AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Annual Report of the Australian Garden History Society Inc. for the year ending 30 June 2016

Patron: Sue Ebury - Countess of Wilton

Office Bearers

Chairman: Richard Heathcote, Vice-Chairman: Ray Choate, Secretary: Roslyn Burge, Treasurer:

Elizabeth Teed, Public Officer: John Maurer.

National Management Committee Elected Members

Roslyn Burge, Ray Choate, Dr. Jessica Hood, John Maurer, Dr. Ruth Morgan, Lainie Lawson, Elizabeth Teed

National Management Committee State Representatives

New South Wales: Meg Probyn

Australian Capital Territory: Kay Johnston

Victoria: Wendy Dwyer

• South Australia: Ray Choate

• Western Australia: Carmel O'Halloran

Tasmania: Lynne Paul

Queensland: Camilla Stephens

Journal Editor: Dr Bernadette Hince
National Executive Officer: Phoebe La Gerche-Wijsman
Membership and Marketing: Georgina Ponce de Leon

Chairman's Report

The Society had an excellent year in 2015/16 in terms of providing services to its members and pursuing its goals outlined in my journal editorial (Vol 27 No 3) that focussed on a four-pronged approach: Advocacy, Engagement, Re-positioning and good Governance and Financial management.

The annual conference reflected the Society's ability to adapt and shift its focus when required in a number of ways. Following three previous conferences based in regional Australia (Ballarat, Armidale and Albany) the South Australian Branch selected Adelaide as its location and then departed from convention choosing a thematic approach for the program captured in the title: 'Garden to table – productive garden history'. The conference was a great success and attracted an attendance of over 300 members who enjoyed the program and all that the city of Adelaide could offer them.

Another achievement was the day-long Symposium event held just prior to the annual conference at the University of Adelaide. Organised and convened by Ray Choate, SA Branch Chairman, it attracted one hundred and six registrations and fifteen papers were presented. This initiative was significant and developed an idea begun in New Zealand in 2014 where several AGHS members were invited to participate and present at a university based Symposium. Attracting scholars, researchers and garden historians more deeply into the Society's fold has begun and will continue with future occasional Symposiums.

GOVERNANCE: FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Finance and Investments

Our financial position continues to be sound, but membership recruitment and retention are still important and so the NMC is encouraging branches to embrace the actions outlined in the Marketing Strategy to continue to increase our membership numbers.

The NMC has established an Endowment Fund to secure the future of the Society and during the year the Finance Sub-Committee tendered advice on how this money should be invested to improve returns at an acceptable level of risk. The Society is grateful to the Committee, including John Dwyer, Alan Read and Tom Hogg, for their support.

Insurance and Risk Management

The NMC is responsible for ensuring there are adequate policies in relation to overseeing and managing risk and providing adequate public liability and voluntary workers insurance. There were no alterations to these policies this year, although the Canberra Conference Committee did request additional Conference Insurance in 2016. This additional insurance will be reviewed as we head towards the New Zealand Conference.

National Management Committee (NMC)

The NMC met face-to-face on three occasions, in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney, and held three telephone meetings. In addition to its regular meetings the NMC held a Planning Day in Melbourne in late February 2016.

At the 2015 AGM National Chairman John Taylor stepped down after three years in the role. John was instrumental in developing Financial Management Guidelines for the Society as well as committed to the marketing and promotion of the Society. National Treasurer Kathy Wright stepped down from the role after six years and Elizabeth Teed was elected in her place. Stuart Read also stepped down as an elected representative of six years and as our Public Officer and John Maurer was elected in his place.

The National Management Committee would like to thank John, Kathy and Stuart for their commitment and contribution to the advancement of the Society and wish them well.

Sub Committees and Working Groups

As the newly elected National Treasurer, Elizabeth Teed joined the Sub-Committees and Working Groups previous National Treasurer Kathy Wright had been on.

Advocacy Subcommittee

M. Probyn (Convenor), Stuart Read and C. O'Halloran

Editorial Advisory Committee (EAC)

R. Burge (Convenor), R. Morgan, Colleen Morris, Julie Collins, Patsy Vizents, Felicity Watson and R. Choate

Engagement Working Group

J. Hood (Convenor), R. Morgan, R. Aitken, C. Dyson, G. Ponce de Leon and NEO

Finance Advisory Committee

E. Teed, John Dwyer, Tom Hogg and Alan Reid

Kindred Spirits Fund Committee

R. Choate, E. Teed, John Dwyer and Colleen Morris

Oral History and Archives Working Group

R. Burge (Convenor), J Maurer

Recording Gardens Working Group

Stuart Read (Convenor), Lainie Lawson, Elizabeth Ganguly and/or David Inverarity

Symposiums and Forums Working Group

R. Heathcote, S. Read, J. Hood, Anna Long and ACT rep

Website Upgrade Working Group

J. Hood, Lachlan Garland, G. Ponce de Leon, E Teed and NEO

PROGRAM:

AGHS JOURNAL, TOURS, ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT

JOURNAL

Australian Garden History

Our journal *Australian Garden History* continues to achieve high quality and relevance and additional contact with members was extended with the issue of four electronic newsletters (E news). The Journal has continued as a quarterly publication with Editor Dr Bernadette Hince bringing fresh and dynamic approaches to the content whilst sustaining the standards carefully set in place. The role of the Editorial Advisory Committee under Roslyn Burge's Chairship should be acknowledged

TOURS

The Society conducted its most successful Pre and Post Conference tours in October 2015 and a very successful tour of the Amalfi Coast, Italy in June 2016, under the inspiring leadership of Trisha Dixon.

The Society thanks Trisha for her continued commitment in providing wonderful adventures for our members.

