

Event: Joan Lawrence will lead a walk from Cremorne Point to Mosman Bay wharf including *Ruby's Garden* in Cremorne see article page 6

Venue: Cremorne -Meeting point to be confirmed on booking - NB buses go to both ferry wharfs

Cost: AGHS members: \$20 Guests: \$30 includes light refreshments. **Bookings essential.**

SEPTEMBER

Date: Sunday 20th September 2pm - 4pm

Event: Chris & Margaret Betteridge and James Adcock will lead a walk and a talk at *Prince Henry Hospital* - see article page 5

Venue: Little Bay - meeting point to be confirmed on booking

Cost: AGHS members: \$20 Guests: \$30 includes light refreshments. **Bookings essential.**

OCTOBER

Date: Thursday 8th October 6.30pm for 7pm - 8.30pm

Event: Charles Darwin as the Gardener at Down House, Surrey - talk by Max Bourke AM

Venue: Annie Wyatt Room, National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill

Cost: AGHS members: \$20 Guests: \$30 includes light refreshments. **Bookings essential** - tickets not available at the door.

16th-18th October National Conference in Geelong VIC- optional day 19/10; NB Post Conference Tour is already booked out

24th-25th October Oberon trip with in conjunction with RACA - expressions of interest and bookings essential - more details P.7

NOVEMBER

Date: Sunday 8th November 2pm - 4pm

Event: Siobhan Lavelle will lead a walk around *Rookwood Necropolis*, one of the world's largest cemeteries - the roses will be out

Venue: Meeting point to be confirmed on booking Rookwood is a couple of minutes along Railway Street from Lidcombe Station.

Cost: AGHS members: \$20 Guests: \$30 includes light refreshments. **Bookings essential.**

Date: Sunday 29th November 2pm - 5pm

Event: Talk and tour of the Botanic Gardens depot and historic glasshouses restoration with Sean Johnson and Brad Horan

Venue: Meeting point to be confirmed on booking

Cost: AGHS Members: \$20 Guests: \$30 includes light refreshments. **Bookings essential.**

DECEMBER

Event: Christmas party details to be advised

Bookings & enquiries for all events above: 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.

An Individual Membership entitles only that member to the Members Rate.

Members with Household Membership are entitled to Members Rate for anyone living within that household

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

5th July 9.30am-3pm Open day - *Rivendell - Thomas Walker Hospital*, Concord \$15 Conc.\$10 Booking essential. Phone: Lois 9744 8528

7th-10th July Australia ICOMOS (*Unloved*) *Modern* Conference. Join the group of internationally renowned experts on conserving 20th Century heritage places who will be meeting in Sydney Phone: 9518 7722 Email: hayleym@conexion.com.au

17th July 7.30pm Talk on the work of Jocelyn Brown by Stuart Read at the Uniting Church Hall, Bowral. For info: 4888 2140 or 0425 248 691

18th July Highlands Garden Society Winter Seminar - Bowral 9am-1pm \$25 -includes morning tea and lunch - info/details as above

1st-2nd August *Paradise Gardens* open weekend 147 Greta Road, Kulnura. Enquiries: AGHS member, Derelie Cherry on 02 43761330

1st-31st August Fri. Sat. Sun. & Mon. 10am-4.30pm '*Brush by Brush*' Exhibition of watercolour studies of Australian native flora by leading artists in the field of botanical art. *Fernbrook Garden & Botanical Art Gallery*, Kurraong Heights 02 45677330
www.bluemts.com.au/fernbrook

September - launch of new book by AGHS member, Meredith Kirton - *Harvest - A Complete Guide to the Edible Garden*

19th-20th September - *Boatshed Watermarks* - Art exhibition of Pittwater artists to be held at *Tarrangaua*, Lovett Bay - former home of Dorothea McKellar. Meet the artists in their studios to be open around the area. For members who missed out on the Pittwater trip in April - this is a chance to retrace the steps. More info: phone 9997 5995

Exploring Six Gardens – Five Houses and One Apartment by Bruce Mackenzie

Synopsis of Bruce's talk for our August AGM

The exploration covers Bruce's own much-loved gardens and the gardens of Harry and Penelope Seidler at Killara, and Grant and Elaine Cockburn at Dural. The term exploration is used because although he appreciates gardens and horticulture, Bruce is not a gardener. His interest focusses more on environmental qualities and the experience of a garden rather than its details.

