



Queensland Branch COMMITTEE

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

NO MAY COMMITTEE MEETING

All members are welcome at committee meetings.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Chair- Margie Barram
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Vice-Chair - VACANT

Secretary - Janice Hiller
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Treasurer - Elizabeth Teed
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NMC rep- Camilla Stephens
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Newsletter Editor - VACANT

This newsletter: Margie Barram

Members -
Ann Wegener Wendy Lees
Thom Blake Margaret Kirkwood

Newsletter

April 2016

The Advocacy Issue

For the calendar:

Sunday, 22 May, 2 pm: *Afternoon tea at "Woodston"*

1885 *Woodston* was removed from Union Street, Clayfield nearly 40 years ago & now stands in approximately the same size 3 acre garden as when originally built facing Zillman Road.

This traditionally laid out garden features trees approaching maturity, Campbell's Garden edge tiles, giant clam shells and many other architectural elements once found in old Queensland gardens.

Bookings and payment: click on this link: <https://www.trybooking.com/LFGD>

Sunday, 10 July, 10 am: *"Fairview", North Maleny and Western Avenue, Montville* [The Simpson's place, "The Shambles", and the mature woodland of Montville Country Cabins]. [Self-drive]

You may like to make it a week-end away, as the Queensland Garden Expo is on in Nambour, 8-10 July.

EKKA: Friday, 5 August to Sunday 14 August.

We are providing a display on the society, the old Museum gardens, and our Old museum stories project. Volunteers are needed each day on our stand in the Exhibition Hall of the Old Museum building - email your availability to Wendy Lees tallowwood@iprimus.com.au.

August: AGM & annual lecture: War graves gardens in perpetuity.

Saturday, 3 Sept, 11.00am -*Sydney, Planting Dreams: Shaping Australia Gardens Exhibition*, State Library of NSW AGHS [exclusive preview and talk](#) by curator, Richard Aitken

Sunday, 11 Sept, 10 am: *A walk in the garden estate, Ashgrove*
Thom Blake, historian & Ashgrove resident, takes us on a walking tour through the Glen Lyon Garden Estate.

The Advocacy Issue

December 2015: Save our Poinciana trees

A public meeting in Liverpool Street, Clayfield, was arranged by north-side member, Jim Butler, to discuss the management of our Poinciana street trees. They face an uncertain future due to their age, monoculture (we can't do anything about these) and now the ravages of the green caterpillars (we may be able to act here). Cr McLachlan was invited to attend.

February/March 2016: pre-1911 Highgate Hill houses, Brisbane

AGHS made a submission to the Queensland Heritage Council in response to the nomination for listing of three clearly pre-1911 Highgate Hill houses, which BCC had not entered into the relevant town plan overlay, and for which the developers of the site, using a private certifier, had demolition approval [even though the property owners were aware of the age of the houses].

The focus of the submission was to urge the heritage council to use the powers it has within the Heritage Act to advise local council and to encourage appropriate management, with regard to BCC, so as to achieve better outcomes for garden and streetscape heritage. At its meeting on 11 April the heritage council decided not to list these buildings, and made no response to the society's submission regarding the use of its other powers.

Two of the four houses have subsequently been demolished, and all vegetation, including the old bougainvillea hedge & mature frangapani, as well as the top soil, have been removed. The site is now exposed sub-soil.

Please see attachment 1 selected media coverage of this issue from a list compiled by member Jenny Freeman

April 2016: Toowoomba forum: Trees, gardens and urbanization

Please attachment 2 for article about the forum and the issues to be covered in the Toowoomba Chronicle. Committee member, Wendy Lees worked extremely hard to bring about this forum, and with Liz Chappell, from the New England branch, to arrange a weekend of joint garden/park visits in Toowoomba, Pittsworth and Allora. New England branch's experience around "Lost gardens of Armidale" was part of the forum.

The forum took the form of a series of short talks followed by discussion, and was held Friday 15 April 1:30 to 3:30pm, within the house at Boyce Gardens. This originally private house & garden were given to the University of Queensland, and entered later on the Queensland Heritage Register. The forum was followed by afternoon tea, and a tour of Boyce Garden.

