

Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch



Newsletter February 2017 No 1

Australian Garden History Society
www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au

ACT Monaro Riverina Branch, PO Box 5008, LYNEHAM ACT 2602
For an e-copy of the newsletter email judy.pearce@netspeed.com.au

BRANCH DIARY

**9 MARCH, 4.45 FOR
5 PM**

Visit to Harris Hobbs
Garden

**22 APRIL, 2.30 –
4.30 PM**

Belconnen Ramble

**30 APRIL, 10 AM –
3 PM**

NT Heritage Open Day

12 MAY

Visit to Bundarbo Station,
Jugiong

27-29 OCTOBER

AGHS National Conference
People/Place/Landscape
Hamilton, NZ

NEXT EVENTS

***Visit to the Harris Hobbs Garden
Thursday 9 March, 4.45 for 5pm***

Neil Hobbs who hosted our event at Contour 556 has invited us to the garden he created with his partner Karina Harris.

The Harris Hobbs garden is a constant work in progress. Over 26 years the garden has been in a state of transformation. The garden was first opened for the former Open Gardens Australia in 1996, and is unrecognizable from that time. The garden is an artful blend of exotic and native plants, and is full of sculpture.

Recent changes have added an upper level deck that overlooks the front garden, providing a new sense of the scale of the garden. As a result of the new outlook the owners have removed some trees and added new plantings to continue to play with the forms and spaces. Refreshments will be served at the end of the evening.

Address: 16 Robe Street, Deakin. Parking is available along this street or surrounding streets. Please ensure you don't block any drive ways!
Cost \$10 Members, \$15 non-members - including refreshments
Bookings Booking form page 6.

***National Trust Open Day at Gungahlin Homestead
Saturday 22 April 10am – 3pm***

The Heritage Festival opens with the National Trust **Open Day at Gungahlin Homestead**, a grand former residence and later wildlife research station which is rarely open to the public. This event will be co-hosted by the National Trust with Soldier On and is courtesy of CSIRO, the lessee of the site. AGHS will hold a 'stall' in the grounds along with other like-minded organisations. There will be tours of the Homestead, entertainment, classic cars, stalls and refreshments. This is a rare opportunity to visit this site - with its grand 19th Century buildings (William Davis) extended by Edward Crace. The rear courtyard, garden areas, carriage loop etc are still visible. A great opportunity to visit an early Canberra cultural landscape, and to meet friends from AGHS and other organisations.

ADVANCE NOTICE

***Living and Working in Canberra in the 19th Century.
Two Heritage Sites in Belconnen
Sunday 30 April, 2.30 – 4.30pm***

A Heritage Festival Joint Event with the National Trust ACT

**BRANCH
COMMITTEE**

Sue Byrne, Chair
Judy Pearce, Dpt Chair &
 Newsletter Editor
Helen Elliot, Treasurer
Nancy Clarke, Secretary

Bronwyn Blake (also on
 NMC)

Wendy Dodd
Greg Johnson
Kay Johnston, State
 NMC Representative
Helen Wilson
Marie Wood

Join a guided ramble to discover what we know about life on two early settlements on the Limestone Plains - the Charnwood Homestead site in Fraser, and Palmerville in McKellar.

We tend to think of European settlement in Canberra as centred on great pastoral stations like Duntroon and Yarralumla, but there was also much activity in what are now the Belconnen and Gungahlin areas, with land grants made to George Thomas Palmer on Ginninderra Creek in 1826, and to Henry Hall who in 1833 became the first resident landholder in the region. The sites of their settlements have fascinating histories that we have the opportunity to explore.

Nothing visible remains of the built structures at Henry Hall's Charnwood but there are a number of heritage trees, including olives that still bear fruit and an Osage orange. At Palmerville Heritage Park there is more evidence of the many buildings in what became a substantial settlement, as well as what are thought to be the oldest living European trees in the ACT.

This is a joint event between our Branch and the National Trust ACT, and will form part of the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival /Australian Heritage Festival.

BOOKING DETAILS will follow by the end of February

ADVANCE NOTICE
Visit to Bundarbo Station, Jugiong
Friday 12 May

We are in the process of finalising a much anticipated self-drive visit to Bundarbo Station, the home of Branch member Sue Chisholm. Details of the day will be available in the April Newsletter. We had considered making it a bus trip but Sue prefers that we come by car. We will do our best to assist members who would like to attend but do not want to make the car trip themselves.