His landscape career has been almost exclusively devoted to public and community landscape rather than domestic garden design. Known for his dedication to a design philosophy driven by respect for the indigenous qualities of the land, his domestic work demonstrates his purpose in responding to the needs of both site and client.

- 1: Mackenzie House - Normanhurst—a rugged bush block—a learning experience
- 2: Seidler House—mid 60's innocence—a grand house—a fortunate simple response
- 3: Cockburn House—an expansive gardener's garden for expansive, generous clients
- 4: Manly House—a chance to design house and garden as one entity, a commitment to principles.
- 5: Foxground House—a fantasy landscape of genuine sub-tropical rainforest and natural integrity.
- 6: Manly Apartment—a new learning experience on a terrace and, amazingly, it works!



Courtyard dining



Rear courtyard at Manly

During his 40 years career in landscape architecture Bruce has been a passionate advocate for the Australian environment. He promotes vigorously the design ethos that recognizes and respects its significance and values. His conviction in this regard is based on aesthetic, practical and philosophic considerations. Bruce's work has been undertaken throughout all Australian states and territories and overseas on the Australian embassies in Paris and Bangkok.

He is presently semi-retired, operating as a sole practitioner in Bruce Mackenzie Design. He had previously been the principal of Bruce Mackenzie and Associates Landscape Architects Pty Ltd.

The parklands *Illoura Reserve, Balmain and Yurulbin Reserve*, Birchgrove, were classified Urban Parks (National Trust 1986) and described by the Trust as seminal works. Bruce Mackenzie was a member of the design team for the *Millennium Parklands* concept plan with Hassell and Peter Walker and Partners. He subsequently produced the site wide planting strategy for the Olympic Coordination Authority.

A persistent feature of Bruce's work has been the predominance of development carried out on derelict sites.

He maintains without hesitation that by design almost anything can be achieved and in fact he relishes the prospect of working with a barren site. A special example of this circumstance is the 28 ha park mentioned above, that was created, actually invented on a tidal site that in 1979 did not physically exist. It now is a complex of sand dunes and lagoons totally vegetated in a classic sandcoast formation providing shelter and recreation for a park population insulated from the winds of Botany Bay and the noise of the Foreshore Roadway, a truck corridor. This was a landscape of pure imagination committed to the reality of construction. It is there to be seen.

Other work includes:

A 20 year long association with the National Capital Development Commission working on the landscape masterplanning of *Tuggeranong* satellite city.

Coogee Beach Plaza...masterplan and documentation for the complete renewal of the beachfront through to its urban interface (1993).

Sir Joseph Banks Reserve, Botany, a 28 ha parkland built on an artificial sandfill platform...a reinstatement of natural coastal flora and landform.

Numerous motorway projects for the DMR and RTA NSW covering statements of environmental effects through to detailed landscape design and effectively promoting the greening of major roads.

Renewal of the *Dee Why Beachfront Reserve* 2006.

Experience with Government Agencies

A first major engagement as design consultant was with the Commonwealth Department of Works in 1970, for the Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) International Airport. For the past 30 years Bruce has been involved by personal choice, almost exclusively with community and public works projects. This policy has led to continuing engagements with government agencies such as Departments of Works, State Planning Authority, city and suburban councils, The DMR and RTA NSW, the Maritime Services Board NSW, the Department of Overseas Properties, Olympic Coordination Authority, Sydney Olympic Park Authority and for a 20 year period, the National Capital Development Commission.

Bruce is a registered Landscape Architect and Fellow of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects. He was president of the AILA 1981-83 when he hosted Australia's first international design conference in Canberra 1982.

He received the AILA Gold Medal for services to landscape architecture in 1986 and was made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to landscape architecture and the Australian environment in 1999. Bruce and his design office have enjoyed a history of design awards received from professional institutes, from 1972 through to 2005 including the recent 25 year award from the RAI (NSW) for the UTS-Ku-ring-gai Campus (in association with the Government Architect, project architect, David Don Turner and architects Allen, Jack and Cottier).

