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Coming Events:

Walk/Talk - St Kilda Botanic Gardens 11 February 6.30pm

Country Outing - Mawallok & Ballantrae Sunday 1 March

Beechworth Tour - the Road to Gold Friday 24 -26 April

Victorian Branch Newsletter

January 2009

Dear Victorian Member

We hope that the new year has started well for you. We have much to look forward to this year with an autumn excursion to Beechworth, an interesting range of speakers for the winter lectures and the annual national conference in Geelong in spring. A pleasant surprise was the offer of a late summer visit to the homestead garden Mawallok. Do take this opportunity to visit this historic garden. You will find the flyer for this and the Beechworth weekend with this journal. We had some very successful events at the end of last year but more about that later.

St Kilda Botanic Gardens, Wednesday 11 February, Walk/Talk

The first event for the year will be an escorted walk around these gardens - which are an interesting oasis in a highly urbanized area. They have several significant trees, a large rose garden dedicated to rosarian Alister Clark, and several other contemporary features. The gardens are at Melway 2P 10D and we will meet at the shady Blessington and Tennyson Street corner to start the walk (not Herbert Street as in the earlier newsletter). Please BYO picnic tea. We hope you will take this opportunity to invite a friend - we might even be able to persuade them to join our Society!

Mawallok via Beaufort & Ballantrae, Buninyong, Sunday 1 March

Jocelyn Mitchell, a former national chair of AGHS, has kindly offered us an opportunity to visit their family property, Mawallok. This offer of a day in the country is too good to refuse. The property dates from 1858, and has a Guilfoyle-designed garden. The lake was created by Sir John Monash in 1927. We will see the garden that Jocelyn and her husband, Peter, have devoted their energies to for the past 28 years. Management of the property has now passed to the next generation.

En route you are invited to have morning tea at Ballantrae, 7208 Midland Highway, Buninyong. This is a fascinating Gothic Revival house set in a romantic old garden of conifers dating from 1857. This is a self-drive tour with morning tea and lunch provided, and a tour of the gardens. We do encourage members to car pool. See the flyer inserted with this journal and for further enquiries telephone Pamela Jellie 9836 1881.

Beechworth - the Road to Gold Tour, Friday 24 - 26 April

A package of gardens, heritage places and landscapes in North East Victoria has been put together for an autumn tour led by landscape architect and AGHS member, Mary Chapman. Mary knows the area well and has talked John Patrick who did a conservation study of the township, into joining us for the tour of Beechworth.

This is an all inclusive coach tour with accommodation, meals and garden entries included. It is a very special opportunity to experience the area with knowledgeable experts and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow members. See the flyer included with this journal.

Geelong Conference Meeting, Geelong Art Gallery, Tuesday 24 February

In order to keep local members informed about the forthcoming annual national conference the next meeting of the conference committee will be held at the Geelong Art Gallery, Little Malop Street, at 10.30am. This meeting will discuss the program, garden visits, local participation and sponsorship. Anyone who would like to offer help in some way is invited to attend.

Nina Crone Award 2008

This award commemorates the contribution Nina Crone (1934 - 2007) made to the Society - through her editorship of *Australian Garden History*, as a member of the National management committee, and her involvement with our branch. Its aim is to promote new and emerging scholars in the writing of Australian garden history.

The inaugural award was made to Joshua Small, Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, University of NSW, for the essay *The Colonial Farming Estate of Brownlow Hill*. Due to the generosity of our members and Nina's family, the award will again be made this year. Entry details can be found at www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au.

Port Campbell, Cup Weekend Tour

Forty-two members enjoyed coastal and forest scenery under the guidance of botanical experts Gwen and Rodger Elliot over the four-day tour. The weather was perfect - not too hot and amazingly calm for such a rugged windswept coastline, then just as you would expect, misty rain for the rainforest walk. So we were able to see the unique Otway snail among the many details of our surroundings pointed out by the Elliots. Others were more intrigued by the mechanics of the original light at the Cape Otway Lighthouse. The weekend concluded with us all bunched around the sitting room at Bill and Jenny McKellar's house at Point Addis (where had earlier enjoyed an alfresco lunch) to watch the Melbourne Cup.

Our thanks go to Gwen and Rodger for sharing their botanical knowledge and for their organization of the activities - and keeping us all in order and on time so that we could all relax and enjoy each other's company.

Old Colonists' Village, December Walk/Talk

A large group of members gathered at the Old Colonists' Village in Fitzroy North on 3 December. The village, developed by George Coppin following the founding of the Old Colonists' Association in 1869, was originally built for retired actors. Regular additions of pretty cottage buildings since that time have determined that it is now an extensive site with 135 cottages. The village provided a fascinating venue for our end-of-year event. We were guided through the beautiful, water-wise gardens by members of the Rushall Park Garden Group. The history of the site and its buildings were of great interest to our members.

We were grateful to the Association for making their dining room available to us for our picnic tea and especially to June Symons for her hospitality. It was a great opportunity to chat with friends leading up to the festive season.

Appeal for Journals

Committee member Anne Vale would like to complete her set of *Australian Garden History* journals as a reference source and wonders if any member could help with any of the following issues 1/16 June, July 1989; 1/2 August, September 1989; 1/5 February, March 1990; 3/1 July, August 1991; 6/5 March, April 1995; 11/5 March, April 2000. Anne's email is heriscapes@optusnet.com.au

Journal Packing

The Executive Officer, Jackie Courmadias, is calling for more volunteers to help with the packing of the AGHS Journal. The packing is held four times a year - in January, April, July and October - at the Royal Botanic Gardens in South Yarra from 5pm to approximately 7pm. Volunteers are welcome to help for as long or short a time as they please. Contact Jackie at the AGHS office on 03 9650 5043 or email her at info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au.

Working Bees

Regular working bees are conducted at Bishopscourt, Clarendon Street, East Melbourne, (Melway 2G D3) the third Wednesday of every month 9.00am - 3.00pm. For enquiries email: 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 - 9.30am - 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

Pamela Jellie – Chair, AGHS (Victoria)

Cup Day Tour Group
On Point Addis coastal walk
Photo – Rodger Elliot