



Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch

Newsletter August 2020 No 4

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

26 AUGUST
AGM & Annual Lecture
By Zoom

9 SEPTEMBER
Visit to Reidsdale

13 OCTOBER
Talk at NLA with Sophie
Thomson

15 OCTOBER
Contour 556 Walk & Talk

**20 NOVEMBER- 20
FEBRUARY 2021**
Exhibition: *The Blade*,
CMAG

**23-25 OCTOBER
2020**
AGHS National
Conference – Sydney
*Many Dreams One
Landscape*

**POSTPONED
UNTIL OCTOBER
2021 – DATES TO
BE ADVISED**

**5-8 NOVEMBER
2021**
AGHS National
Conference – Hobart

**POSTPONED
UNTIL OCTOBER
2022 – DATES TO
BE ADVISED**

New AGHS Phone Number

If you would like to contact the Society, please note that from 31 July 2020, the National Office phone number will change to 0419 977 703

NEXT EVENTS

We are still unsure what will be able to go ahead in the next few months but have made some plans in the hope that we can hold the following events:

AGM and Annual Lecture

WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST

In the interests of public safety, the 2020 Branch AGM and Annual Lecture will be by Zoom.

Timetable 5.15 pm

Zoom session opens. Sign in using the link we will send you, and you will be admitted to Zoom from 5.15 pm. Please make sure you are signed in well ahead of 5.30, the starting time for our AGM

5.30 pm 5.50 pm

ACT Monaro Riverina Branch AGM
2020 Branch Annual Lecture *Interviews in the Time of COVID* presented by Roslyn Burge. Those attending may ask questions or make comments using the Zoom Chat facility
Zoom session closes

7.00 pm

Booking

There is no charge for either event but you must book on TryBooking. Go to <https://www.trybooking.com/BKREU>. You will receive an acknowledgment email that includes the Zoom link.

A day or two before the event we will send a reminder email including the Zoom link to those who have registered. If you need any assistance with learning how to use Zoom, please contact Nancy Clarke before the actual day: ring 6248 6549 or email clarkenancy624@gmail.com

AGM 5.30 PM

The AGM of the ACT Monaro Riverina Branch of the AGHS will be held on Wednesday 26 August at 5.30 pm, prior to the 2020 Annual Lecture (see below).

Because of the health risks at present, the AGM will be held by ZOOM, and ALL Branch members are warmly invited to attend.

A new Committee will be elected at the meeting, but office bearers will be elected by and from the Committee at the next Branch Committee meeting.

BRANCH
COMMITTEE

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

Bronwyn Blake (and Co-
chair of the NMC)
Sue Cassidy
Greg Johnson
Erica Ryan

AGENDA

1. Attendance
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the previous meeting (22 August 2019)
4. Chair's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Election of Branch Committee

Branch Committee members are elected for a three-year term and are eligible for two further three-year terms.

Continuing Committee members: Bronwyn Blake, Anne Claoue-Long, Nancy Clarke, Greg Johnson, Erica Ryan.

Nominations have been received from:
Margaret Bourke (nominated Sue Byrne, seconded Kay Johnston)
Sue Cassidy (nominated Wendy Dodd, seconded Anne Claoue-Long)
Lynne Curran (nominated Margaret Bourke, seconded Kay Johnston)
Fleur Flanery (nominated Margaret Bourke, seconded Max Bourke)
7. Confirmation of Anne Claoue-Long as ACT State Representative on the AGHS National Management Committee.

Please support your hard-working Committee and attend this meeting.

Bookings Essential – see page 1
Enquiries Nancy Clarke clarkenancy624@gmail.com, 0423 690 626

Annual Lecture 5.50 PM

Interviews in the time of COVID with Roslyn Burge*

One of the ACT Monaro Riverina Branch's contributions to the 40th Anniversary of the Australian Garden History Society was to commission oral historian Roslyn Burge to conduct interviews with Max Bourke AM, Cedric Bryant, Trisha Dixon and Lainie Lawson OAM for the National Oral History Collection. In different ways, Max, Cedric, Trisha and Lainie have contributed richly to our region and more widely, as well as to the Society. Their thoughtful recollections about Australian garden history and cultural landscapes, and reflections upon the role, scholarship and advocacy of the Society reach from the Branch's boundaries to Britain, Belgium & beyond.

