

# Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch



Newsletter April 2018 No 2

Australian Garden History Society  
[www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au](http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au)

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For an e-copy of the newsletter email [judy.pearce@netspeed.com.au](mailto:judy.pearce@netspeed.com.au)

## BRANCH DIARY

### 14 APRIL

National Trust Open Day,  
Lanyon

### 22 APRIL

Tuggeranong School  
House visit . joint event  
with National Trust for the  
Heritage Festival

### 14 JUNE

Evening lecture . Lisa  
Clausen - *The Cruden  
Farm Diaries*

### 12 JULY

Evening lecture . Dr Greg  
Johnson . *Write Now:  
Gardening in Australia  
1989-2038*

## FOR YOUR DIARIES

### 9 AUGUST

AGM and Annual Lecture-  
speaker Lainie Lawson

### 20 SEPTEMBER

Proposed visit to the  
Australian Botanic Garden  
and PlantBank, Mt Annan

### 10 NOVEMBER

The much anticipated visit  
to the Jugiong district

## AGHS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

### 26-29 OCTOBER 2018

AGHS National Conference  
Southern Highlands:  
*Gardens in time of peace  
and conflict*

## NEXT EVENTS

### *Canberra and Region Heritage Festival*

**WEDNESDAY 18 – SUNDAY 29 APRIL**

This year AGHS will again be an active member of the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival. This year's theme is *My Culture, My Story* and focuses on what makes a place special, encouraging us all to embrace the future by sharing the strength of our cultural identities. The extensive program was released in print in early April and is available at [https://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/heritage-and-the-community/heritage\\_festival](https://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/heritage-and-the-community/heritage_festival). Of particular interest to AGHS members are the National Trust Open Day and the visit to Tuggeranong School House that we are running with the National Trust.

### *National Trust Open Day: Lanyon Homestead*

**SATURDAY 14 APRIL, 10AM – 3PM**

This year's Heritage Festival Open Day will be at Lanyon, and there will be a very generous program of events, including guided tours of the garden. AGHS will as usual have a stall.

### *Landscape of Learning – Old Tuggeranong School House*

**SUNDAY 22 APRIL, 2 – 4 PM**

A joint AGHS and National Trust ACT event for the Heritage Festival.

This afternoon visit provides an opportunity to visit and learn about historic Tuggeranong Schoolhouse in Chisholm, in its developing gardens and neighbouring landscape.

The Schoolhouse opened as a public school for pioneer Tuggeranong families in 1880 and operated for nearly 60 years before closing in 1939. An important current project is the creation of suitable garden surrounds for this heritage property.

Our guided visit will be led by professional historian and garden enthusiast Anne Claoue-Long, followed by refreshments. During the afternoon Margaret Reid, National Trust Patron, will officially open the ACT program of the Australian Heritage Festival.

**Bookings are essential**, through the National Trust Office. Email [info@nationaltrustact.org.au](mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au), or ring 6230 0533 (office open from 8.30 to 3 Tue to Thu . leave a message at other times, and Liz will get back to you.

**Cost** \$10, children free.  
**Location** 34 Enid Lorimer Circuit, Chisholm, Australian Capital Territory

**BRANCH  
COMMITTEE**

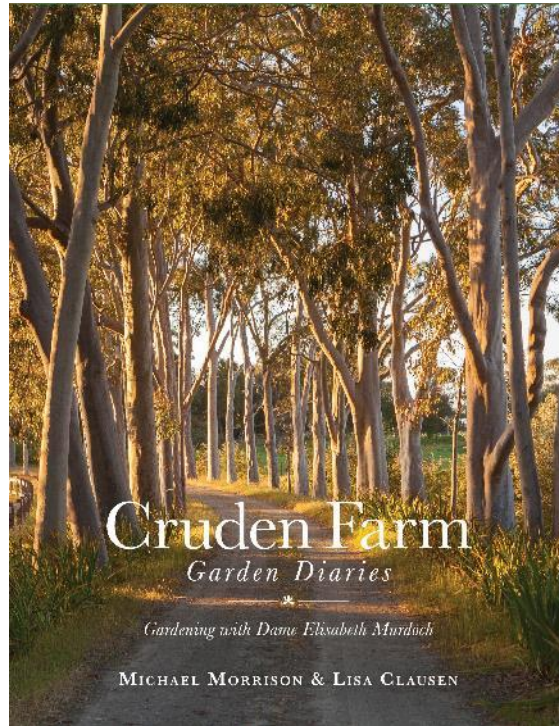
**Sue Byrne**, Chair  
**Judy Pearce**, Dep. Chair &  
 Newsletter Editor  
**Helen Elliot**, Treasurer  
**Kay Johnston**, State NMC  
 Representative  
**Nancy Clarke**, Secretary

