

Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch



Newsletter October 2018 No 5

Australian Garden History Society
www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au

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BRANCH DIARY

16 OCTOBER

Contour 556 . Walk and Talk

9 NOVEMBER

Visit to Jugiong and district

23 NOVEMBER

Visit to Palerang and end of year celebrations

AGHS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

26-29 OCTOBER 2018

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

25-28 OCTOBER 2019

AGHS National Conference . Wellington, NZ

NEXT EVENTS

contour 556 ... walk and talk by curator and artist

TUESDAY OCTOBER 16, 4.45 FOR 5PM START

contour 556
5 - 28 October 2018
2018 CANBERRA

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 Canberra's history, from 50,000 years to the present day.



The inspiration for **contour 556** comes from Neil's 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.

Neil's primary objective for **contour 556** is to 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 so 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.

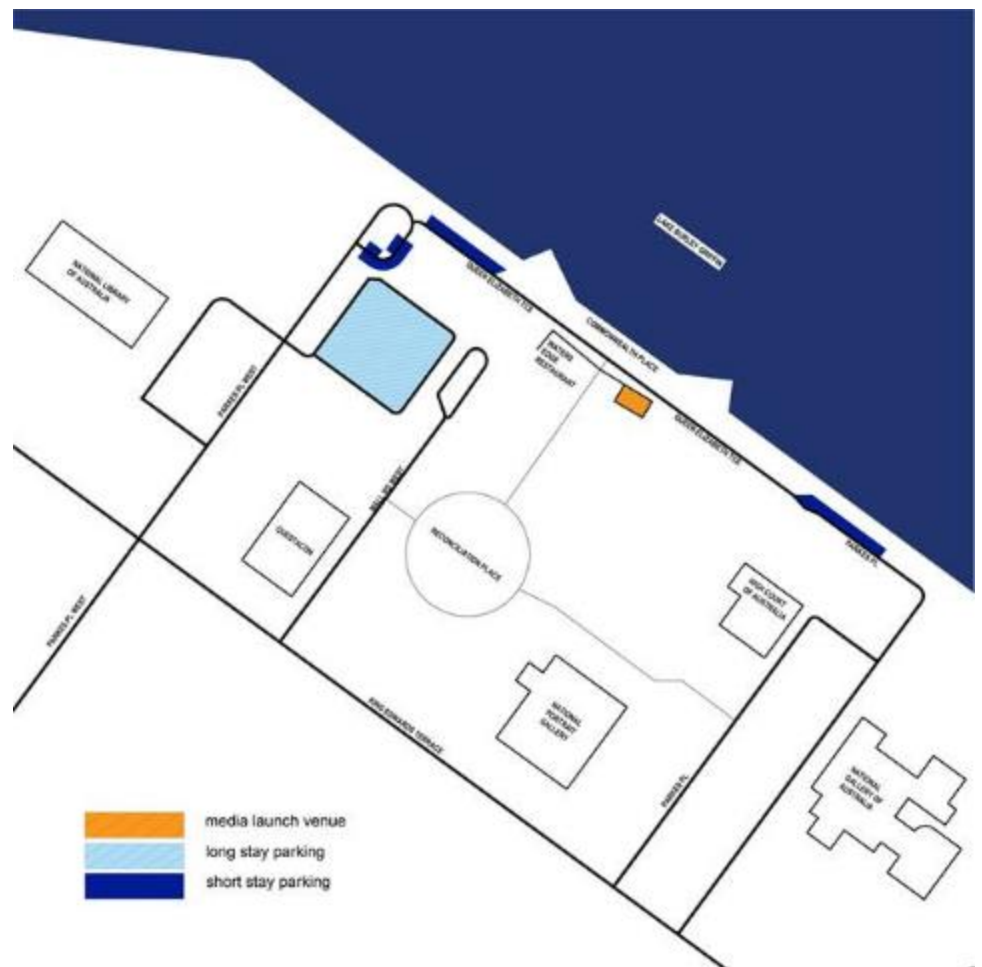
Meet 4.45pm for a 5pm start at the front of the Commonwealth Place East.
See map on page 2
Cost \$10 Members, \$15 non-members - including refreshments
Bookings Booking form page 8.