Half way through the process of conducting these interviews, COVID 19 struck, and Roslyn responded by moving from face to face interviews to using an online system to conduct the interviews with Lainie and Trisha.



Photo: Roslyn Burge

Following the AGM, Roslyn will speak about the project, the process including the impact of the new medium for conducting interviews, and the interviewees themselves. She will include audio extracts from their interviews.

Roslyn Burge is a Public Historian and oral history is a major focus of her practice. She recorded her first interview for the Society in 2003.

* with acknowledgments to Gabriel Garcia Marquez –*Love in the Time of Cholera*.

Visit to Reidsdale, in the Braidwood Vicinity

WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

Join us for a self-drive spring jaunt to Reidsdale to visit Terra Preta, a family-owned refuge for rare trees which also happens to be an award-winning truffle farm. Pack a picnic lunch (or purchase something along the way) to enjoy in the grounds of an historic church and hear about the history of the church and the local area. Unfortunately, numbers are limited, so do book early if you wish to attend.

WE WILL FOLLOW ALL COVID 19 REQUIREMENTS FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING AND HYGIENE.

Those who register for the visit will be kept up-to-date by email regarding the latest COVID recommendations. In the event that we need to cancel, money will be refunded (minus the TryBooking fee).

Information and schedule

10.15 for a 10.30 am - Departure from Braidwood to Reidsdale

After driving from Canberra, we encourage you to stop in Braidwood for morning tea and a toilet stop to support the local community before we meet Peter Marshall on the outskirts of Braidwood. As there will be some dirt roads and rough areas and to minimise the number of cars, we will arrange some car-pooling in vehicles to travel to Reidsdale. We will travel in convoy with Peter (approx 20 mins drive). Some cars will be left in Braidwood.

We will provide further information about the meeting place to those who register for the visit.

11 am - 1 pm - Refuge for rare trees

Peter and Kate Marshall's property, Terra Preta, was in the path of the January bushfires.



While the fire burnt out a huge area of the surrounding Mungo National Park, Peter will show us where the fire stopped and how their land and tree management practices helped to protect their property.

Since acquiring the 600-acre property thirty years ago, Peter has used his background as a forester to restore the degraded farmland and plant over 450,000 trees. Peter will share his story about establishing the property and their passion for looking after the land and the environment. It is a beautiful property and an inspiring story.

Terra Preta – Photo: Anne Claoue-Long

Biosecurity instructions and walking

So we don't introduce any foreign plant material, please make sure all footwear is completely free of dirt. Cars need to be washed and tyres and underbody hosed out prior to our visit.

There will be some walking, some rough terrain and possibly some wet areas. However, there will also be limited alternate arrangements for those with mobility difficulties. Make sure your shoes are CLEAN. It is advisable to bring wet weather boots (or wellington boots if you have them) or a change of shoes.

1.15 - 3.00 pm - Lunch at St Bernard's Church

BYO picnic lunch (or purchase something along the way). John and Jane Foulcher have kindly invited us to have our lunch in the grounds of St Bernard's church, which dates from the 1860s. St Bernard's church was bought by John and Jane Foulcher after it was deconsecrated. While the integrity of the exterior of the church has been maintained, the inside of the church has been transformed into an innovative and comfortable residence. We will hear from John about the history of St Bernard's and the local area.



Photo: John Foulcher

We will provide hot water, tea, coffee, sugar etc, but please bring your own lunch, cup, chair or picnic rug. Toilet facilities will be available.

Depart Reidsdale to return to Canberra via Braidwood

After lunch, we will head back to Braidwood for a short stroll or you can continue on to Canberra. Driving time from Reidsdale to Canberra via Braidwood is approximately 1 hour 30 minutes, depending on traffic, roadworks etc.

