

Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch



Newsletter August 2016 No 4

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

25 AUGUST, 5PM
Branch AGM

**25 AUGUST, 5.30
FOR 5.45PM**
Annual Lecture: Marianne
Collinson Campbell: A
Privileged Life . 1827 .
1903, Leonie Norton

**11 SEPTEMBER,
11AM - 3PM**
Springtime walk to
Sherwood . joint event with
NTACT

14 - 17 OCTOBER
AGHS National
Conference, Canberra,
The Scientist in the Garden

SAVE THE DATE

SUN 6 NOVEMBER
Visit to the Monaro

NEXT EVENTS

Branch Annual General Meeting **THURSDAY 25 AUGUST, 5.00PM**

The AGM of the ACT Monaro Riverina Branch of the AGHS will be held at the National Archives of Australia just prior to the 2016 Annual Lecture.

AGENDA

1. Attendance
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous meeting (13 August 2015)
4. Business arising
5. Chair's report
6. Treasurer's report
7. Election of Branch Committee and State Representative on the AGHS National Management Committee for 2016-2017

Branch Committee members are elected for a three year term, and are eligible for two further three year terms.

Continuing Committee members:

Bronwyn Blake, Sue Byrne, Nancy Clarke, Helen Elliot, Anna Howe, Kay Johnston, Judy Pearce, Helen Wilson, Marie Wood (plus Lainie Lawson, National Management Committee member, ex officio as an elected AGHS National Management Committee member resident in our Branch)

Committee members nominated for re-election:

Margaret Bourke (nominated Robyn Henderson, seconded Maura O'Connor)
Greg Johnson (nominated Juliet Ramsay, seconded John Tucker)

No other nominations were received by 14 July, but nominations may be accepted from the floor of the meeting.

In addition, the ACT Monaro and Riverina Branch Committee nominates one of its members as the ACT State Representative on the National Management Committee. Kay Johnson has accepted the nomination as our representative on NMC for a second year.

8. Any other business

Venue: Menzies Room, National Archives of Australia, Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes

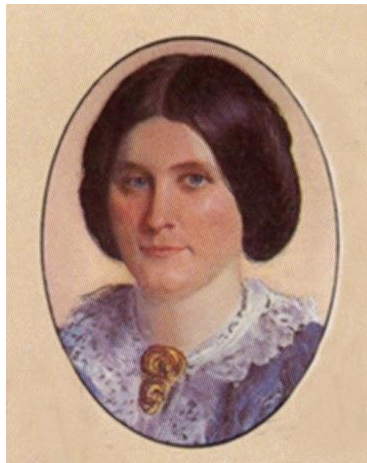
Please support your hard working committee and try to attend.

**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



woman of her time. She was a talented botanical artist with a passion for flora and fauna and an amateur architect for Duntroon with a natural gift for landscape gardening. While living in Duntroon she was widely known and respected for her medical dispensary.

Marriane took watercolour painting lessons from her father who kept watercolour sketchbooks from his travels in the army. Her great aunt was a well-respected artist in Sydney town who mentored Marriane's talents and Conrad Martens also gave her lessons.

Robert Campbell was her great uncle and was Sydney's first shipping agent and a landholder and pastoralist. Marriane married his son George who inherited the Duntroon Estate where they moved in 1857. She set about transforming the original homestead into a Gothic Revival house. The landscaped gardens boasted a maze and a conservatory.

Flowers and trees in Duntroon gardens were grown from seeds sent by her English great, great grandfather, botanist and plant importer Peter Collinson and from seeds and plants she also collected from her travels. These complimented the existing Australian native plants.

Annual Lecture

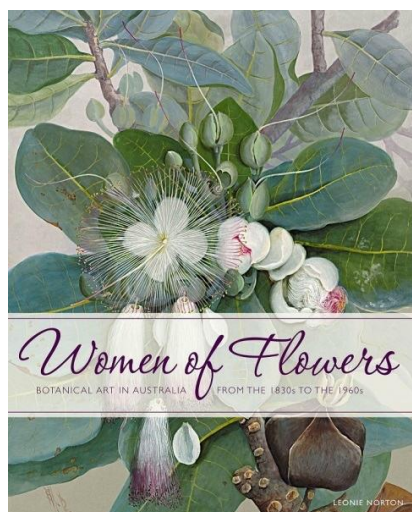
**MARRIANNE COLLINSON CAMPBELL
 A PRIVILEGED LIFE - 1827 - 1903**

SPEAKER: LEONIE NORTON

**THURSDAY 25 AUGUST, 5.30 FOR A
 5.45PM START**

This lecture follows the **Branch AGM**.

