

Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch



Newsletter April 2016 No 2

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

30 APRIL & 1 MAY

Self drive visit to the South Coast

13 MAY, 6PM

Joint Lecture with Friends of the NLA: *A Garden for Empire and Nation* - Stephen Whiteman

14 JULY, 5.30 FOR 5.45PM

Lecture: *Write to Garden in Australia – 1939 – 1988*. Greg Johnson

25 AUGUST, 5PM

Branch AGM

25 AUGUST, 5.30 FOR 5.45PM

Annual Lecture
Speaker: Leonie Norton

14 – 17 OCTOBER

AGHS National Conference, Canberra, *The Scientist in the Garden*

NEXT EVENTS

A Weekend at the NSW South Coast

SATURDAY 30 APRIL & SUNDAY 1 MAY

Flyers for this event were sent to all members in mid-March, but I will attach the details and booking form to the end of the newsletter for those who are still considering joining us.

We thought that for those staying in or near Narooma we would book a table for dinner at the Narooma Golf Club. The food is quite acceptable there and the views are spectacular. To see the menu go to <http://www.naroomagolf.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Dinner-Menu-Summer-2016.pdf> We will get in touch with those attending nearer the time regarding this.

Lecture: A Garden for Empire and Nation: The Qing Imperial Mountain Estate in Chengde

SPEAKER: DR STEPHEN WHITEMAN

FRIDAY 13 MAY, 6PM

Constructed, neglected, rebuilt and expanded over the course of three centuries, the Qing imperial garden known as the Mountain Estate to Escape the Summer Heat has played a central, but constantly changing role in the history of the Manchu empire and its 20th and 21st century successors. In this talk, Stephen Whiteman explores the park's early history under the Kangxi emperor, from its original conception as an imperial retreat to its representation through text and image - especially in the famed *Thirty-Six Views*, poems and illustrations of the park that were the first depictions of Chinese gardens to reach Europe. From there, this illustrated lecture considers the legacy of Kangxi's reign, not only in the garden's changing design, but also in the collective memories of the rise and fall of the Qing dynasty itself.

Stephen Whiteman is Lecturer in Asian Art at the University of Sydney, where he teaches the histories of East Asian art, architecture, and gardens. A former fellow in Garden and Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks, in Washington, DC, he received his doctorate in Art History from Stanford University. His current research explores the imagination and



Leng Mei, *View of the Rehe Travelling Palace*, ca. 1708-1710. The National Palace Museum, Beijing.

**BRANCH
COMMITTEE**

Sue Byrne, Chair
Judy Pearce, Dpt Chair &
 Newsletter Editor
Helen Elliot, Treasurer
Nancy Clarke, Secretary
Margie Bourke, Chair
 2016 Conference
 Committee
Kay Johnston, State
 NMC Representative

Bronwyn Blake
Anna Howe
Greg Johnson
Helen Wilson
Marie Wood

Ex officio:
Lainie Lawson, NMC

creation of cultural and political landscapes in the early Qing court, particularly through garden-building, image-making and textual inscription. His first book, *Thirty-Six Views: The Kangxi Emperor's Mountain Estate in Poetry and Prints*, co-authored with Professor Richard E. Strassberg, was published this autumn by Harvard University Press.

Venue Conference Room, National Library of Australia
Cost \$15 for AGHS members and Friends of the NLA, \$20 for non-members includes refreshments.
Booking Bookings: nla.gov.au/bookings/friends or 02 6262 1698. **NO** bookings to be made through AGHS.