PRINCE HENRY HOSPITAL - a walk and talk - by James Adcock

Prince Henry Hospital was established on an isolated and spectacularly rugged coastal site after an outbreak of smallpox in Sydney in 1881. The site had been used earlier by the local Aboriginal population who took their sick and dying there. 85 hectares were then used to house patients with whatever infectious diseases and outbreaks were rife, including bubonic plague and leprosy. Sixty buildings were constructed over a century in a variety of styles including the first tents, the 1914-17 Flowers Ward pavilions and 1930s Art Deco and neo Georgian buildings. These were set in open landscape settings believed to be important in healing infectious diseases. The Hospital closed in 2003 and Landcom is turning the site into a residential and community precinct of around 800 dwellings in new and adaptively reused buildings.

Some of the early landscape has been preserved including curtilages around heritage buildings, rows of Norfolk Island pines, Canary Island date palms and coral trees. Retained elements include the clock tower, water tower and wishing well. The landscape plan incorporates these alongside a native planting strategy covering street planting, parks, open spaces and even private gardens. Landscape principles recognise coastal landscape influences, establish connections between recreational and environmental facilities, incorporate robust solutions for public open space and promote biological diversity. They create a landscape providing climate amelioration and functional space appropriate to the new uses.

In addition to an existing 50 hectare golf course, Landcom has provided over 5 hectares of parks for active and passive uses and linear parks for ecologically significant belts of vegetation. The network of parks, tree-lined streets and regenerated bushland is linked to surrounding significant areas of natural landscape. Over five hectares of bushland including the threatened ecological community of *Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub* has been regenerated. Other elements preserved and enhanced are a geological site, wetland, an historic dam, four small watercourses and Little Bay Beach. The parks and open spaces have been completed. Most heritage buildings have been restored, around half of the new buildings are built and the first residents have moved in. The development has won numerous awards from the Urban Development Institute Association, Planning Institute of Australia, Housing Institute of Australia and Greensmart. In September we will tour Prince Henry with Landcom project architect, James Adcock, and heritage consultants, Margaret and Chris Betteridge. See booking details p.3



Aboriginal Health College



Aerial view of developable area



Nina Crone Award for Australian Student Garden History Writing

The Nina Crone Award is granted annually to encourage students in the writing of Australian garden history. The award comprises a prize of \$1,000 and a certificate – and the prospect of publication in the Society's journal, *Australian Garden History*.

Papers should be for original research relating to Australian garden history and should be limited to 1,000 to 1,500 words. Photographs and illustrations may be included.

Closing date for final submission - 30 September 2009

Expressions of interest, in the form of a brief abstract of 50 -100 words, should be submitted by 30 June 2009. Submissions can be sent electronically to info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au or by post to Australian Garden History Society, 100 Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne 3004

Eligibility and basis of submissions

The award is open to **students only**, nationally. Articles must be on a topic related to Australian garden history and must not have been previously published. All associated research must have been completed within the last two years.

Don't forget to have a look at our website - www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au It can now be used to check for updated details of events, membership renewals, conference bookings including by direct debit, gift purchases and routine enquiries.

Pittwater Garden History Ramble Report by Stuart Read

A capacity crowd enjoyed an increasingly splendid still autumn day of discovery. Our guide Craig Burton displayed wide knowledge of the history, flora and fauna, demographics and politics of this fascinating area, bounded by *'the finest stretch of water I have seen'* (mis-quoting someone famous!).

First stop was uphill: Church Point's tiny cemetery above today's ferry wharf, the site of its chapel and later church, the prominence of the Oliver family in early grant ownership and scattered spotted gums were admired as Craig wove a picture of early timber-getters, boat-builders, rogues and smugglers. Along McCarr's Creek Road south of the point we admired a couple of early houses surviving with notable Norfolk Island pine 'marker' trees and a collection of native and exotic palms.

Reclamation to make roads ever wider, ever-larger houses and 'exotic' gardens were early themes – as was the bush as a garden and coming to appreciate nature's charms for themselves.

We filled the ferry for Scotland Island, noting the differences between 'ratbag islanders' and 'mainlanders'. The various schemes to subdivide and sell of island lots, increasingly slim and small with time were our focus. Very few of the original 1906 wide blocks survive today and they were a much better size to give a sense of space, side-setbacks, bush and necessary septic ground-water recharge, on what is a delicate ecosystem unable to cope with today's bloated suburban water consumption. Particularly interesting was a glimpse over the fence to *Yamba*, an early interwar-style property developed after 1945 – a late expression of this style – with generous use of native cypress / Port Jackson pine (*Callitris oblonga*), a number of notable trees making it distinctive in view from the water, as we finished a languid picnic lunch and filled the ferry to Lovett Bay.

