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Newsletter – Winter 2016

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH



FUNCTIONS

Sunday 14 August Annual General Meeting and guest speaker 2.00 – 4.30 pm

Following the meeting Julian Donaldson, recently appointed CEO of National Trust (WA), will speak on his role in and vision for the Trust. Julian served as Mayor of Cottesloe 1994-97 and was latterly, for ten years, General Manager of Perth International Arts Festival during which time the visit of The Giants in 2015 was a highlight.

Grove Library Community Room, cnr Stirling Hwy & Leake St, Peppermint Grove
Cost \$5.00 RSVP Sue Monger susanmonger@yahoo.com.au or 9384 1575

A Notice of Annual General Meeting will be emailed prior to the Meeting. The form has provision for nominations for the Committee. The branch requires a Treasurer as Tom Crossen has indicated his future work commitments will take him out of the country. Tom has served in that capacity since 2013 and took on the role as Treasurer for the Albany Conference in 2014. His attention to detail ensured a handsome profit for the NMC. Thank you Tom and good wishes for exciting times ahead as a member of a flower hunting expedition in exotic locations!

Sunday 28 August 2.00 pm Woodbridge House

Charles Harper and his Association with the Nursery and Fruit Growing Industry

Presented by John Viska, Chairman, Australian Garden History Society WA

The Billiard Room at Woodbridge, Ford Street, Woodbridge WA 6056

\$10 includes talk, entry to Woodbridge and afternoon tea.

RSVP Lyn Oliver 0426 211 382 laoliver@inet.net.au

This is a joint function with AGHS (WA), Woodbridge Education and Learning Team and Woodbridge Volunteers.

Friday 29 July Rose Pruning with AGHS and National Trust volunteers

Friday 2 September weed-a-thon with AGHS and NT volunteers

There are garden busy bees on the first Friday of each month 9.00 am – noon. BYO gloves

Contact Lyn Oliver Woodbridge Volunteer 0426 211 382

Throughout September and October leading into Heritage Week AGHS has been invited to mount a display in the Council House foyer. The City of Perth will partner with AGHS to present *Garden Memorabilia* a selection of ephemera and garden implements. This is a valuable opportunity to promote the Society.

Saturday 8 October

A Day in the Hills a 'cross pollination' event with Darlington Historical Society and Heritage Roses.

Garden visits and a talk are proposed. Further details in the Spring newsletter.

Sunday 4 December

Branch Christmas function in Guildford.

GUILDFORD HERITAGE FESTIVAL Sunday 3 April

The AGHS stall attracted a steady flow of visitors, many of whom recalled seeing "Dad or Grandad using one of those" when examining John's collection of heritage garden implements. Thanks to John Viska, Carmel O'Halloran, Ros Stewart, Trish Edwards and Sue Monger for helping raise awareness of AGHS.

VISIT TO POINT FRASER WETLANDS Friday 8 April

On a glorious autumn day eighteen members joined Shelly Smith, Environmental Officer, Parks City of Perth, on a walk of this bio-filter area of the river foreshore just west of the Causeway. The Point is named for Charles Fraser (1788?-1831) who accompanied Capt. James Stirling on his exploration of the Swan River in 1827. The wetlands, a project of the City of Perth, was opened in 2004. Plantings of saltmarsh, samphires and sedges act as filters for run off water as it makes its way through a series of filter ponds to the river and provide habitat for waterfowl and riverine pondlife. Natural river edges rather than constructed rockwalls add to the naturalness and pathways, boardwalks and seating areas make the site a very accessible and pleasant place to visit. Thanks to Shelly Smith and Alan Dolphin, AGHS member wearing his City of Perth Technical Officer hat, for a most interesting morning.

AUSTRALIAN GARDEN COUNCIL Colin Barlow Monday 9 May

Colin is a member of the recently established Council, the aim of which is to further horticulture, the nursery industry, education beyond the primary years where most children show a great deal of enthusiasm for their school gardens, domestic gardening and tourism. Australia attracts only a small share of the 300 million garden tourists globally. The AGC, headed by Graham Ross will function as an umbrella organisation to liaise with relevant interest groups.

