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Web version



Newsletter December – 2010

WEST AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

Christmas greetings to all our members! May you enjoy your Christmas and New Year holidays, and have a prosperous 2011. We have already experienced summer heat waves in late spring, so hopefully your gardens have better mulch cover than mine: it has disintegrated rapidly in the heat.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT SUNDAY - CHRISTMAS PARTY: VICTORIA PARK CROQUET CLUB

Sunday 12th December 4pm Cost: \$10 to cover light refreshments and venue hire

Please bring a plate to share.

The Victoria Park Croquet Club has a view of the city, and belongs to a gracious era of the 1920s and 1930s before Victoria Park became a crossroads for much of metropolitan Perth's traffic. The site is subject to redevelopment so come and enjoy it while it lasts. If you would like to learn croquet, let Theresa know and we may be able to invite a club member to assist us. Period dress would be appreciated but is not essential.

Most WA committee members were able to attend the Launceston national conference in November, so come and talk to us at the Christmas party if you would like to know more. The national conferences are booked up very quickly, so the intention is to try and create mini-conferences or seminars in the branches, to which other branch members would be welcome.

LECTURE - EXPLORATION OF NEW HOLLAND: A BOTANICAL PERSPECTIVE

Friday 11 February 2011 10am with Dr Michael McCarthy of the WA Museum

In the course of studying the early European explorers Dr Michael 'Mack' McCarthy has become knowledgeable about the botanical pursuits of some of these courageous people and their patrons. We are privileged to be able to gain his services and have applied to use the maritime museum theatre in Fremantle. We will let you know more about the venue and the event in the next newsletter.

LANDSCAPE FORUM - 'UNDERSTANDING PLACE: THE RESOURCE OF LANDSCAPE'

together with a presentation from Richard Aitken on *The Garden of Ideas*

Saturday 12 March 2011 8.15am - 7pm University Club of Western Australia, Hackett Drive, Crawley Cost: tba

As mentioned in the last newsletter, as part of the touring exhibition and promotion of Richard Aitken's book 'The Garden of Ideas', and following the success of the landscape forums in Victoria, the last of which was supported by AGHS, work is underway to launch a landscape forum in WA. This is an AGHS event, run in association with the National Trust and ICOMOS since both organisations expressed interest in running a forum on landscape, and have donated funds and/or expertise. The nature of the March forum is exploratory. The objective is to discuss landscape, cultural heritage and economic development and how they can co-exist. See attached abstract for more information.

With the assistance of the Lane Bookshop, *The Garden of Ideas* and other garden and landscape related books may be purchased at the forum, and Richard will be available to sign copies of his book.

CONSERVATION ANALYSIS: COTTESLOE CIVIC CENTRE

Sunday 10 April with Ann Forma, landscape architect, working with the Landscape Management Plan

As many of you will be aware, the Cottesloe Civic Centre grounds languished for some years. Fortunately there has been some conservation work carried out in recent years, mainly on the walls and hard elements of the site. Ann Forma will explain the background to the current Landscape Management Plan, which succeeds the earlier Conservation Plan put together by Philip Griffiths and hopefully show us around the site.

EXHIBITION OF EARLY PERTH GARDENS – PERTH TOWN HALL

Official opening on Friday 13th May

Research is underway and a list of gardens to be included in the exhibition has been compiled. An official opening with afternoon tea is planned for Friday 13th May.

NATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

Australian Garden History – articles continue to be welcome, and it would be good to have a few more from WA. John Viska will write one for the next journal to inform people about the exhibition

Next conference - Maryborough August 2011

Oral History Working Party – WA should nominate some significant people to be interviewed

Grants for historic garden restoration – review conducted by Ray Choate. Apply to committee for more information, as very few grants have been awarded to date

Landscape forum grant – WA Branch awarded \$3000, which includes an allowance to bring Richard Aitken across to present on *The Garden of Ideas* instead of having the touring exhibition in WA

New membership forms – and general image of AGHS, is under review

AGM in Melbourne next year – likely to include an event in October at the University of Melbourne

Future Development Working Group – looking at membership, reviewing activities etc.

HONOUR FOR AGHS WA MEMBER MARION BLACKWELL

On 25 October Marion Blackwell was invited to the Australind Library (part of the Shire of Harvey) for the opening of a collection of rare botanical books named after her. This was a complete surprise for Marion as she had never even met the donor of the book collection, who wishes to remain anonymous. The collection is not yet open to the public but news can be obtained by looking up the Shire of Harvey website.

RECENT EVENTS

YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK – Rockeries and Shapcott

Sunday 24th October

We had a lovely picnic at Yanchep, starting the day with two presentations in the Volunteers' Centre, an old house within the grounds of the National Park with an impressive native plant nursery at the rear.

Gillian Lilleyman presented a paper on the role of Louis Shapcott in the development of Yanchep as a resort in the 1930s, and the importance of McNess in making funds available for workers to carry out the work during the depths of the Depression, which affected Western Australia so badly.

John Viska gave an interesting talk on the rockwork at Yanchep and elsewhere in Perth, including Kings Park and Queens Gardens. We inspected the fountain outside the cottage complete with bees drinking, and pointed out the rockwork between Gloucester Lodge and Boomerang Gorge.

