Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch

AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter August 2018 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

NEXT EVENTS

9 AUGUST

AGM and

Annual Lecture: Lainie Lawson OAM - Rescue and Reality: some thoughts on garden restoration

16 SEPTEMBER

Documentary Film: Five Seasons: The Gardens of

Piet Oudolf

20 SEPTEMBER

Visit to the Australian Botanic Garden and PlantBank, Mt Annan

16 OCTOBER

Contour 556 . Walk and Talk

9 NOVEMBER

Visit to the Jugiong district

23 NOVEMBER

Branch end of year party . *Palerang*

AGHS National Conference

26-29 OCTOBER 2018

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

Branch Annual General Meeting THURSDAY 9 AUGUST, 5.45PM

The AGM of the ACT Monaro Riverina Branch of the AGHS will be held at Canberra Museum and Gallery just prior to the 2018 Annual Lecture (see below).

AGENDA

- 1. Attendance
- 2. Apologies
- 3. Minutes of previous meeting (24 August 2017)
- 4. Chaircs report
- 5. Treasurercs report
- 6. Election of Branch Committee

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

Continuing Committee members: Sue Byrne, Sue Cassidy, Wendy Dodd, Greg Johnson, Kay Johnston, Judy Pearce

Nominations

Bronwyn Blake (nominated Sue Byrne, seconded Marie Wood)
Nancy Clarke (nominated Denise Rawling, seconded Tony Stewart)
Anne Claoue-Long (nominated Margaret Bourke, seconded Max Bourke)
Helen Elliot (nominated Andrea Szabo, seconded Louise Moran)
Helen Wilson (nominated Louise Moran, seconded Greg Johnson)

No other nominations were received by 28 June, but nominations may be accepted from the floor of the meeting.

7. Confirmation of Kay Johnston as ACT State Representative on the AGHS National Management Committee

Venue: Theatre, Canberra Museum and Gallery, Crn London Cct and Civic Square. Paid parking to the north of CMAG, and free parking from 5.30 across Northbourne Avenue near the Law Courts. See map on Page 14

Please support your hard working committee and attend.

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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

Annual Lecture: Rescue and Reality: some thoughts on garden restoration

SPEAKER: LAINIE LAWSON OAM THURSDAY 9 AUGUST, 6PM

Having observed garden restoration projects both in Australia and the UK over the past 30 years, Lainie is questioning current methods and outcomes. She is also interested in pursuing the influence of Open Gardens Australia on the conservation of private gardens.

Lainie Lawson is a long standing member of AGHS having joined in the 1980s when working in heritage conservation as Senior Curator of Historic Places in The ACT Government. She has served on the Boards of Open Gardens Australia, the Historic Houses Trust of NSW, the Australiana Fund, AGHS, and is currently on the Management Committee of the National Trust of NSW. She now lives on a small farming property at Nimmitabel where she enjoys her garden and continues to be involved in heritage projects.

Venue Theatre, Canberra Museum and Gallery, Crn London Cct and Civic

Square

Cost \$10 for AGHS and CMAG members, \$15 for non-members includes

refreshments. If you have not yet booked but want to attend please advise Helen Elliot at elliotate:elliotate:elliotate (phone 6284 4749 home)

Film Outing: Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER, 4PM



When an AGHS Branch member alerted the committee to this currently released documentary we set about seeing if we could have it shown in Canberra. We have been successful and it will be shown at the ARC Cinema, National Film and Sound Archives, **Sunday 16 September 4pm and Sunday 14 October 4pm**. The screenings will coincide with Floriade. We would love it if you can join us for a planned group booking Sunday 16 September.

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This documentary immerses viewers in Oudolfs work and takes us inside his creative process, from his beautifully abstract sketches, to theories on beauty, to the ecological implications of his ideas.

Intimate discussions take place through all four seasons in Piets own gardens at Hummelo, and on visits to his signature public works in New York, Chicago, and the Netherlands, as well as to the far-flung locations that inspire his genius, including desert wildflowers in West Texas and post-industrial forests in Pennsylvania.

As a narrative thread, the film also follows Oudolf as he designs and installs a major new garden at Hauser & Wirth Somerset, a gallery and arts center in Southwest England, a garden he considers his best work yet. For more information on the film visit http://fiveseasonsmovie.com/

Meet 3.40pm, Foyer, National Film and Sound Archive, McCoy Circuit, Acton

Cost \$10

Bookings Booking form page 11.