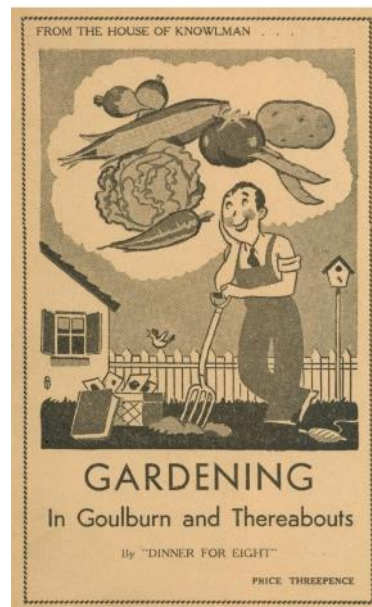
Lecture: Write to Garden in Australia – 1939 to 1988 – The times they are a changin

SPEAKER: DR GREG JOHNSON

THURSDAY 14 JULY, 5.30 FOR A 5.45PM START

Gardens and gardening reflect the social changes of the times. The AGHS July lecture will explore influences on Australian gardening writing and writers from 1938, the Sesqui Centenary of European settlement of Australia, to the Bicentenary year, 1988:

- Frugality - emergence from the Depression, WW2 austerity and Digging for Victory
- Multiculturalism - Postwar refugees and migration,
- Neat and Trim 1950s Vs the Beat Generation,
- Greater access to university education,
- Hippies and Back to Nature and Overland treks to Europe,
- *It's Time for a Change*, the Organic and Native Plant Movements and
- The Bicentenary and Expo88 in Brisbane.



*Come writers and critics
 Who prophesize with your pen
 And keep your eyes wide
 The chance won't come again
 And don't speak too soon
 For the wheel's still in spin
 And there's no tellin' who that it's namin'
 For the loser now will be later to win
 For the times they are a-changin'*
 (Bob Dylan, 1964)

The lecture continues on from the 2015 lecture, *Write to Garden in Australia – 1888 to 1938*

Greg Johnson has collected early Australian gardening books for over 30 years. He was gardening correspondent for the sub-tropics for *Your Garden* magazine from 1989 to 1995, and is a great-grandson of John Mann, gardener and fruit seller, a Chinese indentured labourer who came to Queensland before the gold rushes.

Venue Menzies Room, National Archives of Australia, Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes
Cost Members \$10, Non-members \$15 - including refreshments
Bookings Booking form Page 8

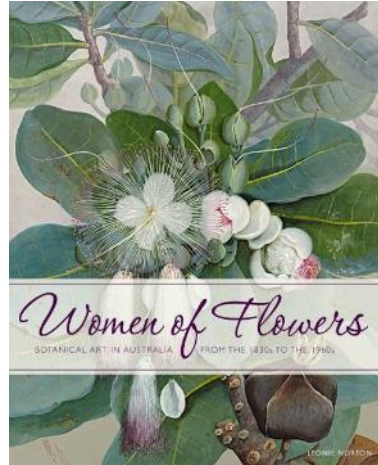
We acknowledge the support of the NAA in providing the venue for this lecture . see the attached flyer for their April program.

Annual Lecture

SPEAKER: LEONIE NORTON

THURSDAY 25 AUGUST, 5.30 FOR A 5.45PM START

The lecture will follow the **Branch AGM starting at 5PM** . more details in the next newsletter.



Leonie Norton, an artist and writer, is the author of *Women of Flowers: Botanical Art in Australia from 1830s to 1960s*. While researching this book Leonie became interested in Marianne Collinson Campbell, a woman who has much relevance to ACT garden history. Marianne had painting lessons from a number of teachers, including Conrad Martens. She married George Campbell and moved to Duntroon in 1857. Apparently she was responsible for constructing the maze and conservatory at Duntroon. If you wish to see a small example of Marianne's art, visit the current CMAG exhibition BUSH CAPITAL, the Natural History of the ACT, which shows a page of one of her art books.

Venue	Menzies Room, National Archives of Australia, Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes
Cost	Members \$10, Non-members \$15 - including refreshments
Bookings	Booking form Page 8

We acknowledge the support of the NAA in providing the venue for this lecture . see the attached flyer for their April program.

NEW MEMBERS

The committee would like to welcome the following new members who have joined since the last newsletter. If we have not seen you at a recent function please introduce yourself to committee members so that we can welcome you in person.