The Western Shore was that much more remote, before any road access was cut into the National Park. Pioneer conservationists such as Eccleston Du Faur might be proud of the growing environmental consciousness of many residents these days, with garden escapes/weeds, dogs, cats and fire protection remaining 'hot' issues. A fitting finale was a luscious afternoon tea on the wide verandahs of *Tarrangaua*, Dorothea McKellar's retreat house of 1925, which Craig theorised was a design of John D. Moore, a partner of William Hardy Wilson's in the practice, Wilson, Neave & Berry. Thanks to Craig Burton, Bob & Susan (Duncan) Story for a most enjoyable day getting familiar with Sydney's furthest 'north-eastern shore'!

Cremorne Point to Mosman Bay Walk by Joan Lawrence

Our walk in August examines the area from Cremorne Point to Mosman Bay, rich with history, architecture and scenic beauty. Once the territory of the Cammeraygal, named Wul-warra-Jeung, Cremorne Point in the early days of settlement was Careening Point and the cove, Hungry Bay.

In January 1822 James Robertson, a Scot, arrived with his wife and family in Sydney to become Supervisor of Governor Brisbane's astronomical instruments and clocks in Parramatta. The Governor granted Robertson 86 acres on the headland, where he built a Georgian house with cedar joinery. One of his sons became Sir John Robertson, the fifth Premier of N.S.W. In 1853 North Shore pioneer, James Milson bought the land and three years later leased 22 acres to JR Clarke and Charles H Woolcott, who planned *Cremorne Gardens*, named for pleasure gardens in London. They opened on Easter Monday 24 March 1856 with many amusements and magnificent fireworks, a la Vauxhall! Splendid pyrotechny, a la *Cremorne Gardens*, London. By 1862 they were in ruins.

In 1891 and 1893 Sydney Harbour Collieries Limited sank exploratory bores and discovered coal ten feet thick. Despite support from the Mines Department, the Lands Department refused permission for coal wharves and the company found an alternative site at Balmain. In 1905 a Harbour Foreshores Vigilance Committee formed and *Cremorne Reserve* was proclaimed later that year.

The *Lex and Ruby Graham Gardens* are a delight. In the 1950s the Grahams were local residents and Lex jogged around the reserve and summer and winter swam in a rock pool. One day he noticed an elephant ear bulb floating past as he swam. He plucked it out of the water and planted it between the roots of a large coral tree and that became the genesis of the garden.

The area attracted various architects including J. Burcham Clamp: his residence *The Laurels* is a striking example of the Arts and Crafts movement. The path continues to an area of rainforest and follows the shore to the head of Mosman Bay with its rich history of Archibald Mosman, whaling and shipping facilities. Mosman's oldest building is *The Barn* (1831), now home to the Mosman Scouts. This features in a painting by Tom Roberts.

Joan is a keen AGHS member. She is a well-known author and teacher. Her book *'Lavender Bay to The Spit: pictorial history'*, Kingsclear Books, 1999 gives much more detail on this area.