ADVOCACY

Landscapes at Risk – Watch and Action list

In 2015 the National Management Committee and Branch Representatives prepared a list of landscapes from around the country that are at risk and developed a 'Watch and Action' list. It is hoped that this list will assist the Society in having a stronger focus on its Advocacy role as part of the Society's Mission Statement.

ENGAGEMENT

Membership

Total members at 30 June 2016 compared with the previous two years are as follows:

As at 30 June 2016	As at 30 June 2015	As at 30 June 2014		
1708	1772	1837		

The number of members has dropped over the last twelve months, although we have gained many new members, many of our existing membership are ageing and resigning from the Society.

Website

The Society's website is currently undergoing a redevelopment; it is hoped the new site will be launched in the new year.

The Society's social media presence, under the management of the National Executive Officer and the Membership and Marketing assistant has excelled with people across the country and the globe 'following' and 'liking' us. I encourage you all to engage with these sites, as well as the website to keep abreast of our events and news items.

Volunteer Lachlan Garland has continued in assisting the National Executive Officer in maintaining the website. We are very grateful to Lachlan for his expertise and commitment to the improvement and maintenance of the website.

PROJECTS:

GARDENS + ENVIRONMENT, ORAL HISTORY, RECORDING GARDENS, PUBLISHING AND GRANTS

PUBLISHING AND GRANTS

Planting Dreams: Shaping Australian Gardens

In June 2015 the National Management Committee agreed to become the Principal Sponsor (\$25,000) of the Richard Aitken curated Exhibition and accompanying publication - *Planting Dreams: Shaping Australian Gardens* with Sydney University Press and the State Library of NSW as part of the bicentenary celebrations for the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney.

The Society has also supported two more publications through the Kindred Spirits Funds, that have also been part of these celebrations in Sydney.

Gardens + Environment

After receiving the report prepared by Richard Aitken and Christina Dyson on Studies in Australian Garden History Vol 4 at the June meeting in 2015, the NMC formally accepted their recommendations. One of which was to rename the publication to *Gardens + Environment*.

In October 2015 Dr Ruth Morgan was appointed Editor and at the Planning weekend she announced Christina Dyson would be joining her as Co-Editor.

They are currently negotiating a co-publishing arrangement with a leading academic publisher

Kindred Spirits Fund

This fund was established in 1999 with the proceeds from the generous bequest of the late Joan Law-Smith of her book *Kindred Spirits* and has been generously supported by a number of our members. Money in the Kindred Spirits Fund is invested with the Myer Family Company and a term deposit. Only the income of the Fund is spent, thereby preserving the capital.

In 2015/16 the following publications were funded

- Florilegium: Sydney's painted garden
 Beverly Allen Project management, Colleen Morris and Louisa Murray Authors (\$2,750)
- Gardens of History and Imagination: Growing New South Wales Independent Scholars Association (\$5,000)
- Character of the blossom: Wildflowers of Tasmania,
 Margaret Hope Author (\$5,000 and matched by \$5,000 Tasmanian Branch)

Marginal Landscapes
 Helen Armstrong – Author (\$3,500)

Nina Crone Fund provide funds for the following

- 2015 The University of Melbourne Symposium Catering \$250
- 2015 SA Symposium and Conference attendance of Post Grad and early career Researchers Total \$2,105
 - Annette Bainbridge \$200 SA Symposium
 - Jessica Hood \$705 to attend SA Symposium and Conference
 - Bridey Oliver \$600 to attend SA Symposium and Conference
 - Fiona Webber \$600 to attend SA Symposium and Conference

ORAL HISTORY

The Branches have been in discussions as to who should take part in Stage two of the Oral History recordings of the Society.

RECORDING GARDENS

In 2015/16 the NMC supported the Victorian Branch by matching the cost 50/50 towards the expense for a Conservation Management Plan of Wombat Park, Daylesford (\$5,275 each) undertaken by Miffy Gilbert.

BRANCHES / CONFERENCES

Branches

The work of the branches is extremely important in ensuring gardens and cultural landscapes across Australia are studied, conserved and protected. Details of branch functions, advocacy and projects follow this report and are a testament to the breadth of activities that the AGHS participates in across Australia. This year has seen an increase in the quality and as such, the attendance of Branch events. Many Branches have embraced new ideas for Branch events and are starting to see their Branches reinvigorated by the energy and enthusiasm from new members to the Society.

Branch newsletters are an important component in maintaining member interest in local issues and activities at a branch level. Branches are to be commended on the high standard of these newsletters, which are available via the website.

Once again the Branches have excelled themselves in the last year with a rich and varied program of events; from self-drive tours to working bees, monthly lecture programs to an academic symposium and a National Conference.

The Society acknowledges all the members who volunteer their time to planning these events and ensuring all attendees have an enjoyable and informative experience.

In particular, the Society and its members are very fortunate that each year a Branch continues to commit to the organisation and running of the national conferences which is an invaluable contribution to the Society.

ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCES

• Adelaide, South Australia 20–22 October 2015

With the theme 'From Garden to Table' the 36th Annual Conference in 2015 sold out. Held at the National Wine Centre in Adelaide – this capital city with an energetic arts scene, robust dining from street to posh, stellar local ingredients, exhibitions & galleries – was been listed by the NY Times as a place to be in 2015! The Conference included a Symposium on the same theme, organised for the day prior the Conference at the University of Adelaide.

• **Canberra, ACT** 14 – 16 October 2016

This year's Conference planned around the Canberra-centric theme *The Scientist in the Garden* was chosen because of Canberra's strong scientific approach to all forms of gardening since its founding.

