

**AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH**

NEWSLETTER -- 4 OCTOBER 2016



Dear South Australian Members!

SA BRANCH 2016 PROGRAMME

October	National Conference & AGM
November	Saturday 5 th 9.45 am – 11.45 am David Roche Foundation House Museum Tour (see booking information below)
December	Sunday 4 th 2.30 – 4.30 pm Christmas Cheer & afternoon tea 'The Wildflowers', Basket Range (See below -- detailed flyer to follow)

Open Garden SA has a wonderful array and number of gardens in their current programme, including the gardens of several AGHS members. We encourage you to support OGSA, our members and local charities who benefit greatly from the funds raised at these events.

(Due to severe weather conditions a number of the OGSA garden openings have had to be cancelled or postponed to a later date. Up to date information is on the OGSA website opengardensa.org.au)

Yallum Park, Penola

(This is made to measure for the history 'buffs' & those prepared for a long drive. If any AGHS members visit this garden, would they please send in a short article and photos for the newsletter.)

*Sat Oct 8 - Sun Oct 9 | 10:00 am - 4:30 pm
4325 Mount Burr Road, Penola*

Description: *Yallum Park has been in the current owner's family for over a century but its history goes back much earlier to the days of the squattocracy in the 1840's and was, for a time, owned by politician and wine pioneer, John Riddoch.*

Today Yallum Park is 20 acres of parkland featuring a collection of magnificent trees from all over the world, many planted about 150 years ago... many are named and dated.

A grand driveway leads to a two story mansion built in 1880 and character filled outbuildings dating from 1840.

AGHS member gardens:

Mandalay, Petwood – Sat 5th & Sun 6th Nov

Hatherleigh Cottage, Aldgate – Sat 12th & Sun 13th Nov

Walnut Hill, Crafers – Sat 19th & Sun 20th Nov



Mandalay

David Roche Foundation House Museum Tour Saturday 5th November 2016 – 9:45 am – 11:45am



The Society has booked a guided tour of the late David Roche's *Fermoy House* and the recently built museum and gardens. The collection comprises over 3,000 pieces of 18th and 19th century decorative art and is recognised as one of the most significant collections in Australia. Following the tour those in the group who wish to will share lunch at a restaurant nearby.



241 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide. www.rochefoundation.com.au.

Registration and Payment

Numbers are strictly limited to 20 people on a 'first-registered first-served basis'

A non-refundable advance payment is required with registration either by cheque or electronic transfer.

COST Members \$20.00 Guests \$25.00

If you wish to join us please contact Ray Choate who will provide you with details about payment. Please indicate whether you wish to pay by BSB Electronic Deposit, or by cheque.

Contact: Ray Choate ray.choate@adelaide.edu.au or by post at POBox 543, North Adelaide SA 5006

FROM THE CHAIR by Elizabeth Ganguly

I sincerely hope that AGHS members, relatives and friends have come through the recent severe weather events relatively unscathed. Ray and I apologise for the delay in getting this newsletter circulated but both of us have had (as have so many others) electrical/internet outages. I was amazed and a little alarmed at just how much my life now depends on a functioning internet connection; however when up and running life is certainly much easier to manage, especially from my outpost at Port Elliot!

The experience of convening the AGHS 2015 conference certainly improved my computing skills enormously and now with Andrew Plumer on board as our new Treasurer the SA branch is getting 'nudged' further into the digitized world.

SA Heritage Alert

On Monday 26th Sept 2016 committee members Patricia Michell, Andrew Plumer and Elizabeth Ganguly attended the public meeting held at the Adelaide City Town Hall called by the ACC in response to the State Government's proposal for local heritage reforms.

The State Government is undertaking another planning review, "*Heritage reform – an exploration of the opportunities*"; this time it is about Local Heritage places in your Council area. If the reforms are passed into legislation there will be significant changes to the way in which local heritage is managed.

This review and the possible removal of heritage protection from local government are of great concern to those of us who are interested in and value the state's heritage.