Prior to the local government election, a number of Toowoomba local government candidates were asked what they stood on the following AGHS proposals:

- a. forming a register of significant gardens and trees so that development applications on such properties set a flag for heritage management and/or recording activities
- b. the employment of a part-time garden history advisor to provide free advice to property owners in Toowoomba as to the creation and maintenance of pre-WW2 gardens
- c. Implementing a tree protection policy for street, park and garden trees in Toowoomba.

A newly elected councilor, who made a tree register part of her platform, attended the forum, as well as Toowoomba AGHS members, including Alison Curtis. A warm welcome back is extended to Alison, who re-joins AGHS activities following a 15 year “break” packed full of raising children and doing interesting work in environmental & strategic planning with TRC, and who is now based at the University of Southern Queensland. Other Toowoomba locals included the new owners of heritage-listed “Fernside” [interested in meeting others supportive of historic gardens] & those involved in Toowoomba street tree planting and maintenance.

Our speakers were:

- **David Snow**, a long-standing RE agent for the prestige Toowoomba market & REIQ executive member. David spoke eloquently on the importance of trees in unit development and land sub-division, for the wealth of those projects, and of the significance of trees to the character and amenity of Toowoomba.
- **Graham Wilson**, from the New England branch, who spoke about ‘what is heritage’, and carrying out community education around heritage values through the “Lost gardens of Armidale” exhibition.
- **John Taylor**, AGHS member and former chair of the AGHS National & Queensland committees, spoke on the ideas contained in the phrase “urban forest”, and the benefits of cooling provided by trees found on public and private land. The urban forest, with a 40% tree cover, can mitigate completely the heat sink of cities – the 2C higher temperature cities acquire compared to their surrounding countryside, caused by the heating up, and re-radiation, of heat from masonry, etc.

The Queensland branch committee thanks members Wendy Lee, John Taylor, Graham Wilson and Liz Chappell without whose efforts this forum and week-end of joint activities would not have been possible.

The committee is looking at how to maintain advocacy around trees & gardens in the Toowoomba area. One idea is a Toowoomba working group comprised of Toowoomba & region members, with Wendy Lees acting as the branch committee liaison.

April/May 2016: Keeping “Abbotsleigh”, Brisbane

The local community is trying to prevent the demolition of *Abbotsleigh*, Bowen Hills - please see for this Brisbane Times article for details -

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/plea-to-save-save-historic-abbotsleigh-house-20160416-go7z2j.html>

or visit their facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1189227514421148/>

Garden history and built heritage are intertwined, and if we seek to protect one, we must also act to protect the other. If you care to support the efforts to save Abbotsleigh, please consider signing this online petition at https://www.change.org/t/bowen-hills-en-au?source_location=petition_show

In addition, *Abbotsford*, an 1870's timber house with attic windows, was originally the neighbour to *Abbotsleigh*, and its existence now hangs on with a thread.

Recently, 5 surrounding houses in Abbotsford Road were demolished or removed in readiness for an 8 storey, 150 apartment-development. The development approval requires that the heritage-listed *Abbotsford* remain. It is currently parked on the block, awaiting the development to commence. The garden is history.

**Your branch committee would like to fill vacant positions.
We are looking for a newsletter editor, and a vice-chair.**

Could you step up?

Photographs from the April 2016 Toowoomba Forum & joint Qld & New England branch activities in Toowoomba, Pittsworth & Allora

Below: Wendy Lees, left hand corner, with others, State Rose Garden, Toowoomba

At Right: Jenny Freeman, hugging the large Kauri Pine Cobb & Co museum, Toowoomba

Bottom left: Adeline Walker, member from Gympie [poppy in hat], Japanese Garden, Toowoomba

Bottom right: Old bottle trees in Pittsworth garden.



