

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018



AUSTRALIAN
GARDEN
HISTORY
SOCIETY

Annual Report of the Australian Garden History Society Inc. for the year ending 30th June 2018

Patron Sue Ebury Countess of Wilton (Dec.April 2018)

Office Bearers

Chair Richard Heathcote

Vice Chair Dr Jessica Hood

Treasurer Elizabeth Teed

Secretary Roslyn Burge

National Management Elected Committee

Bronwyn Blake, John Maurer (Public Officer), Stuart Read, Dr Ruth Morgan

Branch Representatives

Australian Capital Territory Kay Johnson

Victoria Wendy Dwyer

New South Wales Dr Meg Probyn

South Australia Elizabeth Ganguly

Western Australia Carmel O'Halloran

Tasmania Lynne Paul

Queensland Ann Wegener

Journal Editor Dr Bernadette Hince

National Executive Officer Lisa Tuck

Membership Secretary Melinda Neylan

National Chair's Report 2017–18

The Society had a good but testing year in 2017/18 as it sought solutions to three areas that define our organisation. Recruiting a suitable National Executive Officer was solved when Lisa Tuck agreed to take up the role in December 2017. An exceptional leader and past Branch committee member, she had led the Victorian Branch Conference team and delivered a successful and inspiring conference with the theme of *Marvellous Melbourne: The Challenge of Change*.

The year did have a profoundly sad moment with the unexpected death of Sue Ebury, Countess of Wilton, our much-loved patron of the Society. Her warmth and encouragement was always appreciated as she engaged with members at the Society's functions. Sue was a keen gardener and a member since the inception of the Society in 1980. She will be greatly missed.

The next major challenge of the year was to seek a patron who would reflect the aspirations and direction the Society will take over the coming five years. Tim Entwisle, CEO of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens enthusiastically accepted the invitation after a process of canvassing Branch chairs, past National Chairs and the National Management Committee members. Tim is a scientist, broadcaster and leads garden tours whilst also heading up one of the nation's preeminent group of botanic gardens. He was already a member and we welcome him to his new role with the Society.

Special mention must be made of the effort made by the Victorian Branch who created the 2017 conference in half the time it usually takes for this complex annual event. I thank the Victorian members who contributed and ensured that all who attended the conference enjoyed a great program of speakers, garden visits and a truly delightful conference dinner at the Terrace Café in the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Lynne Walker's NZ South Island tour (November 2017) was another milestone for the Society delivering both a cultural and financial success. As a tour participant I can testify to the depth of experience she brought to delivering an itinerary of exceptional gardens and cultural landscapes. The opportunities it gave for personal contact with private garden owners certainly fuelled my confidence in the New Zealand Initiative and the benefits that might accrue from building closer relations with our neighbours across the Tasman and understanding their gardening history.

The NMC had postponed the first attempt at holding a conference in New Zealand during 2017 with the clear intention of revisiting how this could be achieved, with the proviso it delivered more lasting value to the Society. With an eye on the 40th anniversary program in 2020 and considering possible international links, it seemed obvious that our closest neighbour should be our first engagement. *The New Zealand Initiative* was formulated by the NMC to take a more strategic approach as an ongoing project rather than just for a conference. The Society would seek partners for the conference, with a symposium and tours aimed at continuing contact through membership and the journal.

Early in 2018 the NMC established a NZ Conference Working Group with a mixture of NMC and co-opted members (ie. John Maurer, Stuart Read, Lynne Walker, Ann Maurer and Richard Bird). Their task was to fully investigate the logistics of organizing an offshore conference and its program whilst establishing the best location for it to take place. This they achieved and I acknowledge the substantial amount of time and work they have contributed to planning the 2019 conference to be held in Wellington (25–27 October).

During this year of changes the new NEO has continued to provide services to members and enabled the Society to pursue its program and goals. Lisa has improved how we do business and brought order to the Gate Lodge, our national office in Melbourne.

I give special thanks to Elizabeth Teed, our Treasurer, for keeping everything on track during the interregnum between NEOs. Georgina Ponce de Leon Huerta as our part time Marketing and Membership person also played a vital role during this period. She has subsequently left the organization to pursue other interests but I record thanks for her contribution to the Society and wish her well for the future.

I would also like to give special thanks to Dr Bernadette Hince, the *Australian Garden History Journal* editor, for the wonderful publications produced throughout the year. We are very grateful Bernadette has renewed her contract until 30 March 2020.

This has been a substantial year in the Society's history and members can be proud that its National Management Committee, particularly the office bearers, ensured that all the dilemmas and decisions we faced were dealt with thoroughly ensuring that we remain a robust Society.



Richard Heathcote

Sub Committees and Working Groups

Advocacy Subcommittee

M. Probyn (Convenor), S Read and C. O'Halloran

Editorial Advisory Committee (EAC)

R. Burge (Convenor), Dr R. Morgan, C Morris, Dr J Collins, P Vizents, F Watson, R Choate, L Paul

Engagement Working Group

J Hood (Convenor), R Morgan, R Aitken, C Dyson, B Blake, S Read (cc Email), NEO

Finance Advisory Committee

E Teed, J Dwyer, T Hogg and A Reid

Kindred Spirits Fund Committee

R. Choate, E Teed, J Dwyer and C Morris

Oral History Working Group

R. Burge (Convenor), B Blake, J Maurer, H Page, Dr M Probyn, S Read, P Vizents

Gardens and Environment

R Morgan, S Read, NEO

Recording Gardens Working Group

Stuart Read (Convenor), L Lawson, E Ganguly, B Hince, B. Blake

Website Working Group

J Hood, L Garland, B Blake, E Teed and NEO

NZ Conference 2019 Committee

L.Walker, R,Bird, J.Maurer, A.Maurer, S.Read

Branch Reports

ACT/MONARO/RIVERINA BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Chair | Sue Byrne |
| Deputy Chair and Newsletter Editor | Judy Pearce |
| Treasurer | Helen Elliot (from March 2018) |
| State NMC Representative | Kay Johnston and from Aug 2017–March 2018 Treasurer |
| Secretary | Nancy Clarke |
| Committee | Bronwyn Blake (also elected member NMC), Sue Cassidy, Wendy Dodd, Greg Johnson, Helen Wilson, Marie Wood |

