

# Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch



Newsletter August/September 2019 No 4

Australian Garden History Society  
[www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au](http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au)

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## BRANCH DIARY

14 OCTOBER

A spring jaunt to Boorowa

22 NOVEMBER

Visit to Gorman House  
and end of year  
celebrations

25-27 OCTOBER  
2019

AGHS National  
Conference . Wellington,  
NZ

23. 25 OCTOBER  
2020

AGHS National  
Conference . Sydney  
*Many Dreams One  
Landscape*

5. 8 NOVEMBER  
2021

AGHS National  
Conference . Hobart

## NEXT EVENTS

*A spring jaunt to Boorowa – a self-drive day  
Free for members!*

MONDAY 14 OCTOBER

We were all so disappointed that we had to cancel our scheduled talk by Christine Reid that we have arranged a special spring event which is free for AGHS members. Join us for a nice day out in the country to Boorowa, a pretty character-filled town full of rural charm and with a rich Irish heritage. With two country gardens to visit to keep the day garden specific. And of course, to look out for the Superb Parrot.

### More information and schedule

#### 10.45 for an 11am start

Meet in Queen Street: where we will hand out a map and some background information, and Anne Claoue-Long will provide a short introduction.

There is a lot to see on a leisurely walk round the Irish town, so you might like to arrive earlier to have coffee at one of the various cafes.

Places of special note are:

- the Boorowa Museum (which is kindly opening specially for us between 11 am and 12.45 pm . 35 Marsden St opposite the bakery - \$2 entrance)
- St Patrick's Church with its substantial and fine stone and wood work, and the Daniel O'Connell stained glass window, and
- the unusual War Memorial with its interesting history.

**1pm** BYO Picnic lunch at Julie Simmonds' garden on the edge of town. When Julie moved here 23 years ago there were 5 trees; there are now 1,205, of many kinds. Julie is fortunate to have a bore so has been able to continue to water her garden despite the harsh drought conditions.



BRANCH  
COMMITTEE

Sue Byrne, Chair  
Judy Pearce, Dep. Chair  
& Newsletter Editor  
Helen Elliot, Treasurer  
Anne Claoue-Long, State  
NMC Representative  
Nancy Clarke, Secretary

Bronwyn Blake (also an  
elected member on NMC)  
Sue Cassidy  
Greg Johnson  
Erica Ryan



Photo: *Crisp Garden*

**3pm** Crisp Galleries (28234 Hume Highway, Bowning .  
approx. 40 min from Boorowa).

Visit the lovely spring gardens there (in full bloom  
promises Peter Crisp, owner and glassmaker  
extraordinaire <http://www.petercrisp.com.au/gardens.htm>),  
look and be tempted by the offerings in the Gift Shop and  
purchase an excellent afternoon tea in The Field of  
Dreams café.

**5.30pm** Back to Canberra

**Driving time:** To Boorowa from Canberra City is  
approximately one hour fifteen minutes. Detailed  
instructions to the gardens will be provided

**Meet:** 10.45 in Queen Street: turn left just past the Court  
House/Visitors Information Centre in Marsden Street

**Bring:** A picnic lunch, plus a folding chair or picnic rug.

**Cost:** AGHS members free (but PLEASE book so you receive the instructions for the  
day), \$10 non-members (plus 50c ticket fee)

**Bookings:** Through TryBooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/BFIOG>

**Enquiries:** Nancy Clarke [clarkenancy624@gmail.com](mailto:clarkenancy624@gmail.com), 0423 690 626

### *Visit to Gorman House and end of year celebrations Friday 22 November, 3.30 - 5pm*

Judy Pearce and Helen Wilson  
on a cold wintry July day found  
warmth in the Gorman House  
main hall. Completed in 2015 as  
part of an ACT Government  
funded refurbishment, the hall will  
provide a wonderful venue for  
members and their guests to  
come together for an early  
Christmas function.

By then we will be able to open  
the doors and enjoy the  
afternoon breeze as we enjoy  
both the gardens in and around  
Gorman House over tea and  
coffee and Christmas nibbles.

Joseph Falsone, Director of the Gorman House Arts  
Centre, will speak on his research into the gardens and Gorman House's place in the  
history of Canberra. Formerly Hostel No. 3 and then a post-world war two home for many  
of our post-war immigrants, Gorman House is now an arts centre heritage listed in the  
early 2000s.



