

AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY  
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

NEWSLETTER -- 10 April 2017

Dear South Australian Members!



**From the Chair – by Elizabeth Ganguly**

I hope there are not too many ‘festival hangovers’ or ‘breakdowns’ following the Clipsal & Adelaide Cup amongst our membership! Conveniently, the next Garden History event, the day trip to Nor’ West Bend Station, is not until Sun 30<sup>th</sup> April so if you over indulged in March there is plenty of recovery time.

**AGHS 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

All members should by now be acquainted with the news that the proposed AGHS NZ conference has been cancelled. Richard Heathcote in his role as National Chairperson has written a letter that has been emailed (mailed to those receiving posted notices) to all members. I am aware that some members seem not to have received this email, so the content of the letter is in this newsletter.

**\*\*Note\*\*** If you haven’t seen this letter your computer may be set to send emails from mass or large group emailing into SPAM or into a Promotional folder. I found my letter in SPAM. I find that I need to check SPAM and the Promotional folders on a weekly basis just in case something important from a large/group emailing gets sidetracked. I hope this bit of IT advice makes sense -- please don’t ask me to elaborate, seek further advice from a real expert. **\*\***

March 3, 2017

*Dear AGHS member,*

*As some of you may be aware, at the National Management Committee meeting on Sunday 12 February a variety of issues regarding the New Zealand Conference was discussed. Primarily these included the continued difficulties experienced with the NZ based organisers, but most importantly a potential budget blowout and reduced confidence in our ability to deliver a conference at a satisfactory standard for the Society.*

*At this meeting an Executive Committee was formed to see if the budget could be addressed via a variety of avenues, such as obtaining alternative quotes and consulting with two other event organisers, to check if they could assist the Society in achieving a better outcome. A deadline of 10 days was approved to try and rectify the budgetary and management issues.*

*Unfortunately, after considerable research the Executive Committee agreed on Monday 27 February that there was no other option other than to cancel the New Zealand based Conference in 2017. The National Management Committee was informed of this decision the following day.*

*As a result the majority of the Committee has agreed to run an alternative conference event to be in Melbourne in late October/November 2017. The dates of this are currently being finalised, as too is the venue. This event will be organised with the assistance of the*

*Victorian Branch Committee. The format will consist of a Friday evening Keynote presentation, Saturday All Day Lectures, Sunday tour and the Branch will be organising a Monday Optional Day Tour. As part of the conversation with the alternative organisers it was agreed that the tour of the New Zealand South Island with Lynne Walker was still achievable, so that will be an additional offering to members this year (dates to be confirmed).*

*There is still the possibility of New Zealand in 2019, and discussions with the alternative events managers indicate that with more time the planned program is achievable and could occur and include Stuart Read's Pre and Post Conference Tours.*

*On behalf of the National Management Committee I ask for your understanding about the situation faced by the Society and the fact that this decision has not been made without considerable effort to bring it about. I would like to thank all of you that have, over the last two years, endeavoured to make this conference in New Zealand a success. Unfortunately, as I am sure you would all agree, to allow the event to go ahead in New Zealand and incur such a loss would be detrimental to the future of the Society.*

*Sincerely*

*Richard Heathcote*

*National Chairman*

## **An alternative AGHS conference – *Marvellous Melbourne in Constant Change* - is being held in Melbourne from Friday 27<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October.**

Preliminary conference information:-

- Friday 27 October (all day lectures) – State Library of Victoria
- Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 October. (Garden Tours)
- Monday Optional Day Tour.

The program is currently being finalised -- booking details will be sent to members and posted on the AGHS website when available

### **New Zealand South Island Tour**

Lynne Walker will be leading a tour to the South Island (approx. 14 days) for the Society as a post conference tour. It will depart Melbourne Tuesday 31 October; full details of the itinerary and costs will be released shortly.

### **AGHS National Website**

Take time to peruse the **new look AGHS National Website**. There are quite a few new features, and more information continues to up loaded.

