

ACT Monaro Riverina Branch

Newsletter December 2021 No 7



Australian Garden History Society
www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au

ACT Monaro Riverina Branch, PO Box 5008, LYNEHAM ACT 2602
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BRANCH DIARY

10 FEBRUARY, 6PM
Lecture – *Marion Mahony Griffin – in her own right*
Speaker Glenda Korporaal

18 MARCH, 1.30PM
Telling the Time by the Sun

AGHS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

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
Susan Phillips

Message from the Chair

At last December has arrived, and with it, the hope that it will be possible to travel and spend time with family and friends without having to worry about border closures and lockdowns, a major source of disappointment in the last two years.

In reviewing the Branch's activities for 2021, I was pleased to conclude that although there were events that we had to cancel, but will now plan to offer next year, we did manage to hold eleven events.

The year's program started in February with *The Blade* exhibition at CMAG, and a talk by its Curator, Richard Heathcote. A Twilight Ramble at the Old Forestry School site at Yarralumla provided an opportunity to inspect some significant old plantings, including some dating back to Weston, before the site is redeveloped next year.

In March La Nina made its presence felt when our event to celebrate Canberra Day by visiting, and learning about, Griffin's Green Hills, had to be deferred. The weather improved later in the month and Trevor Lipscombe gave us a comprehensive overview of the Griffin vision and subsequent history of the three sites.

Two events took place in April to celebrate the Canberra Heritage Festival: Anne Claoue-Long led a discussion with other experts about what defines a suitable garden for a Modernist designed house, and on a sunny autumn afternoon a group was guided on a walk, pointing out historic sites along the Queanbeyan River.

Our May event was a highly enjoyable day in Gundaroo, centred on the lovely old Gundaroo Hall where we held a very successful sale of gardening books which had been donated by members. In the afternoon we revived the tradition of going to the movies, complete with a selection of lollies and popcorn, and the showing of a delightful Canadian film *The Gardener*.

For our Winter lectures the focus was on women who had distinguished careers in writing, art and design, or science, about plants or landscape. In June Trisha Dixon discussed her recently published book, *Spirit of the Garden*, at a joint lecture with the Friends of the National Library. Our speaker in July was distinguished scientist Dr Rosemary Purdie describing her plant collecting in the Simpson Desert. Sadly, COVID postponed our third talk by Glenda Korporaal on Marion Mahony Griffin's interest in Australian native plants, which after two cancellations, will now take place in February 2022. See page 2 for further details.

August and September both saw restrictions in gatherings, and as a result our AGM, and the Annual AGHS Conference were ZOOM events. At our AGM Greg Johnson gave an inspiring talk about his gardening experiments and achievements in a year of Covid. The Annual Conference proved very successful in producing high quality lectures in ZOOM format, with the planned garden visits hopefully taking place in Sydney early next year.

Other uncertainties concerning NSW Covid restrictions caused planned events scheduled in November to be deferred to next year. We were able however to hold our Christmas party in Canberra and it is reported on page 3.

Thank you to our members for your support in attending our events. I am indebted to our wonderful Committee members who work with enthusiasm and commitment to bring you stimulating activities, and great catering.

Wishing you all a happy time over Christmas and New Year, and looking forward to seeing you all in 2022.

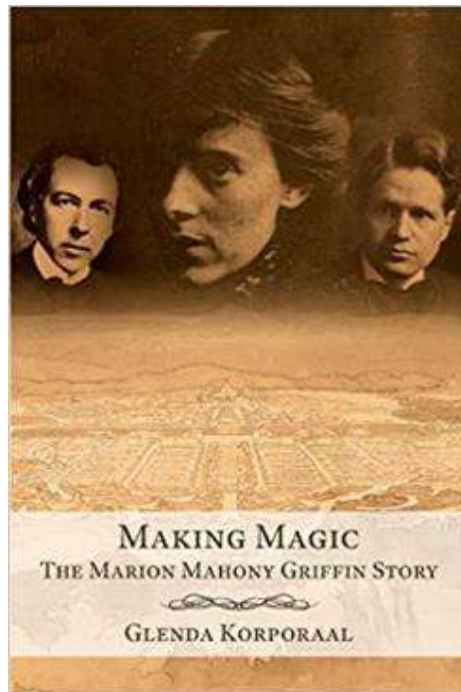
Margie Bourke

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**THURSDAY 10 FEBRUARY, 6PM
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA**

**MARION MAHONY GRIFFIN – IN HER OWN RIGHT
SPEAKER: GLENDA KORPORAAL**

In association with the Friends of the National Library.



One of the highlights of our programme last year was to have been our Winter Lecture by Glenda Korporeal on Marion Mahony Griffin, the ground-breaking woman who played such a critical role in the design of Canberra. Unfortunately, this joint event with the Friends of the NLA didn't proceed due to COVID and the evolving COVID situation precluded rescheduling later in the year. So, the Friends of the NLA and your Committee are doubly thrilled that Glenda is able to present in person at the National Library in February to coincide with the 151th anniversary of Marion's birth in 1871.