Bring: A picnic lunch (or purchase something along the way), plus a folding chair or picnic rug, a cup and hand sanitiser etc.

Wear sturdy, clean closed in walking shoes/water proof or wellington boots and make sure your car is clean.

The weather can be variable, so bring a hat and layers in case it is hot or cold.

Cost AGHS members \$15, non-members \$20 (plus 50c ticket fee)
Bookings Numbers are very limited. Please BOOK through TryBooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/BKTMK>
Enquiries Sue Cassidy john.sue.cassidy@gmail.com , 0431 925 895

Cost: AGHS members \$15, non-members \$20 (plus 50c ticket fee)

Bookings: Numbers are very limited. Please BOOK through TryBooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/BKTMK>

Gardening for health and wellbeing

SPEAKER: SOPHIE THOMSON
TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER, 6PM

A joint event with the Friends of the National Library

Sophie Thomson's enduring love affair with gardening stems from growing up in the family nursery in the Adelaide Hills and has led to her becoming a national figure in the horticultural media.

In more than 14 years on television Sophie has actively promoted gardening and its benefits. Seen on ABC TV's Gardening Australia programme, her infectious enthusiasm inspires people of all ages. The show was voted Most Popular Lifestyle Programme at the 2019 Logies. In addition she is a popular national public speaker, TEDx presenter, broadcaster, author, weekly newspaper columnist and horticulturalist.



Sophie's first award winning book *From the Ground Up* was a complete guide for South Australian gardeners and her most recent one, *Sophie's Patch*, released in March 2018, is a national best seller.

Known for her strong environmental beliefs and resilience, combined with her infectious enthusiasm, vitality and love of sustainable gardening, Sophie describes herself as an "obsessive-compulsive gardener" who, were it not for her family and career, could spend every day in the garden.

Sophie is an Ambassador for Horticultural Therapy SA and Nature Play SA as well as patron of many environmental organisations. She lives at Sophie's Patch - a three-acre property in the Adelaide Hills, with her husband and five children, and an assortment of animals. Over the last eight years they have created a remarkable garden around the old stone cottage, on what was once a bare paddock.

The lecture will expand on Sophie's passion about the role gardens and gardening can play in our physical and mental health and well-being. Gardening gives us the opportunity to do meaningful, low impact exercise which benefits all the major muscle groups and offers us optimal nutrition when we grow at least part of our fruits, vegetables and herbs. Gardening is also great for helping us manage our stress which is vital as more people claim to feel stressed in their daily lives, let alone having to deal with the challenges faced when experiencing natural disasters such as our country's recent bushfires.

Sophie's passion for the benefits of gardening expand out to cover its importance for our environment and communities' health and well-being, and she even goes as far as to claim it can save the world and bring about world peace. But, let's start on what it does for each and every one of us.

For more information about Sophie visit www.sophiespatch.com.au

Venue Theatre, National Library of Australia – we are very optimistic this event will go ahead with reduced number and we are waiting on confirmation from the NLA

Booking Bookings through the NLA. **NO** bookings to be made through AGHS. As soon as the event is confirmed we will send members the booking link.



THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER
LATE AFTERNOON/ EARLY EVENING WALK AND TALK

contour 556 is Canberra's free public art biennial held around the designed heart of Australia's capital city: Lake Burley Griffin. Following successful events in 2016 and 2018, *contour 556* returns from 9 – 31 October 2020. *contour 556* will feature over 60 local, national and international artists, working across sculpture, performance, sound and digital projections. Artists have been selected for their ability to respond to the designed city of Canberra: represented by Australia's political, cultural and physical history.

Branch members will once again have the opportunity for a walk and talk at this popular event. Details on timing and arrangements to follow.

Further information On timing, costs and booking details in October Newsletter.

The Blade – Australia’s Love Affair with Lawn **is coming to Canberra!** **21 November 2020 – 20 February 2021**

We are thrilled to confirm that we are partnering with the Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG) to bring ***The Blade***, the travelling exhibition of the Australian Museum of Gardening to Canberra to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the formation of the Australian Garden History Society.

