

# ACT Monaro Riverina Branch

## Newsletter March 2021 No 2



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

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### BRANCH DIARY

#### 17 MARCH

Webinar: *Charles Moore and Joseph Maiden – Outreach and Impact.*  
Speaker Colleen Morris

#### 24 MARCH

*Green Hills Visit and Talk*

#### 10 APRIL

A Garden for a Modernist House

#### 24 APRIL

Beside the Queanbeyan River – an Afternoon Walk

### AGHS NATIONAL CONFERENCES

#### 10-12 SEPTEMBER 2021

AGHS National Conference – Sydney  
*Many Dreams One Landscape*

#### 11-13 NOVEMBER 2022

AGHS National Conference – Hobart

### 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

### NEXT EVENTS

## Webinar: Charles Moore and Joseph Maiden – Outreach and Impact

WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH, 5.45 FOR A 6.00 PM START

SPEAKER: COLLEEN MORRIS

This talk will discuss the influence of two directors of the Sydney Botanic Garden: Charles Moore whose directorship spanned from 1848 to 1896 and then the Joseph Maiden era from 1896 to 1924; periods of continuous direction of 48 and 28 years respectively. As to record-keeping the two men were the antitheses of each other. On Moore's death the assiduous Maiden, who left voluminous records, wrote that Moore 'wrote but little'.

However Moore's talent as a designer had an impression on a young William Guilfoyle who undoubtedly drew on his knowledge of the Sydney garden when he designed Melbourne Botanic Garden. Both Moore and Maiden were influential in shaping attitudes to botany, horticulture, forestry and science in NSW and Australia at a critical time and this presentation will broadly discuss their legacy.

**Colleen Morris** is a landscape heritage consultant, author and curator specialising in garden history, cultural landscape assessment and conservation management. She has prepared conservation plans for many of Australia's most significant historic gardens, including the botanic gardens of Adelaide and Sydney and Sydney's Government House and Domain. She has a particular knowledge of plant introductions to Australia and was instrumental in devising the Colonial Plants database for Sydney Living Museums. A more recent project undertaken with Christine Hay and James Quoye was the AILA Landscape Heritage Conservation Listing project.

Colleen was the National Chair of the Australian Garden History Society from 2003-2009, is Deputy Chair of the National Trust (NSW) Landscape Conservation Committee and is a member of the Heritage Council of NSW.

**Cost** AGHS and Friends of RBG \$10, Non-members. \$15  
**Bookings** Through TryBooking <https://www.trybooking.com/BOGYN>

## Green Hills Visit & Talk

WEDNESDAY 24 MARCH, 4.30 – 6.00 PM

SPEAKER: TREVOR LIPSCOMBE

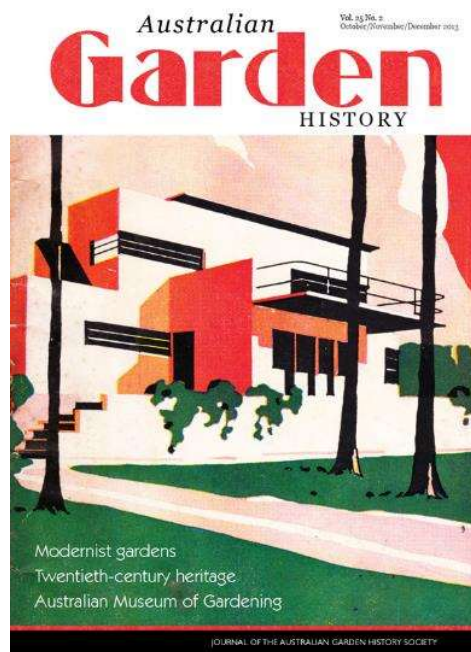
For our celebration in the month of Canberra's birthday, we plan to visit the Himalayan Forest at the National Arboretum. The Himalayan Forest was planted by Griffin as one of the three barren hills on the western side of his plan for Canberra which he planned to turn green, along with nearby Roman Cypress Hill, and Dairy Farmers Hill. Trevor Lipscombe will be enlightening us further with fascinating details about all three. Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra have been invited to join us.