**Bronwyn Blake** (also on  
 NMC)  
**Sue Cassidy**  
**Wendy Dodd**  
**Greg Johnson**  
**Helen Wilson**  
**Marie Wood**

**Lecture: *The Cruden Farm Diaries – forty years of  
 friendship and artistry in one of Australia’s most famous  
 private gardens***

**SPEAKER: LISA CLAUSEN**  
**THURSDAY 14 JUNE, 6PM**

Our twelfth joint event with the Friends of the National Library



Cruden Farm, 56km south-east of Melbourne, was the cherished home and garden of philanthropist Dame Elisabeth Murdoch for more than 80 years before her death in 2012. Working alongside her most days for four decades was Cruden’s head gardener, Michael Morrison, and this book traces the history of their deep friendship and creative partnership. Lisa will discuss how she drew on Morrison’s diaries to write this intimate insight into two extraordinary people and their shared dedication to creating and sharing one of Australia’s best loved gardens.

**Lisa Clausen** is a writer based in Melbourne. She was a senior writer for TIME Magazine (South Pacific edition) and her work has appeared in many publications, including The Monthly and Fairfax’s Good Weekend Magazine. *Cruden Farm Garden Diaries*, her first book, won

the Special Judges’ Prize in the Victorian Community History Awards 2017.

**Venue** Theatre, National Library of Australia  
**Cost** \$15 for AGHS members and Friends of the NLA, \$20 for non-members includes refreshments.  
**Booking** Bookings through the NLA at <https://www.nla.gov.au/event/cruden-farms-garden-diaries>  
**NO** bookings to be made through AGHS.

**Lecture: *Write Now: Gardening in Australia 1989 – 2023***

**SPEAKER: DR GREG JOHNSON**

**THURSDAY 12 JULY, 6PM**

In the last 30 years, gardens and gardening have been transformed by challenges and technologies once barely dreamt about.

Challenges include ozone depletion and climate change, skyrocketing costs of water and electricity, our rising population and 'closing the gap' for indigenous Australians. And at the global level, there's terrorism and war, and solving the refugee crisis. Meanwhile the mechanisation of gardening, GMOs and the revolution in computer aided design, the internet, phone cameras, social media, and drones, are among the developments. All are influencing how and where we garden.

We've seen local plant nurseries disappearing, with the 'Bunnification' of hardware and garden supplies delivering more diverse and cheaper options for the garden. In tandem, on-line and mail-order shopping, seed-saving, and a proliferation of plant fairs, have provided a wider range of garden gems, and, a lifeline to smaller growers.

People, gardens and gardening continue to evolve. The emergence of coffee culture, foot-path dining, ever grander out-door living spaces, longer working hours, and the decline in housing affordability have encouraged new trends in landscape, garden voyeurism and throw-away plants!

Garden writing, presenting, and illustration have become more diverse. Garden gurus and celebrities have risen in stature, and even ordinary gardeners can become writers and bloggers with global audiences! This lecture will consider some of these influences on 'gardening write now', while speculating on what else the future holds! It continues on from Greg's 2016 lecture, *Write On Gardening in Australia—1939–1988*.

**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-great grandson of John Mann, gardener and fruit seller, a Chinese indentured labourer who came to Queensland before the gold rushes.

**Venue** Theatre, Canberra Museum and Gallery, Crn London Cct and Civic Square . parking information will be provided in the next newsletter.