Many of you would have enjoyed the feature article by curator Richard Heathcote in the July Journal on the exhibition which will trace the story of lawn and how this feature played a significant role in Australia’s social history and became a status symbol to which all could aspire. Objects from Australian Museum of Gardening housed at Carrick Hill in South Australia and personal collections will be featured including interpretative panels and a short documentary movie. It will be an extraordinary array of rare and familiar gardening equipment, some tenderly loved, others almost certainly dreaded, but all used in the hope of producing an enviable luscious green lawn.

Whilst we are hopeful of hosting public and Branch events at CMAG during the exhibition, the format and numbers allowed to attend will be determined by COVID health and safety guidelines at the time. Further details will be provided in the next newsletter.

TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO CONTRIBUTE

In addition to the travelling exhibition, we are excited to be working with the team from CMAG to include a Canberra specific module.

An Object

Given we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the formation of the AGHS, CMAG have invited our members to submit objects for inclusion in the exhibition around the theme of *The Blade* or nostalgic objects relating to the AGHS. Please contact Bronwyn Blake (0439 718 580) if you have an item you would like CMAG to consider for inclusion.

Did you know Canberra has a sprinkler named after it?

Whilst *The Blade* exhibition will feature a newly purchased ‘Canberra Sprinkler’, we would love to include one that has actually been used in a Canberra garden.

Our dedicated committee have been delving into Trove and unearthed some wonderful advertisements for what is now known as the ‘Canberra Sprinkler’ as early as the 1930’s.

Regrettably Pope, the well-known garden product manufacturer of the ‘Canberra Sprinkler’, appears to have retained very few historic technical drawings or marketing information relating to the life of the sprinkler. They have, however, been able to confirm with advancements in manufacturing technology the metal base underwent a redesign to mimic the lines of Parliament House in the 1980’s and again in 2017 – note the way in which the grassed area of Parliament House matches the ridge lines of the base. Evidently the ‘Canberra Sprinkler’ is still Pope’s top selling sprinkler in that series. Finding out about this sprinkler has certainly whetted our appetite and we will continue to dig for further information!



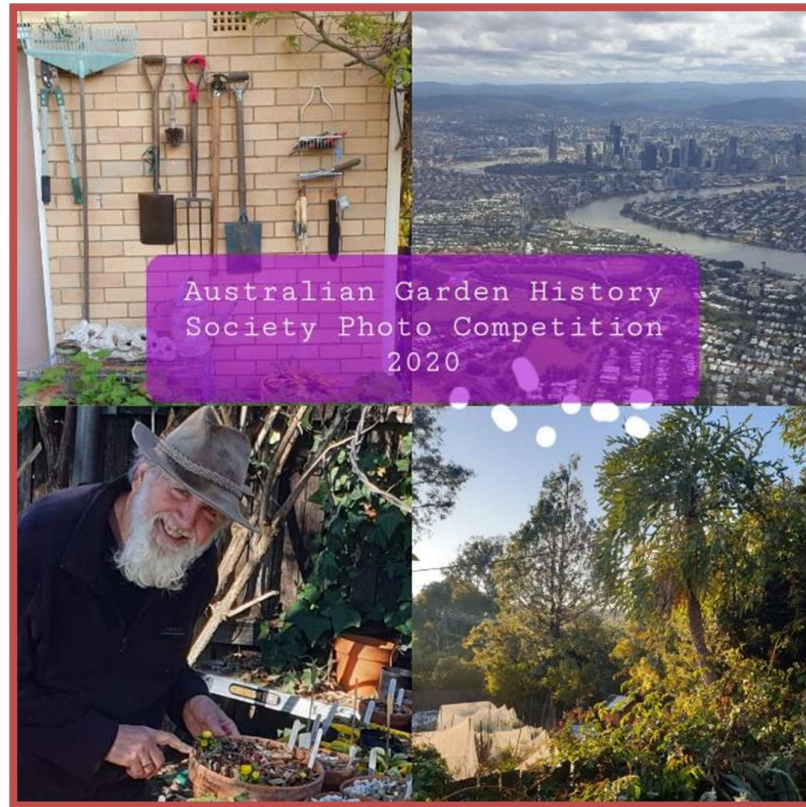
Please contact Bronwyn Blake (0439 718 580) if you have an early model of the ‘Canberra Sprinkler’ you would be willing to loan CMAG for the duration of the exhibition.