Visit to the Australian Botanic Garden and PlantBank, Mt Annan THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

Many members will recall the splendid talk on the Australian PlantBank presented to the 2016 AGHS Conference by Dr Cath Offord. Join us on the 20 September for a spring excursion to the Australian Botanic Garden, Mt Annan, and a behind-the-scenes tour of PlantBank (formerly the Australian Seed Bank).

The Australian Botanic Garden near Campbelltown NSW (part of the Royal Botanic Garden and Domain Trust) is celebrating its 30th birthday this year. It is a garden on a truly grand scale (416 hectares).

PlantBank is a secure seed repository and research facility for Australian plant species, containing 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.



Plant Bank, Mt Annan

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After we arrive at the Garden, an expert volunteer guide will join us in our coach for a one-hour tour of the Garden. Lunch will be in Melaleuca House, the on-site caférestaurant, and after this we will visit PlantBank, where guides will lead us on 1½ hour tour of PlantBank, visiting not only the public spaces but the working areas. We will be on foot for this tour, so good footwear is important.

There will be time to walk in the wonderful Connection Garden directly opposite the Visitor Centre, which in spring is particularly spectacular with its massed display of paper daisies.

We will travel by (comfortable) coach, and morning tea, lunch and tours of the Garden and PlantBank are included. Cost: \$75 members, \$85 non-members. Please book as soon as possible. we need to lock in our bookings for the coach and the tours!!

Details including booking information on Pages 12 & 13. Because we need to make firm bookings prepayment is required, and no refunds will be possible after 20 August.

contour 556 ... walk and talk by curator and artist Tuesday October 16, 4.45 for 5pm start

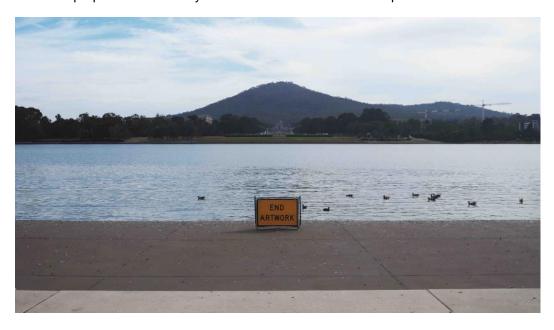


contour 556 is a free public art event running from the 5th. 28th of October 2018. Some of you may have been fortunate enough to join us on our walk and talk of the inaugural event in 2016.

Curator Neil Hobbs, together with a participating artist, has kindly offered to take us on a walk and talk of a small section of the event once again.

contour 556 2018 will feature 60 local, national and international artists exhibiting and performing around Lake Burley Griffin.

contour 556 is the water level of Lake Burley Griffin, which links the event in name as well as in purpose to the history of the central Canberra landscape. The artworks and



installations selected for the festival respond in some way to Canberras history, from 50,000 years to the present day.

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The inspiration for *contour 556* comes from Neils lifetime appreciation for the beauty of the central Canberra landscape. He is widely acknowledged for his professional and personal support of and contribution to the development of connection between the landscape and the visual and performing arts in Canberra.

Neils primary objective for *contour 556* is % transform how viewers remember or recall the Canberra landscape after seeing the artworks or performances. My research is searching for a link between art and the place they experienced it in ... the memory people take away with them of their time in that landscape".

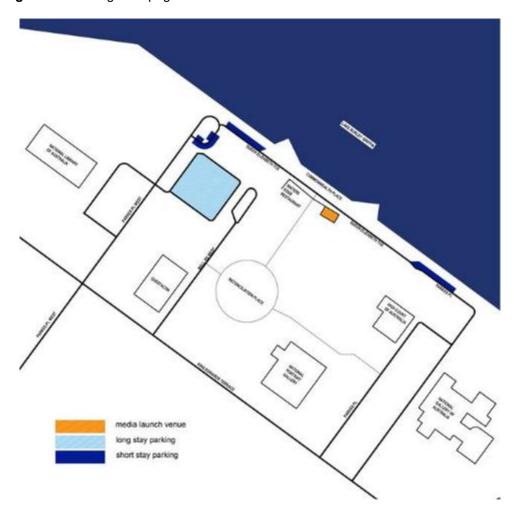
More information about the event and artists involved can be found at www.contour556.com.au.

Meet 4.45pm for a 5pm start at the front of the Commonwealth Place East.

See map below.

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

Bookings Booking form page 11.



VISIT TO THE JUGIONG REGION FRIDAY 9 NOVEMBER

Details with a booking form will be sent to members as soon as arrangements are finalised.

