

ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017



**AUSTRALIAN
GARDEN
HISTORY
SOCIETY**

Annual Report of the Australian Garden History Society Inc. for the year ending 30 June 2017

Patron: Sue Ebury - Countess of Wilton

Office Bearers

Chairman: Richard Heathcote, Vice-Chairman: Dr Jessica Hood, Secretary: Roslyn Burge, Treasurer: Elizabeth Teed, Public Officer: John Maurer.

National Management Committee Elected Members

Bronwyn Blake, Roslyn Burge, Dr Jessica Hood, John Maurer, Dr Ruth Morgan, Stuart Read, Elizabeth Teed

National Management Committee State Representatives

- New South Wales: Dr Meg Probyn
- Australian Capital Territory: Kay Johnston
- Victoria: Wendy Dwyer
- South Australia: Elizabeth Ganguly
- Western Australia: Carmel O'Halloran
- Tasmania: Lynne Paul
- Queensland: Wendy Lees (Feb 2017)

Journal Editor: Dr Bernadette Hince
National Executive Officer: Phoebe La Gerche-Wijsman (March 2017)
Membership and Marketing: Georgina Ponce de Leon

Chairman's Report

The Society has had a challenging year 2016/17 and the National Management Committee was required to spend considerable time examining carefully the management and structure of our business operation as well as considering at its Annual Planning Day how we should use our 40th anniversary in 2020.

The annual conference was a high point. Its Canberra-centric theme *The Scientist in the Garden* was highly engaging and a great success. The program of speakers and the garden visits served to remind us of the entwined nature of science and gardening, especially in the development of our national capital since its establishment last century. The conference also reflected the need for us to be vigilant in sustaining our cultural landscapes today through advocacy. There were many high points in the conference but the dinner speech delivered by Marion Halligan proved an inspired choice for her evocation of suburban gardening and its bountiful rewards in Canberra circa 1960.

In the second half of the year our National Executive Officer resigned. Phoebe La Gerche-Wijsman had served the Society for five years and brought the organisation more fully into the digital era. Her efficient and effective management of the national office was greatly appreciated, as was her work on developing partnerships with empathetic organisations that served to increase the Society's reputation and influence. When I took up the role of Chairman two years ago it was with the assurance of Phoebe's capabilities as an administrator and her astute awareness of the membership's sensitivities. Our search for a suitable replacement and the interregnum since her departure has revealed our good fortune in having had the benefit of her service.

It was unfortunate that our plans for the 2017 conference to take place in Hamilton, New Zealand, had to be postponed with trans-Tasman plan re-scheduled for 2019. However; the Victorian Branch stepped in to the breach and agreed to host the 2017 conference based in Melbourne, for which we are most grateful.

GOVERNANCE: FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Finance and Investments

Our financial position continues to be sound, but membership recruitment and retention are still important, and so the National Management Committee (NMC) is encouraging branches to embrace the actions outlined in the Marketing Strategy to continue to increase our membership numbers.

The NMC has established an Endowment Fund to secure the future of the Society and during the year the Finance Sub-Committee tendered advice on how this money should be invested to improve returns at an acceptable level of risk. The Society is grateful to the Committee, including John Dwyer, Alan Read and Tom Hogg, for their support.

Insurance and Risk Management

The NMC is responsible for ensuring there are adequate policies in relation to overseeing and managing risk and providing adequate public liability and voluntary workers insurance. There were no alterations to these policies this year.

National Management Committee (NMC)

The NMC met face-to-face on three occasions, in Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney, and held three telephone meetings. In addition to its regular meetings the NMC held a Planning Day in Melbourne in late February 2017.

Sub Committees and Working Groups

As the newly elected members of the National Management Committee, Bronwyn Blake and Stuart Read joined a number of subcommittees.

Advocacy Subcommittee

Meg Probyn (Convener), Stuart Read and Carmel O'Halloran

Editorial Advisory Committee

Roslyn Burge (Convener), Ruth Morgan, Colleen Morris, Julie Collins, Patsy Vizents, Felicity Watson and Ray Choate

Engagement Working Group

Jessica Hood (Convener), Bronwyn Blake, Ruth Morgan, Richard Aitken, Christina Dyson, Georgina Ponce de Leon and National Executive Officer (NEO)

Finance Advisory Committee

Elizabeth Teed, John Dwyer, Tom Hogg and Alan Reid

Kindred Spirits Fund Committee

Ray Choate, Elizabeth Teed, John Dwyer and Colleen Morris

Oral History and Archives Working Group

Roslyn Burge (Convener), John Maurer

Recording Gardens Working Group

Stuart Read (Convener), Lainie Lawson and Elizabeth Ganguly

Symposiums and Forums Working Group

Richard Heathcote, Stuart Read, and Jessica Hood

Website Upgrade Working Group

Jessica Hood, Lachlan Garland, Georgina Ponce de Leon, Elizabeth Teed and NEO

PROGRAM: AGHS JOURNAL, TOURS, ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT

JOURNAL

Australian Garden History

Our journal *Australian Garden History* continues to achieve high quality and relevance and additional contact with members was extended with the issue of four electronic newsletters (E news).

The Journal has continued as a quarterly publication with Editor Dr Bernadette Hince bringing fresh and dynamic approaches to the content whilst sustaining the standards carefully set in place. The role of the Editorial Advisory Committee under Roslyn Burge's Chairship should be acknowledged

TOURS

The Society conducted its most successful Pre and Post Conference tours in October 2016 and a very successful tour of the Greek Islands in June 2017, under the inspiring leadership of Trisha Dixon.

The Society thanks Trisha for her continued commitment in providing wonderful adventures for our members.

ADVOCACY

Landscapes at Risk – Watch and Action list

In 2016/17 the National Management Committee and Branch Representatives prepared a list of landscapes from around the country that are at risk and developed a 'Watch and Action' list. It is hoped that this list will assist the Society in having a stronger focus on its Advocacy role as part of the Society's Mission Statement.

