

ACT Monaro Riverina Branch

Newsletter August 2024 No 4



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

22 AUGUST

5.30 pm – AGM

6.00 pm – *Annual Lecture*,
Speaker Greg Johnson

18 SEPTEMBER, 6PM

*Joint lecture with Friends of
NLA, speaker Margo Neale*

2 & 3 NOVEMBER

*Cootamundra and District
Gardens*

44TH AGHS ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
BUNBURY, WA
18 – 20 OCTOBER
2024

THEME: *HESPERIA:
LOOKING WEST*

Optional Day, 21 October

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

AGHS ACT MONARO RIVERINA BRANCH AGM & ANNUAL LECTURE

THURSDAY 22 AUGUST, 5.30 PM

The AGM of the ACT Monaro Riverina Branch of the Australian Garden History Society will be held on Thursday 22 August 2024, at 5.30 pm, in the Pavilion, in the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Parkes.

All Branch members are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting. If you can't attend but would like to submit an apology, please email Nancy Clarke on clarkenancy624@gmail.com.

We warmly invite Branch members to nominate for the Committee. Nominations close on Thursday 15 August. Nomination forms may be obtained from Nancy Clarke (email above).

After the meeting Dr Greg Johnson will be presenting the Branch's Annual Lecture (see page 2). As usual we will be serving delicious refreshments after Greg's talk.

There is **no charge** for the AGM or the talk, but it is important that you book for catering purposes. <https://www.trybooking.com/CSDUM>

AGENDA

Attendance and welcome

Apologies

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 9 August 2023

Chair's report Robyn will speak to her report.

Treasurer's report Sue will speak to her report.

Election of Branch Committee for 2024/2027.

The following are continuing on the Committee: Sue Cassidy, Louise Gaudry, Rosanna Horn and Robyn Oates - nominations from the floor will be accepted.

Brief questions or comments.

Brief discussion on the possibility of a change of name for the society (an information flyer will be sent out to members prior to the meeting).

Meeting closes.

(Previous minutes and reports to be made available prior to the meeting.)

BRANCH COMMITTEE

Robyn Oates, Chair
Sue Cassidy, Treasurer
Anne Claoue-Long, State
 NMC Representative
Nancy Clarke, Secretary

Louise Gaudry
Rosanna Horn

ANNUAL LECTURE (6PM FOLLOWING THE AGM) GARDENING ANCESTORS: PEOPLE, PLANTS AND MEMORIES

SPEAKER DR GREG I JOHNSON



This talk is open to all, not only members of AGHS.

Each of us has stories and memories that underpin our gardening interests.

In his talk Greg Johnson will describe some of the horticultural ancestral echoes that resonate in his life. He spent three weeks in Scotland in May - June 2024 exploring traces of three generations of the Roy family, gardeners in Aberdeen Scotland (1760s to 1870s), from whom his maternal grandmother, Maggie Mann nee Roy (1899 -1980), was descended.

He'll also tell us about the gardening connections of his maternal great-great grandfather, John Mann (1834-1888), a Chinese indentured shepherd and bushman, who later became a gardener and fruiterer in Maryborough, Queensland.

And finally, he'll talk about being a plant pathologist.

Greg was a member of our Branch Committee for nine years and he has previously given Branch talks on Australian Garden Writing and *Our Garden in a Year of Calamities* about his own garden during COVID lockdowns. He joined the AGHS in 2010, as he wanted to attend the society conference in Maryborough, Queensland where he and many of his ancestors had lived since the 1850s.

His childhood interest in gardening led to the study of agricultural science at the University of Queensland and a career in plant pathology. He was President (2013-2018) and Secretary General (2006-2013) of the International Society for Plant Pathology.

There is an excellent recent oral history of Greg in the AGHS national oral history collection at <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/publications/dr-greg-i-johnson/>

Venue	The Pavilion, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, 52 Blackall St, Barton
Cost	There is no charge but bookings are essential for catering purposes. For bookings go to https://www.trybooking.com/CSDUM
Inquiries	Nancy Clarke clarkenancy624@gmail.com



Photo: The Australian incense plant, *Humea elegans* (now *Calomeria amaranthoides*) (1921 water colour by Adam Forster (1848-1928), held in National Library of Australia (digitised item)

In 1837, Greg's ancestral relative, Mr John Roy Junior, Seedsman of Aberdeen, was awarded a special prize by the Aberdeen Horticultural Society for a *splendid specimen of Humea elegans in full blossom*.