**Cost** \$10 AGHS and CMAG members and , \$15 non-members  
(Includes refreshments) Booking form Page 8.



## ***Proposed visit to the Australian Botanic Garden and PlantBank, Mt Annan***

**THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER**

Many members will recall the splendid talk presented by Dr Cath Offord of the Australian PlantBank at Mount Annan to the 2016 AGHS Conference. The Committee is exploring options for a visit to the Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan, to include a behind-the-scenes tour of PlantBank (formerly the Australian SeedBank) on Thursday 20 September.



PlantBank is a secure seed repository and research facility for Australian plant species, housing over 10,000 seed collections, representing some 5,300 species. It is housed in a dazzling award-winning building, within the grounds of the Botanic Garden. The Australian Botanic Garden (part of the Royal Botanic Garden and Domain Trust) is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. It is a garden on a truly grand scale (416 hectares). This

visit will provide an opportunity for us to see the massed display of paper daisies, a spring feature of the Garden. It will be a full-day visit, travelling by coach. More information available in the next Newsletter.

## PAST EVENTS

### *An amble through the National Portrait Gallery*

THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY

On a warm February afternoon, 22 AGHS members and guests were treated to an inside view of some of the Australian National Portrait Gallery collection. In advance of the visit, Sue Byrne and myself had chosen pictures on display, and others brought up from storage which might be of interest to the group. They were portraits of gardeners, those who created gardens, or who collected or wrote about plants, or influenced conservation, and the group was provided in advance with notes about the people and images they were to see.

After a warm welcome by our ANPG guides, we divided into two groups . to spend time discussing the small collection that the curators had kindly brought up from storage, and to then walk through the galleries to see and discuss some of the portraits with gardening connections. Members and our guides enlivened the visit with anecdotes about some of the people whose portraits we saw. Those from storage included: Sir Joseph Banks, botanical collector and keen advocate for the establishment of European Settlement in Australia.

Daniel Solander, the naturalist who accompanied Joseph Banks on Captain James Cook's voyage to Australia and New Zealand in 1770.

Paddy Dhathangu, one of the Ramingining-based artists who contributed to the Aboriginal Memorial (1987-1988) comprising two hundred painted burial poles now on in the National Gallery of Australia. Dhathangu went to mission school on Mlingimbi and worked as a gardener before becoming a corporal in Darwin during World War 2.

The artist, Arthur Streeton, and his wife, Nora Streeton (née Clench). Streeton was a keen gardener and also wrote on gardening for *The Argus*. His property, *Longacres*, at Olinda was built in 1924 after Streeton sold his idyllic painting, *Golden Summer, Eaglemont 1889*, for the then record sum of 1000 guineas. *Golden Summer* is now one of the prized pictures in the National Gallery of Australia.

Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, Botanist and Director of the Melbourne Botanical Gardens (1867-1873). Von Mueller also established the National Herbarium of Victoria, Artist, Lucy Culliton, whose garden near the town of Bibbenluke the AGHS visited in 2016

Amongst the portraits on display in galleries, we viewed and discussed the tapestry portrait of Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, with several members recounting stories of their associations; the portraits of David Jones, founder of the David Jones department stores, and his wife, Jane Mander Jones . one member recollected how a later member of the family, Sir Charles Lloyd Jones, always wore a blue cornflower as a buttonhole on the lapel of his suit; Dame Quentin Bryce, 25<sup>th</sup> Governor General of Australia, pictures with a vase of proteas, an emblem of the work that she does; Johann Reinhold Forster and his son George Forster, who travelled as naturalists on James Cook's second voyage, and Bob Brown, environmentalist, doctor and former senator and Parliamentary Leader of the Australian Greens, whose portrait is peopled with many of the characters who played roles in the campaign that Brown championed - to save the Franklin River.

After a thoughtful and enlightening tour, the group adjourned for refreshments on the terrace near the High Court.

