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Newsletter – Winter 2018

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



Annual General Meeting

Sunday 19th August

10.30 am Rendezvous at the Bindoon and Districts Historical Society Museum, 5765 Great Northern Highway, 4km sth of Bindoon. Allow approx 1¼ hours for the journey from Perth. Gold coin donation. Travel in convoy to Enderslea Farm, 681 Blue Plains Rd.

BYO picnic lunch to have at Enderslea before the AGM at 2.00 pm

The farm was settled by Henry and Sarah Morley in 1853 and the AGM will be held in the restored stone barn built by convicts in the 1850's. Diane and Bruce Pope are our hosts. Diane has fig and pomegranate trees in need of pruning. If the weather's right and you'd like to help please bring secateurs and/or loppers.

RSVP Lynette Petersen 0439 941 822 email lpetersen@aapt.net.au
Cost \$10.00 includes afternoon tea and raffle tickets.

Notice of Annual General Meeting and Nomination Form is attached.

Historic Gardens of Perth Exhibition: The Western Suburbs. Cottesloe Civic Centre, Broome St,
Friday 7th – Sunday 16th September 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

This is the second in the series following the highly successful Early Perth Gardens held in the Perth Town Hall in May 2011. This will be a wonderful opportunity to promote AGHS and members are asked to contact John Viska 9328 1519 to volunteer for the “meet and greet” roster.

October 25 – 27 The National Conference is to take place in Mittagong NSW, hosted by the Southern Highlands branch.

Sunday December 9th Christmas Function and 30th birthday celebration

Mosman Park Memorial garden walk followed by afternoon tea at Mosman Park Golf Club.

New Members

A warm welcome to Elizabeth Atkins and Fiona Hearl. Elizabeth joined us for the Swan Valley tour.

Branch Activities

May 17 A Day in the Swan Valley

A bus load of 39 members and guests gathered in Guildford in balmy autumn sunshine. We were reminded of the importance of the river as a water source for agriculture and as a means of transport and communication for the first European pioneers who settled the area in 1829. The lack of autumn rain was reflected in the dry paddocks and road verges. The rain gods have certainly made up for it since!

The first stop was Houghton's Winery where John Viska led a walk of the gardens with its shingle roof homestead, mature Cape lilacs *Melia azederach*, shady *Brachychiton rupestris* and liquidambar in full autumn colours. A mouthwatering spread for morning tea awaited the garden rambles.



John Viska introduces the tour party to the historic grounds at Houghton's Winery
image Lyn Oliver



The impressive morning tea spread at Houghton's image SM

A roadside viewing of Strelly Brook Farmhouse became more personal with the recollections of one of the tour group whose forebears once owned the property. The land was granted to Joseph Logue in 1863 and is an excellent example of early colonial mud brick construction. Early plantings throughout the Valley were productive: figs, olives (oil was used in lamps) and grapes to support the growing population.

The coach driver Darren, detoured to show us the Yagan Memorial Park on a ridge overlooking the Swan Valley, an appropriate resting place for the warrior of the Wadjuk Noongar people, killed in 1833. The plantings of local species honour Yagan.

It was a privilege to visit John Kosovich Winery with its planting of trellised vines providing shade as Mrs Kosovich spoke of the business which is one of the longest established (1922) in the Valley

and the only one to still be held by the founding family. The below ground cellar with its rows of oak barrels was the perfect spot for a pre-lunch wine tasting!



The tour party enjoys a shady spot among the vines at John Kosovich Winery image SM

A picnic lunch in the grounds of historic All Saints Anglican Church became a history trail as we explored the graves of the early settlers including that of Henry Morley who established Enderslea at Chittering, the venue for the AGM on Sunday 19th August. The church was built in the early 1840's and is set high above the Swan River at a point reached by Capt. Stirling in 1827. The shady canopy of a huge spreading plane tree *Platanus species* is set alongside the traditional graveyard plantings of pencil pines *Cupressus sempervirens*.



All Saints Anglican Church image Lyn Oliver

St Lennards' splendid avenue of mature olive trees bid us welcome to the site granted to Edward Pommery Barrett-Lennard in 1829. The house, rebuilt after a fire in 1861, is perched on a rise overlooking a creek in which there is an extensive clump of bamboo. The gardens included rambling roses, liquidambar, stone pine (*Pinus pinea*) and the ubiquitous pomegranate tree. The place now operates as a horse riding centre for people with disabilities and Jan Pavlinovich explained the dilemma of retaining a heritage property while adapting it to suit current use. We were privileged to tour the house much of which is in original condition with beautiful colonial furniture.

Caversham House overlooking the Swan River was our final port of call. The land was first granted to Frederick Mangles and bought by Robert de Burgh in 1858. The site is now a function centre with extensive topiary gardens and contemporary landscaping. Joy of joys! There were enough goodies left from morning tea for us to enjoy a further delicious snack to fortify us for the return to Guildford.

Our thanks to Ros Stewart, whose idea it was to have a bus tour to raise funds for the Historic Gardens exhibition, to Max Stewart, John Viska and Trish Edwards for their various areas of expertise and knowledge and to Ros again – CATERER EXTRAORDINAIRE! Darren was applauded for his courtesy, safe driving and local knowledge.

Sunday 1 July

Early Nurseries in The City of Vincent A talk by John Viska

Eighteen members and visitors gathered in the Grove Library to follow John on an illustrated “walk” of the nurseries which operated in the area in the late 19th / early 20th century. The various wetlands north of the city provided ideal opportunities for nurserymen – who were able to propagate directly in the ground and by the use of glass bell jars.

A mulberry farm was established at Claisebrook in the 1870's with the intention of fostering a silk industry but it was not viable. There were plantings of citrus and vines to feed the growing colony. With the gold rush came the Chinese market gardeners to provide for an increasing population. Joseph Wylde was advertising conifers - araucarias and pines. The growing rail network became very important to the nursery industry.

To meet ratepayer requests for street trees the City of Perth established a nursery stock for which was supplied by Hamel Nursery at Waroona. Brigatti established Forest Hill Nursery on the corner of William and Forrest Sts Mount Lawley. The nursery offered ornamentals, vegetables and hardy shrubs.

Roworths' is the only nursery of that era to have 'lasted the distance', it's now Landsdale and is wholesaler specialising in roses. Many thanks to John for another well researched talk.

National Management Committee news

New Patron: Tim Entwisle has accepted the role of the Society's next Patron. Professor Entwisle is the Director and Chief Executive of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. Tim will open the Conference in Mittagong and has agreed to be a guest speaker at the dinner.

Other Items of Interest

Heritage Roses in Australia Saturday 4th August 1.45 for 2.00 pm at The Grove Library cnr Stirling Highway & Leake St, Peppermint Grove Afternoon tea with the author. Gillian Lilleyman will give an illustrated talk on her research which led to the publication of *A Garden on the Margaret The Path to Old Bridge House* (2011). The study of the botanical and historical significance of Bridge House and the Pierce sisters' garden uncovered links to other families of yesteryear in the Margaret River region and *Pioneer Daughter: the Diary of Frances Louisa (Fanny) Brockman (nee Bussell)* edited and annotated by Gillian is the result of further research. The diary was written between September 1872 not long after her 21st birthday – June 1905 and provides a fascinating insight into the daily life of a young woman, her family, friends and way of life. Gillian will have copies of her books for sale.

Cost: \$5.00 **RSVP** to Val 9299 6868

The Kings Park Festival takes place in September. Visit the website for further information kingsparkfestival.com.