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PAST EVENTS

Lecture: The Cruden Farm Garden Diaries THURSDAY 14 JUNE

In 2013, Lisa Clausen wrote a piece for *The Monthly*: 'Elisabeth Murdoch's Gardener', thus sowing the seeds for the fruitful collaboration with Michael Morrison, and photographer, Simon Griffiths, to record the story of a friendship, of love and of a garden: *The Cruden Farm Diaries*.

There's an art to raking leaves the Michael Morrison way, a skill that Lisa Clausen says she did not manage to master when she was working on *The Cruden Farm Diaries*. But then, Michael has been perfecting the art since he began working as a gardener for Dame Elisabeth Murdoch at Cruden Farm in 1971. just on Sundays initially, but eventually full time and more.

This was just one of the personal anecdotes and insights shared by Lisa Clausen, along with photographs by Simon Griffiths, including some that are not in the Diaries, when she spoke to a capacity audience of 135 at the 12th AGHS and Friends of the National Library of Australia joint lecture during June.

In 1984, Michael Morrison started keeping a diary of Cruden Farm, with the encouragement of Dame Elisabeth, which he still continues. The annual diaries record the triumphs, tragedies, and passions that are the gardener's lot, while also providing a glimpse of the life and times of 'the Dame'. Precious memories of the growth and history of a garden, its plants and people . captured in a few daily lines, but together illuminating Simon Griffith's vivid pictures of the changing priorities and seasons.

Lisa's style was relaxed and personal, recounting the story of how the project on the diaries began. She quoted snippets from the diaries, recounted conversations with Michael Morrison, and described visits to Cruden Farm, while a slide show of images of farm, the garden, the plants and the people played in a continuous loop. Her presentation



ended with time for a few questions from the audience, then refreshments in the NLA foyer while Lisa signed copies of her book.

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch has created a wonderful legacy in Cruden Farm. Michael Morrison's diaries, Simon Griffith's photographs and Lisa Clausen's prose are essential parts of that legacy, and it was a privilege to attend the lecture.

Greg Johnson

Photo: Dame Elisabeth with Michael Morrison

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Lecture: Write Now: Gardening in Australia 1989-2023 Thursday 12 July

In the new venue for our Branch talks, the Canberra Museum and Gallery theatre, Greg Johnson presented the fourth and final talk in his garden writing series.

Write Now: Gardening in Australia 1989 – 2028 follows on from the first talk in 2014 Quill and Spade - Pioneer garden writing in Australia 1788 -1880, in 2015 Write to Garden 1889 -1938, and in 2016 Write on Garden: 'The times they are a-changing'.

Write Now: Gardening in Australia 1989 - 2028 took us from the 80¢s, (the decade of greater mechanisation for the home gardener, the development of genetically modified plants producing blue carnations and blue roses, computer aided design, social media) through to speculation of what the future may hold.

Some of the authors who have offered advice or influenced our changing garden styles and whose writing remains within Gregos collection are

- Tommy Garnett, former headmaster of Geelong Grammar who developed with his wife Penny the Garden of St Erth at Blackwood, Victoria, now owned by Diggers. From 1980 to 1997 Tommy wrote a column for *The Age*.
- The Latvian plant collector Janis Ruksan wrote *Buried Treasures: finding and growing the world's choicest bulbs (2007)*. Some of his rare bulbs are now available to gardenersqworldwide.
- The local writer of over 200 books across 36 languages, Jackie French, whose books give helpful gardening advice to adults and children alike. Imp sure Diary of a Wombat would be on Gregos, or his boysqbookshelves.
- John Patrick, a lecturer at Burnley and Gardening Australia presenter, together
 with Jennifer Wade wrote Contemporary Australian Garden Designs: Secrets of
 Leading Garden Designers Revealed. This book outlines the works of twenty
 Australian garden designers their inspiration, philosophy and approaches to
 practical problems in modern garden design.
- Another local writer passionate about the Australian landscape is Trisha Burkitt
 Dixon whose book, co-authored with Jennie Churchill is titled *The vision of*Edna Walling: garden plans 1920-1951. Trisha was at the forefront of the
 revival of interest in the work of Edna Walling and her respect for the Australian
 landscape.

In his talk Greg mentioned more than 40 authors many of whom had contributed or continue to contribute to **newspaper columns**, (Holly Kerr Forsyth for the Weekend Australian, Cheryl Maddocks, Sydney Morning Herald) **journals**, (Roger Mann for Your Garden), **radio broadcasts** (Queenslander Annette McFarlane) and **television programs** - one being ABC Gardening Australia, a platform for some authors to become presenters (Stephen Ryan, Sophie Thomson).