**Venue:** Gorman House, 55 Ainslie Avenue, Braddon

**Cost:** \$15 members, \$20 non-members (plus 50c ticket fee) including afternoon  
tea

- Bookings:** Through TryBooking, <https://www.trybooking.com/BFJTL>  
You may pay by debit or credit card.
- Parking:** Most streets around Gorman House have some unlimited parking from 3pm and it is 900m from the Canberra Centre parking station.
- Buses:** Stops outside for routes 31 (city to Belconnen), 53 (Dickson to the NMA), 54 (City to Majura Park) and 55 (City to Duntroon)
- Enquiries:** Judy Pearce [judy.pearce@netspeed.com.au](mailto:judy.pearce@netspeed.com.au), 0417 250 058

## PAST EVENTS

### Lecture: *Shared dreams and destinies: botanic gardens of Melbourne and Sydney*

PROFESSOR TIMOTHY J ENTWISLE - 4 JULY

In his illustrated talk Prof Entwisle compared the two botanic gardens commencing with their formations (Sydney in 1816 and Melbourne in 1846). The Royal Sydney Botanic Gardens are the third oldest in the world and Australia's oldest continuing scientific institution. He showed a slide with lists of the directors of the two gardens and the dates of their tenure. The gardens became Royal by decree, Melbourne in 1957 and Sydney in 1959.

There is very little remnant vegetation in either garden. There have been several ring barking attacks on the separation tree (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*). This tree marks the site of celebration of the separation of the colony of Victoria from NSW. The tree is now dead and only its skeleton remains.

Prof Entwisle detailed much of the history of both gardens pointing out the importance of the governors in establishing the gardens, the emphasis of the directors and the influence of Kew Gardens. William Robert Guilfoyle (Melbourne), Joseph Maiden and Ferdinand von Mueller (Sydney) were particularly influential.

Both gardens have more than one site. Sydney has its original site as well as Mount Tomah and Mount Annan while Melbourne has Cranbourne as well as its original site. Both institutions have Foundations and Friends groups to help with funding and support for the gardens.

The importance of the gardens as scientific institutions for research and reference herbaria was pointed out. Special mention was made of gum trees, blackberries and flying foxes. Moving to the 21<sup>st</sup> century Prof Entwisle spent time looking to the future. The gardens need to be relevant and interesting to the public with the ability to change and adapt. They need to be quirky and innovative and recognise prior inhabitants. With climate change there needs to be a succession strategy, planting suitable trees in appropriate environments to ensure their longevity.

The talk concluded with discussion of future plans and developments for both Royal Botanic Gardens.

**Wendy Dodd**

### Lecture: *Ocean's Gay Flowers – uncovering the mysteries of Australian seaweed collections of the 19<sup>th</sup> century*

JULIE RYDER - 13 JUNE

Julie first introduced herself, giving a brief history of how she changed careers from being a scientist to a textile artist, giving some details about her art practice and showing some images of her varied art work.

She then moved on to her enthralling journey to identify the anonymous collector of a seaweed specimens album from the 19<sup>th</sup> century which commenced when she was an artist in residence at the National Museum of Australia in 2016.

In April 2017 she could reveal that not only did she discover that the album was made by an elusive and little known collector, Charles Morrison, but that there were another 6-10 albums by him in other institutional collections throughout NSW and Victoria. This was a great coup not only for the NMA, who now had provenance for their album, but also for Julie as an artist in residence working within a museum, and researching historical collections, which is where she realised her passion lies.

In May 2018 Julie followed clues in the albums to Ireland, where she uncovered some missing links held within several cultural institutions. She visited many of the site of the seaweed collected by Charles Morrison and his collecting colleague William Sawers before Charles moved to Australia.

Her residencies and research provided the inspiration for an inspired solo exhibition *The Hidden Sex*, which was held Craft ACT in early 2019.

We were delight to have such an erudite and enthusiastic speaker providing a talk on an aspect of %Garden History+we had not encountered before

**Judy Pearce**

## Annual Lecture: *Gardens on the Edge: Australian Landscapes from desert to rainforest, ocean to plains*

CHRISTINE REID - 22 AUGUST

CANCELLED DUE TO ILLNESS

## Branch AGM

22 AUGUST

A very convivial AGM was held and after the formal meeting Sue Byrne and Greg Johnson spoke about the 2020 program for the 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Society and our two exciting projects: our partnership with the NLA to digitise 35 early Australian gardening publications to be available through Trove and four Oral Histories of local identities who have made significant contributions to the development of gardening and gardening history, locally and nationally.

## BRANCH NEWS

### BRANCH COMMITTEE

We sadly farewelled Wendy Dodd and Helen Wilson from our committee and at the AGM Sue thanked them for their valuable contributions to our program. Although they will be off the committee they have both generously offered to help organise an event they have been associated with for our 2020 program.