Functions

- **Annual Lecture following Branch AGM:** Richard Aitken – *Planting Dreams, Shaping Australian Gardens.*
- **Lecture by David Stuart** in conjunction with the Friends of the National Library – *Discovering Ferdinand Bauer.*

- **A day in Gundaroo** visiting the properties of Bowylie, twoandthree and Vogelweide.
- **Christmas Function** at Woden Homestead.
- **National Portrait Gallery** – guided tour of portraits of plant collectors, gardeners and garden historians.
- **A day in Goulburn** (visit to rose gardens) and Crookwell (town – *Spring Street Cottage* - and country garden - *Markdale*).
- **AGHS information** stall at National Trust ACT Open Day at Lanyon. Guided garden tours were led by members Nancy Clarke and Anna Howe.
- **AGHS/National Trust ACT joint event:** Launch of Canberra and Region Heritage Festival held at Tuggeranong Schoolhouse.
- **Committee visit** to new housing estate and conservation area of “Ginninderry”.
- **Twelfth Annual Joint event** with Friends of the National Library – Talk by Lisa Clausen co-author of *Cruden Farm Garden Diaries*.

Advocacy

The Branch continues to support the Lake Burley Griffin Guardians in its quest for Commonwealth Heritage Listing of Lake Burley Griffin and a review of proposed residential and commercial development on West Basin.

Submission to ACT Legislative Assembly on its inquiry into the value of the natural environment to an urbanising Canberra.

Projects

Montague Island Kitchen Garden

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is no longer allowing volunteers to work on the island so sadly the Branch has had to discontinue the six-monthly planting and maintenance schedule to the Montague Island Kitchen Garden which had been restored by Branch members. Colleen Morris was commissioned by the Branch to write a report on the former kitchen garden and devise a plan for restoration. This report is available for viewing on the Society’s website.

The Branch enjoyed working on this project and we are pleased that the National Parks and Wildlife staff will continue to maintain the garden and use the produce grown within.

Planning is underway on two other projects – an Oral History program and a digitisation project in conjunction with Trove at the National Library of Australia.

Chair’s Report

I wish to thank sincerely each member of the ACT Monaro Riverina Branch Committee for organising the varied and successful 2017/2018 program. The very committed, enthusiastic and knowledgeable Committee continued to provide our membership with another inspiring, yet entertaining series of events featuring both talks and visits.

Marie Wood completed her nine-year term at the 2018 Annual General Meeting. Marie has been an invaluable member of the Committee and we have appreciated her knowledge of heritage issues. It is to be hoped that with her background and professional expertise she will continue to assist us with our ongoing projects. Thank you, Marie.

Sue Byrne

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Chair | Ann Wegener |
| Vice Chair | John Taylor |
| Secretary | Lois Closter |
| Treasurer | Elizabeth Teed |
| Newsletter Editor | Roberta Blake |
| Committee | Helen Mackay |

Functions

- Guided Walk through Currimundi Lake coastal Wallum Country, Sunshine Coast during peak Wildflower flowering time.
- Christmas Party at home of Lois Closter.
- Guided Walk through Old Museum Gardens and Bowen Park Brisbane by Catherine Brouwer, Landscape Architect and member. This area is the remains of the original Brisbane Acclimatisation Gardens.

Advocacy

Long standing member Wendy Lees has continued her advocacy of educating the citizens of Toowoomba about the protection of old trees and gardens there. John Taylor is advising a post graduate student in efforts to heritage list Laurel Bank Park in Toowoomba.

Chair's Report

Due to varying circumstances Qld Branch activities faltered in 2017 and the branch considered folding. At the 2017 AGM with John Taylor's encouragement members Lois Closter and Roberta Blake offered to perform roles of Secretary and Newsletter Editor and Elizabeth Teed said she'd remain as Treasurer. Our activities are much reduced but it was decided better to keep our branch operating rather than fold. This year's committee have been a pleasure to work with and its been mooted that the 2021 AGHS conference may be held in Northern Qld. Thanks go to those members who have shown continued support.

Ann Wegener

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 |

Events

- **Visit by a group of 12 members of Heritage Roses in Australia (HRiA)** members from the SYD Branch over four days to the Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez Homestead and a number of Northern Tablelands gardens.
- **National Trust:** AGHS members were invited to the National Trust Xmas function held at Saumarez. An indication of the positive working relationship between the two groups.
- **Australia Day:** A joint information stand, rose sale, raffle, was held at Saumarez to support the National Trust open day.
- **Presentations to Garden Clubs:** Conducted by Lynne Walker & Liz Chappell to clubs in Moree, Qurindi, Tamworth, Werris Creek). At each presentation a donation was made to the Heritage Rose Garden.
- **Sydney Branch presentation:** Lynne Walker gave the first presentation on 21 Feb 2018. Her topic was the development of the AGHS Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez Homestead.

Advocacy

The significant and ongoing work of the NNSW Sub-branch has been the preservation of the collection of heritage roses donated by Miss Catherine MacLean. This donation was the impetus behind the development of the Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez Homestead. Apart from the inclusion of a number of individual roses to 'complete' cultivar groups, Stage I is effectively complete. Stage I was the recipient of the National Trust NSW Heritage Award for Conserving a Collection. Stage II, was enabled by a significant grant from Armidale Regional Council under the NSW State Government's Stronger Communities Grant. All Stage II structural work (beds, steel edging, irrigation, gravel paths and structures) are complete. Significant Australian breeders (Alister Clark and Frank Reithmüller) have been planted. Attempts are being made to source the four remaining roses of Olive Fitzhardinge. Orders have been placed with suppliers for representative examples of important international rose breeders.