Greg also paid tribute to photographers whose work may not always be as widely advertised but whose contribution on a page is **±**worth a thousand words.q Simon Griffiths has worked with many authors including Paul Bangay and more recently was the photographer for the book *Cruden Farm Garden Diaries* by Michael Morrison and Lisa Clausen who spoke to our Branch recently at the National Library. Greg had also made excellent use of digital resources to illustrate his talk.

Although the 21st century has sadly seen the rise of the McMansion with limited garden space and the Bunnificationqof garden suppliers with the resulting loss of smaller local nurseries, there has been a global increase in diverse forms of digital transmission of horticultural information. Garden writers can now establish or contribute to web sites (Jerry Coleby-Williams https://jerry-coleby-williams.net/, Angus Stewart https://www.gardeningwithangus.com.au), create a blogsite (Indira Naidoo (http://saucyonion.blogspot.com/), share Facebook, demonstrate on Youtube or short cut communication via Twitter and Instagram.

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In concluding his talk Greg mused upon some of the issues upon which future garden writers will need to be offering advice. population pressures, energy costs, climate changes, life-style choice, greening cities, sustainability, utilitarian plantings. Butõ regardless of the form from which one will be absorbing the words and pictures of gardener writers, *gardening and garden writing will remain a refuge for many.q(Greg Johnson 2018)

Sue Byrne

NEW MEMBERS

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

- Rhonda Evans, Canberra
- Jane Green, Canberra
- Jane Lambert, Canberra
- Svetlana Manns, Canberra
- Alexander Marsden, Canberra
- Susan Phillips, Canberra
- Margaret Roseby, Canberra

BRANCH NEWS

DONATION TO THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM OF GARDENING

The Australian Museum of Gardening http://www.carrickhill.sa.gov.au/house-gardens/australian-museum-of-gardening has been established within the grounds of Carrick Hill historic house and garden in South Australia. The Carrick Hill Trust has been assigned to oversee the collecting and storing of items within the museum. The aim of the museum is to preserve, present and promote garden history in collaboration with the Australian Garden History Society.

Currently the Museum contains over a thousand objects, the core component being the donation of the large tool collection which had once belonged to Richard Bird of the Old Mole of Armidale.

Earlier this year the committee voted to give a donation of \$3000 to the museum. The money will be used by the Carrick Hill Trust to repair, conserve and research the history of some of the lawnmowers within the collection. It is envisaged that they will form an integral part of a travelling exhibition titled *The Blade – Australia's love affair with lawn*.



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DIGITISING EARLY AUSTRALIAN GARDENING BOOKS FOR TROVE

Early gardening books, like much of Australia's early print media are as scarce as hen's teeth. We are fortunate that the efforts of early collectors and benefactors such as David Scott Mitchell (1836-1907), Edward Petherick (1847-1917) and John Alexander Ferguson (1881-1969) and his wife Bessie, neé Robertson, daughter of the Bookseller, George Robertson (1860-1933), as well as the librarian, book collector and bibliographer, Victor Crittenden (1925-2014), and our State and Commonwealth Libraries have ensured that much of Australia's early gardening literature has been recorded and preserved.



An illustration by Signor Guglielmo Autoriello from the *Hand-Book of Australian Horticulture* by Henry Alfred James, 1892 (photo, Greg Johnson).

Gardening books, perhaps more than other genres, are however subject to the vagaries of gardener and nature, left in the rain, smeared with soil, nibbled by mice, written in and on, and nearly thumbed to death. Combine that with small print numbers and poor quality paper in the first place, the need to conserve and preserve those copies that remain is paramount!

To ensure that these horticultural treasures can be accessed more widely, the ACT Monaro Riverina Branch of the Australian Garden History Society is partnering with the National Library of Australia to digitise and include 37 early Australian gardening books in <u>Trove</u>.

The Project is part of our Branch AGHS-2020 commitment. We hope that this is just the start of an ambitious plan to digitise more of early gardening literature from the National Library and other collections. To discuss how you can donate to this very worthwhile project please contact the Branch treasurer, Helen Elliot at ellioth@bigpond.net.au or 02-6284 4749.

OF INTEREST

ACT REGION HERITAGE SYMPOSIUM 2018

Saturday 18 August, 9am - 5pm followed by drinks

Convened by Heritage Partners: Australia ICOMOS, Canberra Archaeological Society, Canberra & District Historical Society and National Trust of Australia (ACT).

Topic: Heritage on the Edge: Continuity with Change in Canberra?