ENGAGEMENT

Membership

Total members at 30 June 2016 compared with the previous two years are as follows:

As at 30 June 2016	As at 30 June 2015	As at 30 June 2014
1708	1772	1837

The number of members has dropped over the last twelve months. Although we have gained many new members, many of our existing membership are ageing and resigning from the Society.

Website

The Society's website was relaunched with a redeveloped site designed to be far easier to use than the previous versions. The Society's social media presence, under the management of the National Executive Officer and the Membership and Marketing assistant has excelled, with people across the country and the globe 'following' and 'liking' us. I encourage you all to engage with these sites, as well as the website to keep abreast of our events and news items.

Volunteer Lachlan Garland has continued in assisting the National Executive Officer in maintaining the website. We are very grateful to Lachlan for his expertise and commitment to the improvement and maintenance of the website.

PROJECTS:

Gardens + Environment, Oral History, Recording Gardens, Publishing And Grants

PUBLISHING AND GRANTS

Planting Dreams: Shaping Australian Gardens

Due to the large grant as Principal Sponsor (of \$25,000) to the State Library of NSW in June 2015, no other projects were supported in 2016-17.

Gardens + Environment

Editor Dr Ruth Morgan has worked steadily over the last 12 months seeking co-publishing support from a variety of organisations. Funds from the Nina Crone Fund have been set aside to assist in the future publication.

Kindred Spirits Fund

This fund was established in 1999 with the proceeds from the generous bequest of the late Joan Law-Smith of her book *Kindred Spirits* and has been generously supported by a number of our members. Money in the Kindred Spirits Fund is invested with the Myer Family Company and a term deposit. Only the income of the Fund is spent, thereby preserving the capital.

In 2015/16 the following publications were funded

- *Weeds* John Dwyer (\$5000)
- *Recording Your Garden: A guide* Eliot Cooper (\$5000)

ORAL HISTORY

The Northern New South Wales sub-Branch ran a very successful Oral History Workshop in Armidale in 2017. The enthusiastic subcommittee of Roslyn Burge and John Maurer has seen Stage two of the AGHS Oral History project be embraced by the Branches.

Branches / Conferences

Branches

The work of the branches is centrally important to ensuring gardens and cultural landscapes across Australia are studied, conserved and protected. Details of branch functions, advocacy and projects follow this report and are a testament to the breadth of activities that the AGHS participates in across Australia. This year has seen an increase in the quality and as such, the attendance of Branch events. Many Branches have embraced new ideas for Branch events and are starting to see their Branches reinvigorated by the energy and enthusiasm from new members to the Society.

Branch newsletters are an important component in maintaining member interest in local issues and activities at a branch level. Branches are to be commended on the high standard of these newsletters, which are available via the website.

Once again the Branches have excelled themselves in the last year with a rich and varied program of events; from self-drive tours to working bees, monthly lecture programs to an academic symposium and a National Conference.

The Society acknowledges all the members who volunteer their time to planning these events and ensuring all attendees have an enjoyable and informative experience.

In particular, the Society and its members are very fortunate that each year a Branch continues to commit to the organisation and running of the national conferences which is an invaluable contribution to the Society.

ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCES

- **Canberra, ACT** 14 – 16 October 2016
The 2016 Conference was planned around the Canberra-centric theme *The Scientist in the Garden*, chosen because of Canberra's strong scientific approach to all forms of gardening since its founding.
The Conference was a great success thanks to the committee steered by Margie Bourke and the ACT Monaro Riverina Branch.
- **Melbourne, Victoria** 27 - 29 October 2017
38th National Conference will be based at the State Library of Victoria Melbourne with the theme of *Marvellous Melbourne – The Challenge of Change*. The Victorian Branch Melbourne Conference Committee is led by Lisa Tuck.
- **Bowral, Southern Highlands** 2018
39th National Conference planning is well under way by the Southern Highlands Branch Conference Committee led by Dr Meg Probyn.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to our patron Sue Ebury, Countess of Wilton, for her support for the Society over the past year. All members of the NMC give their valuable time to ensure our affairs run smoothly. I thank all NMC members for their support and contribution over the past year, and for the harmonious spirit they bring to the management of the Society.

Our thanks go to the National Executive Officer Phoebe La Gerche-Wijsman who completed her fifth year with the Society but left our employment in March to take up another position. The Society is particularly grateful to Marketing Assistant Georgina Ponce de Leon who has increased her role to support the administration of the Society as well as continuing with membership, promotion and social media work. Bernadette Hince has again edited our journal to the highest standard and her work is much appreciated.

To conclude I should like to thank our hard working national office team and all of our membership who, in our 38th year, have supported the aims of the Society in whatever way they have been able.

Richard Heathcote National Chair

Branch Reports

ACT Monaro Riverina Branch

OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Sue Byrne; Deputy Chair: Judy Pearce; Secretary: Nancy Clarke; Treasurer: Helen Elliot, NMC rep: Kay Johnston