CLEVER COUNTRY: AN ABORIGINAL PERSPECTIVE ON LANDSCAPE

**SPEAKER ADJ. PROFESSOR MARGO
NGAWA NEALE**

WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER, 6 PM

The Joint Annual Lecture of the ACT Monaro Riverina Branch of the AGHS and the Friends of the NLA.



Land is viewed as 'Country' in Aboriginal Australia. It is a worldview that embodies a oneness with nature and its many manifestations through the seasons, weather and land formations. It is not a view of nature as the term landscape implies in the western view. Our history is written in the land. Country is our archive, it is where our knowledge, law and identity reside. Country holds information, stories and secrets - from medicine, engineering, ecology, astronomy to social mores on how to live well and sustainably on this planet and with each other. If Country holds such knowledge, then Country is clever. This concept will be visually explored through the

award-winning landmark exhibition *Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters* and the Garden of Australian Dreams (GOAD) at the National Museum of Australia (NMA). It begs the question of where gardens fit into this schema?

Adj. Professor Margo Ngawa Neale is an award-winning Indigenous art curator, historian and researcher. She is considered a pioneer in the representation of Indigenous culture in public institutions across major art galleries, museums and universities nationally and internationally. She has recently become Emeritus Curatorial Fellow: First Nations and was formerly Head of the Centre for Indigenous Knowledges at the National Museum of Australia, where she continues to work on her award-winning global touring exhibition, *Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters*.

She has authored, co-authored or edited some 30 books including the *Oxford Companion to Aboriginal Art and Culture*, and the *First Knowledges* series with Thames & Hudson. Of Aboriginal and Irish descent, Margo is a member of the Gumbaynggirr nation with clan affiliations to the Kulin and Wiradjuri nations.

Venue	Theatre, NLA
Cost	\$20 for AGHS members & NLA Friends, others \$25 (includes light refreshments following the presentation.) Livestream tickets will also be available.
Bookings	Bookings through the NLA (NO bookings to be made through AGHS). The booking link should be available early August & will be sent to members once we receive it.
Inquiries	Nancy Clarke clarkenancy624@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATES

COOTAMUNDRA AND DISTRICT GARDENS

SATURDAY 2 & SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER

This will be a self-drive tour and suggestions for booking your own accommodation will be provided. We will organise morning tea, lunches and Saturday night dinner.

A brief outline of the itinerary:

Saturday

Morning tea in Cootamundra and lunch at Yandilla Tea House, Wallendbeen. We will visit *Bramshott* in Wallendbeen, owned by Vaudan and Sue Heggaton. We will return to Cootamundra for dinner.

Sunday

We will visit *Ferndale* in Bethungra, owned by Debbie and Ian Friend and after lunch we will visit *Rosedale* in Ilabo, owned by Fiona and Andrew Hamilton.

The return drive from Ilabo to Canberra is about 2.5 hours.

Further information, costs and booking details will be available soon.

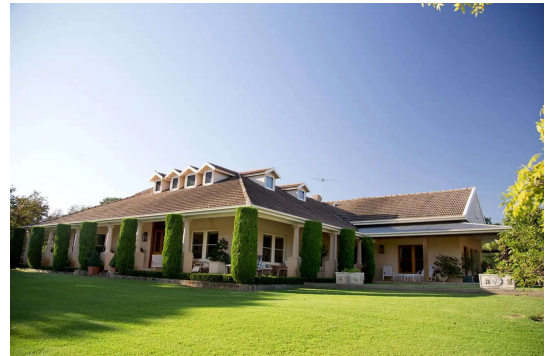


Photo: *Ferndale*

RECENT EVENTS

CRIMS AND CORNISH CREAM TEA A FILM DAY IN GUNDAROO FRIDAY 5 JULY

On a cold early July morning 80 AGHS members and guests from Nimmitabel, the Southern Highlands, Yass and Canberra made their way to Gundaroo. It was a lesser journey for the Gundaroo residents to get to their hall.

On arrival, they were greeted by our new banner, information sheets, newly designed name badges and all the paraphernalia of an active society.