At the above meeting the ACC Lord Mayor, Martin Haese, made the following points:-

- The extremely short response time – very hard for community groups to rally
- How heritage provides a sense of continuity, an anchor for the community – especially in relation to our fast moving society
- Heritage in most council areas has been hard fought for over the past 40+ years
- Heritage is a social, cultural and economic drawcard, noting feedback from tourists
- Adelaide heritage has a national and international appeal
- Cultural Tourism (incl Heritage) estimated at \$375 million p/a (? For Adelaide or SA)
- NB – not one Government minister attended the meeting, despite being notified

His Summary

- Look to the future but do not cross the Heritage line
- Open to genuine process reform – after meaningful consultation
- Do not accept a compromise that will endanger the 8,000 local govt heritage listings
- Do not remain silent – contact as many authorities as possible
- Educate your children/talk to young people – it is their heritage

Other speakers included Richard Hutchins (Registered Planner and team leader of ACC response), Professor Norman Etherington (President of National Trust SA), Deborah Lindsay (ICOMOS), Simon Weidenoser (Senior Heritage Architect) and Councillor Sandy Wilkinson. After the panel members had spoken many members of the audience spoke of their concerns and posed questions to the panel.

The debate covered the issue from many different angles and as the Chair of the SA branch of AGHS I took the opportunity to note that the loss of built heritage in most case would impact on or mean the loss of a green space of possible heritage value. I also stated that as our mission was 'to promote awareness and conservation of significant gardens and cultural landscapes', that the AGHS would be expressing our concern to the Minister regarding the haste and lack of community consultation in relation to the proposed planning changes.

Personally I feel that so many areas of SA have a unique character as the result of the style of settlement. The residents/owners and the community are the custodians of that heritage and life style, and having made a decision to live in the area should be able to retain control over the future of their lives/homes/livelihoods.

Summary of views from the meeting

- Too much haste and not enough response time even with the extension until the 7.10.16
- Community consultation should have occurred initially prior to paper being released
- SA heritage experts not consulted during planning review/Nat Trust not informed
- Process reform necessary with the listing criteria, listing process and assessment process – arguments were both for and against
- That National, State and Local Heritage listings should not be a descending hierarchy of importance. Local heritage is unique it provides character and identity and there should not be a cap on the number of local heritage listings.
- Due to SA's unique style of settlement, should we rush to adopt heritage management from interstate? Will it necessarily be 'best practice' in SA?
- Demolition on merit – removes your say in local planning, giving control to distant 'experts'

I apologise for the short notice but it is important that as many people as possible respond regarding this issue by 5 pm Friday 7th October 2016.

Contact your local council/councillors, your local state member and most importantly send a response to the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure – Email planningreform@sa.gov.au
The discussion paper is available for viewing at www.dpti.sa.gov.au/planning/planningreform

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

AGHS SA Branch CHRISTMAS CHEER & AFTERNOON TEA

**Sunday 4th December
2.30 – 4.30 PM**

‘The Wildflowers’, Basket Range



‘The Wildflowers’, now owned by Patricia and Edwin Michell, was built in 1911 by William Burdett. The property includes part of the memorable Burdett Wildflowers Garden. Although now a little overgrown, as one of the earliest collections in existence of wildflowers sourced from across Australia and overseas, this heritage listed garden is a special part of Basket Range history and demonstrates that, from its earliest settlement, the area attracted intrepid souls with a love of plants and nature.

The Burdett Wildflower Garden is on the SA State Heritage Register and listed on the Australian Heritage Places Inventory website.

The Statement of Significance reads:

Burdett's Property is significant for its collection of 400 Australian and South African plant species. Founded by William Burdett as a hobby, the garden was established in the 1920s and reached its peak in the 1930s, when it attracted many visitors. Although unplanned, it is a significant aesthetic achievement and has been described as one of the most significant private collections.

It was also written up in Tony Whitehill's book "*Some Historic Gardens in South Australia*", published by the National Trust in 1981.

‘The Wildflowers’ is a sister garden to the Wittunga Botanic Gardens in Blackwood, and the property was a popular attraction in the 1920s and 30s, with carloads of visitors from Adelaide coming to see the collections of wildflowers from Australia and South Africa.

Alison Marjorie ASHBY (1901-1987), the well-known SA floral artist, often collected specimens for her paintings and also for floral displays at the SA Museum from ‘The Wildflowers’.

AGHS SA TRAVELS -- THE OLD STOCK ROUTE TO POLTALLOCH STATION

*' Here where red dust rose
to raddle sheep and men* '
David Campbell 'Winter stock route'

No dust but spring rain as we wait near the 'Sawyers Arms' (now Crafers Inn) for our bus tour to Poltalloch. We are to follow the first stock route between Adelaide and Melbourne to Poltalloch station, a fifth generation pastoral property on the shore of Lake Alexandrina.