For more information on the Green Hills go to our Branch page on the AGHS website at <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/branches/act/>

- Directions** On entering the National Arboretum take the second road to the right and park in the Himalayan Cedar car park. Gather near the sign indicating the start of the Himalayan Forest Track where we will meet our speaker, and then move as a group through the forest on a gentle sealed path, to arrive at the barbecue picnic area, where there are seats for about 20 behind picnic tables. This where the talk will be held, followed by light refreshments.
- Cost** \$15 AGHS and FNAC members, \$20 non-members (plus 50c ticket fee) including refreshments.
- Bookings** Essential through TryBooking <https://www.trybooking.com/BOVHN>
- Enquiries** Margie Bourke, [marg@mebourke.com](mailto:marg@mebourke.com)

## *A Garden for a Modernist House*

SATURDAY 10 APRIL, 10.00 AM – 12.00 NOON



Canberra, as the modern twentieth century capital of Australia, was designed with domestic gardens as an important component of the garden city planning.

Our location for this event is a totally Modernist house in Campbell; and the fully documented garden with only Australian plants is in sympathy with the house. But is it a Modernist Garden?

Join us to explore Modernism from the perspective of the garden at this iconic mid-century house with garden historians, home owner and designer Bronwyn Blue, the Australian Garden History Society and Canberra Modern.

A series of short talks (+Q&A) will focus on modernist architecture, modernist gardens, and gardens for modern living at a time of climate change. Then we can visit the garden and enjoy conversation together.

An Australian Garden History Society and Canberra Modern event for the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival <https://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/heritage-festival>

- Location** Campbell in the inner north. The address will be supplied after you register.
- Cost** \$10 members, \$15 non-members (plus 50c ticket fee)
- Bookings** Essential through TryBooking <https://www.trybooking.com/BOINE>  
Numbers are limited
- Enquiries** Nancy Clarke 0423 690 626 or [clarkenancy624@gmail.com](mailto:clarkenancy624@gmail.com)

## *Beside the Queanbeyan River: An afternoon walk with Stories on the Way*

**SATURDAY 24 APRIL, 2- 4.30 PM**

We are delighted that the Queanbeyan walk planned for the 2020 Canberra and Region Heritage Festival will take place THIS year.

Queanbeyan's story is closely tied to the Queanbeyan River, with even Surveyor Larmer's siting of the initial village being dictated by the natural and stable ford where the current bridge stands. His 1838 plan for the village spanned the river with Monaro Street aligned with the crossing. The importance of this spot is shown by the establishment of Queanbeyan's first two businesses (both existing before 1838) – a blacksmith on the east and a store on the opposite side. The river was the lifeline of the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people and then for the Europeans who settled here – providing water and an abundance of food in the forms of fish, mammals and birdlife.

AGHS and the National Trust ACT are joining again to present an event for the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival.

<https://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/heritage-festival>

Historian Gillian Kelly has devised and will lead an easy riverside walk (approximately 2 km), sharing stories of the natural and cultivated landscape and the people who visited and settled here from earliest times to now. Gillian is passionate about preserving and sharing the early history of the city, but especially about the role the river has played in its development, the hard times and the good times. Her research has led her to many stories of the events and people that have influenced the development of the village to a town to a city.



We will finish at the Queanbeyan Sensory Gardens, where we will enjoy refreshments.