Projects

- Stage II of the Heritage Rose Garden is an ongoing NNSW project. The funding grant needs to be acquitted by December 2018.
- Negotiations are continuing with Roads and Maritime Services NSW relating to the new Southern Roundabout NE Highway. The AGHS Sub-branch has applied to have the roundabout planted with Rosa Rugosa. This will assist in publicising the Heritage Rose Garden.
- Several members of the Sub-branch have undertaken weeding and maintaining Miss MacLean's garden.

Chair's Report

- The Sub-branch was saddened to learn of the death of Miss Catherine MacLean after a short illness. A memorial gathering acknowledging MMs contribution to the AGHS HRG will be held on a date to be decided at Saumarez Homestead. Miss MacLean was interviewed as part of the National Oral History Collection in late 2017.
- The group is fortunate to have a stalwart group of volunteers who participate in monthly working bees at the Heritage Rose Garden. An endearing feature of this group is the camaraderie evident among participants. Enjoying one-another's company both in work and morning teas is one of the most enjoyable aspects of branch activities.
- There are members who work diligently 'behind the scene' to maintain the rose catalogues well as participating in the identification of a small number of donated bushes in Stage I. There are others who are always involved in fund-raising and open gardens— collecting entrance monies, selling raffle tickets, selling potted roses and providing teas/ lunches. The Branch is particularly grateful for this assistance.
- Publicity of activities through press articles and FaceBook keeps Rose Garden activity in view of the public.
- An aspect that needs consideration is a viable Succession Plan for projects developed by the Sub-branch. As with all not-for-profit organisation with a predominantly mature membership, ensuring continuity is important.
- Finally, it is important to gratefully acknowledge the contribution of expertise and energy by members.

John Maurer

SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair and NMC Branch Rep Elizabeth Ganguly

Vice-Chair Richard Heathcote

Treasurer Andrew Plumer

Secretary Julie Tolley

Newsletter Co-editors Elizabeth Dobson, Pamela Tonkin, Pamela Mayer

Committee Jeff Jenkinson, Patricia Michell, Richard Nolan

Functions

- The **2016/2017 AGM** was held in August over a hearty lunch at the Belair Hotel. We built up an appetite during a pre-lunch walk through the Wittunga Botanic Gardens, including the garden of the original homestead. The walk was led by the very well informed Botanic Gardens Guide Helena Jenkinson.
- **September** – AGHS SA Day bus trip to Coonalpyn – dry land gardening, local art projects and regional history.
- **October** – AGHS National Conference in Melbourne.
- Our **2017 Christmas Party** was hosted by Peter and Rebecca Kennedy in their delightful Stirling garden.
- **February** – saw members gathering for a twilight visit and refreshments in the magnificent garden created by Deb Schultz at ‘Mandalay’, Mt Barker Springs.
- **April** – 50 members and friends visited ‘Wensleydale, the stunning garden of Dr Ian and Mrs Janie Smylie. Josh Teague, MP for the state seat of Heysen officially re-opened the recently restored Victorian Gazebo. A wonderful afternoon tea was enjoyed on a beautiful autumn day.
- **June** – AGHS SA Branch and the MGS combined event – a very interesting evening with Seed Hunter, Daniel Duval from the Botanic Gardens

Advocacy

- The Branch continues to follow the 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. It would appear that this bid will now focus on a broader SA bid for recognition of the unique settlement pattern in many areas of SA.
- Martindale Hall – supporting the National Trust.

Projects

- **Garden Restoration** – a Garden Restoration Grant of \$4,000.00 for the restoration of the Victorian Gazebo at Wensleydale was acquitted during this year and as previously stated re-opened during a branch function. The restoration was partially funded by a joint grant from the SA Branch and the National Office of the AGHS.
- **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 complete and recording of the garden plants and finer details of the garden have commenced. AGHS members will work closely with Allen Campbell (Curator, ‘The Cedars’) to record other gardening and historical information relevant to the project.
- **AGHS Oral History Project** – Revival of this project in SA is underway thank you to Julie Tolley and Julia de Roeper. Potential interviewees have been identified and three members have completed a one-day workshop on Oral History recording at the State Library of SA. We have also applied for a grant to fund further workshop attendances.

- **Charles Sturt Memorial Museum** – garden reinstatement. The committee and friends of the museum are being advised/assisted by AGHS members Richard Nolan and Anne McCutcheon. A big thank you to both Richard and Anne for their continued effort in the garden.

Chair's Report

I wish to thank SA branch committee for their assistance and support during the past year and to the state members for their participation in Branch activities. The SA branch has continued to function broadly in support of the mission of the Australian Garden History Society.

The current editorial team Pamela Mayer, Elizabeth Dobson and Pamela Tonkin with technological assistance from Andrew Plumer have published two editions of the new look newsletter called - *POLLen and DiRT* – a new edition is due next month.

Andrew Plumer has very competently completed a second year as treasurer – managing our financial affairs almost exclusively online.

The SA branch continues to use online booking via TryBooking for any events that involve a financial outlay. Thank you to members who have taken up the challenge to use this system – it certainly makes it easier for committee members and thank you to Andrew for looking after this booking system for us.

Congratulations to members Sandra Kearney and Dr Julie Tolley on the publication of their respective articles 'Wensleydale and its Garden' and 'Convicts and Cabbages' in the Australian Garden History Journal.

It was with great sadness that we received the news of the passing of Sue Ebury, Countess of Wilton, the Patron of the AGHS and of Dr Ian Smylie, a long-term member of our SA Branch.