### **AGHS National Executive Officer**

Sadly, Phoebe LaGerche-Wijsman, the AGHS National Executive Officer, is moving on to a new position mid-April. Many members have got to know Phoebe via the phone, especially around conference booking time – ever helpful, bright, cheery and efficient. As convener for the 2015 Adelaide conference, I was in constant contact with Phoebe, and no matter what the problem or question it was resolved and then we would have a laugh about something.

On behalf of the SA members I wish Phoebe well and thank her for an enormous contribution to the AGHS. A small farewell gift is being sent to Phoebe from the SA membership.

## **Magic Mildura – Pan Australian Conference, Mediterranean Garden Society, SA Branch**

I recently enjoyed a long weekend in Mildura attending the above conference. This was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with many ‘garden tragic’ friends from the MGS and also from the SA and interstate branches of the AGHS.

We visited a number of spectacular and unusual private gardens, the Inland Botanic Garden and the Valpodio Estate olive and citrus orchard. The conference papers included very informative sessions on the ‘History of Mildura and the Irrigation Industry’ and on the ‘Evolution of the Mallee Flora’, as well as a panel discussion on ‘The Challenge of Mediterranean Gardening’.

Detailed reports on the conference will be available in the MGS newsletter. Well done MGS SA!!!



Rose Garden – Inland Botanic Garden



River Murray view – private garden

## **SA Branch News**

### **AGHS Garden Restoration Grant**



We are pleased to announce that a Garden Restoration Grant of \$4,000.00 (\$2,000 from the SA Branch + \$2,000 from the National Office) has been approved to assist long term AGHS members Dr Ian and Mrs Janie Smylie with the restoration of the circa 1880s gazebo located in their garden at ‘Wensleydale’, Stirling. The garden at ‘Wensleydale’ is well known to many AGHS members and following completion of the gazebo restoration the SA membership will be invited to a special fund raising event in this

stunning garden. The editor of the AGHS journal has already requested a journal article on the restoration, to which the owners have agreed.

Garden restoration grants are available to members and non-members – further details are available on the AGHS website. [www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au](http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au)

## **‘The Cedars’ – Garden Recording Project**



The SA branch is planning to record the garden at ‘The Cedars’ – the family home of artist Sir Hans Heysen. ‘The Cedars’ is now owned and managed by the Hans Heysen Foundation and the SA AGHS committee have been negotiating our involvement with this iconic SA and national treasure. To quote Allan Campbell, Curator... ‘the garden in particular holds great scope because it is one of the few gardens in Australia which is an authentic artists garden’.

A working group will be formed to complete this project. Tasks will include measuring areas of the garden, identifying plants, photographing plants & structures and completion of oral histories. If you have skills in any of these areas or would simply like to be involved please contact Elizabeth Ganguly preferably by email. [elizabeth.ganguly@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.ganguly@gmail.com) or Mob 0409679944

*Bird bath along a pathway*



*The Cedars – residence*



*Abandoned flowerpots*



Pergola remnant frames steps to the cosy



Original stone steps along a garden path

### **SA Branch Newsletter**

Ray Choate, long-time editor, is handing over the reins to new co editors Pam Mayer, Pamela Tonkin and Elizabeth Dobson. Ray will also continue to assist when he is not away enjoying his retirement attending multiple performances of Wagner's opera 'The Ring Cycle'.

NSW Branch newsletters have intriguing names – *'Inflorescence'* & *'Branch Cuttings'* and in most cases the branch newsletter is only produced 2 to 4 times per year with event flyers or a brief news sheet in between. The new SA Co-Editors will be considering options for the next edition – please forward any suggestions or requests for regular articles etc, also.....

#### ***A Competition!!!***

**A new title for the SA Branch Newsletter.** Thinking caps on, lateral views, be innovative, something uniquely South Australian. ***MYSTERY PRIZE for the winner – judged by a committee panel.***

Please forward requests and new newsletter title suggestions to Pam Mayer by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017 - [p.mayer27@gmail.com](mailto:p.mayer27@gmail.com)

### **AGHS Oral History Project**

The oral history initiative of AGHS is constantly being worked on and is set to be a major focus leading up to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the society in 2020. In SA we have a wealth of gardening knowledge, experience, history and stories that have yet to be recorded.

