

Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch



Newsletter December 2016 No 7

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

2 FEBRUARY

NGA Tour

9 MARCH, 4.45 FOR

5 PM

Visit to Harris Hobbs
Garden

30 APRIL, 2.30 PM

Belconnen Ramble

27-29 OCTOBER

AGHS National Conference
People/Place/Landscape
Hamilton, NZ

Christmas Greetings to all our Members



Nuytsia floribunda – Western Australia Christmas Tree

2016 will certainly remain a memorable year for the ACT Monaro Riverina Branch. All the rigorous planning and gathering of expertise from the membership of the Branch culminated in a very successful national conference. Comments from delegates, as recorded in the electronic survey sent out after the conference, were overwhelmingly positive on all aspects of the conference. A very sincere thank you to the conference committee convened by Margie Bourke.

On the eve of the conference in the English Garden on a balmy Spring evening Gai Brodtman unveiled the *Planting Memories* panels, another of the Branch's projects which had been three years in the making. The elegant structure, designed by Mariana Rollgejser, on which is inscribed Geoff Page's poem *The Forester*, now stands close by the Yarralumla Nursery and is a very fitting tribute to Canberra's earliest days and the young workers from the area who fought in World War 1. Thank you to Anna Howe, Nancy Clarke and Marie Wood for your patience and commitment to this project. Negotiating with the different agencies involved in the placement of the panels was very time consuming.

As well as these two major happenings, the Branch organised several other events throughout the year. Our members spent time on the Monaro, down the South Coast or rambling around town. One through the New Acton precinct and later in the year along the Lake Burley Griffin foreshore in conjunction with Contour 556, a public art festival. We continue the value of the links established with other institutions in Canberra. The National Library of Australia, for assistance with the annual joint lecture and the National Archives of Australia for use of the Menzies Room at for our AGM and Annual Lecture. A visit in February to the Australian Insect Collection and the Atlas of Living Australia based at CSIRO was most stimulating. The Branch also continues to support the work of the Lake Burley Griffin Guardians in its request for heritage status for the lake and a review of the West Basin planned development.

Planning for 2017 has commenced and already there are some very interesting excursions and speakers being slotted into the calendar.

BRANCH COMMITTEE

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

Bronwyn Blake (also on
 NMC)
Greg Johnson
Kay Johnston, State
 NMC Representative
Helen Wilson
Marie Wood

Two of our very dedicated and hardworking committee members, Margie Bourke and Anna Howe, are leaving the committee at the end of the year and I would like to thank them both for their contribution to all our Branch activities this year and the many years before.

Finally I wish one and all a very happy and enjoyable holiday season and look forward to meeting up with many of you in 2017.

Sue Byrne, Chair

NEXT EVENTS

Versailles. Treasures from the Palace

THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY, 3PM

Kay Johnston will lead this Members Only guided tour of garden related works in the recently opened exhibition at the National Gallery of Australia. It will be followed by refreshments in the Sculpture Garden. Those who attend will need to purchase an exhibition entry (although many members may have availed themselves of the offer to NGA members of % golden pass+for multiple entries with their first visit).

Meet 2.45 pm in the NGA foyer
Cost \$10 Members- including refreshments
Bookings Booking form page 14 . please get your booking in as numbers are limited for this event.

FOR YOUR DIARIES

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. Refreshments will be served at the end of the evening. More information and booking details will be provided in the next newsletter.

Belconnen Ramble

Sunday 30 April, 2.30pm start

The ramble will visit the two sites of Palmerville in Evatt, and Charnwood Homestead. This will be a joint event with the National Trust ACT and form part of the program for the 2017 Australian Heritage Festival. More information and booking details will be provided in the next newsletter.

NEW MEMBERS

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

- Robyn Oates, Canberra

NAME BADGES

It was great to see so many people wearing name badges at the end of year event. 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.

PAST EVENTS

Unveiling of 'Planting Memories' Thursday 13 October

The calm beauty of Weston Park at sunset on October 13 could not be further from the horror of the battlefields of the Western Front. This date coincided with the height of conflict there 100 years ago, in the second half of 1916. The contrast must have been very evident to all who attended the unveiling of the Planting Memories commemorative panels that took place the evening before the National Conference.

