

Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch



Newsletter June 2017 No 3

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

6 JULY

Lecture: *Visionary or Vandal? Lancelot "Capability" Brown and the English Landscape*

24 AUGUST

5pm . Branch AGM
followed by the Annual
Lecture: *Planting Dreams: shaping Australia Gardens*

FOR YOUR DIARIES

20 OCTOBER

Lunch time talk at the NLA
on Ferdinand Bauer

17 NOVEMBER

Visit to Bowlyie (Gundaroo)

30 NOVEMBER

Branch Christmas event,
Woden Homestead

AGHS NATIONAL CONFERENCES

27-29 OCTOBER 2017

AGHS National Conference
*Marvellous Melbourne in
Constant Change*

26-29 OCTOBER 2018

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

NEXT EVENTS

Lecture: Visionary or Vandal? Lancelot "Capability" Brown and the English Landscape

**SPEAKER: SUE EBURY
THURSDAY 6 JULY, 6.00PM**

On Thursday 6 July AGHS members and Friends of the National Library have the opportunity to hear what promises to be a wonderful talk by the Patron of AGHS, Sue Ebury. This is our eleventh annual joint event with Friends, and we think it will be exceptional.

Lancelot "Capability" Brown is famous for transforming the English landscape. Was he a genius, this fashionable gardener/architect who re-contoured the Georgian gentry's estates and great country houses? On the tercentenary of his birth, Sue Ebury spent summer days exploring his work and pondering his heritage; gardens, once regular and contained, embraced surrounding hills and valleys; marshes were drained; streams became sinuous rivers and serpentine lakes; wild countryside . *la belle nature* . encroached on domestic surroundings. Through photographs, paintings and archives we gain insights into how the Georgian gentry used this omnipotent magician's landscapes to enhance life in the country.



SUE EBURY was a founding committee member of AGHS, the honorary editor of the proceedings which established the society and one of the honorary editors of the journal. She is also a Patron of the NLA and was a member of the Library Foundation Board for seven years.

Sue is incapable of going on holiday without a project, and

multiple visits to England, Italy and Japan over the past thirty years have resulted in a number of papers and lectures reflecting the garden aesthetic of these countries. In 2015 we were privileged to hear her presentation on Three Medici Gardens. We now have the opportunity of her insights into the role of one man in creating what we think of as the great English garden.

Photo: Gardens at Blenheim Palace, image courtesy of Sue Ebury.

**BRANCH
COMMITTEE**

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

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

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 <http://tix.yt/capability>
NO bookings to be made through AGHS.
Note: If you are unable to book electronically you can call the Friends of the National
 Library on 6262 1698 and pay by credit card over the phone.

Branch Annual General Meeting

THURSDAY 24 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 2017 Annual Lecture (see below).

AGENDA

1. Attendance
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous meeting (25 August 2016)
4. Chair's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Election of Committee for 2017-2018

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

Committee nominations close **13 July 2017** but can also be accepted from the floor at the meeting. If you are interested in joining the Committee would you please contact me (Judy Pearce) at judy.pearce@netspeed.com.au.

Committee members serve a term of three years, with the option of extending for two further terms. We meet once a month and all Committee members take a role in organising Society events and/or the Committee's business activities. New members would be very welcome

Annual Lecture

PLANTING DREAMS: SHAPING AUSTRALIAN GARDENS

SPEAKER: RICHARD AITKEN

THURSDAY 24 AUGUST, 5.30 FOR A 5.45PM START

Planting Dreams: shaping Australian gardens is Richard's most recent project, comprising a book, published by NewSouth in 2016, and a major exhibition at the State Library of NSW, which opened in 2016 to commemorate the bicentenary of the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney.

Planting Dreams explores the environmental and social influences that have helped produce our unique gardening culture. It draws its inspiration from the unparalleled collections of the State Library of NSW, demonstrating Australian garden making in all its richness and diversity.

In this lecture, Richard will showcase *Planting Dreams*, which was generously sponsored by the Australian Garden History Society, recounting highlights as well as giving an insight into the unseen work behind the book and exhibition.