- Hamilton, New Zealand 27 29 October 2017
 Based at the Hamilton Gardens, Hamilton, New Zealand, the 2017 Annual Conference addresses the theme of People/Place/Landscape: expanding garden history and will be the first trans-Tasman conference in the history of the Society.
- Bowral, Southern Highlands 2018
 Planning is currently underway.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to our patron Sue Ebury, Countess of Wilton, for her support for the Society over the past year and for making time in her busy schedule to travel around and give presentations to some of the Branches.

All members of the NMC give their valuable time to ensure our affairs run smoothly. I thank all NMC members for their support and contribution over the past year, and for the harmonious spirit they bring to the management of the Society.

Our National Executive Officer Phoebe La Gerche-Wijsman has completed her fourth year with the Society and has handled all aspects of the position with thoroughness and assurance. I thank Phoebe for her dedication and attention to detail and look forward to a continued association. Membership and Marketing assistant Georgina Ponce de Leon has continued to bring new ideas and a fresh set of eyes to the issues the Society is currently facing, such as membership recruitment and retention.

At my first annual Planning Day as National Chairman in Melbourne (27 February 2016), I was both impressed and energised by the programs each of our Branches were involved in organising. There was a wonderful balance between activities reflecting pure enjoyment our gardening heritage and the vigilance required to ensure that threats to our cultural landscapes and important gardens are publicly understood and thwarted. To conclude I should like to thank our hard working national office team and all of our membership who in our 37th year have supported the aims of the Society in whichever way they are able.

Richard Heathcote National Chairman

Branch Reports

ACT Monaro Riverina Branch

Office Bearers: Chair Sue Byrne, Deputy Chair Judy Pearce, Treasurer Helen Elliot, Assistant Treasurer Margie Bourke, Secretary Nancy Clarke, NMC Rep Kay Johnston.

Committee: Bronwyn Blake, Anna Howe, Greg Johnson, Helen Wilson, Marie Wood and Lainie Lawson

Functions

- AGM Annual Lecture Craig Burton: A Preference for Informality The Life and Times of Richard Clough and his influence on the Canberra landscape
- Greg Johnson: Write to Garden in Australia. An illustrated talk on garden writers 1889 1938
- Visit to the Red Hill garden of Jim and Peronelle Windeyer
- Visit to Fetherston Gardens and the Islamic School, Weston
 Fetherston Gardens, and the neighbouring Islamic School, are on the site of the former CIT
 Horticulture School and include more than 200 trees originally planted for training purposes
- Christmas gathering held in the Chinese Pavilion of the Bejing Garden within Lennox Gardens on the lakeshore of Lake Burley Griffin
- Visit to the Australian Insect Collection and the Atlas of Living Australia, CSIRO
- Twilight Ramble through the New Acton precinct visiting kitchen gardens of restaurants and the community gardens of the residents
- AGHS stall at the National Trust Open Day, Forestry School, Yarralumla
- Weekend Excursion to the South Coast visiting the Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens, Horse Island on the Tuross River (the home and garden of Christine Kennedy), Tilba Lake Community arboretum, Kameruka Village and Homestead and Erindale, the garden of Lainie and Richard Lawson, at Nimmitabel
- NLA/AGHS Joint Event: Dr Stephen Whiteman, Lecturer in Asian Art at University of Sydney A Garden for Empire and Nation: The Qing Imperial Mountain Estate in Chengde
- This was the 10th year when a jointly organised lecture was presented by our Branch and the Friends of the National Library

Advocacy

The Branch responded to the ACT Department of Environment and Planning discussion paper (Five Year ACT Heritage Strategy 2016 – 2021).

Lake Burley Griffin – a landscape at risk

Our Branch continues to support the work of the Lake Burley Griffin Guardians, a community advocacy group working towards retaining the heritage values of Lake Burley Griffin and its foreshores. There continues to be concern for a large scale development proposed for West Basin. Representation made to Hon Mitch Fifield expressing our concern at the funding cuts made to the National Library and the subsequent downgrading of Trove, the online search engine created by the National Library of Australia.

Projects

Montague Island.

Members of the Branch together with the staff of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service continue to plant and maintain the restored kitchen garden on Montague Island. Produce from the first summer plantings of heritage vegetables was harvested this year for use by staff and researchers

living and working on the island. In June ABC South East NSW reported on television the history and success of this project.

ANZAC Grant.

In 2015 the Branch was successful in obtaining an ANZAC Centenary Local Grant. Geoff Page's poem The Forester, which immortalises the young men from the Canberra region who fought in World War 1, is to be inscribed onto a plaque which is to be placed near Yarralumla Nursery. The memorial will be unveiled during the National Conference in Canberra.

Chair's Report

A dedicated and competent team of Branch members has worked very hard for the last eighteen months to put together a stimulating program of lectures and garden visits for the 2016 AGHS Conference. I would like to thank the committee led by Margie Bourke for the diligent approach and time given to making the conference a success.

We continue to value the partnerships we have with the other national organisations particularly the National Library of Australia and the National Trust (ACT). Branch members are also appreciative of the cooperation shown by the CSIRO in giving us a personalised tour of both the Australian National Insect Collection and the Atlas of Living Australia.

This year our Branch will celebrate its 30th anniversary. I sincerely thank all the committee members for their time, ideas and enthusiasm. The committee continues to organise interesting and varied events, which are both advertised in and reported on in the newsletter. I would like to thank Judy Pearce who for 10 years has been our newsletter editor and publicity officer. The talks, functions and excursions keep our members engaged with the aims of the Society, namely to appreciate and be concerned for our parks, gardens and cultural landscapes as part of Australia's heritage.