- Peggy Douglass, Canberra
- Digby Gascoine, Canberra
- Virginia Stephens, Jindabyne

AGHS NATIONAL CONFERENCE CANBERRA 14-16 OCTOBER 2016

Members should all have received the brochure for the 2016 AGHS National Conference in Canberra in October. We strongly suggest that you sign up online, using a system called trybooking.com. The brochure explains how to do this, and also suggests other options if you are not confident in using this new method. The Conference will be offering a very stimulating lecture program, and some very interesting gardens, including some well known to Canberrans, but still worth re-visiting, and showing off to delegates who are not familiar with these treasures. So get in early to secure your place.

Margie Bourke

Conference Convener

AGHS NATIONAL CONFERENCE HAMILTON 27-29 OCTOBER 2017

Planning is underway to hold the 2017 conference in Hamilton, NZ. The Taranaki Garden Festival take place from 27 October . 5 November so there will be an opportunity to visit this event after the conference.

PAST EVENTS

February: A visit to the Australian National Insect Collection and the Atlas of Living Australia, CSIRO

Australian National Insect Collection

<http://www.csiro.au/en/Research/Collections/ANIC>

The Atlas of Living Australia - ala.org.au

Thirty fortunate members enjoyed an informative and stimulating afternoon at CSIRO receiving detailed briefings on both of these wonderful national institutions.

ANIC manages the largest collection of Australian insects in the world. We were briefed about the history and purpose of the Collection and then shown through several of the repositories by Senior Technician, Alan Langford, and provided with specialist briefings on Australian native bees and on stick insects.



It was a great privilege to be able to explore the Collection as CSIRO is no longer able to provide public tours, so ours was arranged specially for AGHS members, and we are most appreciative.

Members were truly overwhelmed by the depth the scope and the beauty of this national collection. It is truly is a national treasure and we are immensely grateful to the staff who assisted us to better understand its significance.

We were also briefed about the scope and capability of the Atlas of Living Australia, by the Director, Dr John de la Salle. The ALA is a composite website collecting and presenting data and making information available about all aspects of Australia's natural systems - plants, animals, birds, insects and so on.

Our members were delighted to be informed about this wonderful national website, breathtaking in its scope and beautifully considered in its detail. Since the visit, members have showed off the site to others, including grandkids, teachers, museum and library colleagues, friends and family. Many of our members have a keen interest in the natural world, and many work actively to support conservation and citizen science initiatives. We agreed that we will keep monitoring the site, even adding to it, knowing that every citizen science contributor increases the knowledge and understanding of Australia's distinctive and diverse biota, and provides the critical data and knowledge infrastructure that support essential conservation work across the nation.

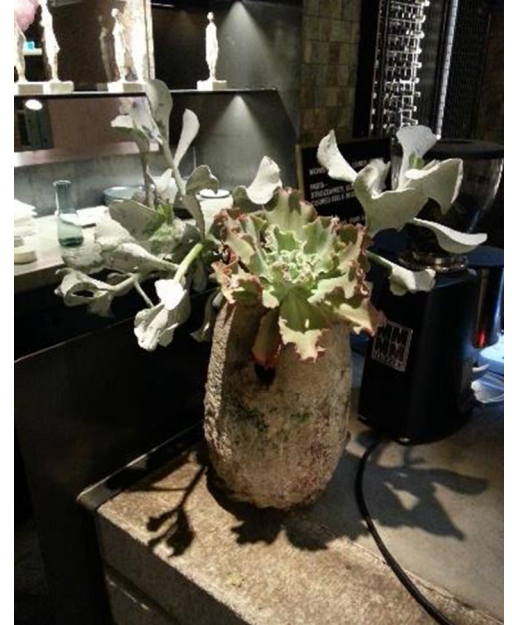
Thankyou CSIRO
Marie Wood

March: A visit to New Acton: Herbs among the apartments

Open Sesame would have been the apt greeting from Greg Johnson and Sue Byrne as they led 30 AGHS members and friends into New Acton on March 17th. In *One Thousand and One Nights*, this magical phrase opens the mouth of a cave in which forty thieves have hidden a treasure. Our cave was a hidden world of small gardens tucked between the cafes, galleries, sculptures, walkways and apartments of Canberra's new urban arts precinct, all probably unnoticed by the casual passer-by.

