

ACT Monaro Riverina Branch

Newsletter April 2022 No 2



Australian Garden History Society
www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au

ACT Monaro Riverina Branch, PO Box 5008, LYNEHAM ACT 2602
For an e-copy of the newsletter email judy.pearce@netspeed.com.au

BRANCH DIARY

14 MAY

A visit to Callum Brae

16 JUNE

ZOOM talk by Jason Chongue

AGHS NATIONAL
CONFERENCE,
HOBART

11-13 NOVEMBER

*Landscape on the Edge:
Challenge and Opportunity*

Bookings open 2 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

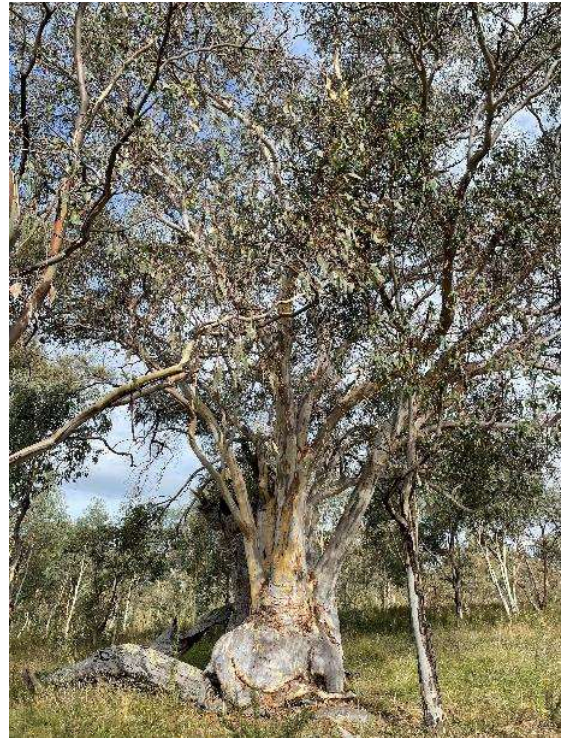
FORTHCOMING EVENT

A Visit to Callum Brae Saturday 14 May, 2.00pm

Although Callum Brae is located on the intersection of Mugga Lane and Narrabundah Lane in Symonston it is not well known.

We invite members to bring along friends for a gentle guided walk to see some magnificent old Yellow Box and Blakely's Red Gum trees in a grassland habitat – a precious remnant of the Canberra landscape at the time farming began in the region. Keep a look out for Scarlet Robins and Flame Robins, amongst other bird species which have been recorded here – a favourite location for bird watchers. Our destination will be three little buildings, and their purpose will be explained, before we return to the Reserve entrance. The walk and talk will take approximately 1 hour.

After the walk enjoy a BYO afternoon tea and a chat. Please bring a folding chair, a thermos, and something to share for afternoon tea. Leave these in your car until we return from the walk.



Blakely's Red Gum, Photo by Max Bourke

Directions The entrance to the Reserve is in Narrabundah Lane, Symonston, where there is plenty of roadside parking. Meet inside the gate at 2.00pm.

Cost This is a free event.

Bookings Are essential, please book through Try Booking:
<https://www.trybooking.com/BYULS>

**More
Information** Margie Bourke, ph 0417 668 563.

Visit to Woomargama and Albury

POSTPONED

Many of you have been looking forward to the Woomargama and Albury visit. Unfortunately, we'll need to wait a little longer to an alternative date either later in the year or in 2023. We'll provide information about the visit as soon as possible.

SAVE THE DATE

Talk by Jason Chongue Thursday 16 June

We're delighted that Jason Chongue, plant curator, architect and author has agreed to talk to us by ZOOM on Thursday 16 June (early evening). Details are being finalised and will be sent to members with booking details as soon as they are available. In the meantime, you might take a look at his Instagram account and drool over his beautiful books. You can watch his appearance on Gardening Australia in 2018 on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7loRyugxB-o>

PAST EVENT

Telling the Time by the Sun Friday 18 March

Early peoples across the world observed the sun, moon, stars and planets as well as changes in the seasons to measure time, as this was important for farming and religious practices. The earliest time measurement devices we know of were sundials, hourglasses and water clocks. Writing some 2500 years ago, Herodotus said that sundials originated with the Sumerians but it is likely that other peoples were also using the shadow cast by the sun to record the passage of time and to predict what would happen in the future.