Sue Byrne, Chair of the ACT Monaro Riverina Branch, opened the event with a welcome to country and a welcome to over 100 guests, including AGHS Patron Sue Ebury, members of the ACT Monaro Riverina Branch and visiting delegates to the National Conference. Richard Heathcote, Chair of the AGHS National Committee, then introduced the project as a significant contribution to realising the mission of the Society, and noting that it was the third project that the Branch has undertaken in association with the Yarralumla Nursery.

The panels were unveiled by Ms Gai Brodtmann, Federal Member for Canberra. Placing the veil a large navy blue curtain, over the panels had required some careful ladder work and draping by local committee members Nancy Clarke, Marie Wood and Anna Howe, and they were greatly relieved when it fell away smoothly when Ms Brodtmann tugged the cord. As she delivered her speech, Ms Brodtmann, moved around the three panels, commenting on each in turn.

The panels feature the poem *'The Forester'* by local poet Geoff Page and he treated us to a slow and sonorous reading. Ms Brodtmann presented him with a commemorative coin minted to mark the centenary of the Battle of Pozieres, mentioned in the poem. The sacrifice of Australian soldiers on the Western Front is typified by a young nurseryman from the Yarralumla Nursery, Malcolm Mackay Southwell, who was killed in action in France in 1916. We were very pleased to have members of the Southwell family among our guests.



Mr Dan Tehan, Minister for Veterans Affairs, was ably represented by Lisa Foreman, First Assistant Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs. In her closing comments, Lisa remarked on our continuing commemoration of the ANZAC legacy.

At Richard Heathcote's invitation, we moved to the Oaks Brasserie for refreshments, but before leaving, many returned to look at the panels again. The elegant design by Mariana Rollgeiser traces the shapes of the trees of Westbourne Woods seen on the horizon. Executed in stainless steel, the panels were by now catching the golden light of the sun setting over Lake Burley Griffin. We were the first of many who, as Ms Brodtmann said, would pause as they passed by in the years to come to reflect on the meaning of this most poignant addition to Weston Park.

Anna Howe

Photo: Gai Brodtmann unveiling the panels (Greg Wood)

AGHS Annual Conference Canberra

The Scientist in the Garden

14 – 17 October

From our AGHS Patron to Conference Convenor Margie Bourke

...please pass on my deep appreciation of the extremely hard work that resulted in an enormously successful conference, with real intellectual integrity, that carried our conferences to an even higher level. Very difficult to match, I fear.

Best to all and thank you so much for all your care of me. Also for the best food at a conference dinner ever

Sue Ebury, Countess of Wilton, 24 October, 2016

The lecture program

The 37th AGHS national conference got off to a sparkling and challenging start in Canberra on 14 October 2016 with historian Bill Gammage's thoughtful exploration of Aboriginal influences on our landscapes, and of the language we use to describe our relationships to land. 'Are we successfully managing our country, when we ignore knowledge of 1788 [Indigenous knowledge], he asked. 'Can we really say that we are Australian?'

Canberra is surrounded by grazing land, whose wide expanses are among Australia's largest significant cultural landscapes. Soil and water scientist John Passioura took us through summer and winter patterns of water production in sub clover and kangaroo grass pastures. The audience was spellbound. Garden historian Colleen Morris spoke of the early engagement of botanic gardens and botanists with indigenous plants. Plant scientist Richard Stirzaker enlivened the morning by his confession of stealing bags of green waste on collection days, and ended by bringing us back to think again about the critical role of water. 'Agriculture is just turning water into food' Oliver Mayo continued to engage us with his recollections of almost 50 years of gardening. In his case, by growing indigenous and edible plants. As he spoke, Oliver gracefully incorporated into the history of his own garden the story of our long history of genetic engineering of plants.

Agricultural scientist and heritage expert Max Bourke combined the wide picture of the history of Australian public parks with the detail of parks and arboreta in the country around Canberra, and gave the audience a taste of what we would be able to see in the afternoon's views of the city from Mount Ainslie. This led beautifully into ecologist Jane Tarran's talk on the urban forest that is Canberra, 'a landscape, laboratory and legacy unique in Australia' as her talk's title put it. John Dwyer told us of the removal of 500 radiata pines in the Yarra Ranges, and spoke of the emotional and psychological ties we have to the land through trees such as these old pines in rural landscapes. John's talk was for me one of the highlights of this excellent conference, drawing out as it did so many of the competing scientific, aesthetic and other issues involved in management of our landscapes and gardens.

