

ACT Monaro Riverina Branch

Newsletter February 2022 No 1



Australian Garden History Society
www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au

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BRANCH DIARY

18 MARCH, 1.30–
5.15 PM

Telling the Time by the Sun

AGHS NATIONAL
CONFERENCE,
HOBART

11-13 NOVEMBER

*Landscape on the
Edge: Challenge and
Opportunity*

Bookings open 1 May

BRANCH COMMITTEE

Margie Bourke, Chair
Sue Cassidy, Treasurer
Anne Claoue-Long, State
NMC Representative
Nancy Clarke, Secretary

Bronwyn Blake (and Co-
chair of the NMC)
Lynne Curran
Fleur Flanery
Greg Johnson
Susan Phillips

Message from the Chair

2022 has well and truly launched, with many activities carefully returning for those of us based in Canberra, even with the requirement to wear a mask. For our Branch of AGHS it has meant that we could plan, with increased certainty, some events which have been waiting for a good year, or longer, to take place. There is an account of the first of these, a lecture by Glenda Korpmaal, given on page 3.

This will be followed on 18 March by our long anticipated study of sundials with Dr Marg Folkard. You will find details of how to book for this collaboration with the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens on page 3,

OTHER EVENTS IN THE PLANNING STAGE

- **Saturday 30 April, 2pm:** Joint event with the National Trust for the Heritage Festival: a visit to Lambrigg
- **Late May:** Visit to Woomargama and Albury
- **June:** After last year's triumph, another Garden related film in the wonderful Gundaroo Hall
- **July:** an online talk hopefully about indoor plants
- **August:** Annual General Meeting and Annual Lecture

I anticipate that in the next Newsletter we will be in a position to give firm arrangements for a number of these activities.

NMC STRATEGIC PLAN

At the end of January your Branch Committee held a Planning Session, to finalise activities for the rest of the year, to discuss the National Management Committee's Strategic Plan, and prepare a Branch response to its four stated Goals:

1. Raise awareness of the Australian Garden History Society's work

The Committee considered that we have a longstanding record of working in partnership with like-minded Friends bodies such as the National Library, the National Trust, the National Arboretum Canberra, the Australian National Botanic Gardens and participating in the Canberra and Region Heritage Week, which help to create a profile and awareness of the organisation.

2. Develop tools to assist with advocacy

A strong recommendation was that we should aim to be pro-active in our advocacy rather than reactive. This became very obvious with the disappointing outcome of our, and almost 600 other submissions, pleading for the re-development of the Australian War Memorial not to proceed. We also would prefer to be seen as a constructive group in pointing out options, and endorsing sound heritage solutions.

3. Find new funding opportunities to support our work in identifying, researching and recording significant gardens and cultural landscapes

The NMC Treasurer is trying to get Not-for-Profit status.

Other suggestions were to re-vitalise merchandise for sale – in the past these were T shirts, hats, aprons etc., and to seek sponsors who might offer in-kind rewards.

We welcome any other suggestions from members.

4. Develop a response to Climate Change

The AGHS Climate Change Advisory Group, led by our Patron Tim Entwisle is already very active, and at Branch level we intend to support the work and recommendations of this Advisory Group. This could mean that our Branch would participate in, and possibly organise, information sessions, symposia and partner with like-minded organisations.

We would welcome feedback on any aspect of our Branch response to the Strategic Goals. Please contact me - marg@mebourne.com

Margie Bourke

FORTHCOMING EVENT

Telling the Time by the Sun *Friday 18 March, 1.30pm – 5.15pm*

This is a self-drive event.

We are absolutely delighted that the Sundials afternoon foreshadowed in the December Newsletter will go ahead on Friday 18th March.



Armillary Sphere, ANBG, Photo Nancy Clarke

This twice-deferred event has been much anticipated and our collaboration with the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens promises to provide us with a truly excellent afternoon when our presenter, Adelaide based Dr Margaret Folkard, physicist and sundial designer and maker extraordinaire, will speak about the history and science of sundials, as well as the exacting art of creating them.

She will focus in particular on two Canberra sundials, both designed by **Sundials Australia** (Marg and John Ward) – the armillary sphere in the Australian National Botanic Gardens (a gift to the Gardens from its Friends 20 years ago) and the analemmatic or human sundial at Mt Stromlo.

Before clocks were invented, sundials were used in public places and in the grounds of significant buildings to mark the hours of the day. By the 19th century sundials had become largely ornamental, and today many gardens large and small feature a sundial. Sundials designed and made by **Sundials Australia** are installed in public and private gardens in Australia and beyond, including in many Australian botanic gardens – among them Sydney, Mt Annan, Mt Tomah and Port Augusta. Each is unique and specific to its location.

