

Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch



Newsletter October 2017 No 5

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

20 OCTOBER

Lunch time talk at the NLA
on Ferdinand Bauer

17 NOVEMBER

Visit to Gundaroo

23 NOVEMBER

Branch Christmas event,
Woden Homestead

**DETAILS OF EVENTS
ALREADY PLANNED
FOR 2018 WILL BE
PROVIDED IN THE
DECEMBER
NEWSLETTER**

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: Discovering Ferdinand Bauer
Speaker: David Stuart

FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER, 12.30 . 1.30PM

BOOKED OUT

A Day in Gundaroo

FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER

BOOKED OUT

*Visit to Woden Homestead and
End of year celebrations*

THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER, 5.00 - 7PM



Woden Homestead and Environs is significant as one of the earliest rural properties on the Limestone Plains (now Canberra), and it includes the oldest remaining homestead (from 1832) that has been continuously occupied and managed as part of an agricultural enterprise. It is still a working sheep property. It has a strong association with the early development of the region and with important figures in the region's history.

In the 1820s Francis Mowatt received grant of land where he built two stone cottages for himself and his shepherds. Originally *Jerrabomberra*, the property name was changed to *Woden* when it was purchased in 1837 by Dr James Murray, an Irish surgeon. He created a substantial homestead, incorporating the existing buildings.

[Woden homestead from the album of Mrs W.A.S Dunlop, 1900-1914.](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-147791570)
nla.gov.au/nla.obj-147791570

BRANCH COMMITTEE

Sue Byrne, Chair
Judy Pearce, Dpt Chair &
 Newsletter Editor
Kay Johnston, Treasurer
 and State NMC
 Representative
Nancy Clarke, Secretary

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

Complementing the home was a formal garden, with gravel paths leading through beds of roses and flowering shrubs, bulbs and annuals to the orchard, where apples, pears, quinces and Kentish cherries were grown. In 1840 Anna Maria Bunn, James' widowed sister and her two children moved to *Woden*, before moving to *St Omer* 12 years later. By this time the garden was well established and Anna took seeds, cutting and plants from *Woden*, as well as ideas for garden layout to start her new garden near Braidwood.

In 1855 James died leaving *Woden* to his brother who sold it to Thomas Rutledge from Carwoola. A year later it was sold again and by 1869 it had become part of George Campbell's *Duntroon*. Recent owners, Charles and Martha Campbell, descendants of the early owners, began a program of tree replacing, which is continuing under the current owners Patrick and Emma Campbell who are focussing on English Oaks as a fire retardant and fire buffer.

Despite a severe bush fire in 1952, many important structures and plants survived in and around the grounds to enable understanding of the history and development of the property. These include gum trees, hedges and fences, rambling roses and a carriage loop with shrubs. Edna Walling, one of Australia's leading landscape designers, redesigned the garden in 1952.

Currently there are no available plans nor many photos of the gardens although Patrick hopes when he has a chance to review the many boxes of his parents' papers that some of these will come to light. Mike Hall, the Campbell's (occasional) gardener for the last 15 years will speak to us on the day and will be able to respond to questions.

The paths are not all smooth, nor are the grounds all level. We suggest you wear sturdy shoes. You might also bring a folding chair for refreshments at the end of the visit.

Once again numbers are restricted to 50, and we are requesting pre-payment because of the limited numbers.

Address 10225 Monaro Hwy, Hume.

Getting there The driveway is on the western side of the Highway, 300m north of the Lanyon Drive intersection. There is a letterbox on the highway clearly labelled with 10225.

If coming from the north, reach the intersection of Monaro Hwy and Lanyon Drive and from Lanyon Drive turn right into the Monaro Hwy north-bound lanes, and from the LH lane look out for the first gravel driveway to the left. We should have our sign there to make it more obvious at a distance.

Parking Parking will be on the lower side of the driveway below the carport, in rows, front end to roadway

Cost Members \$10, Non-members \$15 - including refreshments

Booking Booking form Page 7.