Committee: Bronwyn Blake, Wendy Dodd, Greg Johnson, Helen Wilson, Marie Wood

Newsletter editor: Judy Pearce

FUNCTIONS

- Annual Lecture after the AGM: Leonie Norton – *Marianne Collinson Campbell: A Privileged Life, 1827 – 1903*
- A day on the Monaro: visit to gardens at Delegate, Bombala, Nimmitabel and Cooma
- *Contour 556*, a new public sculpture event on Lake Burley Griffin foreshore: guided walk with curator Neil Hobbs
- 2016 National Conference: *The Scientist in the Garden*
- Visit to Pialligo Estate followed by Christmas drinks and Branch 30th anniversary celebration in the garden of Pauline and Richard Richards, Pialligo
- Guided tour of the National Gallery of Australia exhibition: *Versailles – Treasures from the Palace*
- Visit to garden of Neil Hobbs and Karina Harris of Harris Hobbs Landscapes, Red Hill
- AGHS information stall at National Trust ACT Open Day at Gungahlin Homestead
- AGHS/National Trust joint event for Heritage Week: Belconnen Ramble – Walk and talks at the sites of former homesteads Charnwood and Palmerville
- Visit to Gallery of Gardens at the National Arboretum: talk by Paulene Cornish
- AGHS/ Friends of the Classics Museum joint event: talk by Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Minchin – *The Garden in the Ancient Roman World: What Can We Learn from Pompeii and Herculaneum?*
- AGHS/Friends of the National Library of Australia joint event: talk by Sue Ebury – *Visionary or Vandal? Lancelot 'Capability' Brown and the English Landscape*

ADVOCACY

- Written submissions were made to the National Capital Authority commenting on the City to the Lake Development, Acton Peninsula Precinct Draft Structure Plan, and Kings and Commonwealth Avenues Draft Design Strategy. Comments were also submitted to the ACT government expressing the Branch's concerns regarding development plans for Haig Park. All projects are still pending.
- Our Branch continues to support the work of the Lake Burley Griffin Guardians advocating Commonwealth heritage listing of Lake Burley Griffin and a review of the large scale commercial and residential development planned for the West Basin foreshore.
- Letter of support for the Red Hill Regenerators who are seeking ACT Heritage Council listing for Charles Weston's red flowering plantings on Red Hill, Canberra.

PROJECTS

Planting Memories – ANZAC Centenary Local Grant

Our Branch was successful in obtaining an ANZAC Centenary Local Grant in 2015. On Thursday 16 October 2016, on the eve of the AGHS National Conference, three stainless steel panels designed by Mariana Rollgejser and placed opposite the English Garden close to the Yarralumla Nursery, were unveiled by Gai Brodtmann MP. Geoff Page's poem *The Forester*, which honours the young men from the Canberra region who fought in World War 1, is inscribed on one of the panels. Thanks to Nancy Clarke, Anna Howe and Marie Wood for negotiating the many avenues to see the project realised.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The past twelve months have been most memorable and extremely busy. The annual AGHS Conference held in Canberra exceeded all expectations with a most stimulating speakers' program and outstanding garden visits. The Conference Committee convened by Margie Bourke is to be congratulated for the diligence and expertise applied to making the Conference a success.

My thanks go to a creative and dedicated Branch Committee for again providing our membership with a diverse program of events and talks. The planning, organising and reporting of functions is much appreciated.

I would like to add sincere thanks to the three members who retired from the Committee during the year. Margie Bourke, Anna Howe and Lainie Lawson brought special skills and enthusiastic energy not only to the Conference but also to our Branch projects. Their contribution is truly valued.

At the 2017 Branch AGM Helen Elliot, our extremely professional treasurer, completed her nine-year term of office on the Committee (five of them as treasurer). Our Branch has been most fortunate to have had access to Helen's knowledge and diligence not only for Branch activities but particularly for the intricate accounting procedures for the Conference. The Committee and Branch membership sincerely thank Helen for her commitment to the Society.

Sue Byrne Chair

Queensland Branch

OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Ann Wegener, Vice-Chair: John Taylor, Secretary: Janice Hiller, Treasurer: Elizabeth Teed.

Committee: Maurice Wilson, Wendy Lees, Margaret Kirkland and Thom Blake. Newsletter Editor: Margie Barram

Following our recent AGM, the Queensland Branch hopes that it can continue to offer members some events.

The new committee met recently and is currently working out a program.

Discussion took place about sharing information and events between other like-minded groups as a way to raise our profile. The recent talk by Stuart Read was well attended and held in conjunction with Friends of Brisbane Botanic Gardens.

Our enthusiastic and generous secretary Lois Closter has offered her residence as a venue for the Branch Christmas Party to be held on Sunday 10 December 2017.

Ann Wegener Chair

South Australian Branch

OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair and NMC Branch Rep: Elizabeth Ganguly; Vice-Chair, Richard Heathcote; Secretary: Julie Tolley; Treasurer: Andrew Plumer

Committee: Ray Choate, Jeff Jenkinson, Patricia Michell, Richard Nolan, Newsletter Co-editors Elizabeth Dobson, Pamela Tonkin, Pamela Mayer

FUNCTIONS

2015/2016 AGM was held in August over a delectable lunch at Carrick Hill. Our guest speaker Richard Heathcote, AGHS National Chairperson, shared anecdotes of his travels in the UK and visit to the Chelsea Garden Show. Di Wilkinson and David Inverarity were farewelled from the SA committee and Ray Choate although continuing on the committee was thanked for his many years of service as the SA chairperson.

September - AGHS SA Travels- The Old Stock Route To Poltalloch Station

November - David Roche Foundation House Museum Tour

2016 Christmas Party was held at Patricia and Edwin Michel's property 'The Wildflowers' at Basket Range in the Adelaide Hills. It was a delight to visit this interesting and historic garden.

February – guided walk of the First Creek wetlands in the Adelaide Botanic Garden led by Dr Lucy Sutherland and Andy Hart, followed by dinner at the Hackney Hotel.