David Alcorn of Mocan and Green Grout, and his fellow chefs, Bernd Brademann at A Baker and Sean McConnel at Monster Kitchen and Bar, Hotel Hotel, told us of trials and tribulations worthy of Ali Baba that they had gone through to establish their herb gardens: poorly designed containers with bad drainage, soil that had to be replaced and enriched, limited sun in winter and wind tunnels between buildings.

Their skills were rewarded with flourishing clumps of staple herbs. plain and garlic chives, sage, thyme, parsley, chillis and dill. and more unusual verbena and saltbush. And sesame, which we have all eaten in many dishes, but who had ever seen the sesame plant? A fairly inconspicuous plant *Sesamum indicum* looks a bit like a salvia, with pale lime green leaves that have a mild aniseed taste. The fruit becomes a dry pod that splits open and spills the seeds. While growing enough herbs to garnish their signature dishes, Sean pointed out the small gardens could not supply seasonal produce on the scale he consumed: 200kg of tomatoes, 200 kg of figs and 100 corn cobs every two days in autumn.



The foraged succulents from Greg Johnson's garden given to Monster Bar

Although not growing edible plants, Myles Chandler encountered similar problems when he decided to plant a roof garden atop the re-cycled container that is his bike shop, Goodspeed Bicycle Company. Persistence paid off and the *myoporum* and pig face are starting to cascade down to meet the jasmine and ivy growing upwards, almost camouflaging the container set among other trees and shrubs.

Alan and Sue Robinson had much the same experiences in setting up the New Acton Community Garden. Ten raised beds, each 1m x 1m, constructed as part of the initial development had been abandoned as nothing grew. The soil was replaced and improved with fertilizers and horse manure before planting vegetables and herbs that many residents now pick when they want to add a fresh flavour to their cooking. But the hard work of maintenance falls to just five stalwarts among the 614 residents of the nearby apartments.

Digesting the salutary lessons of gardening in small urban spaces did not spoil the refreshments at the end of our ramble, on the shore of Lake Burley Griffin's West Basin. AGHS member and landscape architect Juliet Ramsay reminded us of the plans for large scale apartment development that threaten this peaceful, poplar sheltered cave. AGHS has lent its support to the campaign of the Lake Burley Griffin Guardians to protect the Lake and its shores for public access and enjoyment from the modern day thieves intent on taking it from us.

Anna Howe

NEWS FROM THE BRANCH

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY MONTAGUE ISLAND: WEEDING VINES!

A repeat of some information sent by email on 19 March (for those who get hard copies of material)

You will all be aware of our Branch's special relationship with Montague Island having been involved in restoring the kitchen gardens first established in the 1880s by the lighthouse keepers and their families. We are now supporting the project by participating in biennial working parties in the garden.

We have had a request from Cass Bendixsen, Discovery Coordinator, Montague Island (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service) who is seeking hardy volunteers to assist with weed control on Montague Island **this autumn**. The work is hand removal and herbicide control of vines (morning glory, dolichos vine and rambling dock) that are infesting parts of the island. Working parties are for 6 days (Wednesday through to the following Monday), and volunteers work with NPWS staff. You would need a Chemical Handling/Application certificate.

Volunteers stay on the island, a great experience. And a great way of helping keep beautiful Montague Island beautiful.

Working parties dates (including vessel travel) are as follows:
(they may of course already be filled as Cass has asked other people as well as AGHS members.)