Committee member Richard Nolan provides a narrative which illuminates the route in a revealing and new way. I have driven, cycled and walked this same route for many years but uninformed of the detail he reveals.

Resting places and inns begin a framework of towns along the route:- Aldgate, Echunga, Macclesfield, Strathalbyn and later Mylor. Using the important river crossings and connecting ridges, our bus smooths the way from the tree lined fields of the high hills to the wider rain shadow spaces east of the hills. Along the way with the leisure of being driven, Richard reveals history from farm buildings and the relics of main street carriage and coach days of Cobb and Co. Richard's commentary highlights the enterprises of subdivision and settlement planned at great distance in the homeland of the settlers.



At Bleasdale winery our party of 35 tasted and savoured the fruits of generations of winery skills. Expanded now from the flood irrigated flats of the Bremer River, the district now covers 6000 acres of vines. The massive red gum wine press, rightly Heritage listed, is a reminder of the industry and ingenuity of the founder Frank Potts.

Our lunch stop at Pangarinda Arboretum is a reminder also of our rich plant heritage. The self-sustaining sandhill garden was near its spring best -- a showpiece of our vegetated land before the fields and fences.

Poltalloch Station was once a village based on sheep. Its preserved structure and ongoing viability are a credit to the taste and heritage of the founding Bowman family and descendants. An excellent tour of the village was followed by an afternoon tea overlooking a moody, sometimes sun-patched lake.

The trip was especially meaningful to me as it is the 150th anniversary of my great grandfather's walk on this route to his shepherding job at Cantara Station on the Coorong. Lucy Treloar's recent novel 'Salt Creek' reveals the sense of struggle, drama and conflict at that time on the stock route.

As I count the money for the trip, David Unaipon's image on the fifty dollar note reminds me that his Ngarrindjerri people and the Peramangk of the high hills lived on the edge of the stock route. Their middens on the lake shore point to our short part in the history of our land.

Special thanks to Richard Nolan and the committee for an educative and enjoyable day for the Society.

*"we drink
an older culture, old as Alcheringa,
through every pore from bush-fed,
dust-fed, wattle -and-gum fed air."*
Ian Mudie, 'Echo of Alcheringa'

David Inverarity

VALE Bill Mollison

A revolution disguised as organic gardening: in memory of Bill Mollison

[This is a partial transcript from ABC Radio broadcast by [Samuel Alexander](#), Research fellow, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, University of Melbourne.]

It is with great sadness that I acknowledge the passing of [Bill Mollison](#) on Saturday, September 24 (1928-2016). He was one of the true pioneers of the modern environmental movement, not just in Australia but globally.

Best known as co-originator of the "[permaculture](#)" concept with David Holmgren and recipient of the Right Livelihood Award in 1981, Mollison helped develop a holistic body of environmental theory and practice which is widely recognised as one of Australia's finest and most original contributions to the global sustainability challenge.

A brief history of permaculture

Mollison grew up in Stanley, Tasmania. After leaving school at 15 he moved through a range of occupations before joining the CSIRO in the Wildlife Survey Section in 1954, where he developed his research experience and understanding of ecological systems.

He was later appointed to the University of Tasmania, which is where, in 1974, he met the brilliant and radical young research student, [David Holmgren](#)

The collaboration between Mollison and Holmgren resulted in the permaculture concept, culminating in the publication of their seminal work, [Permaculture One](#) in 1978, which sparked the [global movement](#).

Bill Mollison's legacy: a challenge to us all

Despite developing into a thriving global movement, permaculture still has not received the full attention it deserves. As the world continues to degrade ecosystems through the poor design of social and economic systems, it has never been clearer that permaculture is a way of life whose time has come.

Nevertheless, permaculture is not a panacea that can answer all challenges. Permaculture is not without its critics (see, for example, [here](#) and [here](#)). But I would argue that the lens of permaculture can certainly illuminate the path to a more sustainable and flourishing way of life, such that we ignore its insights at our own peril.

Thank you, Bill Mollison, for the inspiration and insight – and the challenge you have left us with to design a civilisation that regenerates rather than degrades our one and only planet. May humanity learn the lessons of permaculture sooner rather than later.

Only then, I suspect, will “Uncle Bill” rest in peace.

SA Committee Members 2016-2017

Elizabeth Ganguly, Chair, NMC Representative (from 14 October 2016)

Richard Heathcote, Deputy Chair

Andrew Plumer, Treasurer

Julie Tolley, Secretary

Ray Choate Newsletter, NMC Representative (till 14 October 2016)

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