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## QUEENSLAND BRANCH

### COMMITTEE

The committee meets in the State Library, Floor 2, Room 2D at 11 am on the second Friday of the month.

All members are welcome at committee meetings.

### COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Branch Chair & National Management Committee Representative -  
Margie Barram  
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Vice-chair - vacant

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Members -  
Ann Wegener      Wendy Lees  
Dr Thom Blake      Margaret Kirkwood

# Queensland Branch Newsletter

December 2015



This is our final newsletter for this year - a full year of Branch activities relating to Queensland garden history. As we wrap up the year we hope we've kept everyone well informed about the Branch's activities.

The next newsletter will be in late January. It will remind us what the Branch is planning for 2016, and what activities contributing to the preservation of Queensland garden history are in progress.

As there is more news than expected for this newsletter, the editorial series on Queensland regional gardens is being held over until January. In January we will look at the Wide Bay - Capricornia area. In view of events planned for April and May, we will take a look at the Downs and Burnett areas in March.

This month we have:

- News from the Branch Committee;
- A report on the AGHS Adelaide Conference, the theme of which was *Garden to Table: Productive Garden History*; and
- Margie Barram tells us about the post-conference tour of the Fleurieu Peninsula, McLaren Vale, and Kangaroo Island.

## **Forthcoming Events**

### **December**

#### **December, Sunday 6th, 5:00 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

For those planning and booked to come, this year's end-of-year gathering will be at the home of Janice Hiller, Aberfoyle Street, Kenmore. A creek bank/garden tour will include viewing of a protected palm. Our festivities will follow, byo drinks, and finger food will be provided.

### **Events planned for 2016**

#### **January 2016**

We had hoped to have an address to the Branch in February by John Adam, New Zealand landscape historian, in conjunction with Matthew Bradbury, UNITEC Institute of Technology. The topic of the lecture was to be *Modern primitive – the history of two iconic tourist Gold Coast landscapes*.

Unfortunately time constraints won't permit; however, members who have an interest in this topic could still hear John and Matthew speak at the 13th Australasian Urban History/Planning History Conference at Surfers Paradise on 31st January. If you would like to attend, as a day registrant, the Conference's website is at:

<https://www.griffith.edu.au/conference/uhph2015/programme>

#### **April 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>**

Wendy Lees is organising the April event. At present a visit to Toowoomba and district, including the Pittsworth Open Gardens (14th to 17th April) is being planned. There are discussions with the New England Sub-Branch with a view to a possible joint venture, and we will keep you posted in the new year.

#### **May - Saturday - Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>th</sup>**

Ann Wegener is organising a visit to three historic South Burnett homesteads and gardens. They include: Ringwood House (Nanango); Saturday evening dinner at Barambah Station; and Sunday morning at Taabinga Homestead.

## **June**

Dr Thom Blake will lead a walk in Ashgrove and speak about the Glen Lyon Estate garden.

## **July - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> (tentatively)**

Janice Hiller is organising a Sunday drive in the mountains - to Maleny and Montville. The visit will include Western Avenue, Montville, and *Fairview* in north Maleny, and discussion of their cultural landscape management with landscape architect Catherine Brouwer.

You may like to make a week-end of it, as the Queensland Garden Expo is on in Nambour and, if so, stay with other members at their Montville accommodation, enjoying the mature trees in 16 acres of woodland. More information will come nearer the time.

## **August**

Queensland Branch Annual General Meeting and annual lecture on the topic of "War graves gardens in perpetuity".

## **September**

At present thought is being given to an event/activity relating to modern design.

*If you have a suggestion for September please let the committee know.*

## **October 14th - 16th**

Next year's AGHS Annual Conference will be in Canberra, ACT, on the theme "A Scientist in the Garden". More information will be available in early 2016.

## **November/December**

Next year's end-of-year festivities will be planned in the later part of the year.

## Branch News

### Correction

Last newsletter's article about Jim Butler and Kathy Marchant's property, Waitara, at Clayfield incorrectly reported that Waitara's neighbour, Rangemoor, had been demolished.

Some members would be aware that Rangemoor is in fact still a home, and for other readers I apologise for misinforming you. My apologies also to Jim for misinterpreting the material he generously supplied for the article.

In the following picture used in last month's article you can see Rangemoor relative to Waitara. (Editor)



Imagery © 2015 Google. Map data © 2015 Google.

### Branch Committee

#### Heritage Gardens Queensland Survey - a call for assistance

#### Margie Barram

In 2013 an opportunity arose to carry out a Queensland-wide survey of historic gardens and assess their heritage significance. This was due to the generosity of the Jani Haenke Charitable Trust. Jani was a member of the Society who died in 2009.