AGHS members Susan Marsden, Julie Tolley and Jan Kentish have already indicated a willingness to be involved in this project. If you have expertise in this area or are interested in being involved please register your name with committee member Julie Tolley.  
[tolley@senet.com.au](mailto:tolley@senet.com.au)

More information about this project will be available in the next newsletter.

## Landscapes At Risk: Watch & Action List

At the National Management Committee meeting in June 2015, it was decided to prepare a list of 'Landscapes at Risk' as part of our mission to promote awareness and conservation of significant gardens and cultural landscapes through engagement, research, advocacy and activities. In the last six months the list has developed into a 'Watch & Action' list.

The SA branch request that members or non-members bring to our attention SA gardens and landscapes that they may have concerns about or that may be 'at risk'.

Criteria for 'at risk':

- active current threat (development approved/lack of heritage listing or consideration of landscape heritage, lack of protection during development)
- potential future threat (development, neglect poor management)
- lack of champions (community protest, unaware, Council/manager uninterested)

Please send to Elizabeth Ganguly – [elizabeth.ganguly@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.ganguly@gmail.com)

A National Landscapes at Risk: Watch & Action' List is currently being compiled and listed on the AGHS website.

## 2017 SA Branch AGHS Programme (update)

The theme for this year is 'Gardening in the Driest State', therefore many of our visits and presentations will relate in some way to how gardeners/gardens, past, present and future have coped/will cope with SA's tough climate.

Flyers have been circulated for the April and May events.

<b>April</b>	<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup></b> Day bus trip to <b>Nor' West Bend Station</b> on the Murray at Morgan <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/ORRY">https://www.trybooking.com/ORRY</a> This event is listed in the National Trust - Australian Heritage Festival programme. <b>Reminder to book as tickets are limited – 20 still available on 10/4/17</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup></b> Australia's Influential Garden People by Dr Anne Vale <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/ORSA">https://www.trybooking.com/ORSA</a> This is a joint event with the Mediterranean Garden Society and is listed in the programme for SA's History Festival. <b>Ticket sales opened on 1<sup>st</sup> April – book early.</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Wed 14<sup>th</sup></b> John Zwar Plant Selection for Gardens in the Driest State
<b>July</b>	TBA
<b>August</b>	<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b> AGM Lunch & speaker
<b>September</b>	<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b> Day bus trip to Coonalpyn – dry land gardening and local art projects
<b>October</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup></b> AGHS National Conference, Melbourne <b>***Brochure &amp; booking forms available in April edition AGHS Journal and on line***</b>

November      **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 12 – 4 pm**      Display at Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens 40<sup>th</sup> celebrations

December      **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> – AGHS Christmas function** (possibly brunch)

**NOTE --\*\*Highlighted dates and events have been confirmed\*\***

## **Other Events**

- **Carrick Hill**

**8 March to 30 June 2017**

**Spot the Dog: Canine Companions in Art** is the new exhibition at Carrick Hill. The exhibition is accompanied by a number of related events including ‘Walk the Dog’ Children’s Trail.

Bookings and further information at [www.carrickhill.sa.gov.au](http://www.carrickhill.sa.gov.au)

- **Festival Fleurieu**

**14 – 30 April 2017**

Including the **Inman Quilters Biennial Quilt Exhibition – April 22 – 24**. The theme this year is ‘The Garden’ and the exhibition is held in the Memorial Hall Inman Valley

[www.festivalfleurieu.com.au](http://www.festivalfleurieu.com.au)

### **SA Committee Members 2016-2017**

Elizabeth Ganguly, Chair, NMC Representative

Richard Heathcote, Deputy Chair

Andrew Plumer, Treasurer

Julie Tolley, Secretary

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