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
Anne Claoue-Long
Wendy Dodd
Greg Johnson
Helen Wilson



Visit to Bundarbo (Jugiong), Goonawarra (Harden), St Clement's Retreat (Gaylong)

FRIDAY 9 NOVEMBER

There are still a handful of places left for this trip to visit to *Bundarbo*, the home of branch member Sue Chisholm. The day will also include a visit to *Goonawarra* in Harden, the home and garden of Gail Flanery, mother of Australian Garden History supporter Fleur Flanery, and the historic grounds and gardens of *St Clement's Retreat and Conference Centre* in Galong. Information was sent to all members some time ago and rather than repeat all the details I attach a copy of the details in a separate document.

Visit to Palerang Homestead and end of year celebrations

FRIDAY 23 NOVEMBER 4.30-6.30 PM

Come and join fellow members for a late afternoon celebration of the events of 2018 and to chat about the year to come. Ulli and Sue Tuisk invite us to their garden at 154 Hazeldell Road, Mulloon for drinks and nibbles.

Their home for the last 20 years was first occupied in the 1830s and has passed through a number of owners and droughts and better times. Planted in the year Ulli and

Sue bought the property, an Albertine spring flowering rambling rose of immense beauty has now grown over the carport roof to be one of the many delights awaiting us.

While the journey time is about an hour from Canberra be aware that the area around the homestead has no mobile phone coverage. As you park outside 154 Hazeldell Road you may be interested to know you will be on the first road cut by the European settlers from the Monaro to Goulburn.



Photo: Sue Tuisk

Late spring in the area is festival time. In both Bungendore and Braidwood, on Saturday, 24 November there is the annual Airing of the Quilts From 23-26 November, the Braidwood Regional Arts Group is hosting its **Arts on Farms** project.

Meet Palerang Homestead, 154 Hazeldell Road, Mulloon. From Bungendore follow the King's Highway towards Braidwood for 15 km. Turn left into Hazeldell Road and travel for 1.5 km

Cost \$15 Members, \$20 non-members - including refreshments
Bookings Through TryBooking. You may pay by debit or credit card:
<https://www.trybooking.com/YMNG>

PAST EVENTS

Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf

SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

Members were given a visual feast as we watched the film Piet Oudolf . Five Seasons. Oudolf is an influential Dutch garden designer, nurseryman and author who works on a large scale. The film commenced with an introduction to his colourful large scale designs then progressed through the seasons. Oudolf finds beauty in each of the seasons, looking at structure and form of herbaceous perennials and grasses as they mature and choosing plants for their structure as well as flower and seed colour.

Oudolf works in an intuitive way drawing on things he has seen in his travels, working to create large scale meadows but using his acute eye for detail. He can be compared to an artist using plants as his medium and emotion as his inspiration. The palette changes as the seasons change

Oudolf Field, one of the gardens shown in the movie was recently visited by one of our members [Anna Howe] who wrote My short stay in the UK began with a visit to Piet Oudolf's garden at the Hauser and Wirth Gallery in Somerset. The 12 beds of the Oudolf Field were at the end of summer but not a seed pod had been removed; instead they stood like tall sentinels guarding the perennials for the next season. The Autumn tones of the large meadow garden were vibrant with russet reds, oranges, gold and bright yellows, with windflowers and purple aster daisies, the smaller courtyard calm with just greens and deep creams.

Wendy Dodd



NB: If you missed the screening on 16 September you can catch it again at the National Film and Sound Archive on Sunday 14 October 4pm

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

***SPEAKER: LAINIE LAWSON OAM
THURSDAY 9 AUGUST***

The Annual Lecture held at the Canberra Museum and Gallery was a sell-out event. Lainie Lawson OAM a long standing member of AGHS, presented an entertaining and informative lecture commencing with the comment that she had spent about 50 years pondering social architecture and garden history.