Sue Byrne Chair

Queensland Branch

Office Bearers: Chair: Margie Barram, Vice-Chair: John Taylor, Secretary: Janice Hiller, Treasurer: Elizabeth Teed.

Committee: Maurice Wilson, Ann Wegener, Wendy Lees, Margaret Kirkland and Thom Blake.

Newsletter Editor: Margie Barram

- 2015 December: The end-of-year social event was held in the Kenmore garden of the Branch secretary, where members enjoyed the pleasures of good food, company and conversation
- 2016 April: The Queensland and New England Branches jointly participated in a Toowoombabased bus tour of significant Toowoomba public gardens, and a self-drive week-end, visiting gardens in Pittsworth, Allora and Warwick. All agreed it was a great "Autumn on the Downs"
- 2016 May: A delightful afternoon was spent at "Woodston", an 1885 house re-located from Clayfield, Brisbane, to Dakabin, in the grounds, and taking tea on the verandah. The thirty-yearold garden was created using the design, layout, plantings and architectural features of Queensland sub-tropical gardens that traditionally accompanied such houses
- 2016 August: War graves gardens in perpetuity, this year's annual lecture, following the AGM, will be presented by Andrew Prowse & Kim Morris, directors of Garden City Design. They recently completed the design of the Centenary of ANZAC Bita Paka Rabaul WW1 Memorial; the complete renovation of the Brisbane and Rockhampton War Cemeteries; and ongoing renovation of the Bomana PNG War Cemetery

The Branch's advocacy efforts are recorded in the May newsletter. We are responding as the pendulum has swung too far towards developers, with the loss of representation for town planning around community values such as amenity [think trees & set-backs/ green space in the street and on sites], and heritage, and we share this concern with other associations and individuals. There is no quick fix here. A win was to see a Toowoomba candidate stand [though not elected] for local government around the issue of trees, parks and gardens, and to have a newly elected councillor attend the April AGHS Toowoomba forum, and publicly endorse the creation of a tree register.

Projects

- Research and nomination of places in the Qld Garden Heritage Survey
 John Taylor continues work on the nomination of Laurel Bank Park
- Old Museum Stories Project.

The idea is to gather stories, enough of them, and varied enough, to make an impression on politicians who in the past have been a bit reluctant to find serious money to look after the place. (And, at the same time, to contribute to the pleasure people get from sharing stories). This involves a website http://oldmuseumstories.info/, designed to collect and share people's stories about their connection with the old museum building and its gardens, ready for a public launch at the Brisbane Show, 5 to 14 August. AGHS Qld has a display at the Royal Queensland Show about the Old Museum gardens, Queensland bush houses and the acclimatisation society, to promote the website and the society. Three speakers will talk in the AGHS hour on the flower and horticultural platform on People's Day at the show.

Chair's Report

At the forthcoming AGM, I will step down from the role of Chair and newsletter editor and from the Branch committee after a busy 3 and a bit years. I thank retiring committee members Margaret Kirkwood and Thom Blake; Camilla Stephens for her year as NMC representative; former member Robert White for his brief stint as newsletter editor, and I especially thank Janice Hiller who has served as Secretary for nearly the last 5 years.

At this point in time, unless other Qld members nominate for the committee, the ongoing Branch committee will further scale down its 2017 activities to a level commensurate with their available energy.

Margie Barram Chair

South Australian Branch

Chairman, Newsletter and NMC Branch Rep Ray Choate, Vice-Chair Richard Heathcote, Secretary Julie Tolley, Treasurer David Inverarity.

Committee: Elizabeth Ganguly, Jeff Jenkinson, Patricia Michell, Richard Nolan, Di Wilkins

- 2015 AGM (our thirty-first) was held in August over lunch at Locavore Restaurant in Stirling. Our
 guest speaker, Professor Norman Etherington, President of the National of Trust South Australia
 informed us about the operations of the National Trust of South Australia and its plans for the
 future.
- 15 October SA Symposium From Garden to Table
- 16- 18 October 36th National Conference, *From Garden to Table* the 36th Annual Conference in 2015
- 29 November Christmas Party was held 'Forest Lodge" the garden of Dr Milton Bowman and Kristina Bissland, at Stirling in the Adelaide Hills

- 1 May 2016 Guided walk in the Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens with Rob Hatcher.
- Saturday 18 June Workshop: Writing a history of your garden, was a great success

The Branch is lending support to a South Australian bid for UNESCO World Heritage listing for the "working agrarian landscapes" -- vineyards and farmland in the Adelaide Hills, Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale.

Projects

- Marble Hill
 - Our project to record the gardens was finalised with a presentation of a report. On behalf of the Branch, member and volunteer Cas Middlemis, undertook a picture research project using material gathered from this research, thus completing the Branch's work on this garden. We will continue to monitor the development of these gardens and will be involved at appropriate times. We are pleased to note that a new book has appeared on the house and grounds
- Australian Museum of Gardening
 We continue to be involved with the AMG, and lend it support through many of our activities. In
 particular Carrick Hill hosting the National Conference Cocktail party with an AGHS only viewing
 of the Endless Pleasures exhibition

Chair's Report

Considerable time during the year was spent by the Branch in organising and then running the 2015 Conference, held at the National Wine Centre in Adelaide. It was a sell out with over 300 delegates and a waiting list.

On top of organising the Conference the committee also organised a one-day symposium based on the same theme as the Conference *From Garden to Table*. Twelve speakers where selected and again the room at Adelaide University was full. The Branch extends its thanks to the University of Adelaide for allowing the Branch to use its facilities.

The committee would like to extend special thanks to the Branch members for their participation in our activities over the year.