Plant breeder Cathy Offord started the talks of 15 October by looking at the 200 years of history of the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, with its investigations into plant science and the preservation of plants. Seed collected more than 100 years ago by Joseph Maiden, who became director of these gardens, has recently been successfully germinated, she said. Cathy encouraged us to visit the Australian Plantbank at Mount Annan NSW, which stores seed at temperatures as low as -196°C. Seed scientist Lucy Sutherland, now director of the Botanic Gardens of South Australia, whizzed through the roles of botanic gardens (which for the past 20 years or so have enjoyed a marked renaissance) and the impetuses for seed collection and storage in seed banks, both within Australia and worldwide.

Tony Orchard's picture of the botanist and explorer Allan Cunningham showed a man whose work was enormously constrained by the actions of the superintendent of Kew Botanic Gardens, where Cunningham was required to send his collections. His portrait of a man who was by all accounts a gentle, reserved and popular person gave us a lively historical and personal perspective with which to end the formal talks of the conference. Warmest thanks to all concerned with planning and running this highly successful conference - speakers, conference committee members, garden owners, AGHS staff and others.

Bernadette Hince

Saturday visits

Government House Garden

The first garden visit on Saturday was to the garden of the Governor General's residence in Yarralumla. The buses travelled past many of the distinctive embassies congregated around the parliamentary area en route to this formal residence located alongside Lake Burley Griffin. Each bus group was allocated a guide who walked us through this extensive property (54 hectares), describing how the history of the site reflects that of Canberra itself, an area transformed during the 20c from a 19c pastoral settlement to the nation's capital city.

The Governor General's residence itself, a now much extended 19c residence, has formal gardens laid out in front to provide appropriate settings for the various ceremonial functions which occur there, while the remnant farm buildings and several modern office buildings cluster at the back, surrounded by pretty cottage gardens, in abundant flower at the time of our visit.

The settlement history of the Canberra region is represented in the garden layout, with large open areas, originally cleared for pasture now maintained as lawn with extensive views across Lake Burley Griffin to the Brindabella Range.

Once part of a thriving pastoral settlement, the garden retains some splendid remnant eucalypts, (and also has a small Native Garden designed to show off Australian plants to visiting dignitaries), but most of the plantings reflect Australia's colonial heritage with conifers and deciduous trees dominating, while many attractive rather rambling gardens border the extensive lawn areas.



Each of the Governor Generals has left their personal mark on the garden, none so poignant as Lady Gowrie's Memorial Garden designed and laid out by Lady Gowrie as a memorial to her son who had died in 1942 during World War Two.

It was a privilege to be able to explore these gardens so comfortably and privately. AGHS delegates appreciated the contrast between the formal design of the ceremonial areas and more public areas of the garden, and the often very rambling and personal plantings that characterise much of the rest of the garden.

Marie Wood (copy and photo)

Walcott Garden

The weather was picture perfect for our visit to Ben and Ros Walcott's garden in Red Hill, Canberra on Saturday afternoon. Having enticed delegates during their introduction to the garden earlier in the morning, no one was disappointed.

Whilst the Walcott's garden is relatively young, having been developed only in 2003, it is an outstanding example of a well designed inner city garden featuring exclusively Australian natives.

Ben and Ros Walcott have been and continue to be meticulous in their selection, monitoring and care of both the plants in and wildlife attracted to, their garden.



The garden features over 4000 plants representing over 850 different Australian native plant species. Despite the recent devastation to the front of the garden caused by the collapse of an enormous *Pinus radiata* during a wild winter storm, Ben and Ros have replanted and used this experience to redesign and replant new species. In keeping with the generosity of our hosts, an afternoon tea was thoroughly enjoyed by all in the garden.

The conference committee feel the Walcott's garden will be visited by future conference delegates as it continues to develop and no doubt become one of Canberra's landmark gardens.

Bronwyn Blake (Photo Anne Smith)

Sunday visits

The weather was kind to us, fine and sunny, and five coaches headed off from the Rex for our garden visits day.