Lainie then went on to question current methods and outcomes of garden restoration projects and repeated the word 'compromise' throughout her talk. She provided some examples of 'compromise' which isn't always the best conclusion for maintenance and restoration as it detracts and reduces the heritage value of the garden and the faithfulness to the original concepts.

In mentioning Calthorpes House Lainie said that 'fantasy has no place' for while the house has been left untouched, the garden unfortunately is not true to its 1927 beginnings. The pergola at the back is now made of steel, not pine and there is a new path for lawn mower access. The soil is now so poor and the mulch so heavy that the Californian poppies can't self-seed and will have to be reintroduced once the mulch breaks down. Compromise leaves us wondering.

Saumeraz Homestead is a heritage listed homestead in Armidale having been built in the late 1800s. A rose garden was gifted by a resident and while not in keeping with the original concepts has been sited in the old orchard so not to be visibly intrusive. Another compromise, but understandable.

Lainie continued with restoration compromises with the kitchen garden restoration on Montague Island and at Cooma Cottage, where volunteers, who often have 'more enthusiasm than expertise', removed all the wisteria from along the verandah. Curry Flat, Shirley and Hazeldean are all working rural properties and have well documented histories. In 2013 new terraces and steps were constructed at Hazeldean when major renovations in the front of the property were undertaken to overall reduce maintenance.

Finally Lanyon Homestead with its 70 years of continuity and change, always in the background is the chance that the gardeners 'plant for effect rather than authenticity'.

It was a lovely evening, thoroughly enjoyed by all who were privileged to hear Lainie's insightful lecture.

Helen Elliot

Visit to the Australian Botanic Garden and PlantBank, Mt Annan

THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

Our full-day excursion to Mt Annan was a golden opportunity for thirty-three enthusiastic Branch members and friends to visit not only the Australian PlantBank, but the huge Australian Botanic Garden in spring. Our guide for our one-hour tour of the site was John Siemon, the curator/manager of the Garden. John has been with the Garden for more than 15 years, as both horticulturist with a special interest in plant physiology and tissue culture, and as project manager for the design and construction of PlantBank. He gave us a truly expert insight into the history and development of the Garden, now on the point of celebrating its 30th birthday and welcoming more than 400,000 visitors each year, including many school children on educational excursions.

After an enjoyable sandwich lunch, we divided into two smaller groups to visit PlantBank, under the guidance of Dr Peter Cuneo (manager of PlantBank) and Lotte von Richter, Science Facilities Coordinator of PlantBank. PlantBank is the largest of a number of storage facilities for the seeds and tissue of Australian plants, and a major emphasis of our tour was PlantBank's role at various levels. Locally, within Australia

and within the world. Duplicates of many of the Australian PlantBank seed collections are now held at the Millennium Seed Bank in the United Kingdom. Our tour included a visit to the 'dirty' areas of the working area of PlantBank, notably the Seed Conservation area. The 'clean' areas are not accessible to members of the public, to ensure there is no contamination of the site. Our guides demonstrated techniques and facilities for seed conservation and spoke of the critical importance of testing regimes for viability of the seeds, and the ongoing need to re-collect seeds from the wild to replace those no longer viable. Many plants, particularly rain-forest plants however have seeds that cannot be conserved as dried and frozen specimens, and so PlantBank includes also a significant program of tissue culture for other plants. Other plants are conserved as living specimens within the Garden itself.

A particular recent triumph for PlantBank scientists has been with the *Persoonia* genus, some species of which have been in rapid decline and had previously proved very difficult to propagate. Peter spoke enthusiastically of the merits of this genus for the garden, and a number of us purchased young *Persoonia pinifolia* plants from the excellent Plant Shop adjacent to the Visitors Centre.

