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**Minute Secretary:**

Susan Reidy

**Web Secretary:**

Bronwen Merrett

**NMC Rep:**

John Dwyer

**Committee:**

Anthea Hill

Anthony Menhennitt

Anne Vale

### Branch contact:

Pamela Jellie

[pdjellie@hotmail.com](mailto:pdjellie@hotmail.com)

### Coming Events:

Winter Lectures

Thursday 16 July - 6.30pm

Tuesday 18 August – AGM

Annual National Conference in  
Geelong

October 16 - 18

# Victorian Branch Newsletter

July 2009

Dear Victorian Member

Thank you to all of our members who have booked for our National Conference in Geelong in October. We are thrilled with the response. It demonstrates our members' interest in the pastoral history and homestead gardens of the Western District. We apologise to those members whose applications were unsuccessful because of the limit on numbers. The limit was dictated by the size of the venue. We were also guided by the numbers attending past conferences.

It was at the launch of the publication of *The Journal of Niel Black and other Voices from the Western District* in 2008 that we had the opportunity to invite his descendant, also Niel Black, to be one of the speakers at the conference. The following is a description of a garden written in his forbear's diary on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1839 before moving on to the Mount Noorat run.

*Two days ago I visited a Squatter's cottage. It had a nice verandah in front, was shingled, floored and plastered in a very neat style. It had glass windows opening like doors, and was very neatly enclosed all round with a neat slab paling placed upright and as close as they would stand. In front was a garden containing all sorts of vegetables in perfection, also a great variety of fruits, among them were gooseberries, currants, various kinds of pear and apple trees, likewise rose bushes innumerable and flowers in abundance.*

Niel Black (1804- 1880) also started from a modest cottage to establish a very successful pastoral enterprise and construct an elaborate bluestone homestead with extensive landscape parklands at the foot of Mount Noorat. We will talk more of him and his descendants at the annual conference in October.

### Urgent appeal for new committee members

A number of our wonderful committee members are retiring this year and our committee will need an influx of new members. If you have secretarial, IT or financial management skills – or if you are willing to serve in any capacity - we would love you to nominate for the committee. There are eleven meetings each year and they are restricted to two hours duration. Please contact me if you wish to discuss committee membership further or if you wish to nominate. Please note that the notice of the annual AGM and nomination forms for the committee are included with this journal. Your participation and contribution would be most welcome.

### Next winter lecture Thursday 16 July

Dr Jane Drakard will speak on interpreting the Italian garden. The talk will discuss some of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century exponents of the classical Italian garden style and look at their relevance for dry climate gardening here in Australia.

This promises to be a most interesting lecture. Dr Drakard teaches in the School of Historical Studies at Monash University.

Drinks and nibbles will be served from 6.00pm. The lecture starts at 6.30 pm.

Cost: \$15 members AGHS, \$20 non-members, \$5 students

### Concluding winter lecture Tuesday 18 August

Dr Gerard Vaughan will speak on William Kent (1684-1744), painter and architect and his influence on the informal 18<sup>th</sup> Century English landscape. This lecture will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting of AGHS (Victoria) at 6.30 pm.

Although advertised to commence at 7.00 pm, we expect an earlier start – around 6.50pm so please be seated about that time to ensure you hear the introduction of Dr Vaughan's lecture.

### **New membership cards**

The new issue of plasticised cards are designed so that they can be easily carried in your wallet and can be used as a name tag with a plastic sleeve. It would be most helpful to us if you can remember to bring them and wear them at functions.

### **Nina Crone Award 2009**

There is still time for entries for the 2009 Nina Crone Award which commemorates the former AGHS journal editor. The award aims to encourage new and emerging scholars in garden history writing. Details of the \$1000 prize are on the web page. Please draw it to the attention of any student that you think may be interested in the award.

### **Carlton Gardens new parterre and scroll garden**

Committee member John Dwyer recently represented AGHS at the Melbourne City Council launch of the reconstructed parterre and scroll design flowerbeds in the Carlton Gardens. The beds at the south side of the Exhibition building are based on the original design for the opening of the 1881 Exhibition - however the new planting has been modified to suit dryer conditions. You may care to seek them out when in the Gardens.

### **H.V. McKay Memorial Gardens , Sunshine**

We were recently made aware that a Friends of McKay Gardens has been formed to assist with the care and restoration of these gardens - which were established in 1909. They were associated with the Sunshine Harvester works and they are one of the two remaining gardens connected to industrial sites - the other being the Fletcher Jones factory garden in Warrnambool. These gardens are therefore unique. It is pleasing to learn that the gardens are being restored and more information can be gleaned from the website [www.mckaygardens.org](http://www.mckaygardens.org)

### **Queens Birthday Honours**

We congratulate AGHS member, Bill McKellar from Anglesea, who was awarded an OAM for his services to medicine and the community of Barwon. Those who attended the Cup weekend tour of Port Campbell and the Otways last year enjoyed Bill and Jenny's hospitality at Point Addis where we had lunch, watched the Melbourne Cup and had a walk where we appreciated their work with the revegetation of the local environment.

### **New Members**

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members and we look forward to their company at our functions.

Liz Anderson	Robin and Margaret Marks	Svend Hoegh
Bill Anderson	Marion Craven	Cheryl Inglis
Bill Brampton	Julia Oataway	Andrew Kelly
Beverley Bronham	Janet Paisley	Barbara Tesoriero
Robin Brown	Lisa Ellis	Gaven and Rosemary Pike
Lee Klein-Butler	Patricia Fitzgerald	Simon Reeves
Susan Laird	Bonnie Gelman	Suzanne Chapman
Gillian Mallinder	Paula Gorton	Kathy Sanders

### **Working Bees**

We know of several old gardens that we would like to offer help with, however we would need some indication of interest before making an offer of help to the garden owners. Please let us know if you would like to attend a working bee in a garden other than the monthly working bees mentioned below.

Regular working bees are conducted at Bishops court, Clarendon Street, East Melbourne, (Melway 2G D3) on the third Wednesday of every month from 9.00am to 3.00pm. For enquiries email: [helenpage@bigpond.com](mailto:helenpage@bigpond.com).

A working bee is also held at Abbotsford Convent garden, 1 St Heliers Street, Abbotsford, (Melway 2D C3) on the first Wednesday of each month - from 9.30am to 3.00pm. BYO lunch. Car parking is available on site or opposite the Convent. All day parking is \$4.00. Enquiries: Pamela Jellie 9836 1881 or email: [pdjellie@hotmail.com](mailto:pdjellie@hotmail.com)

Pamela Jellie  
Chair - AGHS (Victoria)