April – 'Nor'West Bend' station at Morgan, a day trip exploring SA rural settlement

May - Australia's Influential Garden People, Dr Anne Vale – an Illustrated Talk (joint event with Mediterranean Garden Society)

June - 'Plant selection when Gardening in arid regions of the Driest State' by John Zwar

ADVOCACY

- The Branch continues its support for a South Australian bid for UNESCO World Heritage listing for the "working agrarian landscapes" -- vineyards and farmland in the Adelaide Hills, Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale. Application for National Heritage listing currently under way.
- Mitcham Railway Station Garden and car park trees – discussion with council and support of volunteer gardeners
- State Government Heritage Listing – proposal for local heritage reforms, meetings attended and letter written to Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure
- Martindale Hall – supporting the National Trust
- Significant 'Black Walnut' in Glen Osmond that straddles a boundary – under threat from development, letter of support to part owner of tree
- Advice/Inquiries for assistance from:
 - Archivist Anglican Diocesan Office re AGHS past involvement at Bishop's Court, Nth Adelaide
 - Committee of Charles Sturt Memorial Museum re garden restoration
 - Unley Historical Society re planting of Washington palms to commemorate WW1 soldiers

PROJECTS

Garden Restoration – a Garden Restoration Grant of \$4000 (\$2000 from the SA Branch + \$2000 from the National Office) has been approved to assist long-term AGHS members Dr Ian and Mrs Janie Smylie with the restoration of the circa 1880s gazebo located in their garden at ‘Wensleydale’, Stirling. The editor of the AGHS journal has already requested a journal article on the restoration, which is being researched and written by member Sandra Kearney.

Garden Recording – The SA branch has undertaken to record the garden at ‘The Cedars’, the family home of artist Sir Hans Heysen. ‘The Cedars’ is now owned and managed by the Hans Heysen Foundation and the SA AGHS committee have negotiated our involvement with this iconic SA and national treasure. The initial stage of the recording, a survey of the garden boundaries, the buildings and hard landscaping features is nearing completion. The survey is being done by the Stirling surveying company Olden and van Senden, who are supporting the AGHS initiative by a significant fee reduction.

AGHS Oral History Project – In SA we have a wealth of gardening knowledge, experience, history and stories that have yet to be recorded. Revival of this project in SA has been flagged for action in the near future.

SA CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

I wish to thank SA branch committee for their assistance and support during my first year as Chairperson and the state membership for their participation in Branch activities. The SA branch membership remains steady in number (with 90 – 100 members). The branch has continued to function broadly in support of the mission of the Australian Garden History Society – to promote awareness and conservation of significant gardens and cultural landscapes through engagement, research, advocacy and activities.

The theme for this year was ‘Gardening in the Driest State’, with some of our visits and presentations related in some way to how gardeners/gardens past, present and future have coped/will cope with SA’s tough climate.

The branch has circulated five newsletters in 2016 – 17, with Ray Choate as editor assisted by Elizabeth Ganguly. The current editorial team is Pamela Mayer, Elizabeth Dobson and Pamela Tonkin and a ‘cutting edge’ new look newsletter called *POLLen and DiRT* is currently in production.

Andrew Plumer our new treasurer has been extremely busy revising the branch accounts and bringing all our banking online. This has made it a lot easier to pay accounts – no more chasing around getting two signatures on cheques or having to make a trip to the bank to deposit cheques.

The SA branch is now using online booking via TryBooking for any events that involve a financial outlay. This will mean that members and guests are required to make a payment at the time of booking a ticket for the event. The use of online event booking brings SA in line with other state branches and by providing members with a committee phone contact any problems are easily solved.

Congratulations to Dr Julie Tolley on the publication of her article ‘Ann Jacob’s Barossa garden’ in the October 2016 issue of the *Australian Garden History* journal.

Elizabeth Ganguly Chair

Southern Highlands Branch

OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Jennifer Carroll, Treasurer: John Biffin, Secretary: Jane Clifford, Vice-Chair, NMC Representative and Newsletter Editor: Meg Probyn

Committee members: Pamela Bennett, Jo de Beaujeu, Ray Bradley, Narelle Bowern (resigned May), Lyn Barrett (co-opted May)

FUNCTIONS

- Talks by Stuart Read on ‘Paul Sorensen in the Highlands and Illawarra’; and Paul Kirkpatrick on ‘The Art, Skill and Science of Pruning’.
- A trip to Sydney to visit the Royal Botanic Gardens, the ‘Planting Dreams’ exhibition at the State Library, and the ‘Florilegium – Sydney’s Painted Garden’ exhibition at the Museum of Sydney.

- The Christmas Party in the beautiful garden at Oldbury Farm, one of the most important historic houses in the Southern Highlands.
- Jazz in the Garden at Prittlewell – again this event proved extremely popular.
- Talks by Howard Tanner, curator of 'Planting Dreams – Grand Garden Designs' and Myles Baldwin, designer of Possumwood, over lunch at Robertson, followed by a visit to Possumwood.
- Tour to Victoria for nine days, visiting gardens around Beechworth, the Dandenongs, the Mornington Peninsula and Jindivick. We were very pleased to welcome seven travellers from other AGHS branches.

ADVOCACY

A letter was written to Wingecarribee Shire Council expressing concern over the future of an avenue of *Quercus palustris* and a row of heritage camellias, which are threatened with removal due to the planned upgrade of Station Street, Bowral. The pin oaks form the entry into Bowral, and the camellias form a unique collection that represents an important part of the garden history of the Southern Highlands. A plan has just been received by Wingecarribee Shire Council and community consultation should soon take place.

Submissions made to:

Wingecarribee Shire Council objecting to the proposed siting of additional villas being built on an adjoining property to Milton Park Estate. These would have interfered with the visual connection between iconic parts of the Milton Park garden and its rural vistas, which are a distinct characteristic of the Estate. Council rejected the villas in question.

Wingecarribee Shire Council objecting to a tourist development in Sutton Forest, due to the form and appearance being unsympathetic to, and intrusive in, the Sutton Forest cultural landscape. The proposal was withdrawn.

NSW Department of Planning and Environment re the Hume Coal Project EIS, requesting the project be refused due to unacceptable risk to the groundwater table and the landscape of Sutton Forest.