Ray Choate Chair

Southern Highlands Branch

Chair: Jennifer Carroll, Treasurer: Don Rees, Secretary: Jo de Beaujeu; NMC Representative, Newsletter Editor and Meeting Secretary: Meg Probyn.

Committee members: Julianna Greenane and Narelle Bowern.

- AGM and August Seminar. Lectures by Claudia Hyles on *Indian gardens old, new and recently restored*; and Dr Peter Donaldson on his experiences retracing Sir Joseph Hooker's travels through the Himalayas, the Subantarctic and elsewhere
- Kangaloon Gardens Day. Our 4th year of partnering with the Kangaloon Public School P&C to raise funds for both groups – visited five exceptional gardens in the Kangaloon area. Included a talk by Gay Stanton MAIH
- Claude Crowe Exhibition. We staged an exhibition of Claude Crowe and the Berrima Bridge Nurseries as the inaugural exhibition at Harper's Mansion, Berrima

- Christmas Party. Held in the Martin's garden at Sutton Forest a large, mainly native garden with over 25,000 plants
- Jazz in the Garden. We re-visited the Martin's garden for our 3rd 'Jazz in the Garden' event again this event proved extremely popular and was very much enjoyed
- Monaro Tour. We undertook a four-day tour to the Monaro and Tumut, including visits to Bobundara, Erindale, Shirley, Curry Flat, and The Sugar Pine Walk
- June Seminar. Talk by Dr Max Bourke AM entitled 'Conservation of Landscapes and Places The Past 50 Years and the Future', and screening of two episodes from the 'New Eden' series

The Branch made a submission to Wingecarribee Shire Council regarding a proposed villa development in Bowral, on a site that had been owned by an avid plant collector. The result was that two highly significant trees were retained, some maples were relocated within the development, and the Friends of the Southern Highlands were invited to propagate and remove rare vegetative material. The Branch has also reviewed the 'Wingecarribee Street Tree Master Plan', finding it consistent with AGHS objectives.

Projects

A project around the Sorensen plantings at the Berrima Cement Works (the 'Sorensen Industrial Landscape (SIL) Project') was commenced in October with a site assessment and tree inventory. A history of the site has also been undertaken. Work is on-going.

Chair's Report

The Branch has again had a busy and successful year, with a variety of events that have been well attended and enjoyed by members and guests. The decision to extend invitations to members of local garden clubs has worked well, and the tour this year was fully subscribed. Our thanks are due to Laurel Cheetham, who retired from the committee at the AGM after many years of service to the Branch and the NMC.

Jennifer Carroll Chair

Sydney and Northern NSW Branch

Sydney Branch Office Bearers: Chair: James Quoyle; Vice-Chair: Tempe Beaven; Secretary: Anne Galbraith; Treasurer: David Low.

Committee members: Dr. Pamela Bell, Christine Hay, Angela Low, Gina Plate, Anne Smith and Susan North (co-opted).

Northern NSW Branch Office Bearers: Chair: Bill Oates; Deputy Chairs: Graham Wilson and Liz Chappell; Secretary: Helen Wilson; Treasurer: Elton Squires; Committee member: Will Todd.

Sydney Functions

- Talk by Colleen Morris sharing an extraordinary, intense and very personal view of the contribution of the late Richard Clough
- A self-drive excursion to Lithgow in September with a focus on Sorensen gardens and the Hoskins Family patronage
- A very happy Christmas function held at Callan Park, Rozelle at which we made tribute to Stuart Read and Jeanne Villani, both of whom left the committee after 12 years of dedicated service.
- Talk by Jennifer Milam, Professor of Art History at Sydney University German Botanic Gardens and the Patriotic Experience of Place, dealt with issues of national identity entwined with garden design

- Anne Smith spoke about her favourite and historical gardens from her time with the Open Garden Scheme
- An afternoon walk through Macquarie University led by Craig Burton with an emphasis on work of Walter Abraham and his mentor, Richard Clough
- Talk by Gareth Collins, NSW Roads & Maritime Services Landscape Architect, on the relationship of landscape architecture and road design
- Talk by Tony Kenellos, Cultural Collections Manager and Curator of the Santos Museum of Economic Botany

Northern NSW Sub-Branch Functions

- At the 2016 National Trust Awards function in Sydney, the Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez won the Conservation Collection Award and it was accepted by John Maurer and Graham Wilson. The judges noted, 'This is a project that preserves a living collection of historic or heritage" roses.'
- Joint activity with the Queensland branch 'Autumn on the Downs' tour was a hugely successful and enjoyable weekend
- Sunday 29 May, Branch member Maria Hitchcock, opened her garden 'Fanghorn Private Botanic Garden' as part of Botanic Garden Australia and New Zealand Open Day. Maria was recently awarded a Community Recognition Statement from the Legislative Assembly for her work with gazettal of our National Floral Emblem and National Wattle Day
- Branch members Susan and Raymond Cantrell opened their wonderful Armidale garden to the Guyra Garden Club on 30 May

Advocacy

- As part of the 'Autumn on the Downs' weekend, Graham Wilson (Branch member and Heritage Advisor) took part in a seminar 'Gardens, Trees and Urban Development' highlighting the importance of heritage in identifying and recording significant trees
- Ongoing planning and preparation for a project recording significant garden histories involving knowledgeable members
- A submission to Leichardt Council objecting to a modification to a development approval at Callan Park that would have significant and detrimental impacts on the fragile cultural landscape
- Represented the AGHS at the symposium on the Fleet Street Heritage Precinct, Parramatta.
- Submission to the Woollahra Plaques scheme 2015 to suggest 7 places with a garden history connection
- A submission to the Regional Panels Secretariat objecting the to the proposal seeking to permit the entire setting of Varroville farm to be used for a cemetery

