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Newsletter – Spring 2017

WEST AUSTRALIAN BRANCH



Hello Members

With all that lovely rain in August there is sure to be a good showing of wild flowers for our enjoyment. Kings Park is in the midst of its Spring Festival and details of numerous events during September can be found at bgpa.wa.gov.au

Forthcoming Events

Sunday October 8th A Visit to Serpentine 10.30 am for 11.00am

(approx 60 kms south of Perth on the SW Highway)

Rendezvous at Old Bridge School, Federation Park off Gordon Rd. A member of the Serpentine Historical Society will introduce us to the history of the area which includes the school, Turner's Cottage and Bishop Hale's Cottage (all are within easy walking distance). Entry to the School is by gold coin donation. Annette Rowlands, a descendant of Bishop Hale, has generously invited us to view the Bishop's cottage, a modest building consisting of two rooms and still in use.

Serpentine was first settled in 1848 when Gilbert & Longbottom took up land near the river. The settlement grew steadily until 1893 when the railway to Bunbury was completed and a Serpentine townsite closer to the railway was gazetted, leaving the original settlement as an historic precinct.

BYO picnic lunch and any drinks you require. It is expected we will finish by 3.00 pm which allows time for those who wish to visit the nearby Serpentine Falls. n.b. there is \$6.00 per car fee.

RSVP Ros Stewart 9444 1536 maxstewart@westnet.com.au

Mobile contact for the day: Sue Monger 0417 187 376

National Conference in Melbourne 27 – 29 October

Sunday 19th November 2.00 pm Woodbridge House, Ford St, Midland.

Combined event with Friends of Woodbridge at Woodbridge House John Viska will present "*Horticultural Propagation and Fruit Storage Techniques of the Harper Nursery Era*". \$10.00 fee includes entry to the house and afternoon tea. AGHS will run a raffle: tickets 3 for \$5.00. Due to the size of the venue numbers will be limited to 40.

RSVP promptly to Sue Monger 93684 1575 , 0417 187 376 susanmonger@yahoo.com.au

Sunday 3rd December 2.00 pm Christmas Function at Hazel McDougall House and surrounding park, Como. Keep the afternoon free to explore this delightful precinct and learn some local history as well as putting your memories to the test in the Chairman's Quiz!

The Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 20th August at Ye olde Narrogin Inne in Armadale. Prior to the meeting we strolled across the road to view, from the boundary, Wirra Willa the garden formerly owned by Mary Hargreaves. Neglect and uninformed maintenance practices have led to the garden now being overgrown with many of the magnificent trees in a state of decline. (see the image on final page). Twenty three members and visitors enjoyed lunch in the hotel courtyard prior to the AGM at which the Chairman and Treasurer presented their respective reports. The Committee was re-elected unopposed
Chairman: John Viska, Secretary: Lynette Petersen, Treasurer: Max Stewart, NNMC Rep Carmel O'Halloran, Theresa Putland website updates, Sue Monger Newsletter & WA members, Ros Stewart Committee member.

Our thanks to Kim Fletcher, a former Museum WA Education Officer, who spoke on the history of Armadale and led the group on a walk of significant trees in the Heritage Park precinct.

July A day in the country in the Pinjarra area.

Vince Taylor, Warden at Old Blythewood, National Trust (WA) met members at the historic Burnside- now a café in the centre of Pinjarra. He provided handouts about the properties and outlined the day's program. Thanks to Vince for providing these notes.

Creaton c1847. Established by Singleton and later sold to Cornish and Paterson, the property was in its prime in the mid 1870's with extensive accommodation for staff and out buildings. The family lived at the farming property until 1955 after which time the house went into decline. It was offered to the National Trust in 1964 but it was refused on account of it not being restored and ready for immediate opening as a house museum. We viewed the ruins from the roadside and were struck by the many mature trees still managing to survive the neglect.



Creaton's ruins with extant trees

Blythewood c1859. The McLartys operated the property as a farm, and a wayside inn for the mail and passenger coaches on their way to Bunbury through most of the latter 19th Century. By the early 1970s the main homestead and kitchen block had deteriorated considerably. The house and homestead paddock was donated to the National Trust (WA) and subsequently the house and gardens were opened to the public in 1976 under the name of "Old Blythewood". Conservation is ongoing and the property continues to be open for public inspection. Members viewed the house and toured the garden with John Viska and afterwards had a picnic lunch in the grounds.





A sound roof is the best protection for heritage buildings. Old Blythewood also has the benefit of an attentive Resident Warden in Vince Taylor.

Pinjarrah Park c1858. The owner Fawcett planted a vineyard on the upper lands and in the early 1870's began distilling brandy. The distillery, mill and associated outbuilding are now ruins.



Pinjarrah park ruins

An orchard was established on the river flats below the cottage. Oranges were planted from pips obtained from a tree growing near Armadale. Fawcett had an eye for the establishment of a pleasure garden at Pinjarra Park and he imported the first camellia to the colony in 1861. Mature oranges and camellia are still growing in this area. The property passed out of the Fawcett family in the first decade of the 21st century and the house is no longer lived in. The property now consists of 500 acres and is currently run as a caravan/holiday park.



Remnants of the citrus orchard and camellia grove at Pinjarrah Park

Thanks to Carmel O'Halloran for allowing the use of excerpts from her report to the NMC.

One very of the salutary lessons to be learnt from the excursion is that whilst there is legislation in place to penalise owners who demolish ruins, there is no protection against 'demolition by neglect'.

History Council of WA

AGHS WA representatives attended an open meeting held by the Council recently and the Committee agreed it would be beneficial for the branch to rejoin. A wide cross section of like-minded groups attended and the exchange of information and ideas was stimulating.

Stone Seat Restoration in the City of Kalamunda (previously Shire of Kalamunda.)

The WA Branch of AGHS and the National Management Committee has each made a contribution to enable to City of Kalamunda to restore a significant stone seat in the City. The seat, opposite St Barnabas Church in Railway Pde, is a laterite and wooden bench erected in 1913 to commemorate Samuel Burkhardt and Archibald Sanderson who planted a row of pines. The seat is deemed to be of historic interest to the district and the Society's contributions have been used to restore the lettering. The seat is part of the Bibbulmun Track Northern Terminus and associated street works. AGHS WA was represented at the official ceremony when the refurbished seat was unveiled.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Botanical Wonderland State Library ground floor exhibition space near the main entrance until September 24th. “Explore the botanical wonders of Western Australia in this exhibition of original material from the collections of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, Western Australian Museum and the State Library of Western Australia.

Discover the many ways Western Australians have interpreted the State’s rich plant life. From pressed seaweed, to wildflower painting, embroidery, photography and depicted in porcelain – botanical wonders have inspired and defined Western Australia”.

Spring in the City during September and October

Hay Street Mall look up to see the Spring Floral Canopy

October 14th & 15th Perth Heritage Days, throughout the city 10.00 am – 4.00pm walks, talks and exhibitions showcasing some of Perth's heritage buildings

visitperthcity.com#springinthecity for further details.

Perth Heritage Days 14th & 15th October

A festival offering walks, talks, exhibitions and performances. More at heritageperth.com

Saturday 21st October Old Blythewood, Pinjarra

Jazz Picnic House and Grounds open 12.30 - 3.30 pm. Music 1.00 – 3.00 pm

BYO own picnic. Tea and coffee available . Entry fees apply. Tel 041 999 9196