PROJECTS

The 'Sorensen Industrial Landscape Project' is ongoing.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS CHAIR'S REPORT

The Branch has again had a busy and successful year, with a variety of events that have been well attended by members and guests. This year's tour to Victoria was very much enjoyed. Six editions of our newsletter *Inflorescence* have been published. Organisation of the 2018 Conference has commenced and is well advanced. Our thanks go to retired Committee members – Narelle Bownern, Julianna Greenane and Don Rees – whose hard work has been very much appreciated.

Jennifer Carroll Chair

Sydney and Northern NSW Branch

OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: James Quoyile; Vice-Chair: Tempe Beaven; Secretary: Anne Galbraith; Treasurer: David Low
Committee members: Dr Pamela Bell, Christine Hay, Angela Low, Gina Plate, Anne Smith and Susan North (co-opted and resigned 30 June).

Northern NSW Sub-Branch Office Bearers

Chair: Bill Oates; Deputy Chairs: Graham Wilson and Liz Chappell; Secretary: Helen Wilson; Treasurer: Elton Squires.

Saumarez Heritage Rose Garden Committee Co-chairs: John Maurer and Helen Oates

Committee: Dar Brookes, Liz Chappell, Cath Gordon, Helen Nancarrow, Jillian Oppenheimer OAM, Marilyn Pidgeon, Elton Squires, Ian Telford, Lynne Walker, Anne White, Graham Wilson

EVENTS

- July: Female Factory, Parramatta, walk led by Gai Hendrikson. A very special site indeed with a collection of buildings by significant architects in repose on the banks of the Parramatta River
- August: Tim Entwisle – talked about the connectivity between the Botanic Gardens of Melbourne and Sydney.

- September: Two exhibitions opened - *Florilegium: Sydney's Painted Garden* curated by Colleen Morris at the Museum of Sydney, and *Planting Dreams: Shaping Australian Gardens*, curated by Richard Aitken at the State Library of NSW. Both exhibitions were accompanied by catalogues that were in part funded by the AGHS.
- November: An illustrated talk by Gina Plate on *Yasmar* – the last remaining villas Estate – Haberfield.
- November: The Sydney branch Christmas get together was a great success. Graham and Anne Smith hosted the event in their wonderful and very large Turramurra garden.
- February: Judy Fakes - managing disputes with neighbours over trees.
- March: Stuart Read walked us through the reshaping of the English landscape by Lancelot 'Capability' and his influences
- April: Richard Heathcote, National Chair of our Society and Director of the Carrick Hill historic house and Garden in Adelaide, shared with us the garden and house at Malmaison, the country house outside Paris which Empress Josephine shared with Napoleon
- May: *St Thomas' Anglican Church and Cemetery at Enfield*, resting place of many esteemed gardeners
- June: Geoffrey Hull, a brilliant and engaging speaker who spoke about the naming of things and then applied that to the field of phytonymy, or what flower names tell us
- July: *Callan Park*, Rozelle - walk led by Stuart Read and Roslyn Burge through the extensive grounds of Callan Park – the extraordinary botanical garden of the Inner West.

ADVOCACY

- Juniper Hall – objection lodged with Woollahra Council to proposed redevelopment recommending that they refuse the proposal and preserve the significance of the reinstated front garden and landscape context of this exceptional heritage item
- O'Connell Street Public School, Parramatta (The old Kings School) – objection lodged stating that the proposal should recognise and preserve the significance of its rich landscape heritage including retention of visually prominent landscape features.
- Female Factory Parramatta petition signed by many members.
- The Sydney branch's submission to Woollahra Council's plaques scheme to suggest 7 local places with a garden history connection worthy of plaques continues to provide a fertile source for the council and this year Thomas Sutcliffe Mort will be marked by a plaque at the frontage of 11 Greenoaks Avenue, Darling Point, to commemorate his significance to the local area.
- A letter congratulating Dr Peter Watts (founding member of AGHS) on his award of Honorary Doctorate from the University of Melbourne
- Sydney branch is very pleased to hear of the success of the AGHS sponsorship of Georgina Reid's blog *The Planthunter* – we understand our membership has increased as a direct result of this initiative.
- *Saumarez* was acknowledged with an award at the 2017 National Trust of Australia (NSW) – raising the profile of garden history.
- *Chau Chak Wing Museum* – a submission on the Department of Planning's Major Projects site in response to the exhibition of the proposed building on the exceptional landscape opposite the Great Hall at the University of Sydney and the environmental impact statement that supports the development. The AGHS strongly recommends that the proposed building not go ahead and that the Minister and the Heritage Council reject the proposal.
- *Varroville*, Varroville – supported State Heritage Register curtilage extension to better protect the farmhouse setting.

ORAL HISTORY

Roslyn Burge and John Maurer are leading the way on this and we take this opportunity to prompt our members to suggest possible candidates for recording.

PROJECTS

- We continue to allot \$500 per annum to a potential travelling exhibition.
- We recently offered the Eryldene Trust \$2000 for urgent arboriculture work in their garden.
- We have \$500 set aside for a plaque to commemorate Charles Fraser at St John's cemetery Parramatta.
- 3 high quality editions of newsletter *Branch Cuttings* by co-editors, Jeanne Villani and Stuart Read.

SYDNEY and NORTHERN NSW CHAIR'S REPORT

I would like to thank all committee members of the Sydney branch and sub-branch committees for their time and energy, with a special mention of those not standing for re-election, Anne Galbraith (Secretary), Dr Pamela Bell and Susan North. They have all, in their own way, given so much to the improvement of the way the branch

operates. I congratulate all Northern members who have tirelessly created Saumarez's ever improving Heritage Rose Garden and for the award they received at the National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards in May. I thank all involved in making our events and newsletter as rich, enjoyable and stimulating as they are. In the end it is our membership who enable the good work that the Society is able to do to conserve and protect historic gardens and promote garden history to a broadening audience.