In her much-anticipated presentation to AGHS members and Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens, sundial expert (gnomonist) Dr Marg Folkard gave a scholarly and engaging overview of the history and science of sundials, and then described and illustrated some of the sundials made by *Sundials Australia*.

In the 1970s, Marg, a physicist working in the research laboratory of the Australian Department of Defence in Adelaide, wanted to make a special gift for a friend. A colleague, John Ward, suggested a sundial. Marg and John became passionate sundial makers. Together they comprise *Sundials Australia*, and have created a superb workshop where they design and make scientific and beautiful sundials of many kinds. Marg speaks of this as a hobby business where they aim to resurrect the art of the craftsman, combining it with modern techniques. They use photopolymers, process cameras, lasers, waterjet cutting, sand blasting and computers. They also use pen and ink, hammers, pliers, chisels, files and grinders and a great deal of hard physical work as well as scientific exactitude.

In her historical overview, Marg spoke of and illustrated sundials made in antiquity in Egypt, Athens and Rome, in 18th Century India (using the examples in Jaipur to illustrate the fact that big is NOT necessarily best with sundials), Machu Picchu in Peru (the Intihuatana Stone), and Jerusalem (outside the El Aksa Mosque). Other more recent examples were the decimal sundial from Revolutionary France, and the

(re)painted wall sundials from many towns in Austria, as well as the sundial Marg and John made for the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala.

Closer to home are the many sundials they have made for Australia, particularly in botanic gardens. All three sites of the Sydney Gardens have them, an equatorial one at Mt Tomah, the Sundial of Human Involvement (an analemmatic sundial) at Mt Annan and the monumental and very beautiful armillary sphere in the herb garden at the Royal Botanic Gardens in the Domain in Sydney. The Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden at Port Augusta has a projection sundial, and of course the Australian National Botanic Gardens have an armillary sphere – the first of this type they made. Marg talked about how and why this was made, and then we had a practical demonstration.

We walked through the Gardens to look more closely at this sphere, located in the Rockery and installed in 1999. Despite an unpromising forecast the sun was shining so Marg's explanation and responses to questions could be demonstrated perfectly. Over afternoon tea we were able to inspect closely the model sundials Marg had made specially for this occasion to demonstrate the features of different types of sundial. They were set up outside the Banks Centre and again the shining sun was a huge bonus.

A visit to Mt Stromlo followed. The analemmatic sundial (or human sundial) was installed there in 1997. Remarkably it survived the bushfires of 2003, though the concrete surrounding the bronze analemma (the figure of 8) is somewhat degraded.

Though many Canberra residents are members of both the Australian Garden History Society and the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens, this was the first occasion we had collaborated in an event. It was a perfect match. We are hugely grateful to Marg for her generosity and patience (COVID had intervened on two previous occasions) as well as her outstanding presentation.

The website for Sundials Australia is <https://www.sundialsaustralia.com.au> and the excellent book Marg and John have written is available for purchase through the website.

Nancy Clarke



Marg demonstration telling the time with the analemmatic sundial – photo Nancy Clarke

BRANCH NEWS

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

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

- Susan Grace, Canberra
- Richard Groves, Canberra
- Judith and Mark Phillips, Canberra

IT'S ELECTION TIME, SO IT'S ALSO ADVOCACY TIME!

Heritage enthusiasts and stakeholders across Australia recognise that heritage assets of all kinds have immense cultural, social and economic value. The forthcoming 2022 Federal Election presents an opportunity to influence heritage policy (and politicians) in Australia.

We Love Historic Gardens and Landscapes, and We Vote!

The AGHS is an advocate for significant historic gardens and cultural landscapes, and you, as a member, can help to educate would-be politicians when they come asking for your vote. Make sure that you let any candidates know that you value Australia's heritage gardens and landscapes and ask about their heritage policy to protect them. I suspect you may be disappointed by their response. So tell them about our website Landscapes at Risk list and ask what they will do to save these places which are public assets of immense value, yet, in the absence of adequate policies and political will, are being threatened. There are several places in the ACT that are at risk:

- the designed landscape of central Canberra which was nominated for national heritage listing, but where the process has been repeatedly stalled;
- Lake Burley Griffin and the lakeshore landscape which is being eroded by urban development of public land for private profit;
- the landscape setting for the AWM where hundreds of large trees have been felled; and
- the many dying trees in the central national area in the inner south managed by the NCA, part of the Federal Government.

