

# Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch



Newsletter February 2019 No 1

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

ACT Monaro Riverina Branch, PO Box 5008, LYNEHAM ACT 2602  
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## BRANCH DIARY

### 23 FEBRUARY

Ramble: Growing Democracy

### 21 MARCH

Ramble: Plantings at the AWM

### 23 MARCH

Visit to Solander Garden, Swedish Embassy

### 13 APRIL

NT Heritage Festival Open Day

### 5 MAY

Visit to Mount Stromlo

### 4 JULY

Lecture: *Shared dreams and destinies: botanic gardens of Melbourne and Sydney*, speaker Prof. Tim Entwisle

### 25-27 OCTOBER 2019

AGHS National Conference . Wellington, NZ

## NEXT EVENTS

### *Growing Democracy: Plants, Places and People in the Parliamentary Triangle*

SATURDAY RAMBLE - FEBRUARY 23  
4.30 – 6PM (WITH REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW)

We can't miss the golden wattle shining on our coat of arms on the front of Old Parliament House, but this ramble will open our eyes to other emblems of democracy that we rarely



Photo Anna Howe

see although they are right in front of our eyes. As well as noting different depictions of wattle on the coat of arms, we will see how styles of gardens and landscaping have changed across the Parliamentary Triangle as our democracy has developed over the last 50 years. The designers of newer areas between Old Parliament House and Commonwealth Place along the Lake have created landscapes that are quite different from the Old Parliament House Rose Gardens, and may prompt ideas about how gardens might give further expression to our democracy in future.

Starting opposite the National Library, we will walk at a slow pace and on flat lawns and paths, stopping at six points to look at, learn about and talk about emblems of our democracy.

Our leader will be Anna Howe who first lived in Canberra in the mid-1970s, when she worked in the Department of Urban and Regional Development. Her return to Canberra in 2011 revived her interest in exploring our urban environments and discovering just how special they are. Anna is a former AGHS Committee member.

Numbers are limited. Refreshments will be served after this late-summer walk.

- Meet** 4.30pm at the fountain in front of the National Library, Parkes Place West. (with refreshments at 6pm at the sheltered picnic/bbq site behind Questacon, close to the large Questacon carpark)
- Cost** \$15 Members, \$20 non-members - including refreshments
- Bookings** Through TryBooking, <https://www.trybooking.com/ZQOH>  
You may pay by debit or credit card. Only a handful of places left.

**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**  
**Wendy Dodd**  
**Greg Johnson**  
**Helen Wilson**

**Parking** In the small Questacon carpark opposite the NLA entrance road, in the large carpark behind Questacon and diagonally opposite the NLA or at the NLA or all free at weekends.

**Inquiries** Nancy Clarke - [clarkenancy624@gmail.com](mailto:clarkenancy624@gmail.com) or 0423690626

## *History in Nature – Plantings at the Australian War Memorial*

**RAMBLE: THURSDAY 21 MARCH  
2.30 – 3.30 (WITH REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW)**

This guided tour of the grounds of the Australian War Memorial will commence at the main entrance to the War Memorial at 2.30 pm. Trees and shrubs and terracing have been important right from the designing of the Memorial as evidenced in early paintings and plans by architect Emil Sodersten in 1930s. We all know of the significance of the Lone Pine and poppies but join the tour to hear about the significance of other plantings in the Memorial's grounds.

**Meet** 2.15pm in the main entrance of the Memorial for a 2.30pm start.

**Cost** \$15 Members, \$20 non-members - including refreshments nearby at 53 Euree Street, Reid

**Bookings** Through TryBooking, <https://www.trybooking.com/BAJDB>.  
You may pay by debit or credit card.

**Parking** Underground parking is available off Fairbairn Avenue; above-ground parking is available off Treloar Crescent.