Ian passed away only a short time after a sharing a wonderful afternoon celebrating the completion of the restoration of the Victorian Gazebo. Ian loved the garden at Wensleydale and he was passionate about the restoration, it was a privilege to share that with him. His conversation and dry sense of humour will be missed. Condolences were sent to Janie and family and several members attended Ian's funeral service.

Elizabeth Ganguly

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Chair | Meg Probyn |
| Vice-Chair | Pamela Bennett |
| Secretary | Jane Clifford |
| Treasurer | John Biffin |
| Committee | Lyn Barrett, Raymond Bradley, Merryleigh Brindley, Jennifer Carroll, Laurel Cheetham, Elisabeth Heard, Annabel Murray |

Functions

- **Sunday 8 October 2017:** Lunch at *The Loch* and then a stroll round one of the loveliest gardens, *Upper Woodlands*, with the owners, Charles and Lynne Moore.
- **Friday 1 December 2017:** A wonderful Christmas party at *Bangala*. Many thanks to the owners of this lovely property—Susan Hand and Ralph Suters.
- **25 February 2018:** Jazz at *Somerley House* with the swing band *Next on the List*. A most successful and enjoyable function. Grateful thanks to Nadine and Cal O'Brien.
- **11 March to 21 March 2018: The Beauty of Tasmania—garden tour:** Our major tour for the year organized by Ray Bradley was a huge success with five nights based in Launceston followed by five nights in Hobart. From Launceston, the coach took the group to the Archer properties: *Brickendon*, *Woolmers* and *Panshanger*; the *Topiary Garden* at Evandale; *Old Wesley Dale* at Mole Creek;

Wychwood, which the new owners are restoring; *Home Hill*, the home of Joseph and Enid Lyons; *Seahorse World* and the *Platypus House* (which also had echidnas); took a boat trip into the spectacular Cataract Gorge; viewed the murals at Sheffield and the quirky topiary at *Railton*. A visit to the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hobart (celebrating 200 years this year); then Runnymede with its typical 19th Century garden; *Corinda*; *Rosedown Cottage* at New Norfolk; *Woodbank* in the Huon Valley; *Crawleighwood*; Bruny Island – *Sprokkelwood*, a beautifully designed garden full of rare trees and plantings; *Inala*.

- **Sunday 24 June 2018:** Two speakers at the Winter seminar with Leonie Norton: “*Marriane Collinson Campbell: A Privileged Life*” and Dr Stephen Utick: “*The Significance of Camellias in Garden History across the World*”

Advocacy

- **Station Street, Bowral:** This is an on-going battle and will not be resolved for some time. AGHS members Alan Olsen, Clive Probyn, John Barrett, Laurel Cheetham and Meg Probyn have all had letters published in the Southern Highlands News. It concerns heritage trees, streetscape, the northern entry to Bowral, the interchange at Bowral Station and the cost blow-out.
- **Tourist development at Sutton Forest:** Another matter that was resolved this year was the DA for the tourist development at Sutton Forest on which we had made a submission objecting to the proposal on the grounds of incompatibility of the proposed buildings with this significant cultural and historic landscape. The application was refused by Council.
- **Berrima and Sutton Forest:** Laurel provided input into Colleen Morris’s Report on the cultural landscapes of Berrima and Sutton Forest. The Branch made a submission on the Environmental Impact Statement for a coal mine in the Sutton Forest area, objecting to this proposal. Many thanks are due to Laurel for her outstanding work on heritage and planning issues.

Oral History Projects

Lyn Barrett and Laurel Cheetham conducted interviews with Mrs Karin Keighley, the former owner of Golden Vale (now part of the Bundanon Trust). The interviews have now been digitised and the next stage is for transcripts to be produced. Congratulations to them for all their hard work.

Chair’s Report

The Branch has again had a very busy and successful year, with a variety of events that have been well attended by members and guests. Special thanks to Jane Clifford for all her secretarial support, and also to her, Pamela Bennett, Elisabeth Heard and Lyn Barrett for all their work on events. Financially, we have had an excellent year, mainly due to profit from the Tour. Special thanks to Ray Bradley for the huge effort he puts into the organisation and execution of the tours. Our healthy bank balance, overseen by our tireless Treasurer, John Biffin, will allow the Committee to consider funding new projects for 2019. Five editions of our newsletter *Inflorescence* have been published, the latest four under the new editor, Pamela Bennett, who has taken up the challenge with enthusiasm.

Organisation of the 2018 Conference in the Southern Highlands has taken up a lot of the committee’s time and effort. Special thanks to Jenny Carroll, who has taken on the coordinating role for catering with a small team. Annabel Murray has spent a great deal of time organising the Symposium and I am grateful for her professional approach to the event. Not only is Merryleigh Brindley opening her garden for the conference but has been influential in so many aspects of the organisation. Lyn Barrett has worked wonders getting all sorts of sponsorships and her organisational skills are much appreciated. Altogether I am very fortunate to have such an able, friendly and cooperative committee to work with.

Dr Meg Probyn

SYDNEY & NORTHERN NSW BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Chair | James Quoyle |
| Vice-Chair | Christine Hay |
| Secretary | Tempe Beavan |
| Treasurer | David Low |
| Committee | Christine Hay, Angela Low, Gina Plate, Anne Smith, Roslyn Burge, John Maurer |

Northern NSW sub Branch Committee

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chair | Bill Oates OAM |
| Deputy Chairs | Graham Wilson and Liz Chappell |
| Secretary | Helen Wilson |
| Treasurer | Elton Squires |
| Committee | Will Todd |