This detail may get them back on track.

Remind campaigners that heritage stakeholders are numerous, well-informed, articulate, influential, and vote in significant numbers.

Irreplaceable heritage assets of all kinds have already been lost or are under threat in all states and territories. It is only through advocacy that we can hope to change this. We all have to do our bit and this is a perfect time to take action.

And for the ACT Government rather than the Federal Government, let Rebecca Vassarotti our Minister for Heritage know your thoughts on the ACT Government's Draft Action Plan to Prevent the Loss of Mature Native Trees, especially where new suburban development or densification proposals threaten existing mature trees in the landscape.

The Draft Action Plan "Have YourSay" page is at

<https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/action-plan-prevent-loss-mature-native-trees>

The document is available by clicking the link under the heading "Document Library" to the right of the screen. Consultation closes on 27 May 2022.

Anne Claoue-Long, AGHS National Management Committee

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH

Exhibition: *Gardens and Landscapes of the Southern Highlands Then & Now*

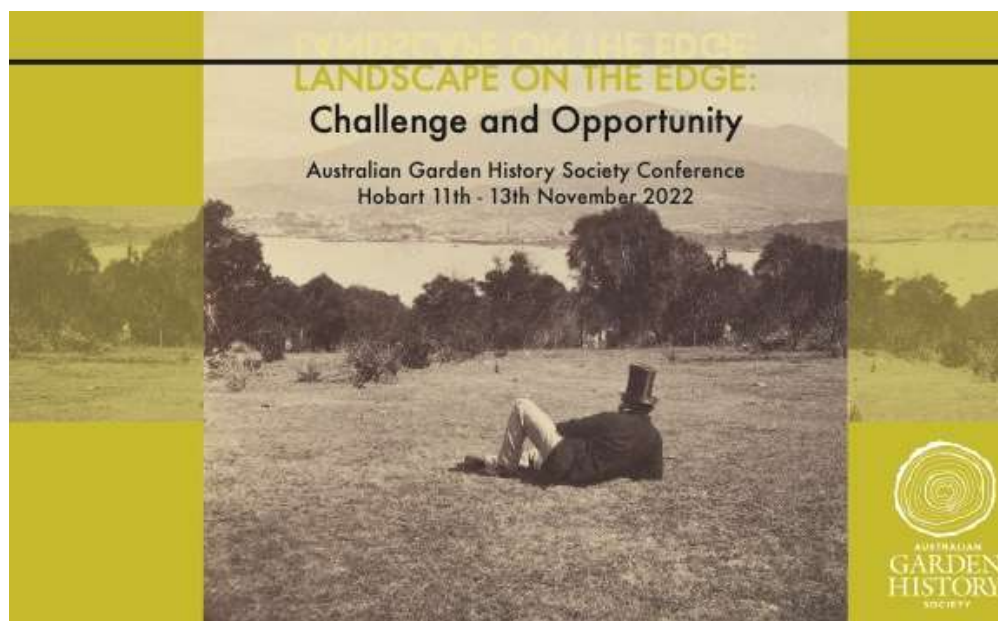
A themed exhibition in the Williams Gallery at the Berrima District Museum, covering almost 200 years of landscapes and gardens old and new, includes early photos, the botanical drawings of Lousia Atkinson, the Hordern Gardens of Bowral, and a number of local gardens, many familiar from AGHS visits. It will be on for about 6 months (no closing date available at the moment).

Curated by Bud Townsing from the Southern Highlands Branch of the AGHS and Linda Emery from the Berrima District & Family Historical Society, the exhibition makes excellent use of the high resolution screens in the Gallery to display images. Certainly worth a visit. More info at

<https://www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au/museum/current-exhibitions>

The Museum is at 1A Market Place & Bryan St Berrima and is open Fridays to Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Entry free.

NATIONAL NEWS



A reminder about the 2022 AGHS National Conference which will be held in Hobart at the Wrest Point Casino from 11-13 November. The theme of the Conference is *Landscaping on the Edge – Challenges and Opportunity*.

There will be pre and post tours with Trisha Dixon.