The Sundials afternoon will start in the theatrette of the ANBG. After this, we will walk (a ten-to-fifteen-minute walk) to the sundial near the rockery in the ANBG. Flora Explorer, the ANBG mini-van will be available for participants with limited mobility. The Botanic Gardens also has two electric scooters that may be hired – ring 6250 9453.

After afternoon tea we will drive in our own cars to the sundial at Mt Stromlo Observatory, so we can tell the time by our own shadows in the late afternoon light.

- Venue** We start in the Theatrette, Australian National Botanic Gardens (opposite the Visitor Centre), and finish at Mt Stromlo Observatory.
- Times** The talk will start in the Theatrette at 1.30 pm. We have a very full afternoon so please arrive in good time to help us keep to time. We anticipate that our visit to Mt Stromlo will finish by 5.15 pm.
- Cost** \$25 including afternoon tea. Plus 50 cents ticket fee.
- Bookings** **Open on Monday 21 February.** Bookings are essential and because of COVID restrictions, numbers are very limited. Please book promptly if you wish to attend.
- Book through Try Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/BXNDV>
- COVID** You are required to wear a mask in the theatrette at the Gardens, and we will also observe COVID safe practices for serving food etc.
- Enquiries** Nancy Clarke clarkenancy624@gmail.com, or ring 0423 690 626

PAST EVENT

Lecture: Marion Mahony Griffin – in her own right Thursday 10 February

After two forced cancellations last year due to Covid restrictions, it was a great pleasure that Glenda was able to deliver this talk, the latest in our annual joint event with the Friends of the National Library.

Glenda Korporaal has been a journalist for more than forty years. It was while she was an overseas correspondent posted in the USA that she began researching the couple who won the competition to design Canberra. It became clear from her research that the focus in accounts of the winning design recognised Walter, but left Marion in the shadows, even though it was her exquisite rendering of the designs which had contributed to the design winning.

It became Glenda's mission to increase awareness of the major contribution that Marion made to the professional partnership of the pair. Ten years of researching resulted in Glenda's book, *Making Magic: The Marion Mahony Griffin Story*. As a highly useful resource, members of the audience were given A Guide to Marion Mahony Griffin Collection Items in the National Library of Australia, and I would like to thank Melanie Olde for compiling it.



Photo: Lynne Curran, L-R Chris Kenna, Margie Bourke, Glenda Korporaal, Nancy Clarke, Margaret Nicholls, Kerry Blackburn

The day after Glenda's lecture an exhibition entitled Marion: the other Griffin opened at the National Archives and will continue until 8 May, which also contributes to raising awareness of this gifted woman.

Margie Bourke

BRANCH NEWS

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The committee would like to welcome the following new members who have joined since the last Newsletter.

- Gerrie & Paul Mackey, Canberra

and three members who were inadvertently assigned to the Southern Highlands Branch. (We are very happy to have them in our Branch).

- Judy Brooker, Yass
- Mark McRae, Yass
- Rowena Weir, Bookham

SYDNEY BRANCH NEWS

Our Branch members are welcome to attend events organised by the Sydney Branch. Three of these events are ones that were to happen during the 2021 conference and I know some of our members had booked to attend.

CALLAN PARK – CULTURAL LANDSCAPE WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY, 7PM WEBINAR PRESENTED BY ROSLYN BURGE

Callan Park is a large, historically significant former hospital and park comprising 60 hectares on a North-facing bank of the Parramatta River in Sydney. It opened as a hospital for the mentally ill in 1878, providing twenty sandstone, neo-classical buildings with linking courtyards and extensive grounds for the patients; and the site experienced many changes until it finally closed in 2008. Since then it has been vulnerable to the pressures of redevelopment, particularly residential, nestled as it is between the sought after areas of Balmain and Rozelle. However the community-based Friends of Callan Park have actively sought to keep it open to the public for use as a parkland for active and passive recreation, social gatherings, education and public events.

Cost \$10 for AGHS members, \$15 non-members and \$5 students

Bookings <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=854028&>



**WENDY'S SECRET & CARRADAH PARK & SUNSET
DRINKS AT THE COAL LOADER
FRIDAY 18 MARCH, 1PM - 8PM**

Participants will meet at the famous Luna Park face at 1 PM and walk the promenade around Lavender Bay to Wendy's Secret Garden where they will enjoy the ambience of this terraced guerrilla garden that overlooks the harbour. They will be meeting Wendy in the garden along with her volunteer coordinator, Mr Ian Curdie, then they will be catching a shuttle bus to Carradah Park and Balls Head.

A guided walking tour will take participants through the reclaimed BP site which now forms Carradah Park and around historic Berrys Bay to Balls Head. Afternoon tea will be served in Carradah Park. The views of the harbour, city and heritage sites that comprise the Waverton Peninsula will then be topped off by a tour of the Coal Loader provided by David Banbury from North Sydney Council. As well as explaining the transformation of this site into a wonderful community space David will take the group into the tunnel beneath the coal loader which illustrates the workings of this early industrial site.