The majority then made their way to the side hall for a warming cup of tea or coffee while they browsed the table of garden related books that had been generously donated by our members. The money raised will be donated to the AGHS Nina Crone Writing Fund which supports new voices, especially students and young writers, to write about the history of gardens, landscapes and the environment.

The main hall had 10 tables set with Jaffa's and small non-hash sweets in paper cups, one for each guest. It was very festive with large arrangements of colourful winter shrubs in tall vases.

Colin Lee and his team of volunteers served a delicious vegetarian lunch (see pages 11 & 12 for the recipe). Then it was then time for the screening of the film. Our movie was *Saving Grace* starring Brenda Blethyn and a host of well-known British actors.



Nancy Clarke gave a short talk about Alice B. Toklas and her famous recipe for *haschich fudge*, as this was related to the film theme about a woman, left in a terrible financial situation after the death of her partner. It sounds grim, but it was hilarious. Nancy even made the fudge balls for everyone – minus one key ingredient, of course!



Afternoon tea was a delicious treat of freshly baked Cornish cream scones and apple slice.

Before setting out for home our Chair, Robyn Oates, presented gifts to Colin and his volunteers and the two projectionists Ron and David.

A most enjoyable way to spend a mid-winter day.

Louise Gaudry

Photos: Robyn Oates

BRANCH NEWS

AGHS NAME BADGES FOR BRANCH MEMBERS

It's a great idea to have a members' badge to wear to AGHS events – and our Branch has arranged to have badges made for ACT Monaro Riverina Branch members who wish to purchase them. They are plastic, on a bright white background and have the AGHS logo on them as well as your name. They have a magnetic backing so they can be used safely on clothing that might be easily damaged by a pin.



The AGHS no longer provides a printed badge for new members. They are available for members through the AGHS website login page to print yourself and put in a pin on plastic sleeve or lanyard. But if you are a new member, or misplaced your badge why not order one of these new options.

They cost \$15 each (plus a 50 cent TryBooking fee) and you can place an order with us at <https://www.trybooking.com/CSBHL>

For further information contact Nancy Clarke clarkenancy624@gmail.com

BACKYARD ARCHAEOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

Anne Claoué-Long speaks about the heritage in our own patch.

This symposium, on 25 May 2024, was associated with the current CMAG exhibition *Backyard Archaeology* and supported by the Canberra Museum + Gallery, University of Canberra's *Everyday Heritage Project* and the Australian Archaeological Association.

Our current committee member, Anne Claoué-Long was a speaker and panel member. Anne is a curator and historian, with much experience on heritage landscape issues. She has been a member of the Australian ICOMOS committee on Cultural Landscapes and Cultural Routes for many years. Anne researches, writes, and presents on the identification and conservation of significant gardens and cultural landscape for the Australian Garden History Society where she serves on both the local Branch and National Management Committees. She was part of the team which undertook the heritage assessment of Lake Burley Griffin in 2010.

Gardeners may not necessarily be archaeologists but as a group they do a lot of digging, both in the dirt and into the past history of their plots. Our gardens are full of memories of past land use, of gardening fashions and styles, of plants that have flourished or floundered, and of other gardeners. Anne said, with a smile, that both gardeners and archaeologists dig in the dirt, but their trowels are different.

Landscapes and gardens are full of meaning and memories. There is the evidence of past land use, of past gardening fashions, of friends and family who are long gone. Such meanings are often hidden to all but the garden owners. Sometimes the plants last long after the gardens, to tell the stories of past occupation. Anne mentioned the heritage listed Sherwood Homestead site, home to Henry and Eliza Phillips in the mid - 1860s on Uriarra Homestead land. All that remains are some deciduous trees and daffodils – an old cultivar called *Rip Van Winkle*.



Photo: Anne Claoué-Long

What will be found in our own gardens, years from now? We all have treasures in our gardens and we have probably discovered evidence of a former owner as we dig. Some objects are easily explained, such as cutlery or part of a doll. There are other objects that will not be easily identified especially where an object has been given a second use such as turning a practical item into a decorative piece. As an example, Anne showed a slide of a wrought iron gate that she has re-purposed as garden art on the shed wall. How would an archaeologist explain this?

Anne spoke of the old Canberra red bricks and the kilns in Yarralumla. These bricks are now sought after to use as a feature in gardens and structures. She highlighted Louise Gaudry's decision to remove a chimney and re-use the Canberra red bricks in her a path and patio.