A team comprising Catherine Brouwer Landscape Architects, Nissen Associates (historians), and Riddel Architecture undertook the survey. A search for old gardens (widely defined), existing lists, and fieldwork across Queensland produced a list of those gardens that showed evidence of heritage significance. In the process the survey raised public awareness of the value of old gardens and landscapes.

In August 2014 the Queensland Branch was awarded a Gold award in the National Trust Queensland Heritage Awards, for the *Heritage Gardens of Queensland Survey*.

The first four places in the Survey list prioritised and recommended for nomination to the Queensland Heritage Register from the Survey were: Laurel Bank Park, Toowoomba; Memorial Avenue, Emu Vale; Memorial Avenue, Tannymorel; and Hoop Pine Avenue, Imbil Forest Station.

The branch engaged an historian to research these places and prepare statements of significance. Member, John Taylor, is preparing the nominations for their inclusion in the Queensland Heritage Register.

The survey also revealed the need for research, advocacy, and nomination for listing of gardens in Toowoomba, and this is now the branch's current focus of attention, particularly through the efforts of Wendy Lees and John Taylor. Two members are undertaking basic research, on an intermittent voluntary basis, on the next listed priorities in the survey. In 2016 we will begin another garden history research project, and there will be more news about that in the new year.

The help of more volunteers would be most welcome. Members can assist with current research, writing nominations (framed by the criteria for assessment of significance), and/or with next year's new project. Familiarity with preparation of statements of historical significance would be helpful. Never-the-less, there is much in garden history research that can be achieved by any member working in collaboration with others.

Collectively, members have much experience of the gardens and properties you have visited over time. The next step in the AGHS aims is to convert that experience into documentary records. It could involve such things as: field work (e.g. recording gardens and interviewing gardeners); analysis (e.g. of field work and identification of further lines of enquiry); writing/illustrating (e.g. interview transcriptions, reports, or submissions); or desk-top publishing (layout of records/ documents/submissions). There are many skills that are relevant to the work of the AGHS in Queensland and a niche for anyone who would like to be involved.

If this sounds interesting to you and you'd like to be involved, please contact a committee member. More information about how you can help will be forthcoming in the new year.

## Overview of the 2015 Annual Conference

This year's National Conference of the AGHS was held in Adelaide from 16th to 18th October. Themed *Garden to table: productive garden history*, members enjoyed three days of informative and interesting lectures at the Australian Wine Centre in the grounds of Adelaide's Botanic Gardens. Lectures were accompanied by tours of several significant gardens in and around Adelaide. Speakers talked about, and garden owners demonstrated, the changing but integral purpose, place, and ways of growing for sustenance from early settlement in Australia to the present.

Twenty-seven Queensland members attended this year's AGHS conference, making up almost 10% of delegates - a commendable turn-out for our Branch. Fourteen Queensland members stayed on for a post-conference tour of the Fleurieu Peninsula, McLaren Vale, and Kangaroo Island. Margie Barram tells us about the tour in the next news item.

After 36 conferences of the AGHS, many members have long connections with the Society and the Conference. One keen, long-standing member, walking with difficulty and assistance, was heard to say "This is my 20th Conference, and it's not going to be my last". On the other hand, this was the first AGHS conference for Queenslanders Jenny Freeman, Gabrielle Tonkin, Jill Franklin, and myself (Ed.).

The tours of gardens in the Adelaide area culminated in a visit to Carrick Hill. Carrick Hill is a stone residence built and landscaped in the 1930s in 17th century manor house style. The property was gifted to the people of South Australia in 1984. You can read more about Carrick Hill at this web address:

<http://www.carrickhill.sa.gov.au/>

Whilst at Carrick Hill we were treated to the launch of Trevor Nottle's new book *Endless pleasure: Exploring and collecting among the byways of gardens and gardening*.



Image credit: Garden Drum

The book was launched by Sue Ebury, Countess of Wilton, and Patron of the AGHS. Sue Ebury has an extensive background in publishing and is an author in her own right. Trevor

is a renowned horticulturist, author of international standing, and a foundation member of AGHS back in 1980. Trevor's book is historically and technically rigorous and in-depth, yet is written and illustrated in a way that any horticulturally-inclined reader would find interesting and engaging. You can see *Endless Pleasure* at this web address:

<http://www.wakefieldpress.com.au/product.php?productid=1249>

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was also held during the Conference. Richard Heathcote, the Director of Carrick Hill, succeeded Queensland member John Taylor as the National Chair of the AGHS. John has led the Society through a time of change and preparation for the future, and he is now focusing on work related to the heritage listing of various significant Queensland horticultural features/landscapes. Richard has, among many other things, worked with the National Trust of Victoria and managed Rippon Lea Estate in Melbourne. Richard is a longstanding AGHS member who contributes a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Society, its aims, and members. You can see more of Rippon Lea at this web address:

<http://www.ripponleaestate.com.au/>

I'm sure all Queensland branch members are pleased to hear and congratulate Elizabeth Teed on being elected unopposed to the position of Treasurer of the National Management Committee (NMC). Elizabeth is beginning a three year term with the NMC, and also continuing in the role of Queensland Branch Treasurer.

