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Newsletter August 2008

WEST AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUMMARY

Twenty-three members and guests attended the Annual General Meeting of the West Australian Branch on Sunday 27 July 2008 in the Geology Building of Curtin University. We welcomed Caroline Grant as the new Chair and John Viska to the Committee, again. Sue thanked all involved with Committee and Branch activities during the year.

Following the meeting, Caroline Grant, landscape architect, gave an illustrated talk, "Leaping the Fence: From Garden History to Landscape Conservation". The title draws from Horace Walpole: 'Kent leaped the fence, and saw all nature was a garden'. Her illustrations gave glimpses of landscape conservation work undertaken on a number of English properties containing Kent's influence, including Blenheim, Stowe, Rousham and Holkham.

Caroline concluded her talk with an example of Western Australian landscape conservation in the Geikie Gorge National Park, where the *Passiflora foetida* creeper is a threat to the gorge. Additionally while travelling, Caroline and her family witnessed the removal and transportation of the 750-year-old boab tree, *Andansonia gregorii*, from its original location near Warmun in the Kimberley. The tree, which travelled 3200 km at the cost of \$120,000 to the sponsors, is currently in Perth's Kings Park Botanic Garden for all to enjoy.

Gillian Lilleyman, historian and author, shared her enthusiasm for researching garden history through her topic "Finding Figures in the Landscape: The Fruits of Garden History." She gave insight into how research can lead to fascinating and valuable details, particularly about people associated with garden history. Important historic information can be found through a variety of sources including oral history, records and photographs not always found in the public domain. Gillian encouraged others to carry out and enjoy research. She concluded by launching the John Viska Prize.

JOHN VISKA PRIZE

In 2009, the West Australian Branch of the Australian Garden History Society will be offering a prize of \$500, one year's membership to the Society, and a potential opportunity for publication in the national journal, *Australian Garden History*. The prize, named for John Viska, founding chairman of the West Australia Branch of the Australian Garden History Society, will be given for a completed research paper contributing to the knowledge and/or management of Western Australia's garden heritage. Prize details and applications can be obtained from the Committee and from the national website.

WORDS OF THANKS

Sue Monger, who takes up the position as Secretary, provides the following:

I've decided to stand down as Chairman and take this opportunity to thank the committee and members very much for their support and encouragement during my term. It's been a rewarding experience, with a range of activities and several highlights. Woodbridge was the ideal setting in which to mark the silver anniversary of AGHS in 2006 when John Viska planted a *Corymbia ficifolia*. Dr. Jenny Gregory, Associate Professor of History at UWA, launched *A Guide to Conserving and Interpreting Gardens in Western Australia* at last year's AGM. It was a very special moment for the branch in June when the committee's nomination of John for a Heritage Council (WA) award was successful, recognising his great and ongoing passion for gardens and garden history, as does our naming of the Essay Prize in his honour. I look forward to continuing on the committee and hope to see you at a function in the future. Sue Monger

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN GARDEN SCHEME: TOUR OF JOHN VISKA'S GARDEN

Explore John's fascinating city garden. Profit from the sale of items will go to the Branch.

DATES: Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 August

TIME: 10:00 am to 4:30 pm

VENUE: 148 Chelmsford Rd, North Perth

JOINT FUNCTION WITH HERITAGE ROSES IN AUSTRALIA

MARGARET MOORE'S GARDEN

DATE: Sunday 21 September 2008

TIME: 10:30 am-1:00 pm

VENUE: 55 Stocker Road, Roleystone

COST: \$5.00

RSVP: Joy Hill on 9386-7438 or email joyhill@bigpond.com.au

Australia Garden History WA joins with Heritage Roses in Australia for a tour of Margaret Moore's Garden. The 250-hectare garden features deciduous trees and roses in a "friends" cottage garden setting. Many of Margaret's friends have provided cuttings for this interesting garden. You're invited to bring your picnic lunch to have in the gardens. Hot water will be supplied for morning tea. Members may like to go on to Araluen Botanic Park, or visit Mia Flora Nursery where there is a small restaurant (reservations advisable 9-397-5518). Wildflowers should be on show along Chevin Road.

VISIT TO ANZAC COTTAGE

DATE: Sunday 2 November 2008

TIME: 2.00 pm

VENUE: 38 Kalgoorlie Street, Mount Hawthorn

COST: \$5.00

As a part of community spirit, the cottage was built in a day on 12 April 1916 for return soldier Private John Porter. Find out more about this interesting cottage and learn from Linda Green how in 2001 she developed a landscape plan for the garden. The cottage is currently a museum in the hands of Vietnam Veterans. Following this John Viska will lead an "Over the Garden Gate" walk in the area.

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2008

Sunday December 14 at 4:00 pm, Please mark your diaries!

Ros and Max Stewart have very kindly offered us their delightful garden as the venue. The Branch will celebrate its 20th anniversary on that day with a number of fun activities. Details will be provided closer to the date.

ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The 29th Annual National Conference, *From Wilderness to Pleasure Ground*, Bowral, New South Wales, 10-12 October 2008, 13 October the optional tour date. Registration brochure was sent in the May/June issue of the journal. The 2009 conference will be hosted by the Victorian Branch in Geelong, 16 to 18 October. The 2010 conference will be in Tasmania, and in Queensland in 2011.

FUNCTIONS OF GENERAL INTEREST

ART IN BLOOM 22-24 August Art in Bloom, Art Gallery of Western Australia

FESTIVAL OF COUNTRY GARDENS FOR SPRING in beautiful Bridgetown and surrounding district. Prelude 11, 12 October, Main Festival 28, 29, 30 21 October For information: www.countrygardens.com.au or phone Peta Townsing 1800 001 357

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to new members Lyz Hobbs and Alison Bauer.

See www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au for additional information about the Australian Garden History Society

WA BRANCH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Caroline Grant

Secretary: Sue Monger

Treasurer: Gillian Lilleyman

Newsletter Editor: Mary Maxwell

General Committee: Theresa Putland, Geraldine Hart, Joy Hill and John Viska