Historian, writer and curator, Richard Aitken's books on garden history have become essential reading for anyone with an interest in horticulture, history and design. These include *Gardenesque*, *Botanical Riches*, *The Garden of Ideas*, *Cultivating Modernism*, and *Planting Dreams*. He has curated many exhibitions including *Planting Dreams*:

PAST EVENTS

ACT Heritage Festival National Trust Open Day at Gungahlin Homestead

SATURDAY 22 APRIL

The National Trust Open Day at Gungahlin Homestead was an almost overwhelming success. More than 3,000 people attended, looking over the site (never previously open to the public), queuing for a guided tour of the building (many had to be turned away at the end of the day), observing the various entertainments and talking to stall holders, of whom AGHS was one. We had many visitors to our stall and enjoyed many



interesting conversations. Our 'offerings' - back issues of our excellent journal *Australian Garden History*, flyers publicising our winter talks and assorted books including the last of the Mulini Press publications, disappeared before the day was over.

It proved an excellent opportunity to publicise the Society and to take part in a highly successful community event. Thanks to the members who gave up their time throughout the day to staff the stall.

Nancy Clarke

(Photo: Nancy Clarke) Committee member Wendy Dodd at the AGHS stall

Living and Working in 'Canberra' in the 19th Century Two Heritage Sites in Belconnen

SUNDAY 30 APRIL

Our joint event with National Trust ACT for the ACT Heritage Festival was very much enjoyed by the 45 people who attended on a fine late autumn day. In our 'walk and talk' afternoon we visited Charnwood Homestead and Palmerville, both important sites in what became known in the nineteenth century as the settlement of Ginninderra.

We met at the site of Charnwood Homestead on the edge of the suburb of Fraser, where historian Anne Claoue Long reminded us that the billed title of the ramble (*Living and Working in Canberra in the 19th Century*) was a misnomer - Canberra didn't exist under that name until 1913. Hence the quote marks in the heading above!

As the southern area of NSW was opened up to European settlement in the nineteenth century, the land was taken up by landholders, many of whom were absentee landlords. Small informal settlements grew organically and Ginninderra (there were other forms of the name) was for many years the only settlement between Yass and Queanbeyan. It was very much the edge of 'civilisation'. Detailed information about the settlement is not abundant, but sources like the census and sale advertisement provide useful data. The 8 room building at Charnwood was destroyed in bushfires in 1905 and no built remains are evident on the site, but there are interesting remnant trees, particularly the

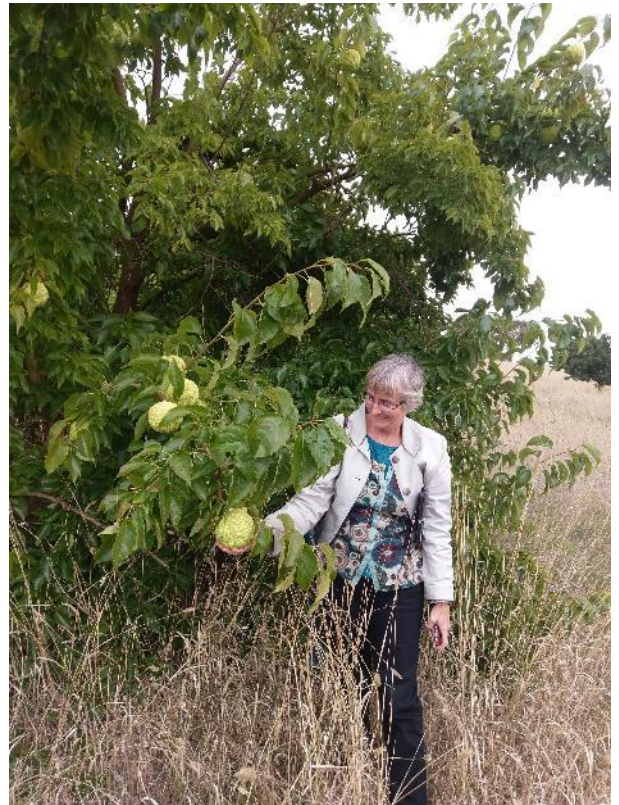
North American 'Osage orange'. This tree (*Maclura pomifera*) was planted quite frequently in the 19C in southern NSW as a living hedge. You can see more at Oaks Estate.

At Palmerville retired archaeologist Trish Saunders provided an overview of the history of the quite substantial settlement, and then accompanied the group along the well signposted path through the Heritage Park. Enriching information was provided by Trish, Anne and some participants, as well as the informative Canberra Tracks signs. If you go to the Canberra Tracks website <http://www.canberratracks.act.gov.au> and select *Track 6 – Belconnen* you can obtain additional information about Palmerville (and also Charnwood).

