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Newsletter – Autumn 2017

West Australian Branch



Hello Members

Happy Autumn! With record rains last month Perth gardens and green spaces are looking just that! It's very refreshing for this time of year but a nuisance for farmers who have had to begin their spraying regimes much earlier.

FUNCTIONS 2017

The committee has endeavoured to organise this year's events in a variety of locations during the day and on Sundays so the maximum number of branch members can participate. Outlined below is the program. Additional details will be sent closer to the event.

Sunday 26th March Guildford Heritage Festival in Stirling Square

The annual Guildford Heritage Festival will be held on Sunday 26th March from 10 am to 5pm in Stirling Square Guildford. Once again the branch will be setting up a display of heritage garden items as well as providing information about the Society and its aims. We need members to assist in a two hour block, if you can help please contact the Chairman on 9328 1519 or secretary lpetersen@aapt.net.au

On Sunday the 9th of April, Branch Chairman John Viska will present a talk on the *History of the Use of Native Plants* at the Lodge in Kings Park from 2 to 3pm and afterwards will lead a walk around the immediate area pointing out the many significant plantings. Numbers will be limited due the size of venue so please contact the Secretary on lpetersen@aapt.net.au

Time: Sunday 9th April talk 2 to 3pm and walk finishing at 4 pm.

Venue: The Lodge, headquarters of the *Friends Of Kings Park*, the limestone building immediately on the right as you enter the Park from Kings Park Road. Please access the premises through the rear garden gate.

Parking: As there is no parking in this section of Fraser Avenue use the main carpark behind Aspects and walk down.

Cost: \$5.00

Guided walks: Scheduled at 10am and 12 noon, if interested contact the Kings Park Guides through their website. Email friendskp@bgpa.wa.gov.au

Further dates for your diary

- **Sunday 7 May** – Bickley Harvest Festival.
- July (date TBA) – A Day in the Country in the Pinjarra area.
- **Sunday August 20** – AGM to be held in Armadale.
- Early October (date TBA) – visit historic Turner's Cottage and the Serpentine.
- **October** – National Conference. See the paragraph from Richard Heathcote, NMC Chair, under National Management Committee News.
- **December 3** – Christmas function. Venue to be announced.

Branch Christmas function 2016

The WA branch held its annual Christmas event at the historic house of member Nataasha Lethbridge in Guildford. Members first visited the new plantings of Rosa x manettii near Barkers Bridge in Guildford. This rose known locally as the Guildford Rambler is a robust hybrid developed in Italy by Dr Manettii in Milan in 1837. The original hedge, planted in the 1850s by Lieutenant Edmund Du Cane of the Royal Engineers and his men, was restored in 2015 in an initiative between the Guildford Association and Horticulture students from TAFE in Midland. It may be noted that in recent weeks the roses were completely flooded due to unseasonal weather.

Members enjoyed afternoon tea on Nataasha's elegant verandas. The house was built in 1905 by George Lefroy, the Mayor of Guildford 1917–1920 and has since won awards for its restoration. The annual quiz of questions from the AGHS journals was very successful in that it went to the third tie breaker before a winning team was announced by John Viska. An enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

Thanks to Theresa Putland for this summary and to Nataasha for the image.

NATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

Members have been notified that the 2017 National Conference in New Zealand has been cancelled.

This is an excerpt from NMC Chairman Richard Heathcote's email. "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)".

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Royal Western Australian Historical Society

Wednesday 19 April: 5.30 pm for 6.00 – 7.00pm Malcolm Trail from the Albany Museum (and a speaker at the Conference in Albany)

Albany: An Astonishing Technology, Aboriginal fish traps on the South Coast
RWAHS 49 Broadway, Nedlands telephone 9386 3841 to book

1st and 2nd April: The RWAHS will hold its annual second hand book sale at the above address. This is always very well organised and a treasure trove of unexpected delights.

Gallop House : The National Trust is calling for volunteers to assist with revitalising the garden using a list of original plants brought from England in the 1880's. An information day for volunteers will be held **Sunday 26th March 10.30 am** at the house in Dalkeith. Visitors are asked to park in Birdwood Parade and follow the signs to the house. Be mindful of a clash with the Guildford Heritage Festival.

State Heritage and History Conference: May 11 and 12 – Perth Concert Hall

Online registrations are now open. Details of the program and speakers' profiles can be found at www.washec.com.au.