Roses may be struck from a wedding bouquet. Plants from a parent's garden may become precious items. Gifts from loved ones remain as garden treasures. The memory lives on, but that plant or object may have a different meaning for those who come after us.

In your backyard garden, do you have anything to confuse the archaeologists in some future generation?

Robyn Oates

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH

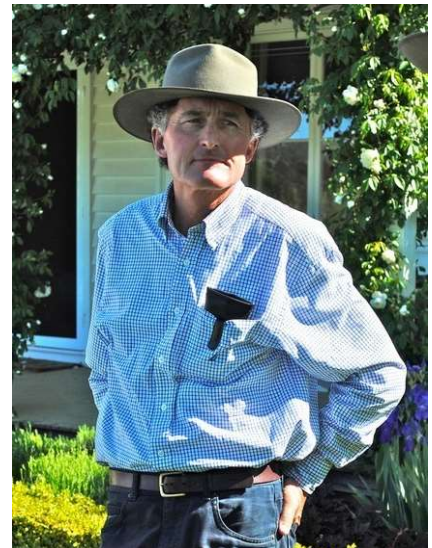
Members of our Branch are welcome to join events in the Southern Highlands. The next event is:

AGM & SECOND WINTER SEMINAR SATURDAY 24 AUGUST 11AM -3.30PM

The Seminar commences at 11.30

Speakers

Landscape architect, **Michael Bligh**, is one of Australia's most experienced and trusted garden designers in the country and an authority on the design of town and country gardens. The practice, Michael Bligh and Associates, was founded over thirty years ago and has been responsible for the design and enhancement of over 3,500 gardens including some of Australia's finest and most celebrated properties such as *Greenbriar Park* near Mittagong, *Leylandagreen* outside Bowral and *Tahara South* near Wagga. The quality of work that the firm provides is easily quantified. Over 45 of Michael's gardens have been open to the public through the Open Gardens Australia scheme, many have been featured in publications such as *Belle*, *Highlife* and *House & Garden* magazine, and profiled in coffee table books on garden design.



Linda Emery is a freelance historian and author, with a particular research interest in 19th century Australian history. She is Archivist and Vice President of the Berrima District Historical & Family History Society. From 2017-2023 she was a Councillor of the Royal Australian Historical Society. She has published a number of books on the history of the Southern Highlands of NSW where she lives and promotes history in regular articles for the Southern Highlands lifestyle magazine *Highlife*.

Between 2008 and 2018, Linda was a member of the research team for the SBS television program *Who Do You Think You Are*, a researcher for the 2018 ABC series, *Monash and Me* and more recently has undertaken research for the SBS television series *Every Family has a Secret*.

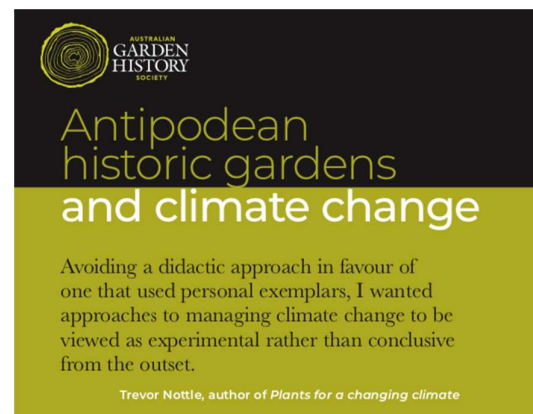
Venue	Moss Vale Senior Citizens & Community Centre, 14 Queen St, Moss Vale
Cost	\$50 (includes lunch)
Bookings	For further information and booking details contact – aghs.sh.info@gmail.com Booking close 19 August.

NATIONAL NEWS

AGHS LANDMARK PUBLICATION

The AGHS NMC has just released a landmark publication to showcase work to increase knowledge about approaches being taken in regard to the effects of climate change in our gardens.

The *Antipodean historic gardens and climate change* brochure was partly funded through a grant from the international charity the Historic Gardens Foundation and the project was coordinated by our journal editor Francesca Beddie.