Venue: RN Robertson Building (Building 46), ANU

Costs: \$75, \$55 member of host organisation, \$35 concessions

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Unfortunately there was not a direct link to the registration form when I was completing the newsletter but I found it by going to https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/event/act-region-heritage-symposium-2018/

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. Be warned that the talks are very popular and spaces are limited. For details and updates check the Friendsqwebsite at www.friendsanbg.org.au.

Details on planned walks including *Getting to know Eucalypts* with Volunteer Guide John Turnbull and *Time Travel Walks* can also be found on this link.

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.

OPEN GARDENS CANBERRA http://opengardenscanberra.org.au/

OGC have details of spring garden openings on their website.

NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA www.arboretumcanberra.org.au

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

Lake Burley Griffin Guardians were extremely disappointed to learn on the 26 August that the NCA have given permission for lakebed testing to begin. While this is not the licence agreement to take the lakebed it is an unfortunate step in that direction.

The Guardians petition to the ACT Government late last year requested heritage support and a review of the West Basin proposal. This was an honest and sincere request only to have Mick Gentleman flick it to the NCA without any response to the Guardians. The 740 petitioners were more than twice the number of individuals who supported the West Basin development in the ACT consultation. We are extremely disappointed with the ACT Government continuing its goal to plunder the lake and its parkland.

The National Trust is conducting a walk on Acton Peninsula on the 19 August. The Guardians will be at the lake hosting a sausage sizzle and information stand from 11-2pm. Members of the AGHS are welcome to join us on that occasion. *Juliet Ramsay*

BERRY GARDEN FESTIVAL

Thursday 18 – Sunday 21 October
Further Information at www.berrygardens.org.au

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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 (phone 6284 4749 home).

Contact phone: (Evening/W/E)							
	16 September Piet Oudolf movie	Tickets \$10					
	20 September Visit to Mt Annan	See booking form page 13					
	16 October Contour 556	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 16 Sept) and your **family name**.

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Visit to the Australian Botanic Garden and PlantBank, Mt Annan

THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

Wear sensible shoes . the tour of PlantBank takes 1 ½ hours

- 8.15 Board bus in Angas Street Ainslie. (Earlier pickup in Queanbeyan available). Free PARKING is in Angas Street, on the treed area adjacent to the Ainslie Football Oval, opposite and just around the corner from the Ainslie Football Club (7.30am . Also possible to board bus at the Deane Bus Depot, 55 Lorne Road, Queanbeyan)
- 8.30 Coach leaves Canberra
- 11.00 Arrive Australian Botanic Garden Mt Annan for morning tea etc on the Lakeside Lawn. Morning tea will be provided (but if you prefer a special brew bring your own thermos)
- 11.45 Volunteer guide joins us on the coach for a one-hour tour of the huge garden
- 12.45 Lunch in Melaleuca House adjacent to the Visitors Centre (provided)
- 1.30 To PlantBank. Either walk (550 metres) OR travel in the coach (4 ½ km!)
- 1.45 Tour of PlantBank (may be two groups, with a staggered start). One and a half hours, covering both the amazing building, and the interior including the working areas
- 3.25 Coach back to Visitor Centre. Then an opportunity for afternoon tea (own cost) at Melaleuca House, a walk in the wonderful Connections Gardens, and a visit to the Visitor Centre (and possibly the adjacent Nursery, with plants for sale)
- 4.15 Coach leaves Mt Annan
- 6.45 Arrives Canberra (Ainslie). Later drop off at Queanbeyan



Mt Annan PlantBank

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Visit to the Australian Botanic Garden and PlantBank, Mt Annan

THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

BOOKING FORM

Costs: Members \$75, Non-Members \$85

Includes coach travel, morning tea, lunch and tours. Afternoon tea at own cost

Because we need to make firm bookings **prepayment** is required, and **no refunds** will be possible after Monday 20 August.

Bookings may be transferred to another person without penalty

Names			Member
			Yes/No
			Yes/No
			Yes/No
Total Payn	nent: \$		
Contact	email		
	Phone	Mobile	
Any specia	al requirements (including di	et)	
Names of p	eople catching bus from Que	anbeyan 	

Please return booking form asap to:

AGHS, P O Box 5008, Lyneham ACT 2602, or scan and email to Helen Elliot at ellioth@bigpond.net.au

Payment options

- 1. Cheques payable to Australian Garden History Society OR
- 2. EFT Account name: AGHS, BSB: 801009, Account number: 001062165 Please make sure you include the following reference information: Mt Annan and your family name.

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PARKING AT CANBERRA MUSEUM AND GALLERY

