



www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au

Branch Committee:

Chair:

Pamela Jellie

Vice-Chair:

Vacant

Treasurer:

Kathy Wright

Secretary:

Vacant

Minute Secretary:

Susan Reidy

Web Secretary:

Bronwen Merrett

NMC Rep:

John Dwyer

Committee:

Anthea Hill

Bonnie Gelman

Anthony Menhennitt

Anne Vale

Branch contact:

Pamela Jellie

pdjellie@hotmail.com

Coming Events:

9 December - Christmas Walk and Talk with Andrew Laidlaw at Royal Botanic Gardens (Volcano Project). Please meet at Gate D at 6.00 pm.

Victorian Branch Newsletter

September 2009

Dear Victorian Member

A sure sign of spring at my place is the blossom of *Prunus* 'Elvins' hanging over our neighbour's fence. Each year, my thoughts turn to Miss Myrtle Elvins – with her sensible shoes – where this distinctive, small tree hybridized in her Hawthorn garden in the 1940s. It was planted widely in the surrounding suburbs where its blossoms are now finishing flowering. Her photograph is included in *Shrubs and Trees for Australian Gardens*, Lord & Willis, where she is shown standing in front of the original tree. I wonder if any of our members know just where this showy, small tree originated?

I recently had the pleasure of helping out in a friend's garden for the Open Garden Scheme. It was lovely to see the pleasure it gave visitors. They had an opportunity to wander in a large, rambling garden – a rarity in our suburbs now. The former house owners called in and reminisced about the neighbouring families and how, as children, they had the run of the neighbourhood and played in the creek (now barrelled) at the bottom of the garden. The vegetable garden, fruit trees and hens – the hen house still exists - recalled life in the suburbs before dependence on the motor car.

Christmas Break-up Walk & Talk, RBG 'Volcano Project' Wednesday 9 December

Royal Botanic Gardens landscape architect, Andrew Laidlaw, will lead a tour of the reconstruction of the Gulifoyle-designed water storage basin fashioned as a volcanic crater in the south-east corner of the gardens. The nearby area known as 'the mounds' was designed to appear as a lava flow from the 'volcano'. Andrew will take us through the process of giving a new lease of life to this historic feature in the gardens.

Please meet at the imposing D gate in Birdwood Avenue at 6.00pm. BYO picnic tea and take this opportunity to invite friends to join with us.

Winter Lecture and AGM - 18 August 2009

Dr Gerard Vaughan, Director of the National Gallery of Victoria delivered a most stimulating lecture on the 18th century landscape designer, William Kent, and the allegorical significance of the garden features in the famous landscapes of Rousham House and Stowe. As many of our members had visited these estates, Dr Vaughan's insightful lecture probably reminded them of what they missed especially if they did not read Latin!

The lectures have been an excellent way of maintaining contact with members over the winter period. Next year we are, at last, able to fulfil the late Suzanne Hunt's aim to have themed lectures. The theme will be women in horticulture. We will be looking at the work of Winifred Waddell in a lecture by Robin Marks, Meredith Fletcher will speak on Jean Galbraith, and Anne Vale will draw on her research for her doctoral studies.

Geelong Conference - 16 -19 October

Thank you to those members who will be attending the conference and who have offered their help to Lorrie Lawrence with the running of the conference. The committee is busy ensuring that all is in place for a stimulating and enlightening experience for those fortunate enough to be enrolled for the conference. We are sorry that Tracy Cooper-Lavery has had to withdraw from the program, but we are pleased to announce that Dr Ruth Pullin – the curator of next year's von Guerard retrospective exhibition at the NGV - has agreed to fill the vacancy.

Celebration at Trobe's Cottage, Saturday 3 October 2009 1.30 for 2.00 pm

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and Friends of La Trobe's Cottage will mark the 170th anniversary of the arrival in Melbourne on 3 October 1839 of Charles Joseph La Trobe, Superintendent & Lieutenant Governor of the Port Philip District.

The celebration will re-enact his arrival at La Trobe's cottage in Dallas Brooks Drive (opposite the Herbarium). 170 years ago La Trobe famously had to bring his own dwelling – a prefabricated cottage. This time, a portion of it will be waiting for him! Festivities start at 2.00 pm and refreshments will be served. Enquiries: 9656 9800.

This is an inaugural function of the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage with the National Trust and the aim is to restore the cottage and reconstruct it to resemble the original structure and to improve the access and interpretation of the cottage for visitors. AGHS members interested in joining this group should contact Helen Botham on 9583 1114.

ABC Gardening Australia Expo, Caulfield Racecourse Friday 2 October – Sunday 4 October, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

We have again been invited to have a stand at the ABC Expo and thank all those members who have kindly offered to attend the stand. Their assistance in helping to promote the AGHS is greatly appreciated.

Many AGHS members attended the 2009 Australian landscape conference 11th – 15th September at the Camberwell Civic Centre. The organizers Warwick and Sue Forge generously offered us a place for a stand and our members who were in attendance were able to speak to other delegates about the society.

Committee News

We have been very fortunate to have Lorrie Lawrence on the committee for the past six years so it was with regret that we received her resignation. We will miss her network of contacts and her organization of garden visits. Most of all we will miss her companionship and her thoughtful and considerate manner.

We are pleased welcome Bonnie Gelman from Williamstown to the committee, and look forward to working with her. Bonnie has been assisting at the Bishops court working bees so has a hands-on interest in garden history.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome new members who have joined us this year and we hope that we will have the opportunity to welcome you in person at one of our functions during the year.

Jude Bowman	Spotswood	Glenys & Bill Philpot	Warrnambool
Brenda Boyd	St Kilda	Alan Reid	Hawthorn
Elizabeth & Robin Brown	Malvern	Margaret Toomey	East Malvern
Jane Drakard	Monash University	Jeanette Troup	Beaufort
Christine Freeland	Beaumaris	Janet Walsh	Bradvale
Valerie Hilton	Brunswick	Jane Wilson	Hawthorn East
Shelly Wood	Williamstown	Catherine Witteveen	Preston

Working Bees

First Wednesday of the month – Abbotsford Convent

AGHS members have been loyal supporters of the restoration of the gardens at the former Abbotsford Convent, 1 St Heliers Street, Abbotsford, (Melway 2D C3). Regular working bees are held on the first Wednesday of each month and extra help would be most welcome, especially now with the spring growth of weeds. Come any time from 9.30 am - 3.00 pm. BYO lunch. Car parking is available on site or opposite the Convent. All day parking is \$4.00.

Enquiries: Telephone 9836 1881 or email: pdjellie@hotmail.com

Third Wednesday of the month – Bishops court

AGHS volunteers along with East Melbourne residents under the guidance of Helen Page have over the years greatly enriched the garden through their efforts. Extra help is always welcome. Bishops court, Clarendon Street, East Melbourne 9.00 am - 3.00 pm. Enquiries Helen Page: hkmpage@bigpond.net.au

Pamela Jellie
Chair, AGHS (Victoria)