As so often incidental connections enhanced the day. Personal stories about the early days in Ginninderra were provided by several people with family connections with Charnwood and Palmerville, and for AGHS members the remnant plantings were of real interest. The oak trees (*Quercus robur*) at Palmerville are considered the oldest remaining exotic trees in the district, and are the parents of the forest of oaks in the National Arboretum. There is also a forest of Osage oranges in the Arboretum, not connected with Charnwood, however.

We very much look forward to an expanded account of Ginninderra from Anne in a forthcoming issue of *Australian Garden History*.

Nancy Clarke



(Photo: Nancy Clarke) Anne Claoue Long at Charnwood Homestead with the Osage orange

Visit to the Gallery of Gardens, National Arboretum Canberra

FRIDAY 12 MAY

AGHS members enjoyed a very special presentation and tour of the developing Gallery of Gardens and we thank our guide, Paulene Cornish. Paulene was involved in the selection panel for the Open Gardens Australia Garden and understands the concepts and plant selection behind these new gardens. She was able to provide a comprehensive overview of the Garden design concepts and to point out the distinctive features of each of the Gardens currently under construction. She has provided us with details of the plant selection. please contact judy.pearce@netspeed.com.au for a copy of this document.

The Gallery of Gardens is a mosaic of seven unique gardens being developed as a key area for functions, events and recreation on the Events Terrace of the Arboretum. While it was an integral part of the Arboretum's master plan and vision, the recent development of the gardens had been triggered by the approach of Open Gardens Australia with an offer to fund a garden celebrating the 27 year history of Open Gardens Australia's contribution to the Australian community. With beautiful serendipity, the second garden, the Labyrinth Garden, was also developed through an act of generosity by an attendee at the opening of the first garden. He was so moved by the ceremony he offered to fund a reflective garden focussed on the medieval stone labyrinth found in many churches.

While each garden will have a unique design with a variety of trees, plants and landscape features, they will flow one into the other so the visitor can enjoy their distinctive features, their individual opportunities for reflection, enjoyment and their welcoming spaces encouraging people to sit and enjoy the inspiring surrounds.

Avenues of trees have been planted along the roads and walkways to create an ever changing setting across the seasons.

The Gallery of Gardens has been created through the generous donations and fundraising efforts of many individuals and organisations as outlined below.

AGHS members were delighted to explore the four gardens now open and look forward to visiting future gardens.

Marie Wood



(Photo: Greg Johnson) Committee member Bronwyn Blake with Paulene and Helen Stevens

For members' interest, a brief summary of each of the gardens is included below, taken from the website of the National Arboretum. For further information see <http://www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au/living-collection/gallery-of-gardens>

The Open Gardens Australia Celebration Garden

The Open Gardens Australia Celebration Garden is a lasting tribute to Open Gardens Australia's twenty seven year history (1987-2016) and success in opening almost 20,000 gardens and raising more than \$6 million for charitable causes.

The Labyrinth Garden

The Labyrinth Garden offers the opportunity to walk an 18.2m, 11 circuit concrete labyrinth with a medieval pattern inspired by the Notre-Dame Chartres Cathedral Labyrinth in France. It is designed as an inclusive space for contemplation and renewal.

The AIDS Garden of Reflection

The AIDS Garden of Reflection is a living tribute to those lost to AIDS and in support of those living with HIV. Designed as a place of contemplation, the garden provides an opportunity for families, friends and supporters to honour those lost to HIV and AIDS, heal, reflect and develop hope.

Mununja the Butterfly Garden

Mununja the Butterfly Garden depicts a dreamtime story of the Ngunawal people, the custodians of the land that includes Canberra and the site of the National Arboretum. The layout, colour and shapes of the garden reference the geometric scales on butterfly wings, in particular the Orchard swallowtail butterfly (*Papilio aegeus*), and the Common crow butterfly (*Euploea core*), both found along the east coast of Australia.

The Childrens' Garden - under construction

The Childrens' Garden encourages children to play, explore and interact with their environment through the use of colour, texture, scent and form. The variety of plants creates a range of active play spaces, offering fun and stimulating experiences for all ages.

The Events Garden - construction to begin soon.

The Events Garden will provide a semi-secluded outdoor 'garden room' extension to the Margaret Whitlam Pavilion. The garden will offer a vibrant array of floral colour and feature a beautiful curved arbour with climbing roses, flowering Japanese dogwood and Crepe myrtle trees, bench seating and paths, rose beds and shade trees.