Bookings open on **Monday 2 May**. Check the AGHS website for further information - <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/events-conference/2022-annual-national-conference/>

AGHS WEBSITE DEVELOPMENTS: GARDEN HISTORY SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

A new resource has recently been added to the AGHS website - you can find it under the "Projects & Reports" tab. The Select Bibliography is a list of publications about Australian gardens and their history, how Australian gardens developed over time and descriptions of some notable gardens. As well as an overarching Australian garden history topic area there are different sections in the bibliography covering themes such as Australian garden and landscape designers (Edna Walling has her own section!), Botanic Gardens and herbaria, public parks, horticultural societies, botanical illustration and gardens organised by State and Territory. Some publications about cultural landscapes are included as well as notes of useful websites and a reminder of the AGHS YouTube channel. Some of the listed titles can be found published online but most are only to be found in libraries. The National Library of Australia Trove search tool can be used to find out if your local library has copies for loan or consultation.

Reading is one of the ways we learn about gardens and garden history, complementing garden visits, tours, exhibitions and talks. As the summer ends and rain continues or Omicron keeps you at home, jump in and get reading!

The Select Bibliography project is a work in progress which welcomes recommendations for additions - just make sure the focus is on Australian gardens and their history. All suggestions will be considered so please email them to info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au

OF INTEREST

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.

CANBERRA AND REGIONAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Saturday 9 April – Sunday 1 May

AGHS enthusiastically supports the annual Canberra and Region Heritage Festival. For a number of years, we have contributed a joint event with the National Trust ACT to the program. This year's event, *Lovely Lambrigg*, on 30 April quickly booked out, but you are invited to add your name to the waiting list. <https://www.trybooking.com/BXYPA>

The 2022 Heritage Festival theme is 'Curiosity'. It invites audiences to challenge how they see the tangible and intangible heritage that makes the ACT region unique. There is an extensive program of events from a large and diverse number of community groups and organisations, including Indigenous Plant Use Walks at the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

Though the Festival is already under way, there are still many excellent events on offer. Many are free, but do check about booking requirements. Go to <https://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/heritage-festival> for information and to book.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

www.anbg.gov.au

Saturday 9 April - Sunday 8 May
Exhibition: Growing in the Gardens

There is an exhibition of botanical art by members of the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens' Botanic Art Group depicting some of the unique Australian plants grown in the Gardens.

Open daily from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm in the Visitor Centre Gallery.

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

A FOCUS ON TREES: ACT TREE WEEK

Saturday 30 April – Sunday 8 May

At the time of writing the ACT Government had not released the program of events but please look for it online after Easter. The URL is <https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/trees-and-nature/trees/canberra-tree-week>

Here are details of two events which are to take place.

Wednesday 4 May 6pm

Annual Dinner of the Friends of ACT Trees (FACTT)

Weston Labor Club, Teasdale St., Stirling. The guest speaker is Professor David Ellsworth from the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, University of Western Sydney who will discuss ***Are urban and climate stresses getting our street trees down ?***

Bookings: Paul Scholtens at scholto@iinet.net.au or 0468 941 504

Cost \$5 members, \$10 per head non members, plus purchase of food and drinks.

Sunday 8 May 9.30-11.30am

Westbourne Woods Walk, Theme *Australian Arboreta*

The walk will be led by Max Bourke – free event.

Meet outside the Royal Canberra Golf Club in Bentham Street Yarralumla. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a hat and water.

ROYAL NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS,
SYDNEY

Saturday 7 May – Sunday 22 May. 10am – 4pm daily
Exhibition: *Botanic Endeavour: The Florilegium*
Society celebrates the Banks and Solander Collections

The Society will present an exhibition of over 50 recent botanical paintings linking the historic Banks' and Solander specimens held in the National Herbarium of NSW with the Living Collection of the three Gardens. This project was created to mark the 250th anniversary of Captain Cook's voyage in the Endeavour in 2020.



Curated by Colleen Morris, the focus is on these historic specimens; drawing attention to the time and place of their collection, their history and inviting reflection on their significance to science, to the Indigenous peoples, to those collecting them and to the Gardens now.

Some of the newly digitised Banks' and Solander collection images will be displayed along with more treasures from the Daniel Solander Library including some of the Banks' Florilegium plates and his specimen cabinet.

Venue	The Lion Gate Lodge, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney
Cost	Free

NATIONAL TRUST (ACT)

For details on monthly Heritage walks go to:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/heritagewalks-act/>

NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA

www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au

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

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF CANBERRA

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

LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN GUARDIANS (LBGG)

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