Thanks to Pope for permission to use these images.

CAPTURING GARDEN HISTORY

AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

2020 PHOTO COMPETITION



As part of the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of its establishment, the Australian Garden History Society our Branch has helped organize the Society's inaugural Garden History Photo Competition. 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

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. If a private house or garden (other than your own), you must obtain permission of the owner, and confirm this when submitting. Street views, as well as long-distance shots of houses and images of public buildings, parks and National Trust properties, can be accepted without 'owner permission'. Indicate if the image is of a National Trust¹ (or similar) property on the entry form.
- B. **Still life composition** (garden tools, books, sheds, flowers, etc). This category can include cyanotypes.

¹ The National Trusts of Australia own or manage over 300 heritage places (the majority held in perpetuity) (See <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/>). The United Kingdom, the USA and other countries have similar heritage organisations See <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/international-places/>.

- C. **A gardener or gardeners taken under COVID19.** This is our chance to capture gardeners during the extraordinary circumstances of 2020. To submit images that show identifiable faces, **you must obtain permission** from the person(s) photographed.
- 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 donated by the ACT Monaro Riverina Branch of the AGHS.

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.

Deadline for Entries: Entries close on 11.59 PM, Eastern Australia daylight saving time (EADT), 15 January 2021

If you are planning on entering, be sure to read about the competition entry requirements and the rules for the 2020 Competition which can be accessed [here](#) (or go to <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/publications/ags-2020-photo-competition/>) where the entry form can also be downloaded as a word document. The email address for enquiries and submitting entries is photo2020@gardenhistorysociety.org.au .

BRANCH NEWS

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Position of Treasurer - As you can see from the committee list in this newsletter the position of treasurer is currently vacant. At the end of the 2019/2020 financial year Helen Elliot stepped back from being on the committee and her treasurer's position. The committee naturally is very sorry not only to lose Helen's wonderful accounting expertise but her valuable contributions to the committee program.

Helen joined the committee in 2008 and by the AGM in 2017 had completed three terms. During that time Helen had been committee member, deputy chair, chair and treasurer. In 2018 she was co-opted back onto the committee. Prior to the Trybooking era, the treasurer was by default a booking officer and Helen was a very friendly and welcoming one at that. However presently three delightful but active grandboys occupy more of Helen's time and energy, a position with which I'm sure many members would empathise.

Thank you Helen for your contribution to the Society and especially to the Branch.

LOCAL ORAL HISTORIES

We are delighted that the two oral histories on Cedric Bryant and Max Bourke AM are now up on the AGHS Web site – go to <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/home/> and follows the link under **Projects and Reports** to **National Oral History Collection**.



TREE CONVERSATIONS – NETWORKING WITH THE WOOD-WIDE-WEB

This Networks Australia exhibition (**Tree Conversations**) was held at the Wagga Wagga Regional Art Gallery between 8th February and 12th July this year (with an interruption due to Corona virus) and showed the work of 19 artists.

Networks Australia was the idea of Nancy Tingey in 2008 to link mostly textile artists so they could share ideas, skills and resources. The group has held ten other exhibitions.

This exhibition grew out of conversations exploring the ideas of Peter Wohlleben in his book *The Hidden Life of Trees: What they Feel and How they Communicate*. The artists made use of a variety of materials ranging from corrugated cardboard to fabric, cable sheathing, and wish bones. The techniques range from weaving, photography, fabric manipulation, printing and machine stitching showing the way trees communicate and provide nutrition to what is below the ground while helping to filter the air around them. Some artworks illustrated the good that trees do and the harmony there can be between humans and nature while others explored the damage we humans have been doing to the environment.