UNCOVERING MAY GIBBS by Jenny Davis

Our new historical play for the beautiful setting of Enderslea farm in Chittering is a play about our own May Gibbs (who grew up in WA) of gumnut babies fame. May single-handedly created a new bush folklore for children. Together with her fellow contemporary writers of children's fiction, Ethel Turner (Seven Little Australians) and Mary Grant Bruce (the Billabong series) we discover the life and times of women writers breaking new ground at the turn of the 20th century.

Performed in the fine old stone barn built by convicts in 1856 and lovingly restored, with a sumptuous tea supplied by the Country Women's Association, this is a simply terrific day out.

Performances: Friday Sep 15 at 2pm, Saturday Sep 16 at 11am and 2pm, Sunday Sep 17 at 2pm

Venue: Enderslea Farm Barn, 681 Blue Plains Rd, Chittering

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/211681 or tel 9386 5575

Past events in this historic setting have sold out very quickly. September is a beautiful time in the Chittering Valley and there are several accommodation options. Google Chittering Valley Accommodation



Lawrence Wison Art Gallery, University of Western Australia (from the website)

Kevin Ballantine: Photographs 1986–2001
29 April – 8 July 2017

Explore Perth of the mid-1980s through to the dawn of the new millennium with photographs from Western Australian artist Kevin Ballantine.

Kevin Ballantine purchased his first camera in London in 1975, documenting the streets around his home in Fulham. Influenced by the great urban photographers of post-war Paris and New York, and by the work of contemporary street photographers of the 1970s, Ballantine resolved to do the same when he returned to his hometown of Perth in 1976.

The result was an extraordinary body of work, documenting the changing face of the city and conveying with acuity and sensitivity something of what it is to be in this place, both banal and spectacularly beautiful.

Kevin Ballantine: Photographs 1986–2001 presents a survey of 15 years of Ballantine's practice, capturing the urban landscapes of Perth and Fremantle, an outback road trip down the Great Eastern Highway, and exuberant scenes from Cottesloe beach. It includes an important series from 1986–87 featuring the streets of Fremantle during the America's Cup.

Image: Kevin Ballantine, *Cup City*, 1986–87, digital print on archival paper © Kevin Ballantine

Media Release from Heritage Matters eNewsletter March 2017

Many lives captured in Harvey heritage listing

Jan 31, 2017



- Former agricultural college was WA's 1st WWII purpose-built internment camp

Western Australia's first purpose-built internment camp for World War II enemy aliens, which later became an agricultural college, has been State Heritage listed.

State Heritage Office Acting Executive Director Harriet Wyatt said the former Harvey Agricultural College site has had many roles over the years.

Mrs Wyatt said its most poignant role was as an internment camp for up to 800 mostly Italian internees, including Australian-born and naturalised Italians, who were perceived as a threat to Australia under Commonwealth Government policy during World War II.

"By June 1940, nearly 15 per cent of Italians and a third of Germans and Austrians living in Australia were interned. Queensland and Western Australians pursued this policy more rigorously than other states," Mrs Wyatt said.

"Internment caused considerable resentment among Italians and caused hardship for the families of interned men," Mrs Wyatt said. "Despite the resentment, the Harvey internment camp was remembered as being relatively comfortable with plenty of food, and internees could earn money to send home to support their families."

The South Western Highway site contains a number of the original buildings and structures including the jail and a roadside shrine built by the Italians. The shrine is believed to be the only roadside memorial shrine of its kind in Australia and is now enclosed in a chapel.

The camp closed in 1942 after the discovery of a large stash of weapons, including knives, tomahawks and bullets. It has been claimed that a shortwave radio, used to disclose information to the enemy, was found within the shrine's altar.

The site was then used by the 3rd Australian Corps Training School to train troops in combat skills. One of the remnants from this time is the rare prefabricated Bailey Bridge.

After the war, the Rural Training Centre was established to offer practical farming knowledge and training for returned servicemen and women to enable their return to the rural workforce.

Mrs Wyatt said the site is best remembered as the Harvey Agricultural College, which operated for 60 years from 1952 to 2012.

The college played a key role in developing the Harvey area into one of the State's main orchard and dairy regions.

The site is now occupied by not-for-profit groups and areas of the site are also used as a venue and function centre. To read more about the history of the former Harvey Agricultural College, go to [inHerit](#).

To keep abreast of other branches' activities, and on National Office information, visit the Australian Garden History Society web site at www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au.