The brochure outlines guidance to help gardeners deal with environmental change touching on greenhouse gasses and gardens, adapting to climate change, and a framework for action with practical suggestions to deal with hotter, drier and wetter conditions and plan for our future. This well illustrated, vibrant, substantial and larger than normal sized brochure will be made available for members at our forthcoming events for a gold coin donation.

It is also available at <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Antipodean-historic-gardens-and-climate-change.pdf>

It's time those of us who care for gardens take a stand against climate change. There is more we can do to reduce our own carbon footprint, and much more needed to adapt gardens to an already changed climate.

Professor Tim Entwisle
patron of the Australian Garden History Society



From the conference Committee

"The last time AGHS members visited Western Australia for a national conference was 10 years ago. They travelled right down south to Albany. This time the branch invites interstate members to come west for the 44th annual national conference (18 to 20 October 2024) in the coastal city of Bunbury, about two hours' drive south of Perth.

Visits during the conference will include places of early settlement when the colony saw its future in the hands of Hesperus, the god of the west wind.

Colonisation of the western sector of New Holland was considered a venture that offered trading opportunities with the large British populations in India, and after 1814, the British Cape colony on the southern tip of Africa. The initial settlement on the Swan River in 1829 was championed by Captain James Stirling, who had convinced the British Government to support the establishment of a colony by free settlers. The name he contemplated for the new colony was Hesperia from Hesperus, the Greek name for the god of the west wind. This was not adopted, with the name the Swan River Colony being used until it became officially Western Australia in 1832.

So come to Hesperia where the landscapes are varied and the horticulture, equally so. They offer you a chance to escape to the country, to explore the variety and history of this South West land. We earnestly appeal to you to come 'Bunburying' with us, to live another life in far WA for a few days, converse with friends and immerse yourselves in the gardens of this beautiful area of the South West corner of our continent."

To download the program go to <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/AGHS-Conference-Program-2024.pdf> This gives details on the optional day and pre and post conference tours.

OF INTEREST

CANBERRA MUSEUM AND GALLERY
<http://www.cmag.com.au/>

Exhibition: Backyard Archaeology
Until 1 September 2024

<http://www.cmag.com.au/exhibitions/backyard-archaeology>

This is an exhibition by Steve Brown, an AGHS member from our Branch. It tells the story of the many small objects that he collected during renovations and archaeological

digs from an ordinary suburban house and garden. Some of the objects were collected during house renovations, others while gardening, and many from archaeological digs.

From the numerous objects, including a miniature gnome, an airline teaspoon, medicine bottles, and toy handcuffs, Steve explored the history of his property and local area. He learned about people who had lived there previously and how past lives were lived.

The exhibition shows how a person can become deeply connected to found objects and how everyday encounters with lost and forgotten things can shape us and give us a 'sense of place'.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS
www.anbg.gov.au

Friends Thursday Talks – held at 12.30 pm every Thursday from February to November. Bookings can be made 30 days in advance. For program details and for bookings go to <https://www.friendsanbg.org.au/calendar>. This calendar also provides information on other talks, walks and activities in the Garden.

Visitors Centre Gallery Exhibition, free, open daily 9.30am to 4.30pm.

31 July – 1 September – *Arbour* - an exploratory series of drawings and prints focusing on the rich diversity and meaning embedded in the form and structure of trees.

This relates not only to their aesthetic significance but also reflects a range of emotional states such as vulnerability, resilience and our deep psychological connection to arboreal landscapes.

The impending impact of climate change has rendered this connection of even greater significance.

Guided Walk –Threatened Species
12 – 18 August, 11-12 noon, 2-3pm, Free

On this guided walk you will visit some of the rarest plants in Australia, consider some of the threats to their existence and learn about some of the scientific work the Botanic Gardens are doing to conserve these plants. Meet at the clock near the bridge. No booking required for individuals but groups of more than six people should contact walks@friendsanbg.org.au a week before the planned walk.

2024 ACT REGION HERITAGE SYMPOSIUM

Saturday 17 August, 9am - 5pm

Change in the built and natural environment is both inevitable and necessary. Factors such as land development, increased housing demand, climate change and regulation of land use, can have a significant impact on heritage values and heritage places and landscapes.

The keynote speaker at the Symposium will be Dr James Lesh from Deakin University, a historian and Lecturer in Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies who has published widely in Australian urban history. His recent book *Vaues in Cities* is the first major scholarly examination of the Australian heritage movement.