James Quoye Chair

Tasmanian Branch

OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Lynne Paul, Vice chair: Prue Slatyer, Secretary: Tom Lyons, Treasurer: Greg Clota

Committee members: Bruce Chetwynd, Mike Evans, Liz Kerry, Jennifer Stackhouse

FUNCTIONS

- 24 July, AGM and lecture by Dot Evans, 'The land, the ability, the power and the purse'
- 18 September, lecture by Dr Greg Moore, 'Urban Trees and Sustainable & Liveable Cities'
- 23 October, garden visit and lunch at High Peak, Neika – cancelled
- 26 November, Garden visit to The Jolly Farmer at Perth; Christmas lunch at Tahara, Deloraine
- 4 March, Specialist nursery and garden visits to Woodbridge Nursery, Crawleighwood Gardens, Woodbank Gardens and Rare Plants
- 21 April, Garden visits to Old WesleyDale and Wychwood, Mole Creek
- 27 May, Lecture by Paul Thompson, 'The Australian Garden at Cranbourne: the process of design'
- 20 June, Lecture by Stuart Read, 'Three Ss: Singapore, Spain and Sydney: how modern botanic gardens are adapting to stay relevant'
- 25 June, lecture by Stuart Read, 'Brown, Green and other colours and players. Capability Brown and contemporaries' 'English landscape parks and selected south west UK gardens'

ADVOCACY

The Branch is concerned about the destruction of historic plantings associated with road widening of the Midland Highway and has done some preliminary investigation into this.

PROJECTS

The Home Hill Landscape Management Plan for the garden of the former home of Joseph and Dame Enid Lyons is being funded by a grant from AGHS Restoration Fund for Historic Gardens, matched by a grant from the Tasmanian Branch. Once the plan is complete, the Branch hopes to continue working on this project, leading to the physical restoration of the garden.

Blue Gum, the Branch newsletter, has returned after an absence. Jennifer Stackhouse is assisting with its publication.

The Character of the Blossom, a book on the wildflower art of Tasmanian MA Hope was published in 2015 by the Allport Museum and Art Gallery with the support of the AGHS Kindred Spirits Fund matched by a grant from the Tasmanian Branch. These funds have been recouped and some of the profit now being generated is donated to the Allport Museum and Art Gallery.

Gift cards featuring wildflowers by Tasmanian botanical artists continue to be popular and contribute to the branch's income.

TASMANIAN CHAIR'S REPORT

The 2016-2017 year has once again provided a most interesting series of visits and lectures. Membership of the Tasmania Branch has remained static with about 90 members.

I thank all those who have given their time on our committee this year. This small group works very hard to achieve the objectives of AGHS, as well as giving members the sheer pleasure of visiting some of the beautiful properties with which Tasmania is blessed.

Lynne Paul Chair

Victorian Branch

OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Lisa Tuck; Deputy Chair: Lorraine Powell; Treasurer: Anna Long; Minute Secretary: Robyn Robins; Advocacy/NMC Rep.: Wendy Dwyer; Publicity: Sarah Wood and Lindy Neylan; Working Bees: Fran Faul; Catering: Annie Woodside

FUNCTIONS

2016

August 8 – AGM and Lecture 3 Trees and Neighbours, Dr Judy Fakes

October 14–16 – Canberra Conference

November 19 – *En Plein Air* Charabanc tour to the Dandenongs – Fran and Malcolm Faul

December 6 – Christmas Walk and Talk Blackburn – Fran and Malcolm Faul

2017

March 20 – Lecture 1 – Historic Wombat Park – Miffy Gilbert

April 10 – Lecture 2 – Mount Boninyong Homestead Garden in Context – Antoinette Birkenbeil and Celia Burnham Scott

May 18 – Lecture 3 – Robert Fortune, a Plant Hunter in the Orient – Alistair Watts

ADVOCACY

Camperdown Botanic Gardens

System Garden, University of Melbourne

Ballarat Botanical Gardens, North Gatekeepers Lodge

Cruden Farm

HV McKay Gardens, Sunshine

Melbourne Metro Rail Project

WORKING BEES

2016

Mooleric (18 September)

Turkeith (13 November)

2017

Medlow (19 March)

Longacres (21 May)

Belmont (18 June)

Turkeith (16 July)

PROJECTS

Wombat Park – Miffy Gilbert: complete

Smith's Nursery – Libby Peck: Project on hold

Murndal History – Helen Doyle: complete

Mount Boninyong – Antoinette Birkenbeil: Diaries digitised, Oral History in progress

VICTORIAN CHAIR'S REPORT

The Victorian Branch has been active in all areas across 2016 and 2017 with many interesting events organised for members and friends by members of the Committee. Fran and Mal Faul created an adventure by charabanc 'En Plein Air: Gardens of the Impressionists' where we followed the Heidelberg School of artists down the Yarra River to Box Hill and Eaglemont, putting ourselves in view of such works as 'Golden Summers' by Tom Roberts, before moving into the Dandenong's for a boxed lunch at a private garden. After lunch we visited the gardens at

the studios of artists Tom Roberts and Fred McCubbin (and saw firsthand the damage wrought by sambar deer in the hills.) Fran has also continued to cheerfully organise our working bees, assisting owners and marshalling the volunteers for this most important role of the AGHS. It is always wonderful to hear her say in her report: 'All the tasks we said we would do were done.' Our Christmas function at Blackburn was a splendid affair looking at landscape, history and architecture and then further complemented by a member opening her private Robin Boyd designed house and garden for our picnic.

Our newsletter continues to be the main way we communicate with members, and I thank Lindy Neylan for her professional approach to this task.

We have provided a strong voice for advocacy across a number of issues. One positive outcome is the return to the Ballarat Botanical Gardens of the North Gardens Lodge; however, other issues are ongoing. We also have a voice on the National Trust Landscape Reference Group.