Leonie Norton gives a fascinating insight into the life of Marriane Collinson Campbell, an extraordinary



Leonie Norton is a practicing and exhibiting professional botanical artist, one of Australia's most highly qualified botanical educators and a leading artist in her field. She is an international tutor of high regard and demand and is the author of *Women of Flowers: Botanical Art in Australia from the 1830s - 1960s*, the only published book on women's Australian Botanical Art.

Her paintings are in private and public collections, both in Australia and overseas, including the prestigious Hunt Institute of Botanical Documentation in the USA. She teaches regular courses and weekend workshops throughout Australia and in New Zealand, Fiji, Canada and the UK and has taught botanical art field techniques at Macquarie University. In addition, she is an International External Examiner for Botanical Art Certificate courses in the USA and has been involved in selection and judging for Australian botanical art exhibitions.

Leonie exhibits annually at the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens, the Botanical Art Society of Australia exhibition and the Canberra Botanic exhibition. She is past President of the Botanical Art Society of Australia and remains an active member. She is a regular contributor to *Australia Artist Magazine*, *Artists' Palette* and *Back to Basics* and *Drawing & Inspiration* publications.

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.

Springtime Walk to Sherwood

SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER, 11AM – 3PM

A joint event with the National Trust ACT - information about this walk exclusive to National Trust and Australian Garden History members was emailed to members on 13 June. Unfortunately the event is now **FULLY BOOKED**

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.

- Sally Osborne, Bungendore
- Garry and Helen Hopkins, Carwoola

AGHS NATIONAL CONFERENCE CANBERRA 14-16 OCTOBER 2016

Conference News

A reminder that if you intend to come to the Conference please register at <https://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=167176>. It will greatly assist the committee if they do not have to deal with last minute registrations.

The Conference Committee is now finalising details for the lecture program, the garden visits, the booklet each delegate receives outlining the program, catering arrangements, and the myriad of small arrangements which need to be decided upon to make the Conference a success. I am very grateful to the dedicated and hardworking team who make up the Committee, who are committing a large portion of their time to this task.

We will be holding a **raffle** at the Conference and would welcome **donations of suitable items** from which lucky ticket holders can choose as their prize. Any garden related item (not plants as many interstate delegates will not be able to take them home), art or craft, wine or other Canberra region items would be gratefully received. In the first instance, please email me to discuss (marg@mebourne.com).

Finally, if you will be attending the Full Conference and would like to volunteer to be a Coach Captain, I would love to hear from you. There will be training to familiarise you with what is required including a dry run of the routes the coaches will be taking.

Margie Bourke
Conference Convener

PAST EVENTS



The Menzies Room at the National Archives of Australia was a very comfortable place in which to settle back, glass of wine in hand, to listen to Greg Johnson continue the story of those who devote their lives communicating to others a passion for plants. This was the third of Greg's talks, *Quill and Spade: Pioneer Garden Writing in Australia 1788 – 1888* and *Write to Garden in Australia 1889 -1938* were the first two in the series. *Write on gardening -the times are a'changing* - covered the years from 1939 to 1988 so for the majority in the audience the names of many of the writers, or at least the publications, were very familiar and indeed over the years these books and magazines had been bought or borrowed in the quest for planting, plant care or landscaping advice.

Greg began by outlining how during the years 1938 to 1988, gardens and gardening reflected the changes wrought upon society from wartime adversity through to the growth of a green consciousness.

The first of Greg's gardening personalities was Bill Shum, today an unfamiliar name, but Bill was the founding editor of *Australian Home Beautiful* (1926 . 1946), a magazine still going strongly. As the timeline unfolded we heard of those who lived and/or practised in our region .