***The Suspension Bridge***, Queanbeyan. Photo Nancy Clarke

<b>Venue</b>	We will meet on the Queanbeyan River Path <b>under</b> the Queen's Bridge (Trinculo Place, Queanbeyan East)
<b>Parking</b>	In Wanniassa St/Molonglo St or in Trinculo Place or nearby and then walk to the bridge underpass.
<b>Start</b>	The walk starts at 2 pm – look at the fishy mural while you are waiting.
<b>Cost</b>	Adults \$15 (plus 50 cents ticket fee), accompanying children under 15 are free). Refreshments included.
<b>Bookings</b>	Through TryBooking, <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BNJZU">https://www.trybooking.com/BNJZU</a>
<b>Enquiries</b>	Nancy Clarke 0423 690 626, <a href="mailto:clarkenancy624@gmail.com">clarkenancy624@gmail.com</a>

## PAST EVENTS

### *THE BLADE – AUSTRALIA'S LOVE AFFAIR WITH LAWN* TALK PRESENTED BY THE CURATOR, RICHARD HEATHCOTE FRIDAY 5 FEBRUARY

When so many people were still in lock down in parts of Australia, how fortunate we were to be able to start the year by gathering at CMAG to hear Richard Heathcote. Richard is the immediate past Chair of the AGHS National Management Committee and curator of *The Blade* exhibition which was on show at CMAG over the summer months.

Accompanied by a rich array of images, Richard began his talk titled '*Hallowed Turf*' with the origins of lawn and the early influence of the Arcadian landscapes of eighteenth-century England. These schemes of adjusted countryside were exemplified in the work of Britain's most famous garden designer Capability Brown.

Richard is a wonderful presenter and he took us on a journey through two centuries of garden design and technical innovations to the present day. Notwithstanding changing fashions, lawn has had an enduring popularity. Richard noted that 'without exception, throughout the world, whether Picturesque, Gardenesque, Arts and Crafts or Moderne, all eras included the use of lawns in their garden making'.

Richard concluded with a quote on the aesthetic of lawn by Sylvia Crowe, one of Britain's foremost 20<sup>th</sup> century landscape designers who laid out Canberra's Centennial Park in 1964:

*'In colour and texture [grass] is the most restful of all surfaces, sympathetic to soft shadows, to the gleam of dew, and to evening mists, pleasant to walk on and conveying a sense of spaciousness'.*

For those who missed Richard's talk, you may enjoy listening to his recent interview on Radio National about *The Blade* exhibition.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/blueprintforliving/the-blade---australias-love-affair-with-lawn/12972284>

We hope you managed to visit exhibition while it was on in Canberra and enjoyed the range of objects on display from CMAG's collection and the Australian Museum of Gardening (<https://www.carrickhill.sa.gov.au/house-gardens/australian-museum-of-gardening>). The Australian Museum of Gardening is housed at Carrick Hill in South Australia and comprises over a thousand objects including AGHS member Richard Bird's (also known as the Old Mole) extensive personal collection. We are very grateful to Richard for his vision in curating the exhibition and for coming to Canberra in the face of lockdowns and cancelled flights. We are also very grateful to CMAG for hosting the exhibition and working with Carrick Hill to ensure that the exhibition proceeded in very uncertain times, to the sponsors who provided financial and practical support to stage the exhibition, and to the individuals who lent objects for the exhibition.

*The Blade* exhibition was designed as a travelling exhibition and for the next two years is scheduled to travel throughout Australia. For dates and locations visit the AGHS website and keep an eye on the AGHS national E Newsletter.

**Bronwyn Blake**



**TWILIGHT RAMBLE  
THURSDAY DAY 28 FEBRUARY**

It has now become something of a tradition for the local Branch to start the year by holding a late afternoon outdoor event, in an interesting location. Even with clouds appearing, this year's event at the old Forestry School at Yarralumla was held in balmy, fly free, conditions, with a very good attendance.

As our purpose was to obtain an overview of significant tree plantings on the site, we had arranged for Steve Thomas, an active member of Friends of ACT Trees to be our guide. Steve has been in the group of Forestry experts involved in discussions with the consultants scoping future uses of the site when the Shepherd Foundation resumes control of the site in 2022. John Howard gifted the site to the Shepherd Foundation in 2002, under an arrangement that allowed CSIRO to sub-lease the site for another 20 years, i.e. until 2022. Soon decisions will be finalised for the future use of the site and therefore which existing buildings, and trees will be removed. A perfect time for AGHS members to pay a visit! We were unable to enter buildings, but understand that it is hoped that re-purposed uses will be found for both Forestry House, which was student accommodation, and the main building of the Forestry School.