RAILWAY STATION GARDENS Bassendean Railway Museum Sunday 3 July

It was a chilly day when twenty members and friends gathered in a dining car amongst the once powerful steam locomotives. Tom Hogarth, a Museum volunteer and researcher, gave a most interesting talk on railway station gardens and explained that at the turn of the 20th century the railways were the largest employer of labour many of whom had an interest in gardens and gardening. Harold Pope, Commissioner for Railways 1920-28, encouraged beautification of station precincts and much kudos was attached to winning the competition for best railway garden. Fruit trees were planted, Tasmanian blue gums were prevalent in railyards as were pines and date palms. An extant example of enhancing a station is the low topiary hedge spelling DAGLISH on the Fremantle line. Pines were common in the rail yards on the Great Southern Line to Albany. We inspected various photos in the Museum and admired the extensive collection of tableware from the days of fine dining on the railways - 1st class dinner cost the princely sum of 2/6! Our thanks to Tom, and to our 'galley staff' Ros Stewart, Trish Edwards and Lynette Peterson who toiled in an impossibly narrow space to supply us with a delicious and warming afternoon tea.

NEW MEMBER

The branch extends a warm welcome to Nataasha Lethbridge whom we look forward to meeting at a function soon.

We're pleased to welcome Karen Anderson back to our shores. Karen has spent some years in Sweden.

VALE

The branch extends its sympathy to Joy Hill on the loss of her husband, Dixon Adamson.

We enjoyed Dixon's company when he accompanied Joy to our functions and the conference in Albany.

NATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

Landscapes at Risk: all branches have been asked to list landscapes of significance and to assess the risks of development, neglect or mismanagement. e.g. Hyde Park, Vincent for which there has been an application to allow a commercial venture in the Park. This is contrary to the Conservation Plan. The committee would be pleased to hear from members who are aware of a perceived risk to a notable site be it proposed development or degradation.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Until 20 July. Perth Town Hall lower foyer hosts a celebration of the 1966 Wild Life Show with the opportunity to experience native flora and fauna. 9.30 am – 4.30pm. Free entry. Take the grandchildren!

The National Trust (WA) is seeking volunteers for rose pruning workshops / garden maintenance at Samson House, Fremantle and Old Blythewood, Pinjarra.

Samson House: Sunday 10 July 1.30 – 4.30 pm cnr Ellen & Ord Streets Fremantle

Old Blythewood: Sunday 7 August 1.30 – 4.30 pm 6161 South West Hwy, Pinjarra. 1 hour south of Perth Both gardening days will begin with a short talk and tour of the property and end with a restorative afternoon tea.

RSVP is essential and please state your preference for a property and whether you would like to do the rose pruning workshop or general gardening. [BYO gloves and secateurs. rsvp@ntwa.com.au](mailto:rsvp@ntwa.com.au) phone 9321 6088

Sunday 31 July National Tree Day. Planet Ark invites you to visit their website treeday.planetark.org to see how you could be part of the planting event.

Monday 1 August 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm Heritage Perth Walk and Talk Our Heritage Trees
Meet at the Holocaust Memorial, Stirling Gardens and join Alan Dolphin to discover some of the City's oldest and most treasured heritage trees. Bookings essential www.heritageperth.com.

16-18 September Wildflower Festival in the Bindoon Town Hall 10.00 am – 4.00 pm
Visit the Chittering Shire website for additional information chittering.wa.gov.au click on 'Discover '
See the attached flier for a special event, *Red Flowering Gums* to be presented at Diane Pope's historic property Enderslie, Chittering in conjunction with the Wildflower Festival.

17 & 18 Sept Friends of Kings Park Native Plant sale 10.00 am – 4.00 pm www.friendsofkingspark.com.au.

FOR THE BOOKSHELF

Julie Kinney, a garden writer and tour leader based in the Margaret River area, has recently published *The Garden Wanderer* Margaret River Press, \$44.00, in which she takes the reader on an armchair tour of twenty contrasting gardens in the region.

To catch up on what other branches are doing, and on National Office information, visit the Australian Garden History Society web site at www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au



Guildford Heritage Festival
Trish Edwards, Carmel O'Halloran and Ros Stewart
note the example of hairpin wire fencing on the left