This was an expansive, varied exhibition which explored the importance of trees just at the time drought and fires were causing such pain.

Wendy Dodd

(Editor's Note: Branch member Wendy Dodd was among the exhibiting artists).





Photos: Brenton McGeachie

Photo 1 *Pine Forest* 2019 Wendy Dodd 46 x 61 cm

Photo 2 General view – hanging *Underground Forest: sharing water, sharing danger*
Deborah Faeyrglenn 2018-19 270 x 300 x 200 cm

Dig in! A New AGHS Project – How We Can Make Australia’s Garden History More Visible Through



In the June AGHS National E Newsletter, the **Dig in!** project was announced. Many of you will be familiar with the National Library’s **TROVE**, that wonderful online gateway to all sorts of Australian information, and some of you undoubtedly have contributed to correcting the text of newspaper articles for Trove.

Now our Branch has proposed a Society wide project to help make some of the buried treasures in the Library’s collections more visible, and you are invited to be part of this project.

Inspiring stories of endurance, and triumph including those relevant to AGHS have been widely documented in Australian newspapers, as have more modest developments, such as the evolution of Australian gardens, learnings from traditional owners within the natural landscape, gardening advice, and biographies of the personalities involved. Much of this information going back as far as 1803 is now available online through TROVE. These newspaper articles and advertisements are invaluable resources for understanding Australia’s garden history.

The NLA’s major project of scanning Australia’s newspapers is an ongoing one, but the scans produced from old newspapers are not always easily legible. Optical character recognition has been applied to the thousands of pages of newsprint that have been digitised, but machine-reading is less than perfect, and this is where the work of “Voluntroves” come in. These volunteers have already corrected some 360 million lines of text and the brand-new version of Trove makes it easier for others to join in, proof-reading and correcting the text, to unlock its valuable content.

This is a golden moment for AGHS members to become Voluntroves, by identifying newspaper articles relevant to the work of our Society, correcting errors in the text, and perhaps getting hooked on this enticing activity. As well as correcting the otherwise often cryptic text, Voluntroves also can add tags, which are sort of subject indicators that help others make connections between the articles, illustrations, ads and editorials.

Getting started is easy and fun. For those who are new to this keyboard addiction, useful guidance about **text correction and tagging** is offered by the TROVE team online. You find it under the Help section of TROVE – trove.nla.gov.au – select **Help** from the top bar, and from the results select **Become a Voluntrove** and go from there.

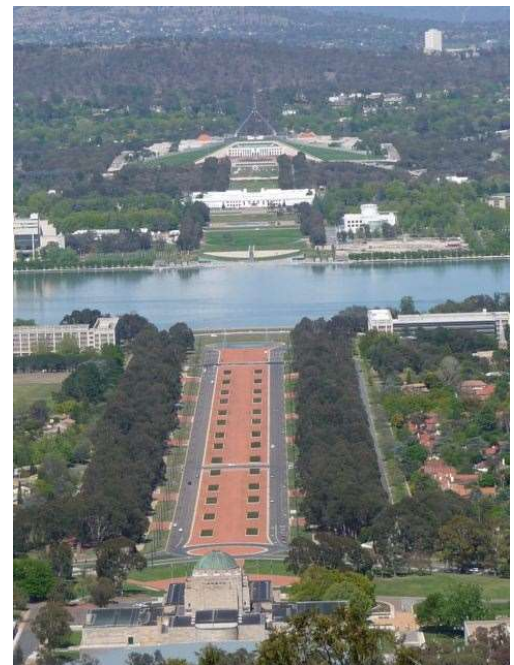
You can correct, tag and comment anonymously, or set up your own personal account - for free – which allows you to more easily keep track of your progress. Again, you do this from the Help page of TROVE. Select **Your Trove account** and **follow the instructions**.