Wed 23rd March - Mon 28th March
Wed 6th April - Mon 11th April
Wed 20th April - Mon 25th April
Wed 18th May - Mon 23rd May
Wed 1st June - Mon 6th June
Wed 15th June - Mon 20th June

If you are interested and any of the dates suit you, email Nancy Clarke (clarkenancy624@gmail.com) and she will send you all the relevant information including Cass's email contact.

NAME BADGES

Your membership card fits into one of those conference card holder name tags. It would be great if members could wear their tags to events. We will bring some spare card holder to the next few events.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH

Members of the ACT, Monaro and Riverina Branch of the AGHS are welcome to attend events organised by the Southern Highlands Branch. The next event is:

Saturday 18 June – Winter Seminar 2pm – 4.30pm

Our branch member, Max Bourke, will be speaking on ***Conservation of Landscapes and Places – the past 50 years and the future***

More details are available in the Southern Highlands *Inflorescence* which is on line at <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/> and follow the links to %Branches+ or email aghs.sh.info@gmail.com.

OF INTEREST

FRIENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

Lectures on a variety of topics are offered at 12.30pm on most Thursdays. No bookings are required, entry by gold coin donation. Details on all the lectures can be found at the Friends web site. http://www.friendsanbg.org.au/newweb_drupal/calendar

19 March – 17 April - Art in the Garden with Friends, ANBG Visitors Centre
A collection of botanical paintings and drawings by the Friends' Botanic Art Group. Artworks are for sale.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

www.naa.gov.au

We are extremely grateful to the National Archives of Australia for providing a venue for our July and August lectures and attach a flyer outlining the exciting things happening at the Archives during April.

NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA

www.arboretumcanberra.org.au

OPEN GARDENS CANBERRA

www.opengardenscanberra.org.au

16 & 17 April . four gardens are open in the Queanbeyan area

- Art Studio Garden, 48 Brereton Street
- 21 Downey Street
- Railway Park Community Garden
- Queanbeyan Sensory Garden

For more information visit the website

LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN GUARDIANS (LBGG)

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

The Lake Burly Griffin Guardians is currently trying to influence Governments to conduct a review of the West Basin Building Estate development that has had little press coverage unlike the foreshore proposal that has been presented in many colourful images of people, coffee shops and pocket parks. The Building Estate will not only appropriate the public park for privately owned apartments but block vistas from City Hill and Commonwealth Avenue, take out all the mature trees, reduce public access by taking away public parking except for some kerbside space. There will be no parking for Floriade and appears to be no parking area for the disabled and those with young children. The Building Estate development proposal along with the large aquatic centre shows little public open space left other than the Point Park. The Foreshore complex is taking an area of Commonwealth owned lake waters. It appears the lowering of Parkes Way to enable access roads to the estate seems to have been put off indefinitely and that means all traffic will be via Albert and Corkhill Streets intersecting Commonwealth Avenue.

The Guardians have a membership form on their website for all those interested in being members. As this is an election year we have developed an election statement to send to all Canberra politicians.

Juliet Ramsay, convenor
Lake Burly Griffin Guardians

**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 ellieth@bigpond.net.au (phone 6284 4749 home) and pay on the day. Please note that EFT is a payment option.

Names _____

Contact phone: (Evening/W/E) _____

Email: _____

Tick	Event	Cost	Numbers attending	Amount Incl \$
	Lecture 13 May	All bookings through NLA – see page 2		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lecture 14 July	Members of AGHS \$10, non-members \$15	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lecture 25 August	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 ellieth@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. 14 July) and your **family name**.

SOUTH COAST WEEKEND

30 April - 1 May 2016

SATURDAY 30 APRIL

8.00am Depart Canberra - 2 hour drive to Eurobodalla Regional Botanical Gardens, just south of Bateman's Bay

10-11.15am **The Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens** is situated on a 42 hectare forest site five kilometres south of Batemans Bay. The Gardens displays plant species that occur naturally in the Region.

Morning tea and guided walk

11.30am Depart for Bingie (50 min drive)

12.15am – 1.30pm **The Priory at Bingie** built by Nick Romalis and his wife Barbara, an accomplished artist.