Events

- **July:** Walk at Callan Park guided by Roslyn Burge and Stuart Read. Callan Park is a landscape at risk and encouraging people to visit the place is a way of making advocacy real.
- **August:** AGM – Tanya Hoolihan spoke about Ludwig Leichhardt's contribution to scientific studies in colonial Australia. He was an avid observer, collector and recorder of natural history, his greatest legacy however lay in the field of botany. Tanya illustrated the presentation with some of her exquisite botanical illustrations. Tanya was one of the artists who donated work to the award winning exhibition *Florilegium, Sydney's Painted Garden*, curated by Beverly Allan and Colleen Morris.
- **September:** Janine Kitson gave a talk based on a book by Dr Peggy James, *Cosmopolitan Conservationists, Greening Modern Sydney* (2013), the talk focused on two of its principal characters, the activities of Annie Wyatt and David Stead, their professional and social networks, how they shaped many government initiatives, policies, and legislative reforms to create a beautiful modern Sydney. The talk's aim was to raise awareness of this network, and their work to protect and conserve significant natural landscapes particularly those around the lower and upper north shore.
- **November:** Walk and discussion of Berry's Bay area led by Dr Ian Hoskins, Historian for North Sydney Council. One of the most well attended events for this year. The talk raised awareness of the heritage significance of the place especially its natural features, historic associations and aesthetic values.
- **December:** Christmas Party generously hosted by David and Angela Low was an intimate affair with abundant good food and warmth set in a garden that Angela has nurtured to such fullness and the hydrangeas were exceptional – including the bluest hydrangea I have ever seen.
- **February:** *Saumarez Garden* was revealed to us by Lynne Walker with such enthusiasm a great story of history in the making. It was wonderful to have the cross pollination of the Northern NSW sub branch.
- **March:** Verena Mauldon led us through the cultural landscape of the Macquarie's at Parramatta Park. This tour enabled the group to reimagine earlier layers of the place and its significant historical events.
- **April:** The Swain Garden, a hidden gem that has community support and a talk by Joy Bryan, the daughter of the Mr Swain who made the garden and grew up there, and she still lives nearby.
- **May:** Greg Johnson the first in a series of talks about garden writers in Australia.
- **June:** A guided walk through Centennial Park by Paul Ashto.
- **July:** Chris Betteridge will speak about Jenolan Caves and the cultural landscape – stay tuned.

Oral History

Roslyn Burge and John Maurer are leading the way on this and we now feature a snippet in the newsletter to inspire suggestions of possible candidates for recording.

Succession planning

The committee lost three very key members in Anne Galbraith (Secretary), Pam Bell and Susan North (marketing). Additionally several members are nearing their maximum nine year terms and will have to leave the committee (myself included next year). Anne Smith has thrown her hand up to take over as editor of Branch Cuttings and Gina Plate and Angela Low are helping her as we transition. Anne liaises with Lachlan Garland (IT guru) and David Low is managing bookings for events.

Highlights

Beverly Allen and Colleen Morris took the Florilegium exhibition to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and it runs from 31 March–16 September 2018 in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art. At the National Trust Heritage Awards 2017, Colleen Morris and Christine Hay were awarded a prize for the Berrima, Sutton Forest and Exeter Cultural Landscape Assessment. This cultural landscape assessment of the Berrima, Sutton Forest and Exeter area was aimed at raising awareness of the significance of the landscape with a view to encourage further statutory protection and to provide the basis for a heritage impact assessment of a proposed coal mine in the area.

Funding

We continue to allot \$500 per annum to a potential travelling exhibition to increase awareness of garden history. We have \$500 set aside for a plaque to commemorate Charles Fraser at St John's cemetery Parramatta.

James Quoye

TASMANIA BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair Lynne Paul

Deputy Chair Prue Slatyer

Secretary Tom Lyons

Treasurer Greg Clota

Committee Ann Burnett, Bruce Chetwynd, Mike Evans, Elizabeth Kerry, Jennifer Stackhouse

Functions

- **AGM and Lecture August 2017**

"Home Hill" the home of Dame Enid and Jo Lyons, is in Devonport. The garden, constructed by Dame Enid Lyons, has deteriorated in recent times but a grant from The Australian Garden History Society and the Tasmanian Branch of the AGHS has resulted in plans to produce a landscape management plan for the garden to see it safely into the future.

AGHS Committee member Jennifer Stackhouse talked about the development of the Home Hill garden and the important role it played in Dame Enid's life. A series of photographs taken by Dame Enid in the 1970s reveal how the garden was when she decided to leave the house and garden to the nation. Jennifer showed these images and discussed some of Dame Enid's garden projects and plantings.

- **Two Westbury Gardens and Lunch on the Village Green September 2017**

"Homefield" A new garden that inherited the bones of a much older garden. It includes silver birches, conifers, ash, and a large pond, white gravel paths, garden pavilions, Carpinus (Hornbeam) hedges, perennials, box hedging, stonework.

"Culzean" is a mature woodland garden where European trees, camellias, conifers, a *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, many roses, little understory plants under the trees – cyclamens, hostas, epimediums and erythroniums and bulbs frame the 1.2 ha lake in this carefully maintained garden.

- **Tasmania is my Garden September 2017**

AGHS participated in the *Blooming Tasmania* Flower and Garden festival in Launceston. Our stall was busy and as a result we recruited some new members.

- **Lunch and a Garden tour at ‘High Peak’, Neika November 2017**

This fine old garden dates from the late 19th century. The extensive garden was begun soon after the house was completed, its early establishment evidenced by the huge old conifers on the drive and the many large old trees and shrubs, including many magnificent rhododendrons. A myriad of paths wind through this park with its exotic trees, including Douglas Firs, a giant Sequoia and an imposing Californian Red Wood revealing flowers, hedges and sandstone walls.

- **Our PreChristmas celebration December 2017**

We braved inclement weather for our Christmas Party at Hamilton. Despite it being the beginning of summer, it was a cold, wet and windy day with snow in the Highlands. The wet conditions also meant a late change of lunch venue from the Italian-style garden terrace at Prospect House to the community hall in Hamilton. Despite this, the event was a huge success. A special thanks to garden owners and AGHS members Doug Neale and John Jones, who made us so welcome at their garden at Prospect House despite the rain.