See booking details p.3



Mosman 1870s whalers causeway



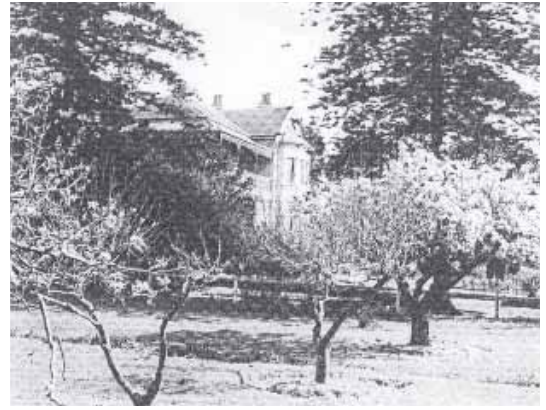
Cremorne Point

Garden of Memory: *Cairnsfoot, Arncliffe* by John Pearman

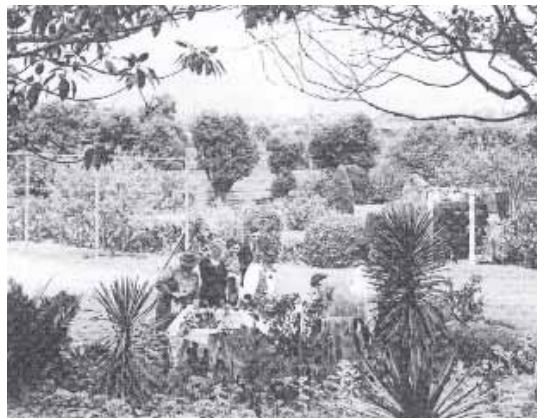
Members who have enjoyed the garden at *Eryldene*, Gordon will be benefitting from the long involvement and efforts of John Pearman. Members may recall John giving a most entertaining talk on its architect, the eccentric William Hardy Wilson, at our weekend seminar in Richmond a few years back, evoking Wilson's ideal city at Kurrajong in the lower Blue Mountains.

Inspired by the 1940s photographs by Alan Evans of the garden, *Alwyn* at Arncliffe, in the 2008's *Lost gardens of Sydney* exhibition, John has been researching and now is offering an illustrated talk on the garden next door to it: *Cairnsfoot* (1884-1955).

This promises to be a delightful evening getting to know this little-known historic garden in Sydney's south, at Arncliffe. Since the mid 1950s and the last of the Farleighs, *Cairnsfoot* became and remains a special needs school. Its garden survives although in a reduced form. In its heyday as seen in these wonderful photographs on the right, it was the last of the area's mansions still lived in by the original family, with every appurtenance of the era and was full of life: Red Cross fund raiser events, flowers, vegetables, fernery: you name it! John grew up in Arncliffe. The last of the Farleighs to live at *Cairnsfoot*, Elizabeth and May, were friends of John's mother. They went to the same church and worked together fund-raising for the Red Cross during World War II. John Pearman is a retired academic. He lives in an environmental teaching house which many students visit to explore the concept of sustainability. His interest in architecture and gardens stems, in part, from his long friendship with Gowrie Waterhouse of *Eryldene*. After Gowrie's death in 1977 John became Chairman of the *Eryldene Garden Council* – a position he still holds.



The gardens at *Cairnsfoot* by Alan Evans 1940s



Oberon & Upper Blue Mountains gardens in spring...

Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 October, 2009

A weekend coach tour visiting major gardens in Oberon, Katoomba & Leura led by Stuart Read of the Australian Garden History Society.

Starts & finishes at the Royal Automobile Club, 89 Macquarie Street, Sydney

A joint event between the

Australian Garden History Society and the Royal Automobile Club of Australia

Enjoy a specialist tour at the height of spring around three Blue Mountains gardens in varying stages of development. On Saturday there will be an exclusive look at both public and private parts of the major country estate, *Mayfield* at Oberon. This garden covers 130 acres including a 36 acre water garden and 50 acres of woodland inside a working farm. It has been developed since 1996 and part of it will open to the public in September 2009. We go beyond that.

On Sunday will be visits to *Clover Hill*, Katoomba and *The Braes*, Leura. *Clover Hill* is a plantsman's garden full of rare imported plants on a sloping site with a stunning woodland collection, perennials, ground covers and spring-bulbs. Its style reflects Piet Oudolf's work and Nori and Sandra Pope of *Hadspen*.

The Braes is a 1947 garden designed by Paul Sorensen undergoing major renewal over the last 12 years on a dramatic site with two creeks, dry stone walls, terracing and ponds in an open valley. Trees include elms, maples, rhododendrons and spring cherry blossoms, under-planted with many azaleas.

The tour includes an amount of walking, some on steep slopes & steps. Reasonable fitness and sensible footwear are needed. Costs include return travel, overnight stay in Oberon, garden entries, notes and all meals. Numbers are very limited. Costs are likely to be in the order of \$360 single; \$320 double/twin (each); \$260 each extra person (in a shared room) & are still being finalised. Expressions of interest (EOI) are being taken now.

EOIs are non-binding. Payment confirms bookings. On booking, 50% pre-payment is required by 24/7/09 and the balance is due by 24/9/09.