Tour of Gardens, BYO picnic lunch

1.30pm Depart for Horse Island (25 min drive)



2 – 4pm **Horse Island** - an 80 hectare private island surrounded by the Tuross Estuary. It was originally used for food crops and grazing, but for the last 25 years it has been lovingly cared for by Christina and Trevor Kennedy. The Branch first visited Horse Island in 2003, and Christina, now a member of our Branch, has given us the opportunity for another visit. We will have 2 hours to explore the extensive garden.

4pm Depart

Participants to find their own overnight accommodation and dinner in or near Narooma.

SUNDAY 1 MAY

9.35am Depart Narooma for Tilba Lake (20 min drive)

10 - 11am **Tilba Lake Community** - Morning tea/coffee and a tour of the arboretum. Beautifully situated on the coast and the southern shore of the Tilba Lake the property was a bare cow pasture of kikuyu grass and one Monterey pine tree. In 1980 it was bought by a group with the aim of conserving and revegetating it with indigenous species of eucalypts and banksias, and to grow other South Coast flora. There are also other trees grown for their timber i.e. Australian red cedar, and for carbon sequestration off-sets. There are now many thousands of trees planted on a once bare dairy farm.

11 am Depart for Central Tilba Village (10 min drive)

- 11.10 – 11.30am **Central Tilba Village** – walk in Village Street
(meet in carpark on Old Princes Hwy just before village)
Central Tilba Village is a heritage listed tourist village whose main street is lined with early 19th century timber cottages. Although the small front gardens are not heritage planted, it retains the attraction of earlier times.
- 11.30am Depart for Dry River (45 min drive)
- 12.15-1.15pm **Dry River** Picnic Lunch (Lunch provided)
1.15pm Depart for Kameruka, 21 kms from Bega (35 min drive), arrive 1.50pm
- 2 – 3pm **Kameruka** - Kameruka Homestead was built in 1845 by the Walker Brothers who had taken over the 200,000 acre property from the Imlay Brothers who had fallen on difficult times. By 1857 it was owned by the Tooth family (of beer fame) who continued to own and operate the farm until they sold it in 2007. It had remained in the family for 150 years and during that time it could claim that it was the oldest dairy stud in Australia. – For more information visit <http://www.aussietowns.com.au/town/kameruka-nsw>
Our visit will include a tour and a talk about the history of the site.



- 3pm Depart for Erindale (45min drive)
- 3.45-4.30pm **Erindale**, the property of committee member Lainie Lawson – just outside Nimmitabel – Afternoon tea included.
- 4.30pm Depart for Canberra (2 hour drive), arrive approx. 6.30pm

Costs	Members \$55, non-members \$65 (includes all visits, teas, and lunch Sunday) Remember to bring a picnic lunch for Saturday
Enquiries	Margie Bourke, marg@mebourne.com , Phone 0417 668 563
Bookings	Please use the booking form attached
<p>In order for us to organise catering and guides, bookings should be made by Friday 15 April. Numbers are limited - so get in early!</p>	

Australian Garden History Society
ACT Monaro Riverina Branch



SOUTH COAST WEEKEND
30 April - 1 May 2016

BOOKING FORM

Costs: Members \$55, non-members \$65
Includes all visits, teas, and lunch Sunday

Names	Member
_____	Yes/No
_____	Yes/No
_____	Yes/No
_____	Yes/No

Total Payment: \$ _____

Contact email _____
Phone _____ Mobile _____

Any special requirements (including diet) _____

Please return booking form to:

The Treasurer, AGHS, P O Box 5008, Lyneham ACT 2602, or
scan and email to Helen Elliot at ellioth@bigpond.net.au

BOOKING CLOSE Friday 15 April

Payment options

- 1. Cheques** payable to **Australian Garden History Society OR**
- 2. EFT** Account name: **AGHS**, BSB: **801009**, Account number: **001062165**
Please make sure you include the following reference information: **Coast trip** and
your **family name**.