**Inquiries** (after 16 February) Wendy Dodd [wendydodd@hotmail.com](mailto:wendydodd@hotmail.com),  
0408 637 990

## *Visit to the new Solander Garden at the Embassy of Sweden*

**SATURDAY 23 MARCH**

**Save the date** - Arrangements are still being made for the Embassy of Sweden to host an event to showcase their new Solander Garden to several groups including our members. At this stage it is likely to be in the afternoon. Details will be sent to members as soon as they become available.

## *National Trust Heritage Festival Open Day Gungahlin Homestead*

**SATURDAY 13 APRIL, 10AM – 3PM**

This year the National Trust Heritage Festival Open Day will be held at Gungahlin Homestead, in Bellenden Road, Crace and as in the past AGHS will have a stall at the event. If you would like to help staff the stall (either from 9.30 to 12.30 OR from 12.30 to 3.30), please contact Nancy Clarke [clarkenancy624@gmail.com](mailto:clarkenancy624@gmail.com).

There will be participation from a large number of community organisations with heritage interests. There will also be tours of the homestead during the day.

In 2017 the Open Day was held at the Homestead for the first time and was a remarkable success. CSIRO is the main lessee of the site, and has agreed to this event, and Soldier On, which currently occupies the Homestead and other buildings is a partner for the day. Soldier On will benefit from the gold coin donation for entry.

The event will be publicised in the Heritage Festival publication which will be published in March. It is likely to be very popular!

## ***A Visit to the Director's Residence and Garden, Mt Stromlo***

**SUNDAY 5 MAY, 2 – 4.30PM**

Many see Mount Stromlo as a place for science, but it was also a home to many people over the last 100 years.

Originally known as *Observatory House*, the Director's Residence was completed in 1928 to accommodate the Director of Mount Stromlo and family. The building was designed by the Supervising Architect for the Federal Capital Territory, Henry Maitland Rolland, with substantial input from the founding Director Walter Geoffrey Duffield and his wife Doris. Seven Observatory Directors and several others lived in the Residence before it was severely damaged in the firestorm of January 2003.



**Photo: Joan and Doris Duffield gardening during construction of the Director's Residence, Mt Stromlo (1927/28). (Duffield family).**

The Director's Residence was once the social heart of Mount Stromlo. The immaculate grounds hosted parties, functions for visiting dignitaries, and other special events. The landscape was primarily in the European domestic style with large established trees, manicured lawns, a formal patio, rose garden, orchard, arbour and even a croquet lawn. Following the 2003 fires, most of the landscape features and plantings were destroyed.

The damaged residence has now been stabilised, and the garden restored, so that what you see now is a modern interpretation of the original landscape, taking inspiration from recorded memories and historic images of the site.

As part of the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival, join ANU Heritage Adviser Amy Jarvis in a walk around the Observatory, as well as to the Residence and its restored gardens and orchard. Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

A joint event of AGHS ACT Monaro Riverina and the National Trust ACT.

<b>Cost</b>	\$15 - including refreshments
<b>Bookings</b>	Are essential through TryBooking, <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/ZYFC">https://www.trybooking.com/ZYFC</a> You may pay by debit or credit card. Bookings <b>OPEN on Wednesday 13 March</b> . Unfortunately, numbers for the event are very limited.
<b>Inquiries</b>	Nancy Clarke, <a href="mailto:clarkenancy624@gmail.com">clarkenancy624@gmail.com</a> , 0423 690 626.

### Advance Notice

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

**SPEAKER: PROFESSOR TIMOTHY J ENTWISLE**  
**THURSDAY 4 JULY, 6PM**

A joint event with the Friends of the National Library

Sydney's Royal Botanic Garden turned 200 in 2016, and Melbourne's celebrates its 175<sup>th</sup> in 2021. They are two of the older botanic gardens outside of Europe, and today they demonstrate how beautiful heritage landscapes can display and interpret stunning plant collections. Both stuttered in their beginnings but through the varied influences of directors such as Charles Moore, Ferdinand Mueller, William Guilfoyle and Joseph Maiden, it's fair to say they exceeded expectations by the early years of the twentieth century. There are some curious parallels in their development, and undoubtedly more in their future. Climate change, financial security and that growing community ailment, plant blindness will test both gardens as they negotiate the next century or two.