Gardens 6 and 7

The sixth and seventh gardens in the Gallery of Gardens are currently being considered. Donations are welcome to enable the construction of these gardens, completing the Gallery of Gardens.

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 8 July, 2pm: Winter Seminar with speakers

- Stuart Read: *Brown, green, other colours and players – a tercentenary odyssey* (on Capability Brown and his times) and
- Richard Heathcote: *Pets and plants fit for a French Empress's garden* (on Empress Josephine)

Sunday 20 August with speakers

- Dr Greg Johnson: *Write to Garden in Australia: 1888 to 1938*
- Charlotte Webb: *Parsnips to Picturesque – Evolution of gardens in the Southern Highlands*

Further information at <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/branches/southern-highlands/>

FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE

AGHS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Bookings are now open for the AGHS 2017 National Conference in Melbourne . go to <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/events-conference/38th-annual-conference/>

AGHS NEO

Robyn Robins has been appointed as the new National Executive Officer for the Society. No doubt information about Robyn will appear in the next journal.

OF INTEREST

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF CANBERRA

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

The Horticultural Society holds talks at 7.30pm on the 3rd Monday of each month. Two talks members might be particularly interested in are:

- **Monday 19 June** *Future master and operational plans for the Arboretum*, Speaker: Scott Saddler
- **Monday 21 August** *Early days – Cavan, Westbourne etc*, Speaker: Max Bourke AM

For the full program visit the HSOC website

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

24 May to 27 August, 2017, 10am-5pm. Free.
Exhibition: *Melodrama in Meiji Japan*

AGHS members in Canberra are probably aware that one of Australia's most significant collections of Japanese art . woodblock prints known as *kuchi-e* . is on show for the first time at the National Library of Australia exhibition, *Melodrama in Meiji Japan*. The exhibition features many items from the substantial collection of *kuchi-e* donated to the National Library by the late Richard Clough, who had a distinguished career in landscape architecture with the National Capital Development Commission in Canberra, and as Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of NSW. Richard Clough's life and contributions to landscape architecture were the subject of our branch AGM lecture by Craig Burton in 2015.

The exhibition showcases the work of more than 20 artists, covering a range of subjects filled with drama, tragedy and intrigue, and very much reflective of the Meiji era. For those with an interest in garden history and landscape architecture, the exhibition also gives insight into a subject that was obviously a major influence on the work of Professor Clough.

Melodrama in Meiji Japan is on show at the National Library of Australia, Canberra, from <https://www.nla.gov.au/media-releases/2017/05/23/melodrama-in-meiji-japan>

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

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. Members may be especially interested in the following talks:

Thursday 6 July *Charles Darwin in Galapagos and Australia*, Speaker: Dr Sue Serjeantson

Thursday 27 July *Australian trees and their botanists*, Speaker: Dr John Turnbull

Thursday 3 August *History of Australian Plant Breeding*, Speaker: Angus Stewart

Thursday 17 August *Out of the Woods*, Speaker: Max Bourke AM

NATIONAL TRUST ACT

Tuesday 24 October

Private Gardens of the Monaro . a self drive tour visiting Hazeldean, Shirley and Curry Flat Homestead

Cost: \$125 National Trust, U3A members/ Friends of NLA, Non-members \$135. More information at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/explore/?content=event&state=act>

LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN GUARDIANS (LBGG)

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

Lake Burley Griffin Guardians continue to be very busy on advocacy work.

The Development of West Basin is still a major concern and we are troubled that so many people we talk to at the Lake have no idea of the proposed development. The recent Acton Peninsula Precinct Draft Structure Plan recommends more buildings in West Basin. We urge all AGHS members to undertake a submission as set out on the NCA website. Please check out our website for the many articles, submissions and letters.

Thank you to the AGHS for your support.

Juliet Ramsay

NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA
www.arboretumcanberra.org.au

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA
www.naa.gov.au/visit-us/exhibitions



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).

Names _____

Contact phone: (Evening/W/E) _____

Email: _____

Tick	Event	Cost	Numbers attending	Amount Incl \$
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 July . Lecture: %Capability+ Brown, NLA	Book through NLA http://tix.yt/capability NO bookings to be made through AGHS.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	24 August – AGM and Annual Lecture: <i>Planting Dreams</i>	Members \$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. 24 August) and your **family name**.