The National Portrait Gallery collection can be viewed here:

<https://www.portrait.gov.au/portraits/>

**Greg Johnson**

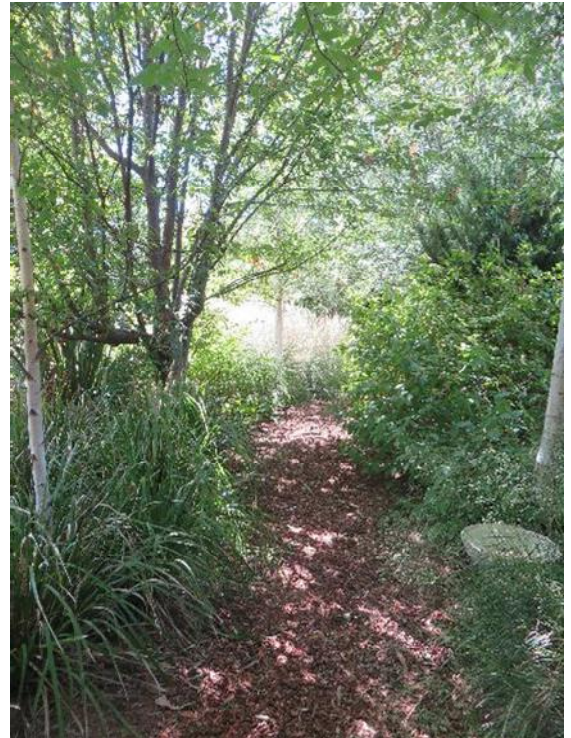
## **A Day Bus Trip to Crookwell and Goulburn**

**FRIDAY 16 MARCH**

We were blessed with a beautiful day for our visit to Goulburn and Crookwell. The timing of the visit had been chosen partly to coincide with the Goulburn's Annual Rose Festival which had been held the weekend before our visit. We had morning tea at Victoria Park, the home of the City's Rose Garden which features over 1500 roses including the City of Goulburn Rose which was selected by Swanee's Nursery at Narromine from a number of roses that had been imported from California. The apricot and pink rose has proven to be a very hardy and vigorous growing floribunda type rose with above average resistance to disease . very suitable for a public garden space.

We then travelled on the Crookwell and were welcomed at Spring Street Cottage, the home of Jennie and Rob Churchill. The property, an 1880's bluestone cottage and former schoolhouse had been purchased in 2010 with planting beginning almost immediately. The suburban lot had been almost a blank canvas.

In Jennie's words from the visit's publicity *three months were spent designing the layout and planting before preparation began, which included the addition of 34 tonnes of new soil. A growing love of grasses, the desire for a more restricted palette and most importantly, a sunny plot allowed her to create a design inspired by the American landscape team Oehme, van Sweden. Of course, Edna Walling also had a huge influence, including ensuring the entire garden couldn't be seen in one glance.*



Jennie spoke to us about the development of the garden and her philosophy and answered many questions about the plants and the landscaping. She has also prepared a photo album showing progress from day one.

We were invited to stay on in the garden for our very delicious CWA lunch . one of the joys of visiting rural NSW. Jennie and Rob could not have been more hospitable, and we thank them very much for this.

After lunch we travelled out to Markdale, a property that many members had visited in the past. It had only recently been sold after being in the hands of the Ashton family for several generations. One of the highlights here was that Leigh Kleinig, who had been the permanent gardener for the Ashtons for 8 years was available to talk to us. It was also interesting to hear about the plans the new owners had for the property and its historic Edna Walling Garden which remains substantially as she planned it.

It is now possible to do a farm stay at Markdale and I attach details from the brochure outlining the details.

We used a bus rather than self-drive for this event and were lucky enough to have Michael Harvey as our driver. As a local growing up in Gunning and going to school in Goulburn he was very familiar with the territory. On the way back, he took us on the Grabben Cullen Rod rather than traveling back on the motor way. We will be exploring the possibility of using a bus for future visits.

**Judy Pearce – text and photo**

## BRANCH NEWS

### BRANCH COMMITTEE

We welcome back to the committee Helen Elliot as Branch Treasurer and thank Kay Johnston for covering this position for the last few months. You will be aware that while Helen was off the committee she continued to do an admirable job as our Booking Officer for events.