NEW MEMBERS

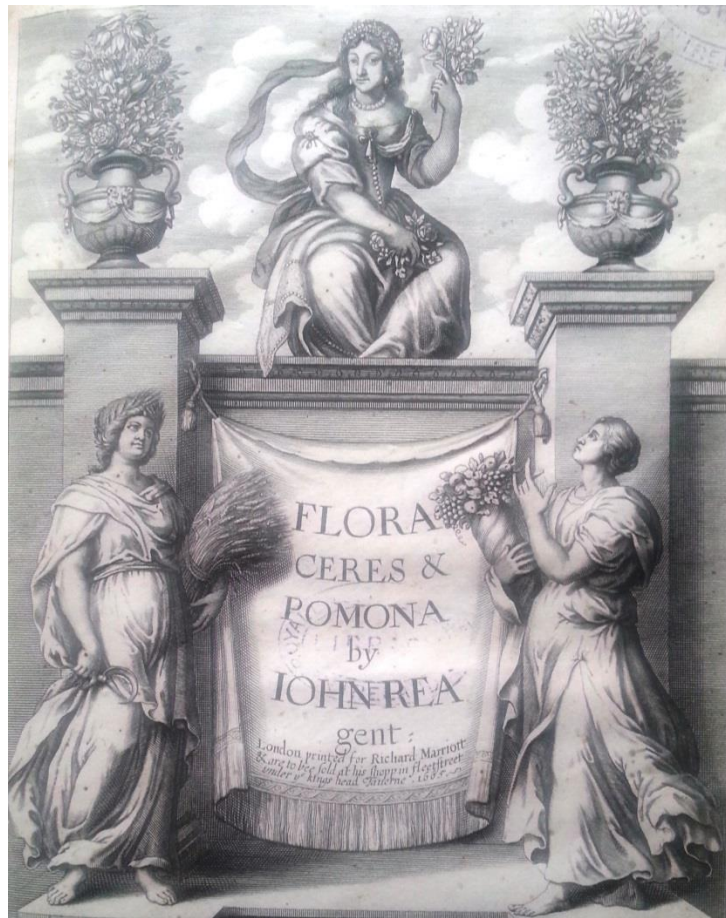
The committee would like to welcome the following new members who have joined since the last newsletter.

- Leonie Jeffery, Canberra
- Sara York, Canberra

PAST EVENTS

Annual Lecture: Planting Dreams: Shaping Australia

THURSDAY 24 AUGUST 2017



An illustration from *Flora: Seu, de Florum Cultura. Or, a Complete Florilege*. By John Rea 1665, one of the most important gardening books to be published in England during the second half of the seventeenth century (image with permission, from private collection)

As every gardener knows, much thought and 'sowing hope' goes into any gardening venture. Such was the case for historian, writer and curator, Richard Aitkin, with 'Planting Dreams: Shaping Australian Gardens' comprising a book, published by NewSouth, and the 2016 exhibition at the State Library of NSW, which commemorated the bicentenary of the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney.

For the 2016 Annual Lecture, Richard gave 55 AGHS members and guests insights into the planning and execution of the exhibition and book, the wealth of material in the State Library collections, and the rationale for the design and layout of the exhibition. He noted other exhibitions past and present, and described the challenges and fun in working with the State Library team to ferret out, select, and prepare for exhibition rare gems of garden history . some not exhibited before.

In introducing the talk, Richard noted that Australian gardens have been shaped by our cultural heritage, the influence and impact of the first Australians, and, the nature of our landscape, our fauna and flora, and the challenges of climate, floods and fire. The talk then detailed how Richard captured these influences in the exhibition, and in the text that accompanied the superb illustrations of 'Planting Dreams'.

For the Annual Lecture, Richard selected just a few images to illustrate key elements of eight themes: Gardens of the mind, Dynamic nature, Inspiring culture, Respecting

utility, Designing with plants, Domains of pleasure, Science in the garden and, Depicting plants and gardens. In doing so, we were, like the 1834 visitor to Australia, Baron Charles von Hügel, reminded how planting dreams and gardening "instinctively connected instruction, amusement, and wonder"!

And, as Richard demonstrated, it is not only the image that attracts our interest . sometimes it is the provenance, an inscription, a bookplate or a booksellers' ticket on an item, that adds to our appreciation and understanding of garden history.

Within any exhibition or talk it is difficult to single out any item as most exciting or rare . but one in particular stood out for me (and also for Richard) . the fragile traced plans "Design of proposed native garden for the home of Mr Everitt" (c 1965-66), with Jean Walker (Illustrator) and Betty Maloney, Jean Walker and Don Sands (designers).

Seeds are the future promise of our gardens . We don't see the full glory until later. So often when we see the original illustrations made long ago, they seem small compared to the large panoramic images we see on screens today. Herein lay the advantage of the book and Richard's talk - seeing larger than life the images of books and art that have encapsulated 'Planting dreams' ever since humans began to illustrate plants and gardens. Thanks for the chance to see, to hear and to think, Richard!

Greg Johnson

NEWS FROM THE BRANCH

The Branch AGM was held on Thursday 24 August, immediately before our Annual Lecture. The committee members for 2017-2018 are noted on page 2. We particularly welcome new committee member Sue Cassidy . we are thrilled to have her on board.

OF INTEREST

EUROBODALLA REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN

Friday 13 – Sunday 29 October: Exhibition: *Up the Garden Path*

A hand-picked range of work from various artists which will explore the interconnection between people and place.

Barbara Romalis, whose studio we visited in 2015 at the Priory, Bingie, has work included. Barbara's work is also part of a show at the Lion Gate Lodge, **Royal Botanic Gardens** in Sydney (**Saturday 14 – Sunday 22 October**)

BUNDANOON GARDEN RAMBLE

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 October, 9.30am . 4.30pm

Visit 8 private gardens.