Attachment 1: Media reports concerning pre-1911 Highgate Hill houses, Brisbane

Cameron Atfield. 'Council rejects controversial Highgate Hill development' *Brisbane Times* 18 April 2016
<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/council-rejects-controversial-highgate-hill-development-20160418-go9ba3.html>

Leah Kidd. 'Highgate Hill heritage home demolition: Council to refuse application for high-rise at Jones St' *Quest Community News (Southeast)* 18 April 2016
<http://www.couriermail.com.au/questnews/southeast/highgate-hill-heritage-home-demolition-council-to-refuse-application-for-highrise-at-jones-st/news-story/5269d3a3028f368486a986123f8d1228>

Cameron Atfield. 'Highgate Hill homes denied heritage protection' *The Age* 11 April 2016
<http://www.theage.com.au/queensland/highgate-hill-homes-denied-heritage-protection-20160411-go3bm3.html>

Cameron Atfield. 'Past and future councillors dismayed at Highgate Hill heritage decision' *The Age* 11 April 2016
<http://www.theage.com.au/queensland/past-and-future-councillors-dismayed-at-highgate-hill-heritage-decision-20160411-go3vca.html>

Tony Moore. 'Queensland's new 'softly-softly' approach to heritage protection' *Brisbane Times* 1 April 2016
<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/queenslands-new-softlysoftly-approach-to-heritage-protection-20160401-gnwj57.html>

Kerrod Trot. 'Community Fights Over-Development' *Westender* 13 Feb 2016
<http://westender.com.au/community-fights-over-development/>

Nicole Lessio. 'Activity is Great. Action is Better' *Westender* 12 Feb 2016
<http://westender.com.au/activity-is-great-action-is-better/>

Heritage homes saved at Highgate Hill with eleventh hour reprieve [video] Channel 9 news 11 Feb 2016 7:36pm
<http://www.9news.com.au/national/2016/02/11/19/36/heritage-homes-saved-at-highgate-hill-with-eleventh-hour-reprieve>

Two old Brisbane homes at Highgate Hill are set to be destroyed on Tuesday despite residents' concerns they are "part of the story of where we live". Vision: Today Show, Channel Nine 9 Feb 2016
<http://media.smh.com.au/news/qld-news/historic-homes-cleared-for-demolition-7196403.html>

Tony Moore. 'Demolishers could move on heritage registered Highgate Hill homes'. *Brisbane News* 8 Feb 2016
<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/demolishers-could-move-on-heritage-registered-highgate-hill-homes-20160207-gmnxx4.html>

Brisbane City Council 'powerless' to stop demolition of three homes with heritage values' *ABC News* 8 Feb 2016)
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-08/highgate-hill-homes-with-heritage-values-may-be-demolished/7148872>

Fight to save historic homes from demolition [video] 9 news.com.au 7 Feb, 2016
<http://www.9news.com.au/national/2016/02/07/20/00/fight-to-save-historic-homes-from-demolition>

Temporary Local Planning Instrument 01/16 – Protection of Buildings Constructed Prior to 1911, located at 18, 20 and 26 Jones Street, Highgate Hill, and 54 and 58 Quay Street, Brisbane City:
http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/20160208-tlpi_pre-1911.pdf



BEAUTIFUL GREENERY: The Australian Garden History Society is worried with the increase of new developments, our city is losing its garden heritage. PHOTO: NEV MADSEN

Meghan Harris

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TOOWOOMBA is known for its beautiful gardens.

But the Australian Garden History Society Toowoomba branch is afraid our city is losing its garden heritage.

The society is raising concerns about the rapid loss of our city's beautiful trees and gardens.

Society member Wendy Lees said new developments were mainly to blame.

"As new development comes in and blocks are subdivided the existing trees and gardens are being removed and there is little room to replace them," she said.

"Because of this, the character of the inner city is dwindling and it used to be so alive. Gardens that have taken decades to expertly create to soften architecture and modify the climate are being destroyed in days."

The society would like a garden advisory service set up by the Toowoomba Regional Council, where a specialist is employed to



LUSH GARDENS: Kevin and Dianna Drew entered their unique garden in last year's The Chronicle Garden Competition.

educate developers and home owners.

"At the moment the council has a garden advisory brochure but no one specialising in that field," she said.

"Another concern is developers and home owners are removing gardens that have survived for years without water and replacing them with a new garden on a sprinkler system when we should be watching water usage.

"As one of the most beautiful cities in Queensland, Toowoomba's uniqueness is being lost and replace by imported

landscapes that have no relevance to the life and history of the city.

"Hopefully before it's too late some protective measures can be put in place."

The society will hold a Trees, Gardens and Urban Development forum on Friday, April 15 at Boyce House to address these issues.

The event will be followed on Saturday, April 16 with a coach tour around the city's parks.

Spots are limited. To find out the time of the events and attend phone 0409 328 905.