



Sydney & Northern NSW Branch News

May 2018

Dear members of the Sydney Branch

Please accept the apology of the committee for being slow in providing you with updates and information about events, we are in transition, with the loss of significant contributors to the smooth running of things. However, each month we improve, systems are in place and we intend to quicken our pace.

In February we enjoyed a talk about Saumarez Garden, Armidale. The history and making of the garden was revealed to us by Lynne Walker with such enthusiasm. It is a great story of history in the making and it was wonderful to have the cross pollination of the Northern NSW sub branch. The engagement with disenfranchised youth was heart warming and the work continues with generous financial support from local and state government – well done.

In March, Verena Mauldon led us through the cultural landscape of the Macquarie's at Parramatta Park. Verena disclosed influences of Capability Brown evident in the remnant landscape of Old Government House and the Domain, Parramatta Park. The Parramatta Government Domain was also where agricultural production in Australia and town planning commenced, and was the site of some of Australia's earliest botanical endeavours.

I couldn't attend the April visit to the Swain Garden in Killara, a hidden gem that has community support and I heard the talk by Joy Bryan, the daughter of the Mr Swain who made the garden and grew up there, was very inspiring.

In May, Greg Johnson gave the first in a series of talks about garden writers in Australia.

Upcoming events:

July: Chris Betteridge will speak about Jenolan Caves and the cultural landscape.

Earlier this year Colleen Morris and Beverly Allen took the *Florilegium* exhibition to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. If you are planning a trip to England, it runs until 16 September 2018 and is in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art – included in the price of entry to the garden.

At the National Trust Heritage Awards 2017, Colleen Morris and Christine Hay were awarded a prize for the Berrima, Sutton Forest and Exeter Cultural Landscape Assessment. This cultural landscape assessment of the Berrima, Sutton Forest and Exeter area was aimed at raising awareness of the significance of the landscape with a view to encourage further statutory protection and to provide the basis for a heritage impact assessment of a proposed coal mine in the area.

The Sydney Branch continue to allot \$500 per annum to a potential travelling exhibition to increase awareness of garden history and the branch has \$500 set aside for a plaque to commemorate Charles Fraser at St John's cemetery Parramatta.

The committee and I encourage you to get in touch: we are stronger and better with your feedback and ideas! Ways of involving potential new members or suggestions for possible speakers, are welcome.

James Quoyale. Tel: (02) 9519 5250 or email: james@qanda.com.au