To end the day sunset drinks will be provided at the Coal Loader Platform overlooking the western arm of Sydney Harbour and the shuttle bus will return revellers to Luna Park from 7:30 onward.

Cost \$95 for AGHS members, \$115 non-members and \$50 students

Bookings www.trybooking.com/BXJMC

Further information aghssydney@gmail.com, Susan Stratton 0419 970 580,
David Low 0407 464 876

**EASTERN SUBURBS TOUR – ROSE BAY COTTAGE
AND VAUCLUSE HOUSE
SATURDAY 19 MARCH, 12.30 – 4.30PM**

Participants will be visiting the colonial gardens of both Vaucluse House and Rose Bay Cottage. Vaucluse House is one of Sydney's only surviving nineteenth century mansions still surrounded by its original grounds and Rose Bay Cottage is the oldest surviving property in Woollahra.

Starting at Rose Bay Ferry Wharf, the bus will take them on a short drive-by tour of South Head and Watsons Bay, parking at Vaucluse House. They will join in a rare, behind the scenes, guided walking tour of the property with Sydney Living Museums Horticulturist - Steven Halliday, including a walk through the rambling Pleasure Garden and the plentiful Kitchen Garden. A light afternoon tea will be enjoyed here in the stables before boarding the bus and returning to Rose Bay Ferry Wharf where we will then walk along the promenade on our way to Rose Bay Cottage.

Rose Bay Cottage is a hidden gem located just off New South Head road, and the group will be met by one of its current owners, Peter, and given an introduction to the property and shown its magnificent gardens.

Cost \$95 for AGHS members, \$115 non-members and \$50 students

Bookings www.trybooking.com/BXKHD

Further information aghssydney@gmail.com, Susan Stratton 0419 970 580,
David Low 0407 464 876

SYDNEY UNDER SAIL – A DAY AT SEA

SUNDAY 20 MARCH, 9.45AM

Originally planned as The 'Green Necklace' harbour cruise, Sydney Heritage Fleet (SHF) already had this bigger and better cruise planned. This cruise is organised by SHF and all bookings will go through their website.

This experience starts the moment the historic 'James Craig' leaves its berth at Pyrmont. As you cruise down the harbour, take in the sights of harbour icons - the mighty Harbour Bridge and the stunning Opera House then wave farewell to the beautiful Sydney skyline as we make our way out through Sydney Heads to the great blue yonder.



Photo: ABC

Your ticket includes morning tea with a quality selection of fruit breads and fresh fruit. Lunch consists of individual packs of sandwiches, quiches and muffins. Afternoon tea will be sweet tarts and slices as well as cheese and cracker platters. Tea/coffee are available throughout the sail and alcoholic beverages can be purchased at the on-board bar.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Cost | \$135 AGHS members, \$155 Adult; \$65 Child (12-14yo); \$140 Concession |
| Bookings | Sydney Heritage Fleet, https://shf.rezdy.com/155344/see-sydney-under-sail-a-day-at-sea |
| Depart | Wharf 7, 58 Pirrama Road, Pyrmont NSW 2009 |

NATIONAL NEWS

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENTS

The AGHS website has been transferred to a new host server and should now load faster. There is also a new Search function that utilises Google to search within the AGHS website pages. The search button is found by scrolling down the Home page and is also in the top banner. <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/search-aghs/>

And well worth a look is new sections on the website for "AGHS YouTube", "Book Reviews" and "Articles" which don't quite make it into the Journal but are still worth reading. For access see under the "News" tab or play with the new search function.

TOUR: GARDENS OF NEW ENGLAND AND THE HUNTER VALLEY

19 MARCH – 10 APRIL

Join garden enthusiast, Lynne Walker, a passionate gardener and former Coordinator for Australia's Open Garden Scheme, Northern New South Wales, on an exciting new tour organised by ASA Cultural Tours for AGHS members which will explore a diverse range of private gardens in the Hunter Valley and New England.

For more information go to
<https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/events-conferences/category/tour/>

TOUR: BLUE MOUNTAINS TOUR
NEW DATES: 5 – 7 APRIL AND 3 – 5 MAY



Stuart Read leads two tours departing from and returning to Sydney. Both will be 3-days, 2-nights (staying in Katoomba). We will visit a range of private and public gardens. Some were on the first AGHS tour out of Sydney in 1981, like Everglades at Leura, and high-Victorian Wynstay at Mount Wilson. They aim to give an idea of the diversity and challenges of mountain gardens.

The mountains suffered shocking fires over 2019-2020. What is remarkable is the erratic impacts and bounce-back to life, with rains and time. This tour is a good opportunity to visit 2 years on and better understand the resilience of nature and gardeners.