We also peered at the site for the National Herbarium. Currently on site at the Royal Botanic Garden in Sydney, the Herbarium will transfer to a splendid new insect free building at Mt Annan to be known as the Centre of Innovation in Plant Sciences. Construction is due to commence next year. Having the two institutions - Herbarium and PlantBank - in adjacent buildings will provide a great opportunity for enhanced scientific research.

We felt hugely privileged to have had three such outstanding people - John, Peter and Lotte - as our guides for the day.

A bonus for our visit (apart from the enjoyment of what turned into a splendid spring day) was the display of paper daisies in dazzling flower across the part of the gardens closest to the Visitors Centre. Tulips at Floriade are nothing compared with these!



The Critical Importance of Conserving our Seeds and Plants – and the Impact of Climate Change

Just two days after our wonderful visit to the Australian PlantBank, an early morning news announcement on the ABC spoke of difficulties being confronted by the Global Seed Vault, the great subterranean storehouse of the world's food seeds on a Norwegian island only 1,300 km from the North Pole. Climate change in the Arctic has disturbed the permafrost in the area where this seed vault (commonly known as the Doomsday Vault) is located, and it is happening so quickly that the Norwegian Government has undertaken an \$AU17 million program to upgrade the facility to withstand warmer conditions. No damage has been done to the seeds, but a somewhat disturbing factor is that though news of this necessary upgrade was released back in February of this year it reached us through the ABC on the 22 September: a reminder of how slowly the non-scientific world in Australia takes on board the impact of climate change.

Nancy Clarke

NEW MEMBERS

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

- Elizabeth Anne Coupland, Canberra
- Elizabeth Johnson, Canberra
- Belinda Moss, Canberra

And an apology to Alexandra Marsden whose name I spelt incorrectly in the last newsletter

BRANCH NEWS

BRANCH COMMITTEE

The Branch AGM was held on Thursday 9 August, immediately before our Annual Lecture. The committee members for 2018-2019 are noted on page 2. We particularly welcome new committee member Anne Claoue-Long.

ATTENDANCE CHARGES FOR OUR EVENTS

Why do we charge for our events? AGHS membership fees paid to our National Office cover the central costs of our Society such as office and staff costs, membership costs, insurance, and our major expenditure and our excellent quarterly journal ***Australian Garden History***. Branches don't receive funds from head office except for very special events, and so to run our Branch program as well as local projects, we need to charge for the events we run.

We do aim to make a profit, as it is from this money that we are able to run the branch, and particularly to run special projects, like our current one of digitising early Australian gardening publications to make them freely available on Trove to everyone interested in the history of Australian gardens and gardening.

In 2007 we set a normal fee that we charged for events like walks and our winter talks - \$10 for members, and \$15 for non-members, with other events individually priced. Unfortunately, after twelve years, we need to increase the fees. Apart from other cost increases, we are now having to pay a good deal more for the venues we use. From the start of 2019 normal events will cost \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members, with other events charged individually. As in the past your committee will continue to contribute not only by organising and running our program but by donating the (excellent) food we serve at our functions.

PUBLIC FORUM ON "THE IMPACT OF PLANNING DECISIONS ON CANBERRA'S HERITAGE VALUES AND URBAN FORM"

On 10 September, a few AGHS members attended a public seminar as part of the Institute of Governance and Policy Analysis (IGPA) Canberra Conversation Lecture Series at Albert Hall. The seminar was jointly convened by Professorial Fellow Jon Stanhope AO and Adjunct Professor Dr Khalid Ahmed PSM and the event was sponsored by the Lake Burley Griffin Guardians.

Mark Evans, Director and Professor of Governance at IGPA facilitated the seminar. Speakers included Jack Waterford AM (Keynote speaker), Max Bourke and Juliet Ramsay from the Lake Burley Griffin Guardians, Luisa Capezio from the Campbell Community Association, Fiona Garrick from the Woden Valley Community Council and Marea Fatsias from the Inner South Canberra Community Council.