Venue: Forestry Building (Building 48) ANU, Linnaeus Way, Acton
 Costs: \$50.00 full registration, \$15.00 for students aged under 30
 Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/CSOKZ>

NATIONAL TRUST
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au>

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

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

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

LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN GUARDIANS (LBGG)
<http://lakeburleygriffinguardians.org.au>

Vegetarian Moussaka

Source <https://www.themediterraneandish.com/vegetarian-moussaka-recipe/>

Prep Time 45 minutes
Cook Time 45 minutes
Servings 10 pieces

Ingredients

750g eggplants sliced length wise (1cm thick)
750g zucchini, sliced length-wise (1cm thick)
1 kg potatoes
150ml olive oil for brushing veg
Salt

Béchamel:

90 mls olive oil
50 grams plain flour
1/2 tsp salt, more if you like
1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
750 mls milk
2 1/2 large eggs
75g parmesan
25g parmesan extra

Lentil Sauce:

150g onion, chopped
10 g 4 cloves garlic cloves, minced
2 1/2 cups COOKED French puy lentils (from 400 g uncooked lentils.)
400g canned crushed tomatoes
1/2 cup broth or water with vegetable stock powder
1 tsp dry oregano
3/8 tsp nutmeg
1/4 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp baharat (Middle Eastern spice mix)



Directions

Heat oven to 400 degrees F.

Make the béchamel in a large saucepan, heat olive oil over medium-high heat until shimmering but not smoking. Stir in flour, salt and pepper. Cook until golden (if needed, added a little more olive oil). Gradually add the warmed milk, whisking continuously. Continue cooking, stirring occasionally, over medium heat for 5 to 7 minutes. Add nutmeg. In a small bowl, whisk a small amount of the hot béchamel mixture with the eggs. Then return all to the pan with the remaining béchamel mixture. Continue to stir or whisk the mixture bringing to a gentle boil for just 2 more minutes add grated parmesan. Taste and adjust salt and pepper. Remove from heat and allow to cool and thicken a little more (you should have a creamy, thick and smooth béchamel sauce).

Make Lentil Sauce. In a cooking pot or large non-stick pan, heat 3 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil over medium heat. Sauté onions for a 10 minutes till fragrant add garlic and fry for a couple of minutes, tossing regularly. Stir in COOKED lentils, crushed tomatoes and broth or water. Season with a dash of kosher salt and add oregano, nutmeg and ground cinnamon and baharat. Bring to a boil, then lower heat and cover only part-way. Simmer for about 15 to 20 minutes or so.

Bake Vegetables. While lentil sauce is simmering, bake the vegetables. Arrange the zucchini and eggplant slices on lightly oiled baking sheets. Brush with extra virgin olive oil. Bake in heated oven for 15 to 20 minutes just until tender. Par-cook potatoes 10 minutes, cool to handle and slice lengthwise 1 cm thick.

Assemble Moussaka in a 9 x 13 baking dish. First, pour a bit of the lentil sauce on the bottom of the baking dish and spread. Layer the vegetables on top, starting with potato. Add the remainder of the lentil sauce. Finally, spread bechamel sauce on top, making sure to smooth it out well with the back of a spoon. Sprinkle with extra cheese and fresh grated nutmeg.

Bake. Place moussaka casserole on the middle rack of your heated oven. Bake for 45 minutes or until top béchamel layer turns golden brown.(If needed, place under broiler and watch very carefully till top turns a nice golden brown.)

Remove from heat and let sit for at least 20 minutes before cutting and serving. Cut into 10 squares.

Enjoy!

Notes**Cook's Tips**

Once moussaka is baked, be sure to let it rest for about 20 minutes before cutting and serving. This allows the béchamel topping to settle so it's easier and less messy to serve.

Prepare Ahead Tips: You can prepare each component of this recipe--bake the veggies, make the béchamel topping and the lentil sauce one night in advance. Store each in separate containers in the fridge and assemble when you are ready to bake. If you decide to make the béchamel in advance, you will need to warm it up in pot before you can pour it on the top of your moussaka. As it sits in the fridge, it will get very thick and slightly gelatinous. You may need to add an extra splash of milk to thin the sauce out and get it back to its pourable consistency. If you don't want to worry about this, just make the bechamel right before you are going to assemble. That way it's fresh and requires no extra steps.