- **Suburban Gems of Hobart March 2018**

We explored two small and inspirational private gardens at Moonah and West Hobart. One was commenced in 1997 and includes small shady trees, luscious vegetables, perennials, grasses, climbers, espaliered fruit trees, topiary, water features, quirky sculptures, brick paving, a chook dome and an outdoor fireplace. The other which is only 13 years old features an elegant sunken walled garden with box-hedged rose beds and bountiful espaliered fruit trees.

- **Lahaye’s Garden at Government House May 2018**

Lahaye’s garden commemorates and celebrates French exploration of Van Diemen’s Land in the 18th century and was inspired by the garden created at Recherche Bay in 1792 by Felix Lahaye, the gardener on Bruni d’Entrecasteaux’s maritime expedition. The Government House garden was conceived and constructed by Tara Edmondson, Government House Tasmania Gardener, and her colleagues. Tara researched the journals of Bruni d’Entrecasteaux and his crew to learn about the layout and design of the garden at Recherche Bay and the types of vegetable seeds which were planted.

Advocacy

- **Lauderdale.** 74 Risdon Road New Town 7008. We made representations to the Hobart City Council over some years regarding the proposed development of this historic site. In late 2017 the developer sold the property to a private owner and so the threat to the site has been averted.
- **Cambria Green.** A proposed \$100 million resort on the southern state’s east coast near Swansea and covering 3000 hectares. The site includes Cambria, an historic property built in 1836 by George Meredith. We have made representations to the local and State governments regarding the size of the project and the impact it would have upon the original property and gardens. Ours has not been a lone voice. The National Trust, members of State Government and an alliance of many Tasmanian organisations have joined forces to object to the development and the haste with which local council has agreed to change zonings to accommodate the development. To date the matter is unresolved and we continue to be involved.
- **Widening of the Midland Highway** has resulted in the removal of a large number of trees with a resultant loss of the beauty of parts of the road. The plans allow for the replacement of trees when the road widening is completed and we continue to monitor this aspect of the construction.

Projects

Home Hill: The garden in the home of the late Dame Enid and Jo Lyons in Devonport is in desperate need of restoration. AGHS has developed a Landscape Management Plan for the garden and it is currently being discussed with all stakeholders. We are hopeful that a second stage of this project will include the preparation of detailed implementation plans. We are indebted to two AGHS members, Sue Small and Prue Slatyer who have worked tirelessly to bring the plan to its current stage.

Chair's Report

This year, two longstanding committee members, Elizabeth Kerry and Greg Clota will retire from the committee. To them go the grateful thanks of all our members and particularly of the Chair! Each year we resolve to reduce the strain on the committee by holding fewer events but, as usual, we have again failed and so members have been able to choose from a wide range of activities. Clearly our most memorable event was our 2017 Christmas celebration when, on December 3, we faced rain and snow but still had a successful day. Our representation at 'Blooming Tasmania' has now become an annual event which serves to bolster our membership. Our committee continues to work harmoniously and with great enthusiasm and to all members of the committee I give my heartfelt thanks.

Lynne Paul

VICTORIAN BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Chair | Sarah Wood |
| Vice Chair | Robyn Robins |
| Treasurer | Anna Long |
| Advocacy | Wendy Dwyer |
| Media | Lindy Neylan |
| Working Bees /AGHS events | Fran Faul |
| Catering | Annie Woodside |
| Events/minutes | Anthony Menhenitt |

Functions

- **Illustrated lecture by Warwick Forge** on the gardens of Roberto Burle Marx and Juan Grimm in Argentina and Chile.
- **Mont Park Walk and Talk** in February 2018
- **Lecture by Pera Wells** at the herbarium in March
- **Illustrated Lecture by Richard Allen** provided the second in May 2018

Advocacy

- **Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum (CBGA)** – support for the work of the Trust and its issues with Corangamite Shire Council.
- **Treasury Gardens** – proposed new memorial for six agencies covering the Victorian Emergency Services Workers.
- **Former Smith's Nursery** – permit application to subdivide the 1863 site which is one of Victoria's earliest plant nurseries.
- **System Garden – University of Melbourne** – watching brief on implementation of the Master Plan.
- **H V McKay Memorial Gardens, Sunshine** – Member of the management group to oversee the implementation of the Management Plan.
- **Cruden Farm** – watching brief over proposed rezoning application which has been on hold since mid 2017.
- **Melbourne Metro Rail Project – Loss of trees and landscape amenity along St Kilda Road/ Domain.** Support the National Trust's campaign to minimise the adverse visual and amenity impact to this significant Melbourne boulevard.
- **National Trust Landscape Reference Group** – a member of this group which has been resurrected by the National Trust to identify and record important natural and cultural landscapes.

Projects

Oral Histories – Helen Page has offered to oversee this project. With follow ups on Rosemary Simpson, Kathy Wright, Pam Jellie, Jackie Courmadias, (possibly Fran and Mal Faul) over the next 12 months.

Other work has been done at the CWA in Toorak, restoration of the pergola and general garden restoration. We have been given a very generous cheque from the "Friends of the Elms" so we have contacted both Dr Greg Moore and John Hawker (Heritage Victoria) for advice on how this should be used by AGHS.

Chair's Report

The Melbourne Conference was an unexpected highlight for the Victorian Branch with many Victorian members helping to plan and support the event.

The Branch has spent the last 6 months working on future events and activities. After only a year, I will be stepping down as Chair. Robyn will be the next Chair of AGHS and I will remain on for the next 12 months as Vice Chair, after which I will be resigning.

Many thanks to the Committee for all their hard work and support throughout the year.