- Edna Walling, whose regular columns in the *Australian Home Beautiful* inspired many interested homeowners,
- Sylvia Crowe whose 1958 book *Garden Design* would have set down some of the principles of landscaping in her masterplan for Commonwealth Park and
- Beatrice Bligh, whose experience overseeing the development of a winning homestead garden at Pejar Park near Goulburn inspired her book *Down to Earth* (1968).
- An unnamed author, a country woman of the Dinner for Eight gardening column which appeared in the Goulburn Penny Post for 20 years, and
- Cedric Bryant, who left the screen to show us his first edition copy of *The Canberra Gardener*

and those writing from further afield

- Beryl Guertner from Katoomba was founding editor of *Australian House and Garden* (Dec 1948) and
- Stirling Macaboy, who grew up in Tasmania, provided photographs to the *Australian Women's Weekly* which led to the publication in 1969 of *What Flower is that?*

In those 50 years there have been books, articles and media commentaries for the young,

- Jean Galbraith (1906-1999) who wrote for the NSW School Magazine and was heard on ABC radio broadcasts for children
- Jeannie Baker whose collages are used in *The Story of Rosie Dock* (1995) to present a conservation message

the beginner,

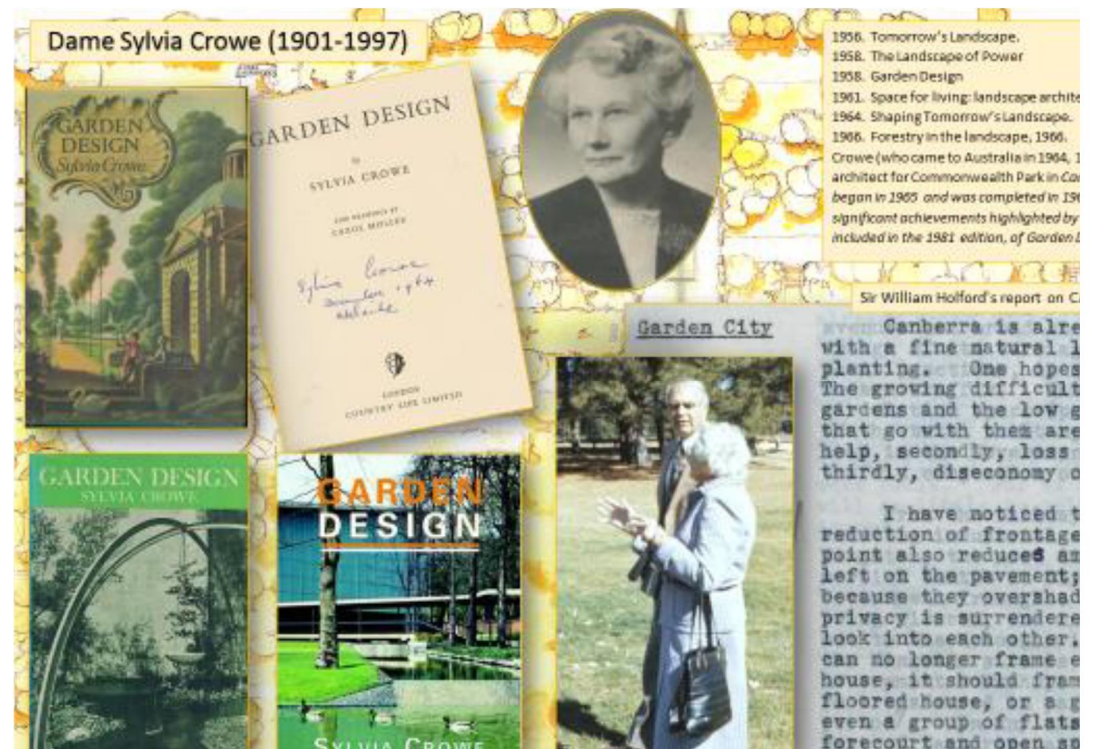
- Alan Searle who worked for Yates in the 1950s and was an early TV gardening commentator
- Kevin Heinze also well known for radio and TV appearances dispensing advice. (*Sow What?* for ABC Victoria from 1967 -1988)

the expert

- William Nicholls who started on his 24 part *Orchids of Australia* in 1940
- Vita and Dorothy Koreshoff wrote for Bonsai enthusiasts in the 1970s and 80s and daughter, Deborah published *Bonsai: its Art, Science, History and Philosophy* in 1984

and the historian

- Peter Cuffley, a social historian whose books on cottage gardens coincided with a growing interest in 1970s restoration of old houses.
- Victor Crittenden, a founding member of AGHS, who published *A History and Bibliography of Australian gardening books* in 1986. Victor's bibliographies were the inspiration for Greg to produce this series of talks.