**Professor Timothy J Entwisle** is Director and Chief Executive of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, home to two of the world's most beautiful and inspiring botanic garden landscapes, in Melbourne and Cranbourne. Under his leadership the RBGV is transforming into an outward-looking organisation with a focus as much on people as plants. Creative events such as *Fire Gardens* in October 2018 illustrate the mix of nature, culture and science that Tim sees as the strength of a contemporary botanic garden.



Tim is a highly respected scientist, scientific communicator and botanic gardens director. He took up the role at RBGV in March 2013, following two years in a senior role at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and eight years as Executive Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust in Sydney. He is an Honorary Professorial Fellow at The University of Melbourne, and a regular contributor to print, radio (including ABC RN's *Blueprint for Living*) and social media.

He has a broad interest in all plants and related life forms and you can visit his blog at <http://talkingplants.blogspot.com/>.

<b>Venue</b>	Theatre, National Library of Australia
<b>Information</b>	Bookings will be through the NLA and details will appear in the April Branch Newsletter.

## NEW MEMBERS

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

- Judith Saw, Canberra

## BRANCH NEWS

### CONGRATULATIONS TO TWO BRANCH MEMBERS

**Juliet Ramsay** has been awarded an honorary membership of Australia ICOMOS as public recognition for her work with cultural landscapes and gardens over many years. For more information go to <https://australia.icomos.org/wp-content/uploads/Juliet-Ramsay-citation.pdf>

**Paulene Cairnduff**, was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in this year's Australia Day Honours List, for her services to horticulture.

## AGHS NATIONAL NEWS

### AGHS ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

*Expanding Horizons*  
*Wellington, New Zealand*  
*25 - 27 October 2019*



**MUSEUM OF  
NEW ZEALAND  
TE PAPA  
TONGAREWA**

You should all have received the Conference Registration Brochure when it was mailed out with the recent AGHS Journal. Bookings opening **11 February 2019**.

### AGHS WEBSITE CHANGES

In preparation for a conference booking link and an online shop for purchasing publications etc., the website has been improved over the Christmas break. Work is still in progress but it's all coming together.

Many thanks to Lachlan Garland, AGHS volunteer, who works quietly behind the scenes updating the website. Lachlan is currently feeding 2019 information onto the Branch pages so please refer to the website to find out what is happening in your local area.

## OF INTEREST

### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

<https://www.nla.gov.au>

22 September 2018 . 10 February 2019, Free

Visitors to Cook and the Pacific will follow James Cook's three remarkable Pacific voyages, and explore this spectacular region through the eyes of the British voyagers and the First Nations peoples they met.

### 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).

### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF CANBERRA

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

### OPEN GARDENS CANBERRA

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

### NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA

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

### LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN GUARDIANS (LBGG)

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

We are starting a new year with no clarity on the future of West Basin. Although we have been fighting on all flanks of the battlefield, the situation remains with the ACT Government planning to infill the section of the basin for an apartment estate and privatise the land and the vistas. The City Renewal Authority continues to promote that an industrial look alike waterfront is what Canberra needs and the models that they keep bragging about are the Docklands Melbourne and Darling Harbour Sydney. With aspirations such as these leading the major design developments, Canberra will soon have no garden matrix and what is left the National Capital Open Space System will be hidden from view by all the mid to high developments.

The dilemma of West Basin is the development proposal sits in the National Capital Plan approved by Parliament in 2006. The only way it can be stopped is for the ACT Government to do so. Meanwhile the Guardians are meeting with politicians, political groups, trying to inform people and throwing as much sand around as we can.

Thanks to the Australian Garden History Society for their continual support.

**Juliet Ramsay**