Bundarbo was established in 1847 by Henry Osborne and dates back to the earliest years of settlement on the Murrumbidgee River. Typical of the era, Bundarbo was virtually a small kingdom. The school house, stables, gardener's hut and a number of outbuildings bear testimony to a time when dozens of families called the property home, depending on Bundarbo for their livelihood.

The homestead is situated on a gentle rise above the river and in the 1950s Australian gardening legend Edna Walling developed a special friendship with the Osbornes. Her skillful imprint can still be detected in the low stone walls that delineate the spaces enabling garden and landscape to merge seamlessly.

Long established trees including cedars, massive kurrajongs and pepper trees surround the homestead. A canopy of shady trees dapples the lawns during summer and a haze of massed purple lavender invites exploration of long pergolas and a rose garden. A billabong can be glimpsed from the homestead's verandah. Closer to the river an olive grove introduces a productive note which is echoed by the original orchard. A rose garden, with David Austin roses among other varieties, is sure to provide spectacular viewing.

A gardener's cottage, dubbed the 'Chinaman's hut' in honour of the former Chinese gardener who called it home is surrounded by a charming herb garden. Sue says Bundarbo's most successful achievement lies in its very tranquility. It speaks of thoughtful design and grasp of heritage.

Please note this trip in your diary if you are wanting to attend.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCH

BRANCH COMMITTEE

As you know our local committee lost two members at the end of 2016. We warmly welcome Wendy Dodd who has agreed to join us . thank you Wendy.

CONGRATULATIONS LAINIE LAWSON OAM

We are delighted that Lainie Lawson (Nimmitabel) has been recognised in this year's Australia Day Honours List, receiving the Order of Australia Medal for services to *horticultural history*.



Lainie has been a member of AGHS since 1980, a most generous and knowledgeable Branch member (serving on the Committee several times), and has recently finished a three year term as an elected member of the AGHS National Management Committee.

Her dedication to and expertise in gardens and cultural landscapes has been demonstrated for many years . she held many positions in Open Gardens Australia, and has been a council member of the

Australiana Fund and a trustee of the Historic Houses Trust NSW. In her own region she is deeply engaged with Nimmitabel activities and organisations. Before 'going bush' Lainie was senior curator, Historic Places in the then Cultural Facilities Corporation here in Canberra.

Many of us have had the privilege of visiting Lainie's lovely garden Erindale, at Nimmitabel. Hearty congratulations Lainie.

AUTUMN WORKING PARTY ON MONTAGUE ISLAND 26 APRIL 2017

Would you like to join in?

Most Branch members know about the Branch's Montague Island Kitchen Garden project, which has been running for three years. Cass Bendixsen (NSW National Parks and Wildlife) is grateful to the Branch for our ongoing enthusiasm, and the positive publicity it has attracted.

In 2017 a change of approach will be taken . because the garden is now so well established, the working party will take place on just one day (Wednesday 26 April), and Branch members are invited to nominate to take part in the autumn clean-up and winter planting. We would like a team of up to six people. An early response would be welcome (no later than 1 March but earlier would be better).

If you are a Branch member interested in being part of this activity, or if you would just like more information, please contact Nancy Clarke as soon as possible (clarkenancy624@gmail.com OR 6248 6549). Tasks for the working party include

clearing away the spring/summer plantings, carrying out other maintenance/development in the garden and nearby area, and planting winter crops. We will continue to follow closely the guidelines in Colleen Morris' *Plan for the Reinstatement of the Kitchen Garden, Montague Island* - available on the AGHS website <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/downloadarea>.

NPWS will provide transport to the Island on their working vessel *Shearwater 11* in the morning of the 26th (a short trip), returning to Narooma in the mid afternoon of that day. Volunteers need to arrange their own transport to Narooma and accommodation overnight on Tuesday 25 April (ANZAC Day) so you are ready to board the Shearwater by 9 am that day. The day's program will provide enough time for participants to do the garden work needed, enjoy lunch and have a bit of an explore round the wonderful island, getting back to Narooma in time to return to Canberra in comfortable time that day.