Advocacy letters sent and liaison to

- A letter to Waverley Council strongly advising that changes proposed to the aesthetics of the Tamarama Gully be influenced and guided by landscape heritage experts using best practice methods
- A letter to Wendy Whiteley congratulating her terrific achievement making this garden and on negotiating a 30-year lease with the State Government to protect her garden
- A letter in the Wentworth Courier (February) joining the Society's voice to decrying the 'disgusting' removal of the noble figs on Anzac Parade, Kensington by stealth and cover of darkness as desecration
- A letter of congratulations to Dr Clive Lucas (AGHS member) who was elected President of the National Trust of Australia (NSW)
- A letter of congratulations to Mr Stephen Davies (lapsed AGHS member) who was appointed Chair of the NSW Heritage Council

 A letter to the Sydney Morning Herald (Letters, December 1) opposing the incursion of the Sydney Modern' into Macquarie's gift of the Domain – suggesting the AGNSW should decentralise, use other city heritage buildings to keep them in public use, or acknowledge Sydney Harbour is at the fringe of Parramatta and look further west

Projects

- Ongoing working-bees to complete Stage 1 of the Heritage Rose Garden with the involvement of local Lions Club members and increased membership of the Northern NSW Sub-Branch
- Publication The Florilegium Society of NSW's 2016 exhibition celebrating 200 years of Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney (\$1,500)
- Publication NSW State Library 2016 exhibition, Garden Making in Australia (\$1,500)
- 3 high quality editions of newsletter 'Branch Cuttings' by editor, Jeanne Villani
- \$500 funding a plaque for Charles Fraser's grave at St John's Cemetery, celebrating Charles Fraser's contribution this year as their first superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney

This was my first year as Chair and I have learnt a great deal - I would like to thank all committee members of both branch and sub-branch committees for their time and energy with a special mention of Anne Galbraith (Secretary) who keeps us all on message. I congratulate all Northern members who have tirelessly created *Saumarez's* new Heritage Rose Garden and the acknowledgement they received at the National Trust Heritage Awards in May. I thank all involved in making our events and newsletter as rich, enjoyable and stimulating as they are.

James Quoyle Chair

Tasmanian Branch

Office Bearers: Chair: Lynne Paul; Secretary: Tom Lyons; Treasurer: Greg Clota; Committee: Mike Evans, Elizabeth Kerry, Bruce Chetwynd, Jennifer Stackhouse and Prue Slatyer.

Functions

The year has once again provided a most interesting series of visits and lectures.

We have enjoyed lectures by Anne Vale who took us on a virtual tour of gardens in California, Karl Gercens who entranced us with Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania and showed us how magnificent conservatories can be and Gillian Ward who open our eyes to the Tasmanian Olive Pink who established the garden of native Australian plants in central Australia now known as the Olive Pink Botanic Garden in Alice Springs. We have enjoyed tours of gardens in old Tasmanian properties in the Derwent Valley, Westbury, Hagley and Exton; we have enjoyed a peony nursery and explored an old garden in the north which is now being revived and which we have been able to help with recording.

Advocacy

The Branch has made representations to Hobart City Council in support of the protection of Lauderdale Cottage and its environs from inappropriate development. The matter is still before Council.

Project

A major project in the last year has been the AGHS support of a joint project with the Allport Library and Museum and Fine Arts. Margaret Anderson Hope lived in Hobart in the latter half of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century. She painted Tasmanian wildflowers and had planned to publish her work but this ambition was not realized before her death in 1934. Her original watercolours were acquired by the Allport Museum some years ago and in 1915 AGHS was approached by the Allport for support in the exhibition of these paintings. With the encouragement

and financial support of both the State Branch and National office of AGHS, a superb book, The Character of the Blossom, was published as an adjunct to the exhibition A project, commenced last year to record the 'Pear Walk' has now been completed Our fundraiser letter cards with six images of Tasmanian plants from Lady Smith's Presentation Album (1883) held by the Allport Library continue to be very popular

Lynne Paul Chair

Victorian Branch

Office Bearers: Chair: Lisa Tuck; Deputy Chair: Lorraine Powell; Treasurer: Anna Long; Minute Secretary: Robyn Robins; Advocacy/NMC Rep.: Wendy Dwyer; Publicity: Sarah Wood and Lindy

Neylan; Working Bees: Fran Faul; Catering: Annie Woodside Committee Members: Anthony Menhennet and Naomi Jeffs.

Functions

2015

- 11 August AGM and Lecture 3 Avenues of Honour Sarah Wood
- 11 November Domain Walk and Talk John Hawker/Pamela Jellie
- 21 November Sunbury Self Drive Tour Anthony Menhenett
- 9 December Walk and Talk St Vincent Place, Albert Park Lynsey Poore 2016
- 8 February Walk and Talk Ripponlea, Elsternwick Justin Buckley/Naomi Jeffs
- 15 March Dr Greg Johnson 'Quill and Spade'.
- 12 April Autumn Lecture 2 Phillip Johnson 'Sustainable Landscapes'
- 29 April to 1 May Autumn Beechworth Garden Tour Lisa Tuck/Anna Long/Lorraine Powell

Advocacy

- Camperdown Botanic Gardens
- Warnambool Botanic Gardens
- Heide Museum of Modern Art
- Horsham Boer War Memorial Avenue
- Domain Masterplan City of Melbourne
- System Garden, University of Melbourne
- Melbourne Metropolitan Rail Project
- Gardens and Landscapes at Risk List for the State of Victoria call for entries for the list

Working Bees

2015

- Belmont (18 July)
- Mt Boninyong (15 August)
- Turkeith and Mooleric (12 & 13 September)