BOOK REVIEW: *The Garden of Ideas: Four centuries of Australian Style* by Richard Aitken

Miegunyah Press, Melbourne University Publishing, RRP \$64.99

This book with its eye-catching cover is, as one would expect, a canter through different periods of Australian garden design. It is beautifully illustrated and recommended as a coffee table book, and as a good read, perhaps a chapter at a time.

The following is taken from the media release:

The Garden of Ideas tells an inspiring and engaging story of Australian garden design. From the imaginings of emigrant garden-makers of the late-eighteenth century to the concerns of twenty-first-century gardeners, this book charts its way across four centuries through a handsome and satisfying fusion of images and text.

The Garden of Ideas is embellished with an unparalleled array of images – paintings, drawings, prints, plans and photographs – each richly evocative of their time and most never previously published. Unearthed from around Australia, and many from overseas, these images carry the story of Australian garden style down the years, in the process criss-crossing social and cultural history across the wide extremes of our continent...

This book is a valuable source for the sophisticated gardener and an indispensable companion for the garden lover. It is available in the Lane Bookshop in Claremont. For more information about availability contact Olivia Blake at Melbourne University Publishing: www.mup.com.au.

Richard Aitken is a Melbourne-based architect, historian, curator and poeticist. His books include *The Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens* (2002), *Gardenesque* (2004), *Botanical Riches* (2006) and *Seeds of Change* (2006). He is also co-editor with Christina Dyson of our journal, *Australian Garden History*.

ADVERTISEMENT: National Trust of Australia (WA)

Conservation Gardener

Old Farm, Strawberry Hill (Albany)

12 month appointment commencing February 2011

(Salary \$55,000)

The National Trust seeks a committed and experienced conservation gardener with sound heritage conservation and horticultural knowledge and skills to be responsible for reviewing and implementing management of significant landscapes and plants at

Old Farm, Strawberry Hill (Albany), including the recruitment and training of garden volunteers and staff for ongoing landscape management at the place.

Enquiries or for a copy of the JDF please contact Phil Palmer on (08) 9212 1100, or via email at phil.palmer@ntwa.com.au

Closing date for applications: Monday, 20 December 2010 (5.00pm)

Interviews will be held in January 2011.

WA Branch committee: Caroline Grant (chair and convenor of landscape forum), Theresa Putland (minute secretary), Joy Hill (membership secretary), Gillian Lilleyman (treasurer), John Viska (chair of exhibition subcommittee), Ruth Morgan (web updates), Carmel O'Halloran and Lisa Williams

To catch up on what other branches are doing, and on National Office information, visit the Australian Garden History Society web site at www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au

Forum in Western Australia 12 March 2011

Title: 'The Resource of Landscape:

Understanding Place'

Incorporating a presentation by Richard Aitken on

The Garden of Ideas



The objective of the forum is to create a multi-disciplinary setting in which the concept of landscape is discussed, and issues relating to Western Australia's landscapes are aired. A range of presenters and audience participants with experience in considering landscapes in the broader sense will be invited, to help draw together a common set of values and meanings.

For this to happen there has to be an understanding of place.

The intention is to discuss landscape, including social and cultural issues, the garden and the wider landscape, visions, actions and planning for the future. There is little legislative protection for landscapes in Western Australia, due in part to an historic emphasis on the rights of private property owners. As the population of the state grows and concentrates in the south west, and as housing subdivisions and infrastructure infiltrate agricultural areas, state planning initiatives and private property rights are increasingly likely to conflict. From a democratic point of view, it is important to share information and perspectives to inform the landscape management process.

Simon Lang and Marion Blackwell will inform the audience about the natural history of Western Australia; its geology, soils, and its special flora. Craig Burton, Stuart Read and Juliet Ramsay will explore case studies elsewhere in Australia which have dealt with natural history, Aboriginal occupation, layers of European history, heritage significance and the political aspects of these cases including World Heritage listing. We will then draw on local speakers Stephanie Clegg, Tara Cherrie and Ruth Morgan to discuss local issues.

The forum will be opened by Professor Alan Robson, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Western Australia. It will target representatives from interest groups including farmers, land developers, officers from the WA Planning Commission, local government and members of the AGHS, ICOMOS, the National Trust and supporting organisations.

The speakers engaged include:

- Marion Blackwell, landscape architect and eminent botanist
- Simon Lang, geologist speaking about the relationship between minerals and plants
- Richard Aitken, garden historian, who will present his recent book and exhibition *The Garden of Ideas*
- Craig Burton, architect and landscape architect, and adjunct professor of Architecture, Landscape and Fine Arts at UWA
- Juliet Ramsay, cultural landscapes specialist representing Australia on the Cultural Landscapes International Scientific Committee of ICOMOS
- Stuart Read, landscape specialist employed by NSW Department of Planning, who analyses and makes recommendations on development assessments
- Stephanie Clegg and Tara Cherrie, landscape planners with the WA Planning Commission
- Ruth Morgan, environmental historian specialising in climate change