We will be calling for Branch Committee nominations in the June Newsletter and people may like to consider nominating. If you would like to discuss this please contact our Branch Secretary, Nancy Clarke [clarkenancy624@gmail.com](mailto:clarkenancy624@gmail.com), 6248 6549

## NEW MEMBERS

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

- Lesley Collis, Canberra

## OF INTEREST

### OPEN GARDEN

**Sunday 8 May, 2 - 4pm**

10 Currong Street South, Reid

Donation -\$20 (includes afternoon tea and a Jazz Band) . no bookings required

Limited seating available so please bring your own chair if possible

Proceeds to the Early Morning Centre for Homeless and Disadvantaged, Pilgrim House, Uniting Church, Civic

### OPEN GARDENS CANBERRA

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

**Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 April, 11am . 12.30pm**

McLeods Creek Nature reserve

A guided walk with the reserve ranger. This reserve was established in 2010 to protect a rare remnant box-gum woodlands.

**Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 April, 10am . 4pm**

Oaks Estate Gardens

**Sunday 15 April, 10am . 3pm**

Fetherston Gardens

Visit the website for more details on these openings.

### AUTUMN ON MONARO

**Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 April, 10am . 4pm**

The Nimmitabel and District Garden Club presents Open Gardens and a Plant Fair. Gardens include Old Bibbenluke Inn, Bibbenluke Lodge and Gourcock. Copies of the flyer with all the information were sent by email or mail to members on 19 March.

Bookings preferred for catering, enquiries Pat Nichols 02 6454 6351,

[killarna86@gmail.com](mailto:killarna86@gmail.com)

### NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA

[www.arboretumcanberra.org.au](http://www.arboretumcanberra.org.au)

## NATIONAL TRUST ACT

Members of our Branch are welcome to join with National Trust members for the following events:

**Heritage Walks**

9.30am . 11.30am, cost \$7

- **Sunday 8 April** (postponed from Feb) . Callum Brae Nature Reserve
- **Sunday 15 April** (postponed from December) . Acton Peninsular . Canberra birthplace and first suburb
- **Thursday 19 April** . Yarralumla Heritage Walk - Westlake/Stirling Park/Guru Bung Dhaura
- **Saturday 28 April** -Yarralumla Heritage Walk -from test tubes to trees
- **Sunday 29 April** . Yarralumla . from sheep to shrubs
- **Sunday 6 May** . Democracy Heritage Walk

2 - 4pm, cost \$7

- **Saturday 21 April** - Democracy Heritage Walk

**Other events not previously mentioned on page 1 of our newsletter.**

- **Sunday 15 April**, 2- 3.45pm . Reid Uniting Church Heritage Tour
- **Saturday 28 April**, 10am . 7pm . National Trust Farm Day at Cliftonwood (with Yass Antique Farm Machinery Club and Yass Historical Society)

For all events visit

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/> or phone 6230 0533

## AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

[www.anbg.gov.au](http://www.anbg.gov.au)

Lectures on a variety of topics are offered by the Friends of the National Botanic Gardens at 12.30pm on most Thursdays. No bookings are required, entry by gold coin donation. For details and updates check the Friends website at [www.friendsanbg.org.au](http://www.friendsanbg.org.au).

## HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF CANBERRA

<http://www.hsoc.org.au/index.htm>

The Horticultural Society holds talks at 7.30pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. For the program visit the HSOC website. On **Monday 16 April** the speaker will be Michael Cole from Plant Growers Australia, on *The exciting world of new plant releases from Plant Growers*.

## LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN GUARDIANS (LBGG)

<http://lakeburleygriffinguardians.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 an email to our Treasurer Helen Elliot at [ellioth@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ellioth@bigpond.net.au) (phone 6284 4749 home).

**Names** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact phone:** (Evening/W/E) \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Tick	Event	Cost	Numbers attending	Amount Incl \$
	<b>14 June</b> . Lecture: <i>The Cruden Farm Diaries</i> , NLA	Book through NLA <a href="https://www.nla.gov.au/event/cruden-farms-garden-diaries">https://www.nla.gov.au/event/cruden-farms-garden-diaries</a> <b>NO</b> bookings to be made through AGHS.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>12 July</b> – Lecture: <i>Write Now</i>	Members of AGHS & CMAG \$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](mailto: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 12 July) and your **family name**.