Participants will learn something of fire-centred ecology, with eucalypts depending on it for a clear ash bed in which to

germinate seed. The Blue Mountains are World-Heritage-listed for their eucalypt diversity as a core heritage value.

Each tour is limited to 48 people. Registration includes accommodation, garden visits, lunches and morning teas. These tours are for AGHS members only. If you are not already an AGHS member, we welcome you to subscribe.

For more information go to <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/events-conferences/category/tour/>

Cost Single Accommodation: \$ 1,000. Twin Share Accommodation: \$ 860.

Photo Jacques Bopp

OF INTEREST

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

www.anbg.gov.au

Friends Thursday Talks recommenced in February. Admission is by gold coin. Bookings are essential and can be made from the Friday before until Wednesday night before the talk. For program details and for bookings go to <https://www.friendsanbg.org.au/calendar>

To see **what is on** in the Gardens go to <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/botanic-gardens/do/whats-on/>

NATIONAL TRUST (ACT)

For details on monthly Heritage walks go to: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/heritagewalks-act/>

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF CANBERRA

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

NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA
www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au

For details on walks, workshops and other events visited the Arboretum website.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA
<https://www.naa.gov.au/visit-us/events-and-exhibitions>

Exhibition: *Marion: the other Griffin*

11 February – 8 May, Free

Architect, designer, idealist, trailblazer. Marion Mahony Griffin has often been overshadowed by her famous collaborators, Frank Lloyd Wright and Walter Burley Griffin. *Marion: the other Griffin* reveals and celebrates the life and achievements of this extraordinary woman.

From Chicago to Canberra to Lucknow, Marion's remarkable career and designs are revealed. Enjoy the rare opportunity to view the original and beautiful plans for the design of the nation's capital submitted by Marion and Walter Burley Griffin in 1912. Be inspired by Marion's drive, passion and ground-breaking design ethos

Talk: *Marion Mahony Griffin: collaboration and influence in architecture*

3 March, 5.30 -7.30pm, Members \$9, others \$10

Join curator Emily Catt, Adjunct Associate Professor Dianne Firth and architect and AIA national president Shannon Battisson, as they discuss collaboration and influence in architecture, with a focus on Marion Mahony Griffin, Walter Burley Griffin and Frank Lloyd Wright.

Marion Mahony Griffin often collaborated on projects with Frank Lloyd Wright and Walter Burley Griffin, and drew inspiration from what she saw on her travels. Her skills, contributions and drawings brought to life the winning entry in the National Capital Design competition of 1913

In Canberra Marion Mahony Griffin is recognised as the technical illustrator behind the beautiful drawings for the winning Federal Capital Design Competition entry (1911–12). Yet she was also a talented architect in her own right and a skilled visual communicator. The works on display in *Marion: the other Griffin* remind us of Marion, her collaborations and influences and that she was a successful architect, artist and trailblazer in her own right.

VIRTUAL TOMATO FESTIVAL SYDNEY

Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 February

While we're not able to host the Festival at the Garden this year we have fabulous free live sessions with our Festival Ambassador Costa Georgiadis, our Community Greening staff, Foundation and Friends of the Botanic Gardens, the Diggers Club and Grow it Local.

There are also great recipes from award winning and Executive Chef of the Longest Tomato Lunch – Chef Luca Ciano, great tips on growing tomatoes, interesting tomato facts, information about the different heirloom varieties, how to build a wicking bed and more. For more information go to <https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/Visit/Tomato-Festival-2022>

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF CANBERRA
<http://www.hsoc.org.au>

LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN GUARDIANS (LBGG)<http://lakeburleygriffinguardians.org.au/>**CANBERRA MUSEUM AND GALLERY (CMAG)****Wellbeing workshops: nature, garden, landscape**

Kickstart your creativity with these art and photography Wellbeing Workshops - all inspired by the gardens and landscapes at Lanyon Homestead, Mugga Mugga Cottage and Calthorpes House.

- **Making Clay Thought Vessels with Fran Romano**
Sun 27 Feb 2022 | 11.30am - 1pm | Lanyon Homestead
- **Cyanotype Photography of Mugga Mugga Grasslands**
Sat 5 March 2022 | 10am - 1pm | Mugga Mugga Cottage
- **Ink Stick Drawing with Naomi Zouwer**
Sat 12 March 2022 | 10.30am - 12.30pm | Mugga Mugga Cottage
- **Nature's Notes: Creating Art Books with Pianola Rolls**
Sat 19 March 2022 | 1.30pm - 3.30pm | Calthorpes' House
- **Nature Photography with Ben Kapilow**
Sat 26 March 2022 | 7am - 9am | Lanyon Homestead

Bookings essential. Limited numbers for each workshop.

For the full program or to book, go to:

<https://events.humanitix.com/tours/wellbeing-workshops-nature-gardens-landscapes>