**Steve Thomas talking to the group, photo: Margie Bourke**

Our tour started with Weston plantings of *Pinus radiata*, and Kurrajongs (*Brachychiton populneus*), a section of Westbourne Woods, and now a good century old and looking their age, but a valuable link to Canberra's early history. In the short time available we were introduced to many trial species of eucalypts, oaks, pines and cypresses. One of the most unusual Steve pointed out to us was a large mature *Cupressus dupreziana*, the Tarout or Saharan Cypress. It does one thing no other plant is known to do: male apomixes. (Apomixis is asexual seed formation). This was explained as meaning that this tree does not need female fertilization, as the resulting seed germinates a plant that develops as a paternal clone.

After our tour of significant trees on this very large site, we adjourned to a grass area behind Forestry House for refreshments. It will be interesting to learn about the final plans for the site, and our Committee will be prepared to voice our concern should too many significant trees be slated for removal.

**Margie Bourke**

## AGHS SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH

### A jaunt by car around the Southern Highlands 11 April

Join members of the Southern Highlands Branch for a leisurely drive up hill and down dale, visiting some interesting parts of the wonderful area in which we live. They will stop at points of historical interest, natural beauty, and explore a beautiful village and a lovely town. Our final destination will be a garden in the Mittagong area that will be starting its stunning autumn display. The drive is around 100kms.

You will be given very detailed instructions and information on the day. Please make sure you wear comfortable shoes, there is some walking and the garden is a bit hilly so bring your stick if you require one.

You will need to provide your own lunch. Bring a picnic, or eat at one of the cafés on the way (we will provide a list of options). Afternoon tea will be served at our destination. (Please bring a folding chair to the garden if you have one.)

**Meet** 10:00 for a 10:30am start at Burradoo Park, corner of Moss Vale Road and Osborne Road, Burradoo. Look for the AGHS signs.

**Cost** \$15 for members and non-members

**Bookings** A booking form can be found in *Inflouescence March 2021* on the Branch website page at <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/branches/southern-highlands/> or obtained by emailing the Branch events Co-ordinator Ruth Bailey at [aghs.sh.info@gmail.com](mailto:aghs.sh.info@gmail.com)

## AGHS NATIONAL NEWS

### AGH 2020 Photo Competition **DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES EXTENDED**

As part of the celebrations of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment, the Australian Garden History Society invites entries in their inaugural Garden History Photo Competition (closing date now extended to 17 July, 2021).

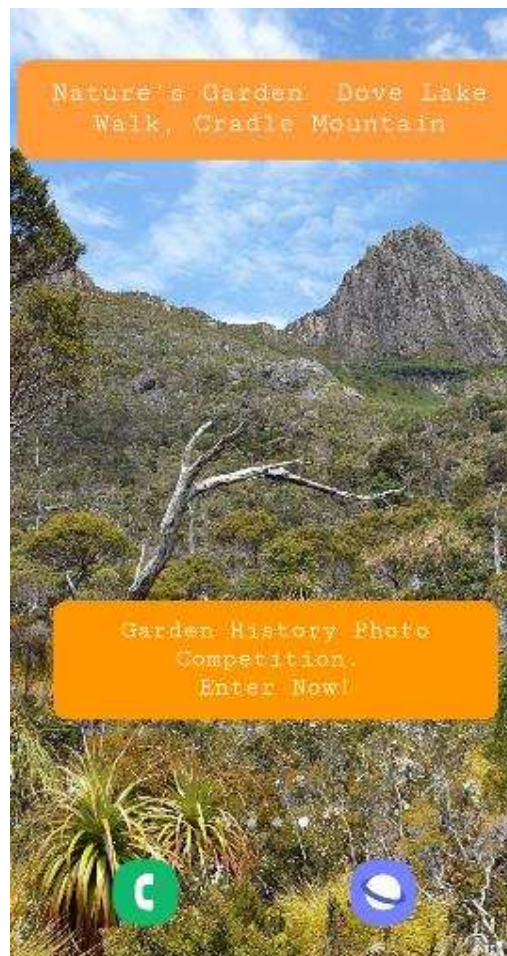
Entries should reflect the aims of the Australian Garden History Society (AGHS) and could range from a 'historical property or landscape' to garden history in the making:

*to promote awareness and conservation of significant gardens and cultural landscapes*

Entry is open to any person (entrants under 18 require approval of parent or guardian) anywhere in the world (AGHS membership is not required). **Images submitted must be taken by the entrant.**

Participants are invited to submit one digital photograph only (in colour, black and white, sepia, etc) along with a brief description (up to 150 words) that describes the subject and how it illustrates 'garden history', in one or more of the following categories:

- A. **Garden view or cultural landscape** – Photographs may include building or hard landscaping, including public landscaping and places like cemeteries.
- B. **Still life composition** (garden tools, books, sheds, flowers, etc). This category can include cyanotypes.



C. **A gardener or gardeners taken under COVID19.** This is our chance to capture gardeners during the extraordinary circumstances of 2020.

D. **The lawn** (can include lawn maintenance equipment) is a special category for 2020, as part of the celebration of the proposed Australian Museum of Gardening (Carrick Hill, South Australia) exhibition "The Blade", which is scheduled to tour in Australia in 2020 and 2021.

E. **Garden history imagined** – Entrants can use various photographic tools, filters etc to make composite pictures, cyanotypes etc. that capture the competition theme.

Entries are open to non-AGHS members and members alike. The photographs can be taken anywhere in the world! – The competition is not limited to 'Australian' garden history.

The winning entrant in each category will receive an Australian made gardening tool (including delivery to their postal address). Note: Should delivery costs be prohibitive, award recipients who are based in other countries may receive an alternative prize.

The overall winner across all categories will receive an additional prize of AU\$500.00.

### Judging

The judges (organised by the AGHS Photo Competition Committee) will be a panel of independent experts and AGHS members with a range of expertise in photography, garden history and art.

### Entry fees:

- AGHS members AU\$5.00 for one category or AU\$10.00 for more than one category
- Non-members AU\$10.00 for one category and AU\$20.00 for more than one category.

Entrants should pay using Trybooking, by buying a 'ticket'. Go to <https://www.trybooking.com/BKERZ>. Trybooking will add an additional fee of AU\$0.50 fee for the ticketing. Your ticket will include a unique number to insert on the entry form.

Send each entry in a separate email, with a subject line AGHS Photo Competition [Your Name], Entry Category [ ], including a separate entry form with each entry/category that you are entering. A blank entry form is attached and it can be downloaded as a word document [here](#). The email address for entries is [photo2020@gardenhistorysociety.org.au](mailto:photo2020@gardenhistorysociety.org.au).

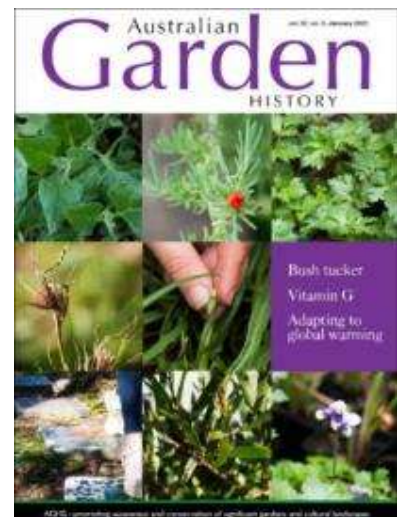
**Deadline for Entries:** Entries close at Midnight Australia Eastern Standard Time (AEST), 17 July 2021

The competition Announcement and Rules can be downloaded as a PDF [here](#).