First port of call was the House of Representatives garden at Old Parliament House. Many delegates were unaware of this garden's existence and accordingly delighted with the opportunity to visit. The wisteria walk in which the mosaic of the Centenary of Australian Women's Suffrage Commemoration is located was resplendent in flower and many of the rose bushes and rose arbours, while from a distance looking to be still in bud, were in fact starting to flower and show their colours. The informative plaques describing the Ladies Rose Garden and Macarthur Rose Garden were greatly appreciated by first-time visitors. Time did not permit us to see the Senate Garden but this did not detract from the pleasure of the Reps visit.

Whilst enjoying Helen Robert's homemade biscuits, we were driven to the district of Carwoola where the property of Wanna Wanna is situated. The driveway is lined with *Pinus radiata* and leads to the carriage turning circle from which are a number of private and yet linked areas enclosed by hedges. With the large old pines as a backdrop to the garden and numerous large and varied shrubs the garden has a restful and peaceful atmosphere. An abundance of roses throughout, approximately 200 varieties in all, and a wisteria walk in full bloom add to the garden's beauty. There is a flourishing orchard and berry & vegetable garden and we were reminded of the property's history by the original stable block and slab hut, the latter dating from the 1830s. With its secluded yet inter-connected areas and open grassland at the rear with views to the distant bush and hills, this is a most attractive yet personal garden.

The next stop was the garden of the working property of Sharrow where we were treated to a delicious lunch provided by the Southern Highlands CWA after which delegates were free to wander around and enjoy the pretty garden beds around the house and the lawn area to the south with a commanding view across the plain to the distant mountains. The wisteria covered gazebo on the edge of the ha-ha provided a rest area where cattle wandered up to look at us looking at them. A pond at the base of the ha-ha has an added feature of the tail end of a bomb stuck in the mud. The old

school house and outbuildings with a wall adorned with the end of a Furphy water carrier were reminders of the historical value of this property together with the few original *Pinus radiata* still standing and the large *Cupressus* dating from the mid 1800s to the west of the house.

We arrived at Carwoola via the property's village of labourers' cottages and the shearing shed. Tom, gardener and plant expert, was on hand to talk about the garden and answer any queries. The original buildings of Carwoola date from the 1830s and the property boasts many large oaks, elms and other deciduous trees from its early days. There are extensive views from the front of the house over a large pond and many ornamental flower beds in which tulips were flourishing together with massed plantings of flowering bulbs and shrubs under the trees in the woodland to the side of the house. Of interest to many was a glasshouse erected against the wall of the old stables where seedlings are being raised for the large vegetable garden also citrus, weather-sensitive vegetables and indoor plants. With its well-preserved outbuildings, its rusted iron sculpture of horse and buggy and colourful garden Carwoola was a delight to visit.

Our final stop was the garden of Foxlow en route to which we passed the ancient Anglican Church of St Thomas consecrated in 1874. Many old cedars, oaks, elms and other deciduous trees surround the property and box hedges, shrubs and flower beds line the drive to the front of the house with climbing roses covering the verandahs. An old stone fountain has been erected in the lawn within the carriage circular turning circle. The vegetable garden is being replanted and to many visitors' amusement an old polo practise cage is situated among trees. The garden is peaceful, rambling and full of character. The owners kindly offered delegates a wine-tasting of wines from their Marble Hill Winery in South Australia . a much appreciated gesture and a delightful way to bring to a close a most enjoyable day.

Margie and Sue . both the conference and garden visits were wonderfully organised, you did a great job. My personal thanks also to Anna and Narelle for their cheerful company and companionship on the coach.

Julia Nicholls

Monday Optional Day Visits to the Braidwood District

After three days of peerless clear weather, the Optional Day Tour to Braidwood gardens started out cool and somewhat overcast. Fortunately by the time we arrived at the first stop for our group, [Manar](#), the weather was clearing and sun starting to shine.



The garden at Manar is a rare survivor . with modest beginnings as a land grant in 1825, the garden was begun in 1841 . to surround and slope away from the Georgian home and outbuildings. We enjoyed the walk through the garden with morning tea

served on the verandah, then an amble around the grounds and down to the dam . with wisteria in flower on the fence. In earlier times, memories of Manar, the home of Beatrice Bligh's grandfather had been an inspiration for the garden she created at at Pejar Park near Goulburn. Beatrice Bligh was the author of the history of gardening in Australia, *Cherish the Earth* (1973).