Full details at <http://www.bundanoongardenramble.org.au/>

OPEN GARDENS CANBERRA

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

The program for spring 2017 commences on the **weekend of 28/29 October** with 4 openings already advertised on the website.

CROOKWELL GARDEN FESTIVAL

Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 November, 10am . 4pm

9 town and country gardens will be opening as well as a Garden Lovers' Market on the Saturday from 8.30am . 2pm

Full details at <http://crookwellgardenfestival.com/>

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.

Saturday 14 – Sunday 29 October

Trees: As Above/So Below

An outdoor exhibition on the Eucalypt Lawn featuring a collection of 2D and 3D artworks by Networks Australia, a group of Internationally renowned visual artists. The exhibition will highlight the role and interconnectedness of trees. (Opens 14 October, 2-4pm)

Tuesday 31 October, 5 for 5.30pm . Friends of the Botanic Gardens AGM followed by Peter Byron, ANBG General Manager talking about the 6th Global Botanic Gardens Congress held recently in Geneva.

NATIONAL TRUST ACT

For all events visit <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/explore/?content=event&state=act> or phone 6230 0533

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

New - Heritage Walks on the last Sunday of the month

Starting 9.30am for 1 ½ - 2 hours, cost \$7

- Sunday 22 October . Blandfordia
- Sunday 26 November . Oaks Estate
- Sunday 31 December . Acton
- Sunday 21 January . Mt Stromlo
- Sunday 25 February . Callum Brae Nature Reserve

Tuesday 24 October: *Private Gardens of the Monaro*

A self-drive tour visiting three private gardens in the Monaro High Country - Hazeldean, Shirley and Curry Flat homestead.

Cost: \$125, \$135

Sunday 5 November

12th Annual Reid Open House and Gardens, , 1.15 . 4.30pm

Property owners will open three privately-owned houses and gardens from the 1920s and 1930s in Reid's Heritage precinct.

Saturday 11 November

Day trip to Bowring, Binalong and Yass

CANOWINDRA GARDEN CLUB

Saturday 18 November, 2-5pm

A spring garden event at **Noojee Lea Homestead** featuring the recently completed Paul Bangay designed Walled Garden and Western Courtyard. Funds raised to go to the Canowindra Hospital (flyer attached).

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

NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA
www.arboretumcanberra.org.au

Saturday 18 November: Succulent Day

9.30am . 2.30pm . free event featuring well-known expert Attila Kapitany

5 – 11 March 2018 – Singapore Trees and Gardens

This tour is to be lead by AGHS members Max and Margaret Bourke with profits from the trip going to the Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra. Max and Margaret will be operating pro bona. The flyer for the tour was sent to all Branch members by email on 4 October. For further information contact Max at max@mebourke.com

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. For the program visit the HSOC website

NATUREART LAB, CANBERRA
<https://www.natureartlab.com.au/>

This new art school for Canberra, based at M16 Artspace in Griffith. will provide an important facility for people interested in art, science and nature. Courses include Botanical Art, Wildlife Drawing, Illustrating Insects in Watercolour and more . check out the website.

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

Lake Burley Griffin Guardians (LBGG) is busy keeping up with a spectrum of interests and concerns associated with the lake including substantial submissions on major planning proposals as well as continuing advocacy on political aspects associated with protecting the lake's national heritage.

Lake Burley Griffin is a complex and significant national heritage lake system and its lack of heritage protection is a critical concern that has captured international interest. The Guardians were pleased to learn that international ICOMOS Heritage at Risk World report 2014-2015 accepted Australia's concern and published a summary of Lake Burley Griffin's plight as a case study in their recently published report that can be viewed at: <http://www.icomos.org/en/116-english-categories/resources/publications/8766-heritage-at-risk-special-edition-2014-2015>. This might just shame the Australian Governments.

The Guardians have been collecting signatures for a petition for the ACT Government and have had stands at West Basin near the road crossing to Floriade and at the recent Living Green Festival. We have a small but eye-catching bumper sticker 'Park not apartments @ West Basin' that we are happy to give to anyone who will display it on their car. If any group would like a presentation about what is happening at West Basin please contact the Guardians at: lakeburleygriffin@gmail.com. New members are welcome.

Check out our website: lakeburleyguardians.org.au.
and our Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Lake-Burley-Griffin-Guardians-1797781033814906/>

Juliet Ramsay



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 ellieth@bigpond.net.au (phone 6284 4749 home).

(N.B. Prepayment required for event on 23 November)

Names _____

Contact phone: (Evening/W/E) _____

Email: _____

Tick	Event	Cost	Numbers attending	Amount Incl \$
<input type="checkbox"/>	23 November Woden Homestead and end of year celebrations PREPAYMENT REQUIRED to secure a place as numbers limited	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 ellieth@bigpond.net.au (phone 6284 4749 home) and pay by EFT.

By EFT Account name: **AGHS**, BSB: **801009**, Account number: **001062165**

Please make sure you include the following reference information:

the date of the event (e.g 23 November) and your **family name**.