Our lecture series have given us much food for thought, and ranged from the history of Colonial and Federation gardens to collectors to garden designers. The gardens of Wombat Park and Mount Boninyong both featured in the lectures and are very familiar to our working bee attendees. We learned of Robert Fortune and his part in introducing canola into western cultivation as well as his introduction from China of so many of the trees and shrubs featuring at Wombat Park and Mount Boninyong.

In February the Committee took the first tentative steps to create an informal network of similar organisations, inviting representatives from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, National Trust, Dry Stone Wallers amongst others to join us for a conversation.

Then in March, the Victorian Branch Committee also accepted at very short notice the challenge of hosting the 38th Annual Conference, and the planning for 'Marvellous Melbourne in Constant Change' under the leadership of Lisa Tuck, is well under way. The Committee deserves every accolade as they rise to this challenge.

AGHS Victoria is fortunate to have a dedicated and talented group, both on the Committee and across the membership, who are willing to make sure this is a success.

I am quite humbled by their commitment.

This year, two Committee members are retiring: Anna Long (Treasurer) and Lisa Tuck (Immediate Past President). Their contributions have been almost immeasurable. As well as the role of Treasurer, Anna has been involved in our Newsletter, is a cheery presence at the desk for lectures and has played her part in organising our trips. Lisa has been a source of assistance in all areas, particularly as we developed the outline of the 2017 Conference. Her ability to know exactly what needs doing, then getting on with it is inspirational.

Lorraine Powell Chair

West Australian Branch

OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman: John Viska, Secretary: Lynette Petersen, Treasurer: Max Stewart

NMC Representative: Carmel O'Halloran, Membership and Newsletter: Sue Monger, Website: Therese Putland, Roz Stewart.

FUNCTIONS

- The 27th AGM was held on Sunday 14 August 2016 at the Grove Community Centre, Peppermint Grove and was attended by 15 members and 2 guests with 10 apologies. Two committee members Tom Crossen and Allison Varney retired with Max Stewart elected as Treasurer. Following the meeting Julian Donaldson, the newly appointed CEO of the National Trust (WA), addressed the members, outlining the trust's direction and opportunities for involvement with the WA Branch.
- The second event on Sunday 28 August 2016 was a joint function with the Friends of Woodbridge and National Trust (WA) held at the historic property 'Woodbridge'. The Chairman delivered a presentation on Charles Harper and his association with the early nursery and fruit growing Industry in WA. Forty members and guests attended and at the conclusion viewed the house and enjoyed a sumptuous afternoon tea provided by the Friends.
- 'A Day in the Hills' was the third function on Saturday 8 October in the hillside locality of Darlington. It was jointly organised by the WA Branch, Heritage Roses and the Darlington Historical Society. The 24 people who braved the inclement weather visited two private gardens and at the conclusion heard talks on three nurseryman associated with roses in the area at the Darlington Hall.

- Many thanks go to branch member Nataasha Lethbridge and her husband for offering their garden for the Xmas Windup on Sunday 4 December 2016 at their Guilford property. Before taking refreshments, 22 members met at Barker's Bridge reserve to view the progress of the reinstated historic hedge of *Rosa x manettii* then proceeded to the venue. The annual quiz based on Journal articles and the year's functions held at the conclusion went to a third tie breaker before a winner was declared!
- The first function for 2017 that took the form of a talk and a walk at Kings Park on Sunday 9 April was not well attended. The members who were present heard John Viska deliver an informative talk in the board room of the friends of Kings Park. The subject was the use of Australian plants in garden history and following it a walk in the immediate area gave the opportunity to view the older historic plantings of the park.
- On Sunday 7 May 2017 the second event was held in Kalamunda where members met at Stirk's historic Cottage after visiting Denise's Garden in Carmel. Following their inspection members walked through Stirk Park to see the garden around Headingly Hall, another property associated with the pioneering family. Viewed along the way from the fenceline was the garden of the late Mary Hargreaves, an original branch member, the forlorn state stimulating much discussion on the maintenance of mature plantings.

ADVOCACY

The chairman and Caroline Grant, the former chair contacted the National Trust (WA) to raise concerns that the highly significant orchard of the trust's property at The Old Farm Strawberry Hill Albany was being considered as an events area.

PROJECTS

An application was received from the Kalamunda Shire applying for a grant to help with the restoration of a marble plaque on a historic seat in the town centre.

Branch members have participated in working bees held by the National Trust at Woodbridge and Samson House.

On Sunday March 26 2017 Carmel O'Halloran, Roz Stewart, Trish Edwards and Sue Monger assisted with the society's information stall at the annual Guildford Heritage Festival. They distributed the society's publications and recorded the names of people interested in joining the society and receiving our newsletter. Much comment and interest was generated by the display of old gardening tools, terracotta pots and watering cans.

WA BRANCH CHAIR'S REPORT

During the year I have been invited to address six community groups on aspects of WA's garden history and this has provided an opportunity to sell the branch's *Guide to Conserving and Interpreting Gardens in Western Australia* as well as hand out membership brochures. Thanks to retiring committee members Allison Varney and Tom Crossen especially for his assistance as treasurer for the 2014 National Conference.

John Viska Chairman

Treasurer's Report

This year the accounts of the Society show a favourable surplus of \$54,354.

Significant income accounts have been subscriptions \$93,000, the Canberra Conference \$82,400, and Interest of \$16,300.

The conference in Canberra was enjoyable and a financial success and our thanks go to Margie Bourke, Sue Byrne, Helen Elliot, Kay Johnston, Greg Johnson, Nancy Clarke, Judy Pearce, Sue Tuisk, Marie Wood for all their hard work and resulting surplus.