Sarah Wood

WEST AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Chair | John Viska |
| Secretary | Lynette Petersen |
| Treasurer | Max Stewart |
| NMC Representative | Carmel O'Halloran |
| Membership & Newsletter | Sue Monger |
| Website | Therese Putland |
| Committee | Roz Stewart |

Functions

- Sunday 16 July a day excursion to Historic Pinjarra when 26 people comprising 15 members and 11 guests from the Pinjarra Historical Society visited three sites. Participants met at historic Edenvale and were addressed by Vince Taylor who had prepared comprehensive notes on the three historic properties Creaton, Blythewood and Pinjarra Park. The significant garden elements of each location were detailed by the Chair and how they related to the state's garden history. The highlight being viewing at Pinjarra Park the surviving camellias from a grove that was planted in 1861.
- The 28th AGM was held on Sunday 20 August 2017 at the *Olde Narrogin Inne* Armadale and was attended by 20 members, 2 guests with 10 apologies. Prior to the meeting, members viewed the garden of *Wirra Willa* from the boundary fence and it was obvious that the four acre, privately owned heritage listed garden from the 1930's was in a serious decline. At the conclusion of the meeting, Kim Fletcher from the Armadale Historical Society, led members on a significant tree walk within the Armadale town site.
- Sunday 9 September. A day in the country at Serpentine, 22 members and guests travelled to Serpentine for a walking tour of some of the locality's historic sites. The day started by "attending school" and being entertained with reminiscences of school days by a member of the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Historical Society. Another local resident led a tour around the historic Turner Cottage and local church. After a picnic lunch the wildflowers growing in and around the cemetery were inspected. The highlight of the trip was viewing Bishops Hale's 1860's small country cottage and garden.
- On Sunday 19 November a joint function with the Friends of Woodbridge and National Trust (WA) was held at the historic property *Woodbridge*. The Chair delivered a presentation on the Horticultural propagation and fruit storage techniques of the Harper Nursery era. A variety of horticultural objects used in the past were also demonstrated and at the conclusion the 45 people who attended viewed the house and then enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea provided by the Friends.

- On Sunday 3 December the Annual Christmas wind up was held in Hazel Mc Dougall House, Como. The former dairy now houses a community arts centre located within a public recreation area. The 16 attendees competed for a perfect score in the annual quiz based on Journal articles and year's functions and on the walk following refreshments the community garden, lake's birdlife and notable trees were observed.
- The first function for 2018 took the form of a talk and walk around the grounds of the University of Western Australia on Sunday 15 April. Gillian Lilleyman, the joint author of *A Landscape for Learning*, explained the history of the siting of the institution, the laying out of the grounds and the various personalities that were involved in the development of the gardens. The 23 people who attended were a combination of branch members and Friends of the Grounds of UWA.
- The May bus tour of the Swan Valley was very well patronised with a coach load of 39 members and friends. The tour left from historic Guildford and took in Houghton Winery's original homestead then Kosivich's family winery, where century old vines were viewed. A picnic lunch in the grounds of one of the state's oldest churches *All Saints* was taken. The highlight of the day was visiting the 1840 property St Lennards, viewing inside the house as well as touring the garden where ancient olives, umbrella pines, carobs and giant bamboo planted in colonial times were seen. Many thanks to Roz and Max Stewart and Trish Edwards for organising a very successful event.

Advocacy

- The Heritage Council of WA was contacted to bring to their attention the state of the garden of *Wirra Willa* following discussion at the AGM.
- The branch has offered its support to the Kings Park Board if it needs to dissuade the government of a proposal to erect a cable car along the Mt Eliza escarpment.
- Communication has taken place with the National Trust (WA) regarding the bicentennial celebration of The Old Farm Strawberry Hill Albany in 2026 and alerting them of the significance of the pear trees in the orchard.

Projects

- A committee of 7 branch members is currently researching text and images in preparation for the second in the series of *Historic Gardens of Perth* exhibition. This will feature examples from Western Suburbs and be displayed in the City of Cottesloe's Hall within the grounds of the heritage listed Overton Lodge.
- Branch members have again participated in working bees held in conjunction with the National Trust in the gardens of their historic properties.
- The City of Gosnells invited the WA branch to participate in the celebrations for the 30th anniversary of Wilkinson Homestead. An exhibition of old gardening tools, terracotta pots, watering cans and glass cloches were displayed. The inclement weather didn't deter volunteers Max and Roz Stewart, Trisha Edwards, Lynette Petersen and Carmel O'Halloran who ably assisted the Chair on the day by selling gardening books and providing information about joining the Society.

Chair's Report

Day visits to the country and outer metropolitan areas have proven popular with branch members and friends with these events being well attended.

During the year I have presented 10 talks to community groups including TAFE Diploma students and members of historical societies providing the opportunity to disseminate information about the society to a wider public audience.

At the invitation of the City of Cottesloe I delivered the address at Pioneers' Day on the topic of the history of the grounds and gardens of Overton Lodge.

Discussions are being held on how the branch will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the formation of the state branch.

John Viska

AGHS Treasurer's Report 2017–2018

This year the accounts of the Society show a surplus of \$6 602. Significant Income accounts have been subscriptions \$82,009, the Melbourne Conference, \$82 450, other functions and tours \$14 619.

Return on investments predictably is not high but earned almost \$10 000. The Kindred Spirits Fund has earned \$21 200. Mutual Trust which merged with the Myer Foundation Charities Equities Fund in 2017 has advised that the fund will be terminated at the end of October 2018. A distribution of \$29 000 was made at 30 June 2018. The \$130 000 invested in the fund will need to be invested elsewhere. The Society has been privileged to receive donations of \$25 500. Donations included \$10 000 from the James Fairfax Estate and \$5 500 from generous members.

The Marvellous Melbourne Conference was a magnificent event and financially successful. Our thanks go to the committee led by Lisa Tuck with Lorraine Powell, Kathy Wright, Fran and Mal Faul, Anna Long, Annie Woodside, Lindy Neylan, Anthony Menhennett, Robyn Robins, Jackie Courmadias and Sarah Wood.