2016

- Medlow (19 March)
- Longacres (10 April)
- Wombat Park (14 May)
- Eurambeen (18 June)

Projects

Wombat Park Recording - Miffy Gilbert \$5,275

- Smith's Nursery Libby Peck Project on hold.
- Murndal History Helen Doyle Final payment of \$1,500 2016-17
- Mt Boninyong Oral, Diary, Photographic History. Costs approx. \$500 2016 17 (Project in collaboration with the Friends of Buninyong Botanic Garden)

Chair's Report

I would like to thank all members of the Victorian Branch Committee for their hard work over the last year to provide members with a varied and interesting program of events and projects. It has been a very successful year with many achievements. I'd like to thank Anna Long as Treasurer and warmly welcome Robyn Robins and Naomi Jeffs to the committee. Sarah Wood will be on leave of absence for the coming year. I would like to wish Lorraine Powell all the very best as the incoming Chair.

Finally, many thanks to Lorraine and the Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens for their wonderful assistance in the recording of historic Mt. Boninyong.

The support of our strong membership is greatly valued and I look forward to welcoming you at our events in 2016/17.

Lisa Tuck Chair

West Australian Branch

Office Bearers: Chairman: John Viska; Secretary: Lynette Petersen; Treasurer: Tom Crossen; NMC Rep: Carmel O'Halloran; Membership and Newsletter: Sue Monger; Website: Therese Putland; Committee Members: Allison Varney, Roz Stewart

- 16 July AGM at the Heathcote Cultural Centre, Applecross was well patronised with 22 members and 2 guests attending. Following the meeting Patsy Vizents, Heritage Officer at Rottnest Island, presented a talk on the history of garden making on the island. Books donated by members were available and sold with the proceeds going to the Branch. At the conclusion the chairmen lead a walk around the site providing details of its significant trees.
- 19 September, a day trip to the Benedictine town of New Norcia. 22 members were privileged to
 view a selection of 17th, 18th and 19th century publications on gardening, horticulture and
 agriculture. The highlight being able to view a rare mid- sixteen hundred plant and natural
 history book printed on linen and a mid-eighteenth century gardening book with detailed
 engraved plates. In appreciation for the viewing a box of gardening books were donated to the
 library.
- 6 December, Xmas Windup at Ellis House an historic property in Bayswater.16 members braved the inclement weather to hear Linda Bullow from the Bayswater Historical Society outline the history of the locality, the house and its former occupants. A selection of the society's journal and a copy of the Branch's Guide to Conserving Gardens was presented in appreciation for the talk. Following refreshments, the annual quiz was held and the day ended with a walk through the wetlands that were originally within the property.
- 8 April tour of the Point Fraser Wetlands. 18 members attended the guided tour of the
 rehabilitated wetlands. Shelley Smith, the City of Perth Environmental Officer, lead an
 informative tour of the restored, riverine habitat that included the pre- European and colonial
 history, identification of the endemic species and the methods used for re-establishing the
 vegetation.
- 9 May an evening talk at the Grove Community Centre where Branch member Colin Barlow,
 Managing Director of Gardens from Eden, spoke about the newly formed Australian Garden
 Council. He outlined its aims and how the AGHS could be involved. To complement the talk, a

- selection of early 20th century Western Australian Gardening books and publications were displayed for Branch members to view.
- April 3 Carmel O'Halloran, Roz Stewart, Trish Edwards and Sue Monger assisted with the society's information stall at the one day Guildford Heritage Festival. The display of old gardening tools, terracotta pots and glass items generated much comment.
- Branch members have participated in working bees held by the National Trust at Woodbridge and Samson House.

The Chairman and Caroline Grant, the former chair made submissions to the Heritage Council of WA on the State's 2015 Draft Heritage Bill, highlighting the lack of protection for gardens and trees in the Current Act and the need for a horticultural expert to be included on its advisory panel.

Projects

• A grant for Queen's Park, Albany was awarded to The Fredericktown Progress Association in conjunction with the City of Albany.

Chair's Report

It has been pleasing to note that the managers of two State listed heritage properties, namely Anzac Cottage in Swanbourne and Cathedral House in the city sought horticultural advice from the Branch as well as the chairman being invited to speak about the aims of the society on two local radio gardening programs. Thanks to retiring committee members Gillian Lilleyman and Sue Medalia for their assistance, especially during the 2014 Conference.

John Viska Chair

Treasurer's Report

This year the accounts of the Society show a surplus of \$8,225. This is less than last year but reflects the current economic situation.

Investments have suffered this year with the Kindred Spirits Fund incurring a loss of \$18,101. The Finance Advisory Committee has considered the risk of this investment and it is seen as indicative of global trends which continue to be uncertain. Interest on all funds has fallen. Donations have also decreased.

Significant income accounts have been subscriptions \$95,552, the Adelaide Conference \$37,575, the Pre and Post Conference Tours and the Tour of the Amalfi Coast \$59,670

The conference at Adelaide was a great success and our thanks go to Elizabeth Ganguly, David Inverarity, Ray Choate and Richard Heathcote for all their hard work and resulting surplus. Trisha Burkitt organised pre- and post-conference tours which delighted members who travelled with her. The Society appreciates the efforts Trisha makes on its behalf.

The National Management Committee values the work done by volunteers who manage the conference and tours.

The operational costs of the Society are \$208,000 annually. As in previous years Subscriptions cover less than half this amount. Expenditure on the Journal was approx. \$72,000.