## AGH Journal

*Australian Garden History*, the Society's journal, was first published in 1989. It has continued as it started, striving to maintain a dialogue between professional and amateur interests in the history of gardens, thus showcasing the many aspects of the landscape and its intersection with Australian life.

Members can download the current issue (January 2021) and past Journals free using their log in on the AGHS website at <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/>



## AGHS 2021 Conference: Sydney

Come to Sydney! New date but same exciting conference program. See parts of Sydney you have never seen before. Yes, the 2021 committee is cranking up, we are finessing our conference plans and looking forward to welcoming you in September.



While we have learnt to appreciate meeting online, won't it be wonderful to see everyone again.

For the Friday and Saturday morning of the conference, our erudite speakers will illuminate the core conference themes. Friday's sunset drinks will be held at The Coal Loader Platform overlooking the western waterways of Sydney Harbour. Other Friday highlights

include a guided visit to Wendy's Secret Garden, a scenic walk through a remnant Sydney sandstone bushland reserve and a visit to a new park on an old industrial site.

The 2021 registration link will be open again in April 2021. Transferred registrations from the October 2020 conference will be confirmed for 2021. For enquiries about the conference please contact Lisa Tuck [info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au](mailto:info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au) or Christine Hay [christinehay@circlesquare.com.au](mailto:christinehay@circlesquare.com.au) or Gina Plate [ginaplate@bigpond.com](mailto:ginaplate@bigpond.com).

## OF INTEREST

### SCOTTSDALE RESERVE

Scottsdale Reserve is a 1,328-hectare nature reserve on the Murrumbidgee River 79 kilometres south of Canberra, and 4 kilometres north of Bredbo. It is owned and managed by Bush Heritage Australia, which purchased it in 2006. Since the 1870s up until 2006, the land was used for agriculture – primarily sheep grazing with some minor cropping. A significant component of the Reserve (around 25%) has been cleared of native vegetation (~300 ha).

Scottsdale protects endangered grassy box woodlands and temperate grasslands. It also harbours many rare birds, animals, fish and reptiles.

Scottsdale is within the traditional lands of the Ngunawal people and part of a trade route with the neighbouring Yuin people.



For the recent article in the online journal, *The Planthunter*, highlighting the work being undertaken at Scottsdale go to <https://theplanthunter.com.au/botanica/saving-place-a-visit-to-bush-heritages-scottsdale-reserve/>

and you can find out more about Bush Heritage Australia's work at Scottsdale at <https://www.bushheritage.org.au/places-we-protect/new-south-wales/scottsdale>

#### 2021 CANBERRA AND REGION HERITAGE FESTIVAL

##### 6 - 26 April

The theme **REIMAGINE** has been carried from 2020 and could be said to be even more apt for 2021! The festival runs over 21 days and celebrates our Aboriginal, built and natural heritage through tours, open days, displays, food, workshops and more.

For the most up to date information visit

<https://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/heritage-festival>

#### AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

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

Friends Thursday Talks recommenced in February, with new arrangements in line with ACT COVID-19 restrictions. For program details go to

[https://www.friendsanbg.org.au/calendar\\_talks](https://www.friendsanbg.org.au/calendar_talks)

#### THE MUSEUM OF SYDNEY

##### Running until 18 April

The Museum of Sydney has an exhibition celebrating the career and legacy of Marion Mahony Griffin. Called *Paradise on Earth*, the exhibition marks the centenary of Castlecrag as well as the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mahony's birth. The exhibition explores Mahony's aesthetic sensibility, her collaboration with husband Walter Burley Griffin, key projects in Australia (including Canberra) and a special focus on Castlecrag. Further details at <https://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/exhibitions/paradise-earth>

#### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF CANBERRA

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

#### LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN GUARDIANS (LBGG)

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