Pamela Jellie organised a pre-conference tour to the Western District of Victoria which was enjoyed by all the travellers. Lynne Walker conducted an amazing trip to the South Island of New Zealand. The Society greatly appreciates the efforts Pamela and Lynne made on its behalf.

The annual operational costs of the Society are \$240 890, \$173 980 of this relates to the National body. As in previous years Subscriptions cover less than half this amount therefore the surplus from the conference and tours is essential and valued.

Restoration grants matched by the Branches were:

- Garden Restoration Project – Wensleydale, South Australia \$2 000
- Landscape Management Plan – Home Hill, Devonport, Tasmania \$5 000
- City of Kalamunda WA, Stone Seat Restoration \$500
- CWA Pergola Restoration, Melbourne \$4 500

Branches undertook other projects for approximately \$63 000 and these are outlined in the Branch reports.

Expenditure on the Journal is \$63 000. An increase in remuneration to the editor has been approved in appreciation of the quality of the publication.

The Kindred Spirits Fund has a balance of \$211 700. The fund has supported the following:

- Editorial consultation, Garden+Environment \$2 000
- Recording Gardens Editing \$1 950

The resources of the Society are used to fulfil its objectives and National Management Committee values the work done by volunteers who manage the conference and tours.

The Summary of the Financial Statements of the Society for the period of 2017 to 2018 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

THE AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY INC

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30th June, 2018

| | NATIONAL | NSW (S/H) | NSW (SYD) | VIC | TAS | SA | ACT | WA | QLD | TOTAL |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Net assets on Hand 1/7/2017 | 643097 | 27896 | 60749 | 41339 | 39320 | 29148 | 25845 | 12672 | 6281 | 886347 |
| RECEIPTS | | | | | | | | | | |
| Subscriptions | 82009 | | | | | | | | | 82009 |
| Functions & tours (net) | -6394 | 9398 | 3860 | | 1292 | 153 | 3769 | 2165 | 376 | 14619 |
| Conference (net) | 73388 | | | 9062 | | | | | | 82450 |
| Sales of publications (net) | 304 | | 1214 | | 1464 | | | | | 2982 |
| Interest | 7335 | 222 | 374 | 344 | 792 | 112 | 332 | 143 | 29 | 9683 |
| Donations | 16942 | | 2520 | | 5000 | | | 1000 | | 25462 |
| Kindred Spirits Fund | 21243 | | | | | | | | | 21243 |
| Sundries | 2673 | 120 | 337 | 20 | 5203 | 179 | | 515 | | 9047 |
| TOTAL | 197500 | 9740 | 8305 | 9426 | 13751 | 444 | 4101 | 3823 | 405 | 247495 |
| PAYMENTS | | | | | | | | | | |
| Audit fees | 5800 | | 990 | | 440 | | | 715 | 550 | 8495 |
| Bank fees | 180 | | | | | | 10 | | | 190 |
| Journal | 62986 | | | | | | | | | 62986 |
| Merchant Fees | 777 | | | | | | | | | 777 |
| Postage/stationery | 4788 | 15 | 186 | 176 | 110 | 74 | 456 | 500 | 39 | 6344 |
| Projects/research | 15950 | 1158 | 29261 | | 10902 | 5630 | | | | 62901 |
| Sundry expenses | 12707 | 1616 | 1896 | 4739 | 6074 | 501 | 142 | 150 | | 27824 |
| Telephone/website | 2002 | | | | | | | | | 2002 |
| Travelling | 6695 | | | | | | 585 | | | 7280 |
| Wages | 62094 | | | | | | | | | 62094 |
| TOTAL | 173978 | 2789 | 32333 | 4915 | 17526 | 6205 | 1193 | 1365 | 589 | 240893 |
| PROFIT/LOSS | 23522 | 6951 | -24028 | 4511 | -3775 | -5761 | 2908 | 2458 | -184 | 6602 |
| Net assets on hand 30/6/2018 | 666619 | 34847 | 36721 | 45850 | 35545 | 23387 | 28753 | 15130 | 6097 | 892949 |
| Represented by: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cash on hand | 200 | | | | 87 | | | | | 287 |
| Cash at bank | 304558 | 24537 | 19513 | 14111 | 2527 | 3366 | 8532 | 11424 | 6097 | 394665 |
| Interest bearing deposits | 288213 | 10310 | 17208 | 31739 | 32931 | 20021 | 20221 | | | 420643 |
| Other Assets | 39116 | | | | | | | 3706 | | 42822 |
| Kindred Spirits Fund | 211700 | | | | | | | | | 211700 |
| <i>less</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prepaid Conference Receipts | 154942 | | | | | | | | | 154942 |
| Other Liabilities | 22226 | | | | | | | | | 22226 |
| NET FUNDS | 666619 | 34847 | 36721 | 45850 | 35545 | 23387 | 28753 | 15130 | 6097 | 892949 |



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 2018 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 3 September 2018. 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,

6 September 2018



AUSTRALIAN
**GARDEN
HISTORY**
SOCIETY

AGHS 39th Annual General Meeting

The Australian Garden History Society Inc.
39th Annual General Meeting will be held
Saturday 27th October 2018 at 8.25am

Mittagong RSL

Cnr. Hume Hwy & Bessemer Street
Mittagong, NSW 2575

AGENDA

Business

- 1 To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held 26th October 2017, State Library Theatre, Melbourne
- 2 To receive the Chair's Report for the year ended 30 June 2018
- 3 To receive and consider the financial statement for the year ended 30 June 2018
- 4 To appoint an auditor for 2018/19
- 5 To elect members of the National Management Committee
- 6 General Business

On behalf of the Committee

Lisa Tuck
National Executive Officer