We then drove on to [Durham Hall](#) on Jembaicumbene Creek near Braidwood, part of an 1825 land grant in 6th generation hands since the 1850s. Durham Hall and the family who own the property also have links to Archer, the winner of the first and second Melbourne Cups in 1861 and 1862. Early plantings of English Box mark the formal early Victorian garden, with a magnificent Atlantic cedar dominating the garden. Most of the buildings were of wooden construction . and an ancient wisteria drapes across parts of the older structures.



Durham Hall is listed on the Register of the National Estate as an important early example of geometric garden style.

With the trip behind time, we opted for a drive around the streets of Braidwood instead of the planned ramble before enjoying lunch at [Garran Vale Woolshed](#).



Replete with food, we travelled to [Mona](#), part of the original land grant to Dr [Thomas Braidwood Wilson](#) in 1827. The garden features many trees, some over a century old, and has elements of a Capability Brown style of middle distance garden. We arrived at the garden after walking across the Palladian style bridge (1997) built over Mona Creek, admired the bluebells in flower amongst a forest of elms, circled through the walled garden and linden lawn nearer the house, and then walked down the coach road and forest walk to circle back to the terrace beside the dam



Our last stop for the day was [Palerang](#) at Mulloon. First settled in the 1840s, the house has had a previous life as an Inn on the road from the Monaro to Goulburn. The Inn's original kitchen is still the centre of the house which accommodated Mick Jagger and entourage when he was filming Ned Kelly in Braidwood in 1969. Arriving past a hawthorn walk and across the front garden dominated by a bunya pine and atlantic cedar, we enjoyed afternoon tea in a large blue stone room with fire blazing, while hearing [tales of Mick's stay](#). Stepping outside again, we enjoyed the late afternoon sun in the walled garden with calming views of the paddocks across a [crinkle-crackle wall](#). Then home to Canberra through the receding light.

Greg Johnson (copy and photos)

Monaro in the Spring Sunday 6 November

The long drive down passed Dalgety was instantly worthwhile on turning into the drive to "Craigie" the home of Jule and Norman Craig. We passed a row of small leaved eucalyptus, an endangered species, and flanking the gate were a pair of weeping eucalyptus, also endangered. The garden is built on an old 19 century garden, though few original plantings survive. Jule and Norman have created their own special place, with sheltered sunny spots, interesting use of stone walls and succulents and an intriguing mown labyrinth. Jule welcomed us onto a protected verandah for morning tea.

Then back to Old Burnima, where those who visited in autumn will remember a charming garden containing an aged windbreak and interesting plantings. The owners, Kathy and Alan Gillespie Jones were keen for us to return and enjoy the garden in spring. Unfortunately they were away, but had arranged for the house to be opened, and for us to enjoy our picnic lunches on the verandah. This visit many of the garden beds blazed with mixed colours. It was hard to rush back to the cars and move on to our next garden, just south west of Nimmitabel.



"Rockybah" is the garden of Anne and Howard Charles, created over the last 35 years. A picture shows the completely clear landscape of the rain shadow area in which they live. Yet, coming round the side of a hill we were suddenly in a hedged driveway, and entered into a green oasis of large trees and garden beds. Of particular interest is the espalier pear, shown in a photo.

Finally we moved onto Cooma to visit the garden of Jenny Slatyer and Imants Tillers, just on the southern edge of the town. In a gully at the base of a hill this garden is also a revival of a much older garden. The original family had planted the perimeter with pines, which, along with an understory gives complete privacy to the garden. It was hard to remember that this was a town garden. The house faces out over the main garden which steps down a series of tiers to a low pond. The owners had to clear large amounts of brambles and overgrowth, discovering hidden steps and paths. While keeping to the overall plan of the garden they have created a relaxing and stylish garden all their own.



The only criticism of the day could be that there just wasn't enough time to fully enjoy the 4 beautiful and distinctively different gardens

Kay Johnston (copy and photos)

contour 556 **Wednesday 9 November**

Despite the impending storm, all who attended our recent branch event at Canberra's new public art festival *contour 556*, thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to reflect on the surrounding landscape of Lake Burley Griffin in a different way.