Chair of the Queensland Branch, Margie Barram, continues as Queensland Representative on the NMC.

You can read more about the new National Management Committee on the Society's web pages:

<https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/news/details/176>

and

<https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/pages/aboutus>

Not all members of the new Committee were able to be part of the following photo, and some stood in for their state appointee. Never-the-less, from left to right they are: Margie Barram (QLD), Wendy Dwyer (Vic), Jessica Hood, Ray Choate, Lainie Lawson, Carmel O'Halloran (WA), Richard Heathcote, Meg Probyn (NSW), Prue Slayter (TAS), Kay Johnston (ACT), John Maurer, and Roslyn Burge.





### **Margie Barram and the post-conference tour**



Tour participants are, from left to right:

Susan and John Slaughter, Desley Campbell-Stewart, Richard Allom, Graham Hesse, David Allan, Ann Wegener, Gillian and Keith Jorgensen, Margie Barram, Glenn Cooke, Jenny Freeman, Callie Allan, and Peter Marquis-Kyle.



Margie tells us that 14 Queensland members stayed on for a post-conference tour with Trish Dixon. From Tuesday 20th to Thursday 21st October the group explored contemporary gardens, houses, and landscapes on the Fleurieu Peninsula, McLaren Vale, and Kangaroo Island. “Trish provided notes on the history and plantings of the gardens and places visited, which were brought to life when the current owner-gardeners spoke when we visited. We learnt a lot about gardening in low rainfall areas with winter rainfall and hot, dry summer. Most plantings come from the Mediterranean zone, as well as indigenous plants of this climate zone wherever it occurs in Australia”.

Margie continues:

Two visits stood out – on King Island. The visit to Rocky Point, saw one of the four homes Geoffrey Dutton had the privilege of living in during his childhood. Anlaby was home, and the South Australia Conference delegates visited Anlaby on Monday 19th October. Kalimna was a large, two-storied house on the edge of the east parklands of Adelaide. Ooraminna was a long, low house on the sea-front of Victor harbor. Rocky Point was the wild one, a limestone house on a cliff over the sea at Kangaroo Island, the virgin bush behind it. You can read more about it in Geoffrey Dutton’s autobiography, *Out in the Open*, including visits by Patrick White (before the friendship went sour).

The Souter’s rammed earth and limestone house at Little Cuttlefish bay had a dramatic cliff-side setting, surrounded on three sides by a 2.4 m wall (same construction as the house) to shelter the garden from the strong winds on the exposed site. The contrast of the walled garden, with its water, flowers, and foliage to the native, dry-land, re-planted former paddocks was a real pleasure to the senses and the intellect.

We also found out Queensland AGHS member, Ann Wegener, has a family connection with King Island. The branch of Ann’s family who were persecuted Lutherans, went first to England and then to King Island (as whalers) around 1813 (before the establishment of free settlement in South Australia).

Gardens we enjoyed and their gardeners were:

- Boat’s End garden – Roger and Sarah Budarick;
- Baghurst Garden (Port Elliot) – Judy and Andrew Baghurst;
- Stokes Bay bush garden – John and Carol Stanton;
- Rocky Point– Rod and Layonie Matheson;
- Little Cuttlefish Bay garden – Warwick and Kay Souter;

- Garden on the edge – Janis Svilans; and
- Topsy Hill, McLaren Flat – Chris and Margaret Burrell.

We also visited King Island sea lions, for the fun of seeing these great creatures, and to see how the visitor centre was designed and planted, and how visitors are managed.

We enjoyed meals and wine at:

- Currency Creek Winery
- Kangaroo Island Hotel
- Andermal Marron Farm, King Island
- Sunset Winery, King Island
- Coriole Winery

Thanks Margie for sharing with us a great overview of the tour. It is certainly interesting and helpful to see how gardeners in other places manage their gardens in climatically challenging times.



Well, that's it for this year, and I hope you've enjoyed the newsletter. I wish everyone the compliments of the season, a happy holiday period, and look forward to bringing you all the Branch news in the new year.

Cheers,

***Robert***

***Editor***



**How the newsletter works & disclaimer:**

The newsletter functions to communicate the branch's activities to the members, the National Committee's activities to members, members activities to other members, and include articles of interest by and from members or otherwise in areas of the society's interest; the newsletter is not a scholarly publication but a news and relationship one, and the opinions expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the society; distribution of the newsletter happens through a branch's committee member and the newsletter editor's appointment is subject to approval of the branch committee, and is for a fixed term of 4 newsletters.