There are some conditions that everyone on the working party must meet: a reasonable level of physical fitness and agility as well as commitment to and enthusiasm for routine garden work are essential. Heavy work is all done by NPWS staff on the island. NPWS requires that all participants are able to get on and off the boat independently, and climb the island jetty's ladder and the steepish hill to the lighthouse and cottages. NPWS staff have responsibility for the island, and all members of the working party will be required to work under their direction and follow their instructions as circumstances require. And, don't forget that access to Montague Island is always weather dependent!

For general information about the island see its website <http://www.montagueisland.com.au/>. It is an environment of truly astonishing beauty.
Nancy Clarke

NEW MEMBERS

The committee would like to welcome the following new members who has joined since the last newsletter.

- Julie Campbell, Yass
- Kimberly Evans, Braidwood
- Hugh Gordon, Braidwood

FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE

I thought you would be interested in Megan Backhouse's reviews on the best summer reading for gardeners.

Great to see our sponsored publication (written by Richard Aitken) *Planting Dreams* top of the recommended four, as well as Victorian Branch member and Past Vic Branch Chair Anne Vale's recent publication featured.

<http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/books/the-best-of-summer-reading-for-gardeners-20161202-qt2gj7.html>

Phoebe LaGerche-Wijsman, National Executive Officer

NAME BADGES

It was great to see so many people wearing name badges at recent functions. We will continue to bring name card holders to events and if you don't have one for your membership card we can supply one at the time.

OF INTEREST

BOTANICAL CAPITAL

25 February – 24 March

Exhibition of work by Cheryl Hodges . Watercolours telling stories of Canberra's landscape history

To be opened by Branch members Bernadette Hince on Sunday 26 February at 3pm
Venue: Yarralumla Gallery, Cottage 1, Weston Park Road, Yarralumla

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF CANBERRA

Monday 20 March, 7.30pm, Wesley Centre

Greg Johnson will be giving the talk, *Quill and Spade* . Pioneer garden writing in Australia+he gave to the Society in 2014. If you missed it then you might like to attend.
Admission Free

LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN GUARDIANS (LBGG)

<http://lakeburleygriffinguardians.org.au/>

Lake Burley Griffin Guardians have been planning activities for the year that includes spreading the information about how *City to the Lake* will blight Canberra. Check our website Hot Topics: <http://lakeburleygriffinguardians.org.au/view-from-commonwealth-avenue/> for the illustration of what to expect along Commonwealth Avenue if *City to the Lake* proceeds.

Our petition to Senator the Hon Fiona Nash that many AGHS members signed, had an initial hiccup in Parliament but after a statutory declaration the Senator wrote acknowledging receipt of the petition although she also negated our written appeals to stop the development. There has been no information about West Basin from the Government and the Guardians are trying to find out if there is a development program and timeline.

Juliet Ramsay, Convenor

Lake Burly Griffin Guardians

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

www.naa.gov.au/visit-us/exhibitions

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

WWW.ANBG.GOV.AU/GARDENS

NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA

www.arboretumcanberra.org.au



AUSTRALIAN
GARDEN
HISTORY
SOCIETY

AGHS BOOKING SLIP

Booking slips need to be returned no later than one week prior to the event to assist committee with planning. It is easier for your voluntary committee to get payment in advance but if you have difficulties paying by cheque or EFT please send the booking slip or email to Helen Elliot at ellioth@bigpond.net.au (phone 6284 4749 home) and pay on the day.

Names _____

Contact phone: (Evening/W/E) _____

Email: _____

Tick	Event	Cost	Numbers attending	Amount Incl \$
<input type="checkbox"/>	9 March – Visit to Harris/Hobbs Garden	Members of AGHS \$10 Non-Members \$15	_____ _____	_____ _____

Payment options:

Cheques payable to **Australian Garden History Society**. Please return the cheque and payment form to The Treasurer, AGHS, P O Box 5008, Lyneham ACT 2602 or contact Helen Elliot at ellioth@bigpond.net.au (phone 6284 4749 home) and pay by EFT.

By EFT Account name: **AGHS**, BSB: **801009**, Account number: **001062165**

Please make sure you include the following reference information:
the date of the event (e.g. 9 March) and your **family name**.