In the 1970s Australian perspectives on many fronts were undergoing radical change. In May 1973 the Aquarius Festival organised by the Australian Union of Students was held at Nimbin in Northern NSW. The Festival aimed to celebrate alternative thinking and sustainable lifestyles and possibly the birthplace for Australia's hippie movement.

Although many of the Back-to-the-land ideas seemed radical at the time, 40 years on the magazines *Earth Garden* (published by Keith and Irene Smith, 1972) and *Grass Roots* (David and Meg Millar, 1973) continue to guide readers seeking a self-sufficient lifestyle.

This report contains only a mere smattering of some of the fifty plus garden writers Greg had researched for his presentation. Again Greg is to be congratulated for the most interesting composite screen shots he creates to illustrate the times or the authors and their works. The essence of the writer's philosophy is captured in each image.

Is there or can there be a truly Australian style of gardening? Greg concluded that, although some writers lament the lack of a truly Australian style, our continent's diversity of landscapes, environmental differences and distinctive multicultural communities have all been taken into account by Australian garden writers from 1788 to 1988.

Sue Byrne

NAME BADGES

Your membership card fits into one of those conference card holder. 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:

Sunday 21 August – Winter Seminar (and AGM) 10.30 – 3pm

Stuart Read will talk on Paul Sorensen in the Southern Highland and Illawarra. This will be followed by Jim Hoskins, grandson of Sir Cecil Hoskins, talking about the relationship between Sorensen and Hoskins and how this came about. flyer and booking form attached.

OF INTEREST

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. For information on events at the Archive please visit their website.

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/calendar>
 Members may be interested in the following talks:

Thursday 4 August *Gardens that have influenced us*, Speaker: Ben Walcott

Thursday 18 August, *John Gould's shooter: the unsung hero, John Gilbert*, Speaker: Dr Sudan Serjeantson

Thursday 8 September, *Quill and Spade: Pioneer garden writing in Australia 1788-1888*, Speaker: Dr Greg Johnson. If you missed this when Greg gave the talk to the Branch, don't miss it this time.

Thursday 15 September, *The natural appeal of the Bush Capital: surveyors, catchments and the kitchen sink*, Speaker: Brett McNamara

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, SYDNEY

Friday 12 – Sunday 21 August (opening night 11 August), 10am . 4 pm
Moore Room and Palm House, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney (free entry)

Treecycle 2016 is an inaugural exhibition featuring beautifully crafted wooden objects made from trees that once graced the Botanic Gardens. It celebrates the sustainable recycling and reuse of some of the Botanic Gardens' significant trees of which have died naturally, been pruned or felled due to disease. Treecycle grew from the idea that every tree has a story to tell. Most of the trees which have provided the timber used in this exhibition have a documented life story, some going back to the early days of the colony.

The exhibition is a collaboration between Foundation & Friends and The Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust. It has wood from the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan and the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah. The exhibition is curated by Foundation & Friends members Leon and Ginny Sadubin. They have approached 45 talented woodworkers and asked them to create a variety of objects including a violin, chandelier, an array of furniture, sculptures, model trains and so much more. All the objects are for sale with proceeds split between Foundation & Friends and the makers.

More information and opening night ticket sales: www.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/treecycle

NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA
www.arboretumcanberra.org.au

LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN GUARDIANS (LBGG)
<http://lakeburleygriffinguardians.org.au/>

A snappy cold night did not deter a large crowd attending the public meeting at Hughes Community Centre on 27 July, hosted by Lake Burley Griffin Guardians. Approximately 250 crowded into the hall and spilled into the foyer, demonstrating the enormous community concern against the proposed West Basin development. The objective of the meeting was to expose for public scrutiny the proposed works and the crowd was clearly angry with the information they received. It was chilling to hear Malcolm Snow, Chief Executive note that part of the lake basin water bed has already been given to the ACT Government.

Although a successful meeting, skilfully chaired by Genevieve Jacobs, success in stopping or even pausing the West Basin has not happened and the developer political proposal is steamrolling along disregarding all community submissions and ignoring pleas for a review. We hope the forthcoming election may change political minds.

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 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"/>	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 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. 25 August) and your **family name**.