

Contact: Caroline Grant or Susan Monger  
[grantspc@yahoo.com.au](mailto:grantspc@yahoo.com.au) [susanmonger@yahoo.com.au](mailto:susanmonger@yahoo.com.au)



## Newsletter July - August 2009

### WEST AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

#### CHAIR'S REQUEST

During the AGHS National Management Committee meeting on 14 June there was some discussion about the *Gardens of Memory* project. Could we invite any members (or interested friends) who are interested in sharing their garden memories with us, to send a short written passage or abstract to either Caroline Grant or Sue Monger for use at a future event? If authors have photographs or other images to share, so much the better. The garden could extend to the landscape, provided a description of the extent is included. For inspiration go to the 'Branches' pages of the AGHS website, [www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au](http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au) select Sydney and Northern New South Wales and look at page 7 of the *Branch Cuttings no. 29* newsletter. Members who are happier to speak than write about their favourite garden or landscape, should also make themselves known.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Sunday 26 July 11.00 am – Garden recording workshop at Blythewood, Pinjarra**

**Cost: \$20 Blythewood is on the left of the South Western Highway just south of the township**

As mentioned in previous newsletters, there will be a garden recording seminar at the National Trust's property 'Blythewood', Pinjarra, led by the National Trust's landscape architect, Phil Palmer. Following on from the desk-based seminar in the State Records Office, this is an opportunity to learn how to read the elements of an historic garden, and record them on paper. It is suggested that participants bring along a picnic lunch, notebook and/or clipboard, paper, pencil, eraser, a clear 30 centimetre ruler, a long tape measure (if you have one) and a digital camera. Some background research material will be provided on the day.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, for those interested, there is a booklet available from the AGHS national office called *Recording Gardens* by the architect and landscape architect Richard Ratcliffe. It can be ordered via the AGHS website. Participants may enjoy reading the booklet prior to the garden recording seminar.

We are investigating an urn and some afternoon tea as a reward for hardworking participants!

**RSVP: John Viska, email: [John.Viska@challengertafe.wa.edu.au](mailto:John.Viska@challengertafe.wa.edu.au) or phone 9328 1519**

**Joy Hill, email: [joyhill@bigpond.net.au](mailto:joyhill@bigpond.net.au) or phone 9386 7438**

- **Sunday 23 August 2.30 pm – Annual General Meeting at Falls Farm, 41 Cagney Way, Lesmurdie Gold coin donation for afternoon tea**

The 2009 Annual General Meeting of the West Australian Branch of the Australian Garden History Society will be held at Falls Farm, Lesmurdie on the afternoon of Sunday 23 August. Following the brief meeting our guest speaker will be Ruth Morgan, who will talk about the factors influencing the rise of native gardens of Perth in the 1970s. Ruth is writing a thesis on an environmental history of the perceptions and discourses of winter rainfall decline in south-western Australia from 1945 to 2007.

- **Sunday 6 September – A day in the Chittering Valley.**

Keep this date free for a BYO picnic at member Diane Pope's historic property, Enderslea. Directions in a later newsletter.

- **Sunday 13 December – please keep this date free for the Christmas party.**

## RECENT AGHS EVENTS:

- **Friday 19 June 10.30 am – Introduction to State Records Office**

Following on from the 'Introduction to Landscape and Heritage' seminar, 13 interested members attended an information session in the State Records Office (SRO), conducted by Lise Summers, senior archivist. Lise explained the types of Government records kept in the SRO, and which department records could be useful for which purpose, e.g. some Water Board drawings, or 'sewerage plans' dating from the 1890s could contain fences and other useful garden details. Lise presented information about 'Third Swamp' now known as Hyde Park, and a delightful Perth Foreshore reserve plan of 1887 attributed to George Temple Poole.

- **Sunday 7 June – talk given to Denmark Garden Lovers' Circle**

The AGHS WA Branch received an invitation from the Denmark Garden Lovers' Circle to give a talk during their winter lecture series. Caroline Grant travelled to Vicky Wilson's property off the Scotsdale Road, once owned by the Lantzke family from 1907, to talk about the history of landscape conservation and some of the issues facing the local community, particularly as a result of recent economic and social change in the district. Members were delighted with Vicky's efforts at making Susan Duncan's lemon cake and her delicious afternoon tea. Vicky, a librarian by training, was most interested to learn of the book *Western Australia as it is today: 1906* by Leopoldo Zunini, Royal Consul of Italy, translated by West Australian historians Margot Melia and Richard Bosworth, in which Denmark is described as an abandoned town, after Millars closed down their timber operations.

## OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

- **The 2009 National Conference *Cultivating Australia Felix: The Pastoral Legacy***

To be held in Geelong (Victoria) 16-18 October. The Victorian committee has arranged a comprehensive program with interesting lectures and visits to some very special gardens in the Geelong hinterland. The Post-Conference tour is now full with a long waiting list.

- **University of Western Australia Public Lecture Series: Environment and History**

22 July – 14 October in Webb Lecture Theatre, Room G21 Geography Building UWA. Topics include 'The environment in history; history in the environment' by Dr Andrea Gaynor of UWA, and 'Deserts, prophets and savage scarlet hills: Ecology, resilience and global change' by Libby Robin of ANU. Parking in P20 near Fairway Entrance 1. For more information see [www.ias.uwa.edu.au](http://www.ias.uwa.edu.au) or ring the Institute of Advanced Studies on 6488 1340.

- **Fremantle Arts Centre, Downstairs Galleries: art exhibition**

30 May – 19 July 'The Secret Life of Plants'

- **Australian Landscape Conference 11-15 Sept in Camberwell**

<http://www.landscapeconference.com>

- **ABC Radio National: By Design with Alan Saunders**

ABC Radio National's programme *By Design* (Wednesday 3pm repeated Saturday 9am) has recently generated interest in gardens and will feature an interview with Australian Garden History Society national chair and author of *Lost Gardens of Sydney* Colleen Morris, probably on 15 July, repeated on 18th. Watch the website for details:

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/bydesign>

## NATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

Meeting in Sydney at National Trust, 14 June 2009

Profit from New England tour approx \$19,000

Further discussion about privacy issues and publishing of images...

Also financial support for worthy publications.

Budget discussed: deficit allowed for, investment strategy to be approved

2009 Conference: places still available, post-conference tour full.

2010 Conference Launceston: amended lecture program and garden visits discussed

AGHS will have a presence at the Australian Landscape Conference 11-15 Sept in Camberwell, Melbourne.

Members are reminded to contact elected member John Viska or State rep Sue Monger if there are matters they wish to have raised at NMC level.

## WA COMMITTEE

Chair: Caroline Grant, Secretary: Sue Monger, Treasurer: Gillian Lilleyman, Renee Gardiner, Joy Hill, Theresa Putland, John Viska. Mary Maxwell is on leave of absence.