And we were delighted to welcome Erica Ryan, who has joined our committee.

The committee elected the Branch Office Bearers for 2019-2020 at the committee meeting on 10 September and details can be found on page 2 of the newsletter.



## PROPOSED GARDEN BOOK SALE

### Donate surplus garden books to the AGHS



During the AGHS 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year in 2020 your Branch committee proposes to hold a special garden themed bookstall as a fundraiser to support the historic gardening books digitisation project that is being undertaken with the National Library of Australia.

So if you are downsizing, or just pruning your home library, please consider passing your surplus gardening, horticulture or garden history books to the committee for sale amongst the local membership sometime in the next year. Not

only will you ensure your preloved books go to a good home, you will be helping preserve garden history in printed form through the digitisation project.

Books can be brought to AGHS events. Or to arrange dropping them off in the inner north of Canberra please email: [annecl@icloud.com](mailto:annecl@icloud.com)  
*Anne Claoue-Long*

## NEW MEMBERS

The committee would like to welcome the following new members who has joined since the last newsletter.

- Ellen Klar, Canberra
- Ian Primrose, Canberra

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH NEWS

### RECORDING GARDENS WORKSHOP: SUNDAY 28 JULY

The SH Branch organised this one workshop and a large group of our branch members attended along with members from Sydney and Gyra. The workshop was based on the recently republished AGHS publication *Recording Gardens: Preparing for Conservation or Restoration*.

## OF INTEREST

### *The National Trust's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Reid Open Houses and Gardens Event*

SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER, 1.15 . 4.30PM

In collaboration with the Reid Residents Association Inc.

Property owners, will once again open three privately-owned houses and gardens from the 1930s in Reid's Heritage precinct. The houses and their gardens, which have not been previously opened, will be available for inspection. Meet the owners and view inside the houses and also their gardens. The properties comprise three circa 1937 Department of

the Interior houses: two substantially renovated and extended homes and one near original 1937 home purchased from the government on 19 January 1960.

The ticket price includes:

- a guided tour of the three houses and gardens
- a copy of *The Heritage of Reid* by Shibu Dutta,
- an introductory talk on the Reid Heritage-listed Housing Precinct by a Heritage architect,
- a printed hand-out on each house & garden, and
- a delicious afternoon tea at the Reid Pre-school, which first opened in 1944.

Tickets cost \$25 (Trust, U3A, Friends of the National Library, AGHS & RRA members) & \$35 (non-members). Most credit cards are accepted.

Further information and booking details go to <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/event/14th-reid-open-houses-and-gardens/>

#### CANBERRA MUSEUM AND GALLERY

<http://www.cmag.com.au/exhibitions/the-garden-city>

#### **7 September – 2 November**

Exhibition: *The Garden City*

For 90 years the Horticultural Society of Canberra has been there to inspire, educate and sometimes console Canberra gardeners and their backyard efforts.

This display highlights the work of the Society, from planning the National Rose Garden and holding flower shows to the production of the much loved and often-thumbed *Canberra Gardener*. Now in its tenth edition, each volume has evolved to reflect the changing trends in the city and a greater understanding of our local environment.

Complemented by works from the CMAG collection celebrating gardens and the beauty of nature, this exhibition will delight green and not-so-green thumbs alike.

#### TASTE OF TARALGA FESTIVAL

<https://www.tasteoftaralga.com/>

#### **October Long Weekend**

The annual festival showcases the Taralga township through a multitude of events featuring Music, Food, Culture and Fun. The theme for this year is celebrating the 200 year anniversary of the first Europeans to pass through the area now known as Taralga.

#### RIVERSDALE

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/event/riversdale-rare-plants-growers-garden-fair/>

#### **3 November, 10am – 3pm**

Annual Rare Plants and Growers Garden Fair

#### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF CANBERRA

<http://www.hsoc.org.au/index.htm>

#### NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA

[www.arboretumcanberra.org.au](http://www.arboretumcanberra.org.au)

## AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

[www.anbg.gov.au](http://www.anbg.gov.au)

Lectures on a variety of topics are offered by the Friends of the National Botanic Gardens at 12.30pm on most Thursdays. No bookings are required, entry by gold coin donation. Be warned that the talks are very popular and spaces are limited. For details and updates check the Friends website at [www.friendsanbg.org.au](http://www.friendsanbg.org.au).

## LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN GUARDIANS (LBGG)

<http://lakeburleygriffinguardians.org.au/>