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Newsletter – October 2008

WEST AUSTRALIAN BRANCH



FUNCTIONS

This Sunday 2 November 2.00pm Join us at Braithwaite Park, cnr Kalgoorlie St and Scarborough Beach Rd, in Mount Hawthorn. John Viska will lead us on an Over the Garden Gate walk which will include Anzac Cottage (38 Kalgoorlie St) where Linda Green will discuss the landscape plan she prepared for the garden in 2001. John will point out streetscapes and inter-war gardens as we wend our way through Kalgoorlie St, East St, Fairfield St and Britannia Reserve. Car pooling will be available for those not wanting to walk. There are several cafes so we'll have a choice of venues for that reviving cup of tea afterwards.

RSVP Sue Monger as above or Caroline Grant 9384 3414 grantspc@inet.net.au

COST \$5.00

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

Sunday 14 December 4.00pm at Ros and Max Stewart's home in Coolbinia

We'll be celebrating our branch's 20th anniversary so you can expect a pretty tough quiz this year as well as some frivolity! Caroline Grant will give an overview of the Conference and the Pre-Conf tour

COST \$20.00 includes three tickets in the draw for a hamper.

Summary of visit to Margaret Moore's garden

The joint function with Heritage Roses in Australia Margaret Moore's garden 55 Stocker Rd, Roleystone took place on Sunday 21st September. The fruit tree blossom in the area was magnificent. The warm hospitality of Margaret and Heritage Roses people more than compensated for the inclement weather, and John Viska and others were on hand to name some unusual plants which Margaret had rescued from friends' gardens.

The committee is in the throes of drawing up our program for 2009 and would welcome members' suggestions. Please contact Sue or Caroline – details above.

JOHN VISKA'S OPEN GARDEN

Thanks to members who helped out over the weekend and to those who potted up plants or made marmalade. Sales yielded \$220. The fine weather and delightful garden attracted 200 visitors. We are doubly grateful to John for giving us the opportunity to promote AGHS and for donating his share of the gate takings to the branch. We have recently taken delivery of a handsome AGHS pull up banner purchased with the proceeds of last year's Open Garden weekend.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to Pamela Duckworth and to Rene Gardiner who has moved from Victoria. We look forward to meeting you at a function soon.

NATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

Meeting held in Bowral 9 October

- Changes to Constitution & Objects agreed to, notice at AGM on 11 Oct for voting on 2009 AGM
- Garden of Ideas: Exhibit to open in Adelaide Museum Economic Botany Nov 2010, with a smaller exhib at Carrick Hill (SA), Geelong confirmed, Woloongong likely to confirm soon. AGHS sponsorship includes Richard Aitken undertaking a lecture tour to Qld, Tas & WA

- Lost Gardens of Sydney exhibition and book: good coverage in media, excellent exposure for AGHS in partnership with Heritage Houses Trust (NSW). Book sales strong
- Membership cards: existing stock to be used before introducing plastic wallet-sized card approx .63c ea
- Studies in Australian Garden History Vol 3: no publication date
- Treasurer: Pre conf is quiet time, share market has affected value of Kindred Spirits Fund, still ahead of initial investment
- Membership: 1463, expect to be affected by financial downturn
- 2008 Conf: bookings full conf 202, dinner 168, lectures 15, optional 138, pre tour 40 post tour 43 Autumn Tour 2009, Armidale NSW: Sarah & Clive Lucas, with Lynne Walker
- 2009 Conf in Geelong 16-18 Oct: Cultivating Australia Felix: The Pastoral Legacy. Venue confirmed (Geelong Conference Centre)
- 2010 NMC Conference confirmed for 5-7 November based in Launceston
- Journal: joint editors in attendance, commended on Vol 20 Nos 1 & 2, editors recommended that budget be increased to allow for additional/full colour (Planning Day (Feb) Agenda item)
- Chair Colleen Morris thanked Chris Webb, (Southern Highlands) and Wendy Joyner (SA) who have each completed their 2 terms of three years as state reps and are to stand down from NMC.

2008 NATIONAL CONFERENCE Bowral 10-12 October ‘From Wilderness to Pleasure Ground: Discovering the Garden History of the Southern Highlands’. The weather gods shone on Bowral for a week giving the 202 delegates a warm and verdant welcome! Fortunately recent rains had erased much evidence of the long drought affecting some of the places we visited. The theme of the conference was illustrated by a series of lectures: Ian Bowie used a series of graphs to demonstrate the influence of soils, rainfall and evaporation rates, Charlotte Webb outlined the evolution of gardens in the region, Stuart Read, in his usual provocative and flamboyant manner, spoke about garden designer Paul Sorensen (1891-1983) and his work in the area and Jim Hoskins told us of his family's philanthropy and passion for gardening. A series of great gardens awaited us – among them Moidart with its magnificent peonies and Retford Park's splendid Italianate mansion, carriage drive and superb trees in a parkland setting. We spent time at restored Harper's Mansion in beautiful Berrima, Summerlees, Wingecarribbee (part of the original Oxley holding) where we were fascinated by the cast iron house shipped from England in the late 1850's in prefabricated form - window glass, cornices, even the screws and nails! The Optional Day took us over the ranges for wonderful views north and south to Wollongong from the Mt Keira lookout, to the Scout camp where the grounds bore the influence of Sorensen as did the simple open air chapel in the magnificent rainforest. The coastal drive to Gerroa for lunch, afternoon tea at Terrara House Estate on the Shoalhaven and the return to Bowral through the magnificent Kangaroo Valley provided us with more memorable landscapes.

Congratulations to Chris Webb and the Conference committee for this wonderful experience in a beautiful part of our country. The hard work and planning that goes in to arranging an annual conference ensured delegates had an informative and interesting time in the Southern Highlands.

The pre and post conference tours, arranged by Trisha Dixon, included homesteads and gardens in the Taralga, Goulburn and Menangle districts. Come to our Christmas party to hear more!!

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Be inspired to book early (look for the form in the July journal) for the 2009 conference to be hosted by the Victorian branch, in Geelong, 16-18 October.

Things are blooming beautiful in the Bridgetown area as the Festival of Country Gardens for Spring is underway 28 Oct -2 Nov. Gillian Lilleyman will be speaking at the Sundowner on 2 Nov. There is a reprise weekend 15-16 Nov. Further info from the website www.countrygardens.com.au or phone the convenor Peta Townsing 1800 001 357.

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