

**AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH**

NEWSLETTER -- 6 December 2016



Dear South Australian Members!

FROM THE CHAIR – by Elizabeth Ganguly

As Christmas 2016 rapidly approaches there is the usual flurry of parties and festivities, tiring at times but it is wonderful catching up with friends and colleagues to celebrate and round off the year.

The AGHS SA Branch Christmas afternoon tea was a very enjoyable gathering held at ‘*The Wildflowers*’ on Burdetts Road, Basket Range. Luckily we held our nerve in the face of a total fire ban and thunderstorm warning and despite a light shower we were able to tour the more formal gardens surrounding the house and the wildflower garden on the slopes below the house.

Patricia Michell gave a brief history of the development and ownership of the property and outlined the restoration and changes that have occurred in the gardens surrounding the house. Many thanks to Greg and James who assisted Patricia with the set-up and with the hosting of the event; Greg has had a long association with the garden, having studied the diverse flora of the wildflower garden during his horticultural studies.

The wonder of the Mt Lofty Ranges agrarian landscape was once again brought into focus on the drive to ‘*The Wildflowers*’. Despite having lived for 21 years in the area I drove along Hunters and Burdetts Roads for the very first time – how many other hidden gems are there to discover? For me the granting of UNESCO World Heritage status for this unique landscape and lifestyle is long overdue.

It was a delight to welcome to the Christmas afternoon tea Dr Bernadette Hince (editor of the AGHS Journal) and partner who were visiting Adelaide from Canberra. I am sure that sometime soon there will be a note from Bernadette requesting an article on ‘*The Wildflowers*’ for the journal. Completing the research for such an article, writing the article and compiling the references is a time consuming but very rewarding process and it would be wonderful to have a group of volunteers from our members who would be willing to assist with such research. If you are interested or have skills in this area please contact a committee member.

On behalf of the committee and membership I would like to thank Patricia and Edwin for their hospitality in hosting this event.

Wishing all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year, I look forward to seeing many of you on the 8th February 2017.

Christmas Afternoon Tea at *'The Wildflowers'*





2017 PROGRAMME

'Gardening in the Driest State' is the overall theme for the majority of events in 2017 programme.

February

Wednesday 8th February – twilight tour of the wetlands project in the Adelaide Botanic Garden, introduced by Dr Lucy Sutherland, the new Director of Botanic Gardens of SA

March

Too many big egos (events) to compete with, so please enjoy the Fringe, Adelaide Arts Festival, Clipsal 500, the Adelaide Cup, WOMADelaide and Writer's Week – there are many events being held in the Botanic Gardens, Botanic Park and the Pioneer Women's Memorial Gardens.

April

Sunday 30th April – day trip to Morgan to visit **Nor' West Bend Station**, a privately owned, National Trust listed property on the banks of the Murray River, with a large rambling country garden with many roses. Other places of historic interest will also be visited during the day. The route for the day will be via

Kapunda/Eudunda to Morgan and return along the Murray to Blanchetown/Truro/Nuriootpa. (TBC) This visit will be listed in the National Trust - Australian Heritage Festival programme.

May

Presentation/possible book launch – TBC as part of the History Trust of SA Festival

June

Symposium/presentations on watering a garden – TBC

July

Presentation

August

Sunday 20 August. AGM, lunch and speaker

September

Early September – day trip to Coonalpyn to visit the dry land garden – ‘The Daisy Patch’, featured on ABC Gardening Australia. Other properties/features of historic or horticultural interest will also be included in the programme for the day

October

Visit to Wittunga Botanic Garden.

27 – 29 October -- AGHS National Conference, Hamilton NZ

November

Garden visit TBC

December

Sunday 3 December - AGHS Christmas function

******Please note the confirmed dates in your diaries and watch the SA branch newsletter closely for the announcement of the remaining dates and events as they are finalised and confirmed.******

Also please note that the Committee is always keen to receive suggestions for garden visits and speakers, and while the theme for the year is a guide for the programme we can certainly deviate if an interesting opportunity presents.

SA Committee Members 2016-2017

Elizabeth Ganguly, Chair, NMC Representative

Richard Heathcote, Deputy Chair

Andrew Plumer, Treasurer

Julie Tolley, Secretary

Ray Choate Newsletter, Elizabeth Dobson, Jeffrey Jenkinson, Pam Mayer, Patricia Michell, Richard Nolan, and Pamela Tonkin.