For information on how to get started as an AGHS Voluntrove, go to the AGHS website. There is an article about Dig in! including instructions in the Projects and Reports section (in Other Projects).

More ideas, queries or suggestions – contact Nancy Clarke 0423 690 626 or clarknancy624@gmail.com

ADVOCACY – THE AWM AND ANZAC PARADE

The AGHS has recently placed the landscape surrounding the Australian War Memorial on its “Landscapes at Risk” list under the category of “Watch”. It seems that little can be done to preserve the established landscape to the east and north of the main building. The AWM has been funded to undergo a \$500,000,000 development with increased parking and display areas. A drive-by already reveals that the group of large native trees to the east of the building – Maiden’s gum (*Eucalyptus globulus subsp. Maidenii*), Tasmanian blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) and Camden woollybutt/Paddy’s river box (*Eucalyptus macarthurii*) – has been cut down, and that deep basement excavations are in progress. These were trees specifically mentioned in the citation for listing the AWM on the National Heritage List, a list of places that are considered to have outstanding significance to the nation. While replacement trees may be eventually planted, they will be small saplings and most likely fewer in number. Whether they will grow successfully over an underground car park is also questionable. The proposed replacement of the award winning Anzac Hall, to the rear of the original building, with an even larger exhibition space is also of concern for its visual impact in the landscape, especially when viewed from the popular look out on Mount Ainslie. The fate of four mature English oaks in the remaining eastern lawn area in front of the AWM is of particular concern.



A recent meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works considered the development. Opposition to the AWM works was dismissed in the media as being from “special interest groups from Canberra”. Well, the AGHS along with many other local community groups including the Reid Residents Association and Institute of Architects ACT is concerned and not pleased at the loss of the 20-year-old, award winning Anzac Hall. Former Defence Force officers and civilian staff, and former AWM directors have also objected along with academics, veterans, journalists and diplomats. The opposition is on many grounds. Our concern and opposition are for the loss of a mature landscape that

frames the building, blending it into the natural vegetation of Mount Ainslie as specifically indicated in the original 1952 plans and then noted in the later heritage listing.

On a more positive note the National Capital Authority has commenced remediation works to the Hebe plant beds along Anzac Parade.

Anzac Parade is Australia's most important commemorative avenue, linking two National Heritage listed buildings, the AWM and the Provisional Parliament House, that face each other over Lake Burley Griffin. The Lake is still not heritage listed despite lobbying by AGHS, the Lake Burley Griffin Guardians and others.

Anzac Parade hosts not only the Anzac Day services and parade but also a range of other commemorative events. It was originally opened on 25 April 1965 to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the ANZAC landing in Gallipoli.

The New Zealand Hebe beds along the central reservation of the route and the flanking Australian blue gums down the verges symbolise in plant material the shared commitment of the two countries in alliance, both in peace and war.

Unfortunately in recent years the Hebe display has been in decline with many plant deaths resulting in a patchy and unattractive presentation. An investigation by the NCA, including plant pathology and soil chemistry testing, revealed that the planter boxes were infected with two soil borne diseases, *Pythium* and *Fusarium*, which were causing root rot. This was proving fatal in the hot dry conditions of the planter boxes and Canberra's recent drought affected and hotter climate.

Because no fungicide was proving totally effective in solving the problem, the NCA is now emptying the planter boxes for a full disinfecting, and complete replacement of the drainage layer, soil and plants. An installation of new irrigation and a program of maintenance and monitoring should see the Hebe display returned to glory in time for Remembrance Day 2020. The local AGHS Branch applauds the NCA in its remediation of the Hebe beds and looks forward to the completion of the project.

Sue Byrne and Anne Claoue-Long

41ST ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2020 POSTPONED



POSTPONED UNTIL OCTOBER 2021 WITH DETAILS TO BE SEND TO MEMBERS AS SOON AS NEW ARRANGEMENTS ARE FINALISED.

A BIG THANKYOU TO THE SYDNEY CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, LISA AND THE NMC FOR ALL THE ADDITIONAL WORK THIS ENTAILS.