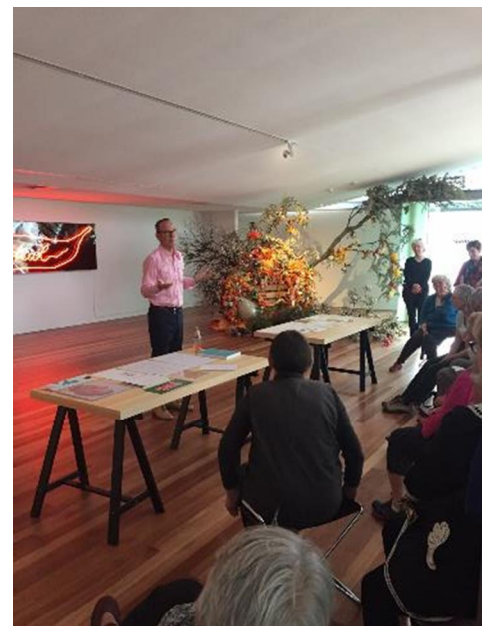
Contour 556 is the water level of Lake Burley Griffin, which linked the festival in name as well as in purpose to the history of Canberra's landscape. The installations and performances selected for the festival by curator and local landscape architect Neil Hobbs, responded in some way to Canberra's history, from 50,000 years to the present day. Neil's primary objective for *contour 556* was to transform how viewers remember or recall the Canberra landscape after seeing the artworks or performances.

Following a short walk to see a handful of the exhibiting pieces, we were thrilled to have participating artist Jon Campbell speak about his exhibited work *Phil & Liz Revisited*, which was based on a selection of public responses to Greg Taylor's sculpture, *Down by the Lake with Liz and Phil* depicting a naked cement fondue statue of the Royals exhibited at the Canberra National Sculpture Forum in 1995 on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin. Taylor's work generated a huge public outcry which Jon used to explore the visual potential of words through the use of vernacular language and popular culture in *Phil & Liz Revisited*.

It was terrific to hear the techniques and processes Jon has developed to become one of Australia's most complex and highly regarded commentators and artists of Australian pop art.

Lake Burley Griffin is a precious and treasured part of Canberra's landscape. However those who attended agreed that festivals such as *contour 556* offer us a unique opportunity to reassess how and why it is precious and treasured to the Canberra community and visitors alike.

Bronwyn Blake (photo Neil Hobbs)

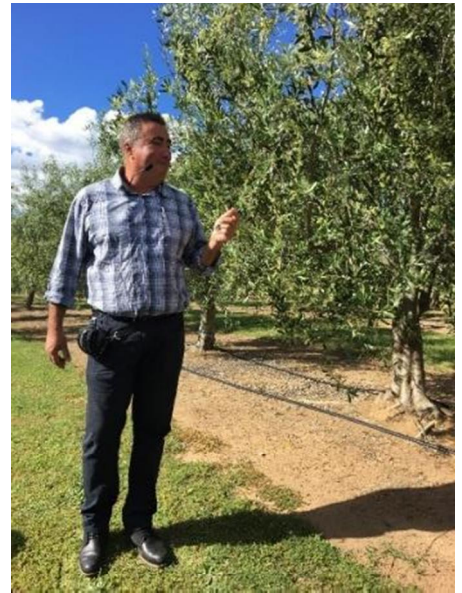


Tour of the Gardens of Pialligo Estate & Christmas drinks & nibbles Thursday 24 November

A Value Added Christmas Party

On 24th November our end of year event was held in Pialligo. I would like to thank committee member Helen Wilson for organising this event for not only were drinks and nibbles on hand to toast a successful year as a Branch but it was also a celebration of the 30th anniversary of the formation of the Branch itself. The first meeting was held at the Botanic Gardens on 11th October 1986.

To begin the evening Helen had arranged a private tour around the gardens and orchards of the Pialligo Estate Farmhouse and Garden (<http://thepialligoestate.com.au/>) led by horticulturist Michael Thomsett (right). Right on the city's doorstep on the banks of the Molonglo River is a 28 hectare productive orchard and market garden. Our group meandered past the 400 Coraggiola olive trees into the groves of apple, pear, peach, plum, nectarine, quince and fig trees. It is to be hoped that the cockatoos and parrots haven't yet spied the burgeoning cherry trees resplendent with ripening fruit. More time could easily have been spent within the estate looking in more detail at the market gardens and vineyard both of which are supplying award winning products not only for use in the Farmhouse restaurant on site but to local and national markets. Michael explained that garden designer Paul Bangay has plans for further landscaped ornamental gardens to enhance the pavilions scattered around the grounds.