The National body commenced with the website redesign with an expected total expenditure of @\$11,000. AGHS was the Principal Sponsor of the Richard Aitken curated exhibition and associated publication (\$25,000) for the *Planting Dreams: Shaping Australian Gardens* at the State Library of New South Wales, as part of the bicentenary celebrations for the Sydney Botanic Gardens. The Tasmanian Branch was also assisted by matching their contribution of \$5,000 to produce the MA Hope Publication, *Character of the blossom: Wildflowers of Tasmania.* Wombat Park was recorded by the Victorian Branch as part of the AGHS Garden Restoration Fund, \$10,550 (Split 50/50 between Victorian Branch \$5,275 National \$5,275). Some Branches undertook other projects for approximately \$40,000. Details of these are given in the Branch Reports.

The Kindred Spirits Fund has a balance of \$201,638. The fund has supported the following publications;

- Marginal Landscapes
 Helen Armstrong Author (\$3,500)
- Florilegium: Sydney's painted garden
 Beverly Allen Project management, Colleen Morris and Louisa Murray Authors (\$2,750)
- Gardens of History and Imagination: Growing New South Wales Independent Scholars Association (\$5,000)

The resources of the Society are used to fulfil its objectives and input from the members is valued.

The Summary of the Financial statement of the Society for the period of 2015 to 2016 is on the following page, for a copy of the Society's audited financial records for this period, please contact the National office.

Elizabeth Teed Treasurer

THE AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY INC

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30th June, 2016

	NATIONAL	NSW (S/H)	NSW (SYD)	VIC	TAS	SA	ACT	WA	QLD	TOTA
	NATIONAL	(3/11)	(310)	VIC	IAS	SA	ACT	WA	QLD	IUIA
Net assets on Hand 1/7/2015	636324	11201	27128	47819	34081	10154	25892	21686	9454	82373
RECEIPTS										
Subscriptions	95552									9555
Functions & tours (net)	59670	10417	11185	-1409	2090	18420	1808		73	10225
Conference (net)	37575									3757
Sales of publications (net)	238		243	42	9653	2398			60	1263
Interest	10684	25	248	486	648	47	414	248	93	1289
Donations	5851		6544		5010				100	1750
Kindred Spirits Fund	-18101								1 5.5	-1810
Sundries	15998	325	300	237	424	145		359		1778
TOTAL	207467	10767	18520	-644	17825	21010	2222	607	326	27810
PAYMENTS										
Audit fees	4800		990	000	007			~		
Bank fees	201		990	990	237			715	385	811
Journal							2			20
ELECTION	58010	260						2050		6032
Merchant Fees	4156	400	700							415
Postage/stationery	3472	422	760	379	245	260	727	35	79	638
Projects/research	35241	606	20699	5980	10000	2241				7476
Sundry expenses	14598	1785	2402	133	2025	1169	4331	1732	156	2833
Telephone/website	7563									756
Travelling	3576									357
Wages	76463									7646
TOTAL	208080	3073	24851	7483	12507	3669	5060	4532	620	26987
PROFIT/LOSS	-613	7694	-6331	-8127	5318	17341	-2838	-3925	-294	822
Net assets on hand 30/6/2016	635711	18895	20797	39692	39399	27495	23054	17761	9160	83196
Represented by:										
Cash on hand	200									20
Cash at bank	406070	13794	7194	8623	12820	3240	12229	8554	3554	47607
Interest bearing deposits	274829	5101	13603	31069	26579	24256	10825	5501	5606	39736
Other Assets	9421							3706		1312
Kindred Spirits Fund	201638									20163
less										
Prepaid Conference Receipts	224153									22415
Other Liabilities	32294									3229
NET FUNDS	635711	18895	20797	39692	39399	27495	23054	17761	9160	83196

ELIZABETH TEED TREASURER

On behalf of the Committee

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the member of Australian Garden History Society Inc.

We have audited the summarised financial report of Australian Garden History Society Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2016 as set out above.

In our opinion, the information reported in the summarised financial report is consistent with the annual statutory financial report from which it is derived and upon which we expressed an unqualified audit opinion in our report to the members dated 1 September 2016. For a better understanding of the scope of our audit, this report should be read in conjunction with our audit report on the annual statutory financial report.

PASCOE WHITTLE

Chartered Accountants

ROWENA WHITTLE

Partner

Sydney,

O/ September 2016

Notice of the Thirty-Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Australian Garden History Society Inc. 15 October 2016

Notice is hereby given that the Thirty-Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Australian Garden History Society Incorporated will be held at the Rex Hotel, 150 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra on Saturday 15 October 2016 at 8.30am.

Business

- 1. To confirm the Minutes of the Thirty- Sixth Annual General Meeting held in Adelaide, SA Saturday 17 October 2015
- 2. To receive the Chairman's Report for the year ended 30 June 2016
- 3. To receive and consider the financial statement for the year ended 30 June 2016
- 4. To appoint an auditor for 2016/17
- 5. To elect members of the National Management Committee.
- 6. General Business.

By order of the National Management Committee Roslyn Burge, Secretary 1 September 2016

Objects of the Society

The objects of the Society are:

- 1. To promote interest in, and research into, significant cultural landscapes and the systematic identifying, recording and restoration of historic gardens, as an important component of Australia's heritage.
- 2. To actively encourage and support conservation of significant cultural landscapes, historic gardens and plants.
- 3. To foster the highest standards of conservation and maintenance.
- 4. To exchange information and liaise with government authorities, organisations and individuals with similar aims and objectives.
- 5. To provide a forum for discussion and debate and maintain an active advocacy role.
- 6. To administer and maintain a gift fund for the advancement of education, and the scientific, literary and artistic work of the AGHS and other purposes beneficial to the community.
- 7. To provide members with a dynamic programme through the Branch structure.
- 8. To provide responsible and efficient administration.