During the keynote address and short presentations, speakers raised concerns about the impact of planning policies and decisions on Canberra's unique public spaces,

urban environment and heritage values. Specific projects highlighted included development of the Light Rail corridor, the proposed development at West Basin and major urbanisation projects across suburbs and town centres. Recurring issues related to compliance with statutory planning requirements, adequacy of the consultation process and provision of adequate information, input from professionals and the absence of a long term vision for Canberra. Several references were made to the ACT Government maximising profits and minimising community values and that very few fragments of the lake edges and open park lands have heritage listing was underlined.

A panel discussion facilitated by Professor Mark Evans further explored the role of community councils and community groups interested in planning and heritage issues, consultation processes and how these could be improved. This was followed by a question and answer session which gave the audience an opportunity to have their say on planning and heritage issues. Topics ranged from replacement of concrete bus shelters to tree damage caused by parking on nature strips during suburban developments.

At the conclusion of the seminar, the Lake Burley Griffin Guardians put forward a number of resolutions proposing the development of a long term vision for Canberra and ways to improve consultation processes by working with community councils and community organisations. These will be put to Government when finalised.

Sue Cassidy

OF INTEREST

13TH REID OPEN HOUSES AND GARDENS

Sunday 18 November 2018 1.15pm to 4.30pm

Once again, the National Trust (ACT) in collaboration with the Reid Residents' Association (RRA) and the property owners will open three privately-owned houses and gardens from the 1920s & 1930s in Reid's Heritage precinct. The houses and their gardens, which have not been previously opened, will be available for inspection. Meet the owners and view inside the houses and also their gardens.

In the last two years this annual event has sold out (limit of 60 tickets) so it is advisable for interested AGHS members to book early.

Costs: \$25 (Trust, U3A & RRA members) & \$35 (non-members).

For full details and booking visit

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/event/13th-reid-open-houses-and-gardens/>

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

<https://www.nla.gov.au>

22 September 2018 – 10 February 2019, Free

Visitors to *Cook and the Pacific* will follow James Cook's three remarkable Pacific voyages, and explore this spectacular region through the eyes of the British voyagers and the First Nations peoples they met.

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 Friends' website at www.friendsanbg.org.au.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF CANBERRA

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

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

NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA
www.arboretumcanberra.org.au

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



AGHS BOOKING SLIP

If you have difficulties paying by cheque or EFT please send an email to our Treasurer Helen Elliot at ellioth@bigpond.net.au (phone 6284 4749 home).

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS THE LAST ACTIVITY TO BE BOOKED UNDER THIS SYSTEM AND FROM NOW ON EVENTS CAN BE BOOKED USING TRYBOOK - see below for details.

Names _____

Contact phone: (Evening/W/E) _____

Email: _____

Tick	Event	Cost	Numbers attending	Amount Incl \$
<input type="checkbox"/>	16 October <i>Contour 556</i>	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 October) and your **family name**

TRYBOOKING

For recent Branch events we trialled using an on-line booking system, **TryBooking**, and have decided to continue using this from now on. For members there are real advantages. you can book at any time, day or night, and will receive an immediate receipt with a ticket. Like most online booking systems, **TryBooking** charges the user a booking fee, but it is very small - \$0.30 is added by them to the charge for each ticket.

For your committee the administrative advantages are really significant and the fees we pay to **TryBooking** are modest. Those who have used this or similar systems will be familiar with the way they work. When we tell you about a coming event we will include a dedicated code that you use to make your booking. You can pay using a credit or debit card.

The system is simple, but SHOULD something arise that you need to talk with us about you can do this at the **Trybooking** site. When you go to an event listed on **TryBooking**, there are two buttons, one **Book Now**, the other, on the bottom of the screen: **Contact Event Organiser**. If you select the **Ask a Question** option from the Contact button, your message will come to us, and we will try to sort things out. If all else fails contact me, Judy Pearce, judy.pearce@netspeed.com.au, phone 62576970, and I will try assist.