The neighbouring garden of Pauline and Richard Richards was a perfect venue for our celebrations. This delightful green and shady oasis was very conducive to sitting back, glass in hand and catching up with friends, other members or invited guests. It was good not only to see so many former and current members but also guests from those organisations with whom we have shared interests. A special birthday cake resplendent with bouquets of sugar flowers had been ordered for the occasion and we were very pleased that Sue Jardine, who had been on the very first committee and Gabrielle Tryon a previous Chair of the Branch were on hand to wield knives into the birthday cake.

Sue Byrne (photos Sue Byrne & Greg Johnson)

NEWS FROM THE BRANCH

VICTOR CRITTENDEN, MULINI PRESS AND THE AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

A little over two years ago Victor Crittenden died. Victor was a notable garden historian, bibliophile, bibliographer, librarian. he was known to many Canberrans in his role as foundation Librarian at the Canberra College of Advanced Education, later the University of Canberra - and dedicated founding member of the Australian Garden History Society (1980). He was a huge contributor to AGHS, serving on its National Management Committee, and he was also a founding, active and much valued member of the of the ACT Monaro Riverina Branch of the Society, as Committee member, Branch Treasurer, President and expert adviser.

Victor's most substantial published contribution to garden history was his authoritative *A History of Australian Gardening Books and Bibliography 1806 -1950* (Canberra College of Advanced Education, 1986). In 1965 he had established his own publishing house, Mulini Press, and under this imprint published a stream of books, many of them Australian garden-related, a number of them written or edited by himself; others are reprints of important early Australian publications long out of print. They are true treasures.

At the sale of the contents of Victor's house Branch member Alan Roberts purchased the stock of Mulini Press books that had been stored in the garage, and generously offered many copies to the ACT Monaro Riverina Branch Committee. We are indebted to Alan and Helen, friends and neighbours of Victor's and members of our Branch. At the recent AGHS National Conference, all delegates received two Mulini Press books and copies were available at the recent end of year function. We still have a few copies remaining and will make these available to members at our 2017 lectures.

We are grateful to have been able to make available to members some fascinating books about Australian gardens and gardening history!

Nancy Clarke

MONTAGUE ISLAND

The Montague Island working party scheduled for late October was cancelled at the last minute because of an administrative matter.

Nancy Clarke

OF INTEREST

PLANTING DREAMS: SHAPING AUSTRALIAN GARDENS

Until 17 January 2017

State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney

The AGHS was the Principal Sponsor of this major exhibition curated by Richard Aitken

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE PLANT HUNTERS

24 May – 10 June 2017

18 day tour to Yunnan, China with Angus Stewart

www.opulentjourneys.com.au

LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN GUARDIANS (LBGG)

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

The Guardians have been quite busy over the last few months and our activities have included:

- A celebration event at West Basin with the Tanamasi musicians
- An AGM with guest speaker Rouran Zhang spoke on West Lake, Hangzhou.
- Acceptance by the Federal Government of our petition with 601 signatures for protecting Lake Burley Griffin and its foreshores. It will now be referred to the Minister for the ACT, Senator the Hon. Fiona Nash.
- Written comments on the Canberra Grammar Girls School Aquatic Centre proposal.
- Engaging with the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories (JSCNCET) to alert members on the many issues associated with proposed development at West Basin. A few Guardians attended both meetings of JSCNCET 24.11.16 and 1.12.16 and we have sent in comments to the NCA Board and further comments to JSCNCET members.

All our submissions will soon be available on our website:

lakeburleygriffinguardians.com. We also have recently started a Facebook page: Lake Burley Griffin Guardians.

Point Park in West Basin has commenced and extends from Commonwealth Avenue Bridge point to Albert Street. The work was approved before the Guardians was formed. It does not have the contentious issues that are proposed for West Basin's next stage that will include lake bed infill in preparation for an intense development of buildings some of which will be sited on the infill.

The Guardians will be continuing its advocacy next year to inform the public on the continual threats to the lakeshore, lobby the government and promote heritage protection.

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"/>	2 February - NGA Tour . Members only	Members of AGHS \$10	_____	_____

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. 2 February) and your **family name**.