Trisha Dixon organised pre- and post-conference tours that delighted members who travelled with her. Although this year's income was small, the Society appreciates the efforts Trisha makes on its behalf. Indeed, the National Management Committee values the work done by all the volunteers who manage the conference and tours.

The operational costs of the Society are \$204,000 annually. Subscriptions contribute less than half this amount. The journal was produced for \$71,000. \$6000 expenses were incurred on the New Zealand conference before it was decided it was not viable to proceed in 2017.

The redesign of the website now shows the National body represented by a visually stimulating and user-friendly site, costing approximately \$7000. \$5000 was allocated to the development of a revised and electronic version of a *Course Guide on Recording Your Garden* by writer Eliot Cooper. The Western Australian Branch was assisted by matching their contribution of \$5000 for restoration work in Queen's Park, Albany. \$9000 allowed the Society to become principal sponsor of *The Planthunter's* HERITAGE issue in May 2017. Four stories relevant to AGHS were featured. This promotion gave the society exposure to new and wider audiences and links with social media.

Branches undertook other projects for approximately \$46,000. Details of these are given in the Branch Reports.

The Kindred Spirits Fund has a balance of \$206,000. The fund has supported the following publications:

- John Dwyer's *publication Weeds, Plants and People* (\$5000 - \$1250 has been returned following sales)
- Sandi Pullman's research project on Ina Higgins (\$2000)

The resources of the Society are used to fulfil its objectives and input from the members is valued.


The Summary of the Financial statement of the Society for the period of 2016 to 2017 is on the following page. For a copy of the Society's audited financial records for this period, please contact the National office.

Elizabeth Teed Treasurer

THE AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY INC

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30th June, 2017

	NATIONAL	NSW (S/H)	NSW (SYD)	VIC	TAS	SA	ACT	WA	QLD	TOTAL
Net assets on Hand 1/7/2016	635711	18895	20796	39692	39399	27525	23054	17761	9160	831993
RECEIPTS										
Subscriptions	92962									92962
Functions & tours (net)	679	10039	13380	2911	3246	2507	16180	156	-1291	47807
Conference (net)	82478									82478
Sales of publications (net)	186		882		2492					3560
Interest	16336	119	235	354	560	92	184	172	71	18123
Donations	9910		49738	400	75					60123
Kindred Spirits Fund	4447									4447
Sundries	4147	30	0	205	980			437		5799
TOTAL	211145	10188	64235	3870	7353	2599	16364	765	-1220	315299
PAYMENTS										
Audit fees	3800		990		300	220		715	550	6575
Bank fees	179									179
Journal	70639									70639
Merchant Fees	1632									1632
Postage/stationery	4653	336	691	273	127	61	631	139	57	6968
Projects/research	12000	293	20000	1950	5592	500	12458	5000	1017	58810
Sundry expenses	22741	558	2601		1413	195	304		35	27847
Telephone/website	9706									9706
Travelling	3740						180			3920
Wages	74669									74669
TOTAL	203759	1187	24282	2223	7432	976	13573	5854	1659	260945
PROFIT/LOSS	7386	9001	39953	1647	-79	1623	2791	-5089	-2879	54354
Net assets on hand 30/6/2017	643097	27896	60749	41339	39320	29148	25845	12672	6281	886347
Represented by:										
Cash on hand	200				151					351
Cash at bank	233247	12676	42855	9931	12030	4771	5793	3331	6281	330915
Interest bearing deposits	282990	15220	17894	31408	27139	24377	20052	5635		424715
Other Assets	17791							3706		21497
Kindred Spirits Fund	206196									206196
<i>less</i>										
Prepaid Conference Receipts	84664									84664
Other Liabilities	12663									12663
NET FUNDS	643097	27896	60749	41339	39320	29148	25845	12672	6281	886347


ELIZABETH TEED
 TREASURER
 On behalf of the Committee

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the member of Australian Garden History Society Inc.

We have audited the summarised financial report of Australian Garden History Society Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2017 as set out above.

In our opinion, the information reported in the summarised financial report is consistent with the annual statutory financial report from which it is derived and upon which we expressed an unqualified audit opinion in our report to the members dated 7 September 2017. For a better understanding of the scope of our audit, this report should be read in conjunction with our audit report on the annual statutory financial report.

PASCOE WHITTLE

Chartered Accountants



ROWENA WHITTLE

Partner

Sydney,

7 September 2017

Notice of the Thirty Eighth Annual General Meeting of the Australian Garden History Society Inc.

27 October 2017

Notice is hereby given that the Thirty Eighth Annual General Meeting of the Australian Garden History Society Incorporated will be held on Friday 27 October 2017 from 12.25pm at the State Library of Victoria, 179 La Trobe Street, Melbourne.

Business

1. To confirm the Minutes of the Thirty- Seventh Annual General Meeting held in Canberra, ACT - Saturday 15 October 2016
2. To receive the Chairman's Report for the year ended 30 June 2017
3. To receive and consider the financial statement for the year ended 30 June 2017
4. To appoint an auditor for 2017/18
5. To elect members of the National Management Committee
6. General Business

*By order of the National Management Committee
Roslyn Burge, Secretary
1 September 2017*

Objects of the Society

The objects of the Society are:

1. To promote interest in, and research into, significant cultural landscapes and the systematic identifying, recording and restoration of historic gardens, as an important component of Australia's heritage.
2. To actively encourage and support conservation of significant cultural landscapes, historic gardens and plants.
3. To foster the highest standards of conservation and maintenance.
4. To exchange information and liaise with government authorities, organisations and individuals with similar aims and objectives.
5. To provide a forum for discussion and debate and maintain an active advocacy role.
6. To administer and maintain a gift fund for the advancement of education, and the scientific, literary and artistic work of the AGHS and other purposes beneficial to the community.
7. To provide members with a dynamic program through the Branch structure.
8. To provide responsible and efficient administration.