

Newsletter – AUTUMN 2018

Celebrating the founding of the
WEST AUSTRALIAN BRANCH
Happy 30th birthday!



SUE EBURY (Countess of Wilton) AGHS Patron

The WA committee was saddened to learn of Sue Ebury's death in Melbourne earlier this month following a brief illness. As Patron since 2010 and in earlier roles with AGHS Sue made a significant contribution to the Society. Those of us who met her at conferences and garden visits came to appreciate her knowledge of plants and gardening, love of gardens and her literary accomplishments. She was interviewed when she became Patron in 2010; the transcript from the journal Vol 21 No 3 2010 is attached.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Lisa Williams has returned to the fold and we extend a warm welcome to new members John Draper, Grant Jackson and Rosemary Taylor.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 17 May Be quick for the last couple of seats on a bus tour in the Swan Valley.
9.00 – 9.15am rendezvous opposite the Guildford Information Centre cnr Meadow and Swan Streets
9.30 am bus departs for Houghton's where John Viska will lead a tour of the grounds and we'll have morning tea. Toilets
Roadside viewing of Strelly Brook Farmhouse. Built of rammed earth in the 1860's, the house has been restored for farm stay accommodation.
John Kosovich Winery where Mrs Kosovich will give a brief talk and allow us to view the cellar.
BYO picnic lunch to have in the grounds of the historic All Saints' Church, circa 1840. Facilities for tea and coffee available. Toilets.
Visit St Lennards, settled by Edward Pommery Lennard in 1827. The existing house was built in 1842 to replace the original which was badly damaged by fire in 1841. Explore the gardens.
Caversham House, first settled in the early 1830's, now a function centre. View the gardens - mostly modern landscaping. Afternoon snack in the grounds. Approx 4.00pm return to Guildford.

Cost \$50.00 Includes bus hire, morning tea and an afternoon snack. To secure your place on the tour please make your payment by Tuesday, 1st May.

Direct deposit Bendigo Bank BSB 633 108, account number 1481 26360 It is important that you use your surname as the reference, or by cheque payable to Australian Garden History Society WA posted to Treasurer Max Stewart, 103 Holmfirth St, Coolbinia 6050

There are two \$25.00 Dawsons vouchers and a copy of Beatrice Bligh's *Cherish the Earth* which will be raffled and drawn on the day - tickets will be 3 for \$5.00.

The outing is a fundraising event to defray the cost of the second Historic Gardens exhibition. Members may remember the highly successful Early Perth Gardens exhibition held in the Perth Town Hall Undercroft in May 2011. Historic Gardens - the Western Suburbs is to be held at the Cottesloe Civic Centre in September.

A reminder to wear appropriate foot wear as some of the sites have steep terrain, take a hat (let's hope for a sunny day)! a water bottle and your picnic lunch.

Sunday 1 July 2.00 – 4.00 pm

The Early Nurseries of the City of Vincent.

An illustrated talk by John Viska.

From the 1880's the numerous lakes and swamps around Perth were used by the colony's nurserymen. The gold rush brought new wealth and an increasing demand for productive and ornamental plants for recently established homes, streets and parks in the present day City of Vincent. The talk will cover the locations, variety of plants grown and techniques used by the early nurserymen.

Grove Library: cnr Stirling Highway and Leake St., Peppermint Grove. Underground parking can be accessed from Leake St.

Cost: \$10.00 will include raffle tickets and afternoon tea.

RSVP: Sue Monger 9384 1575 or susanmonger@yahoo.com.au

Sunday 19 August AGM Diane Pope has kindly agreed to the use of the restored historic barn on her Chittering property, Enderslea. Further details in the Winter Newsletter.

Thursday 6 – Monday 17 September

Historic Gardens of Perth – Western Suburbs Exhibition at the Cottesloe Civic Centre

The exhibition will feature a series of panels depicting private and public gardens, parks and local history information along the lines of the successful exhibition held in the foyer of the Perth Town Hall in 2011.

Friday 26th October National Conference in Mittagong NSW

Gardens in Times of Peace and Conflict. See NMC News

Sunday 9 December 2.00 – 4.00 pm

Memorial Park Walk and Christmas Party in Mosman Park



Memorial Gates at the Palmerston St entrance to the Memorial Park in Mosman Park
Photo Orderinchaos

NATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (NMC) NEWS

Arrangements are well in hand for the National Conference to be hosted by the Southern Highlands (NSW) branch and conducted in Mittagong 26 – 28 October. See page 39 of the latest journal vol 24 no 4 April 2018 for booking information and dates for pre & post conference tours to be led by Trisha Dixon. If you've not received the journal it may be that your subscription has lapsed. Being on the WA newsletter mailing list is not necessarily a reflection of your current membership status.

Save your pennies for 2019 conference which will be held in Wellington, New Zealand, 25 -27 October.

Carmel O'Halloran, the WA representative on the NMC, will stand down from the position at our branch AGM in August. Carmel has made a tremendous contribution in keeping the committee abreast of news from the National office as well as preparing reports for and attending the six meetings held annually at which she presented news of or concerns for garden history related matters in WA. Thank you very much, Carmel.

LOOKING BACK

The branch Christmas function held at Hazel McDougall House in Como was a small but happy gathering which enjoyed a scrumptious afternoon tea and a belated birthday cake for John V. However, that largesse didn't persuade him to make the Chairman's Quiz questions any easier! To shake down the party spoils we took a gentle tree spotting walk in the adjoining park. Neil McDougall, for whom the park is named, bought a bush block in 1914, and operated a dairy on the site until 1946. The South Perth Society for Arts and Crafts now has its headquarters in the former farmhouse. There is a large community garden and some of the outbuildings have been re-purposed.



Where Did You Get That Hat?? Community garden in the background

Photo Sue Monger

A Guided Walk in the Grounds of University of Western Australia Sunday 15 April

On a perfect autumn afternoon Gillian Lilleyman, co-author with George Seddon of *Landscape for Learning: A History of the Grounds of the University of Western Australia*, led a walk through some of the extensive grounds and focussed on the work of Henry Campbell and his collaboration with Hubert Whitfeld and the link with the State Gardens Board in the 1920's. Campbell was the Superintendent of the SGB and Whitfeld the University's first Vice-Chancellor. The men had a good and fruitful working relationship which began when Whitfeld expressed concern that the tennis courts being constructed on the foreshore by the SGB would encroach on the University's access to the river. Money from the Hackett Bequest 1926 became available and in 1927 Campbell

appointed on a part time supervisory basis to lay out the grounds. Members were joined by Friends of the Grounds including Jean Brodie-Hall AM (UWA'S first appointed landscape architect 1974). Jean spoke of using opportunities such as the removal of an asbestos telephone exchange to enhance the grounds and create areas using Australian native plants which required less maintenance. Familiar areas such as the Sunken Garden, the Dolphin and Octagon Theatre surrounds evoked memories for many of the group, as did vistas across ovals and Matilda Bay. Many thanks Gillian for a most interesting and informative afternoon.



The Edward Shann Memorial within the Sunken Garden



**John Viska thanking Gillian Lilleyman, watched by Joan Low, Mary Anne Yates AM and Jean Brodie-Hall AM
Photos Leon Tang**

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

If you are unable to attend John's talk on 1st July he will give the same presentation on Wednesday 1st August as part of the RWAHS History in the City series. 2 - 3.30 pm, \$5.00 includes afternoon tea at Citi Place on the Perth Railway Station upper concourse.

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