Call or email now to reserve your place. Contact: **Jeanne Villani** on T: 9997 5995 or email: Jeanne@Villani.com More info: **Stuart Read** on T: 9326 9468ah; or email: stuart1962@bigpond.com;

Stuart Read is tour leader, a landscape architect trained in horticulture in New Zealand and chair of the Sydney & Northern NSW Branch of the AGHS.



Amphitheatre at *Mayfield*



Garden at *Clover Hill*



The Braes stone wall, maple and azaleas

continued from Page 1

We climb steps and note a pair of early c20th semis and Italianate villas dating from the 1890s. Along Wood Street, we notice the grand *Weemalah*, (now flats) on Addison Rd. *Weemalah* and the semis adjacent were built c.1885 as the Antrobus family compound.

An Italianate villa, *Merriwa* on the corner was saved from redevelopment in the 1970s but its grounds have largely gone. On the corner is a listed row of early c20th semis. The street is tree lined, mainly with figs and is of heritage significance.

We walk along Stuart Street down to Little Manly Cove, past the beach to *Gasworks Park* on Little Manly Point. The Point was very badly polluted from gasifying coal but was remediated about 20 years ago. Looking across to the *Quarantine Station* and *Little Collins Flat Beach* or the end of Stuart Street and the site for the *Police Training Academy*.

Walking up Marshall St we will see a variety of architecture including timber fisherman's cottages, federation semis, a late Victorian mansion, *Ashbourne* or *Dalblair*, now apartments. Towards Darley Road are some interesting towers: *Carillon* has remnants of former gardens in its grounds.

No great gardens are left until we come to the lands given to the Catholic Church in the 1850s. The grounds of *St. Patricks Estate*, with the Archbishop's Residence and *St Paul's School*, while run down, are still very impressive. The estate is dominated by the imposing sandstone College, c.1885 by architects Sheerin and Hennessy, a blend of Gothic Romanesque with a central tower. The stone *Archbishop's Residence*, c.1856 is domestic Gothic and retains large grounds.

The College is leased to the *International College of Management and Tourism*. Elegant dining is available on week days. While partly dilapidated the gardens are beautiful, with formal, informal and bushland areas. Recent subdivision with interesting new housing and landscaping included extensive remedial landscaping.

Passing *St. Paul's School* and *Manly Hospital* we

The Red House, with its welcoming atmosphere, at Mt Tomah is for Sale. This 20 acre 'Roof of the World' is a gardeners paradise. Clear mountain air, basalt soil, frosty winters, cool moist summers, rainforest & a spring have provided the opportunity to develop a very personal garden over the last 22 years. The sharing & generosity of friends has resulted in the collection of rare exotic trees & shrubs, perennials & bulbs. '*Right plant, Right place*' has been the motto. Now the challenge is to find the right custodians for this much loved place which is within easy access to Sydney. Please contact:

Jan Northam on janma22@bigpond.com or on (02)94391158.



Manly Water Chute built 1903 - was on the cnr of South Steyne and Ashburner Street. It had originally been Joseph Smith's dairy farm, with a frontage to the creek where the surf club now stands. For many years this site was used for 'resort' style attractions, including Manly's first cinema, later a roller skating rink, then the site of *Dungowan's* cabaret/ice skating rink.

enter *Sydney Harbour National Park*, formerly the *Quarantine Station* and the *Military Reserve*.

We walk along to the former *School of Artillery*, a site awaiting new use and restoration. It is laid out in strict geometry with a central parade ground. The buildings remind me of Lutyens designs in New Delhi or parts of Canberra. There is a good exhibition room with a topographical model of North Head.

A bush track leads through tall and wet heath, wetlands and woodlands. Most paths are well defined and many are elevated metal to protect underlying soils, vegetation and ponds. North Head feels pristine but has been severely cleared many times. Some revegetation is natural, much human-assisted and volunteers still work there. It has many observation sites, tunnels, gun emplacements and former quarries. We'll look at a couple then can either retrace our path to the ferry wharf or walk towards the ocean to the Bower Headland above Shelly Beach and along Marine Parade back to Manly Beach. I look forward to showing you the excitement and interest of one of my favorite parts of Sydney - *Manly - ten miles from Sydney and a thousand miles from care*. For details of how to book - see page 2.

Photographs by Stuart Read



View from *The Red House*

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