Glenda argues the case for Marion to be recognised for her unique combination of artist, architect, environmentalist, community maker and social observer. With so much of her work already in Canberra – in the National Library and the National Archives – she deserves to be ranked as a “founding mother” of Canberra whose work and life continues to inspire Australians more than 100 years after she lived here.

Glenda Korporeal is a Sydney based journalist and writer. Her book *Making Magic: The*

Venue Theatre, NLA

Cost \$20 (AGHS members & Friends of the NLA), \$25 (Non-members)
Refreshments included.

Bookings Essential through the NLA website at
https://www.stickytickets.com.au/hyc46/marion_mahony_griffin_in_her_own_right.aspx

SAVE THE DATE

Telling the Time by the Sun

Friday 18 March, 1.30pm

Twice we had looked forward to hearing about sundials from physicist, sundial designer and maker extraordinaire Dr Marg Folkard in 2021. Both times the events had to be postponed due to COVID. However, we are delighted that this joint event with the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens will now take place on the afternoon of Friday 18 March to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the gifting of the ANBG sundial to the Gardens by the Friends of the ANBG. This sundial and the one at Mt Stromlo



were both designed by Adelaide-based physicists, Dr Marg Folkard and John Ward of **Sundials Australia**

<https://www.sundialsaustralia.com.au>

Before clocks were invented, sundials were used in public places and in the grounds of significant buildings to mark the hours of the day. By the 19th century sundials had become largely ornamental, and today many gardens large and small feature a sundial.

Hear Marg talk about the art and science of sundials, and show us how the ANBG one in the Rock Garden works. After a delicious afternoon tea we will then drive to Mt Stromlo to experience a different type of sundial - the analemmatic or human sundial – which tells the time with your own shadow.

Armillary Sphere, ANBG, Photo Nancy Clarke

Further details, including booking arrangements, will follow next year.

PAST EVENT

Christmas Party at York Park

Saturday 4 December

With ominous grey clouds building as the organisers arrived at York Park to set up for the Christmas Party, it looked as if we might have to resort to sheltering under the mature oak trees, with umbrellas raised. Fortunately, the day was saved by the dark clouds only offering a few large drops before moving on and leaving us in sunshine to listen to our guest speaker, Heritage Consultant Duncan Marshall, describe the history of York Park.

Duncan and a number of consultants were responsible for the first Heritage Management Plan for York Park, and he is now involved in up-dating the Plan. The genesis for the park was the planting of an English Oak, brought from Kew Gardens, for the Duke of York (later King George VI), to plant on 10th May 1927, the day after he had officially opened the new Parliament House. He also planted the Bunya Pine on the opposite side of King's Avenue on the same occasion. The other oak trees planted in the park were designed as a coppice, and were planted by men as a work relief project during the Depression. The Park then languished and was not well maintained for many years with weed species introduced although it was included in the Commonwealth Heritage List in 2004. Plans to construct a building adjacent to the site for the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet, resulted the appointment of Aldo Giurgola, the architect of the new Parliament House, to design a simple upgrading of the park by constructing stone walls of Wee Jasper stone, and paths and seating to make it an attractive recreational area.



After Duncan's talk local prize winners in the inaugural AGHS Photo Competition were presented with their certificates.



The afternoon concluded with delicious food and drinks and time to catch up with friends, in warm sunshine rather than miserable rain, and a feeling that normality had returned.

Margie Bourke

(Photos Sue Cassidy)

AGHS 2020 PHOTO COMPETITION

The results of the inaugural AGHS photo competition, held as part of the Society's 40th anniversary celebrations, were announced at the Society's AGM on 14 November 2021. **Overall winner** was Maggie McCredie of Jindabyne for with a joyous image titled *The Lawn Ranger comes to Granny's rescue!*



Winners in the other categories were:

Overall Best Entries Runner-up – Neva Kastelic, ACT

Category A – Garden or Cultural Landscape

Winner – Stuart Read, NSW. Runner-up – Meg Probyn, NSW

Category B – Still Life

Winner – Susan Belperio, S.A. Runner-up – Nancy Clarke, ACT

Category C – Gardener or Gardeners under COVID-19

Winner – Neva Kastelic, ACT. Runner-up – Meg Probyn, NSW

Category D – The Lawn

Winner – Margaret McCredie, NSW. Runner-up – Anna Howe, ACT

Category E – Garden History Imagined

Winner – Neva Kastelic, ACT. Runner-up – Susan Belperio, S. A.

Many thanks to our distinguished judges:

- Dr Victoria Cooper
- Lucy Culliton
- Trisha Dixon Burkitt
- Dr Doug Spowart

Read the full report and see the beautiful images and judges' comments at:

<https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/AGHS-photo-competition-winners.pdf>

BRANCH NEWS

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

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

- Paul Costigan, Canberra
- Morna Winter-Iving, Braidwood

NATIONAL NEWS

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENTS

The AGHS Website has been updated with new items that members may care to explore over the holiday period. In fact exploring has just been made easier with a new "Search" tab which uses a Google search function on the website. Try it out! Other new additions under the "News" tab are a link to Book Reviews and Articles of interest, which for a variety of reasons are not included in the Journal itself, and a link to the AGHS YouTube channel.

Also remember that after logging in members can access a variety of governance documents under the Committee Resources in the "Home" tab. And download past copies of the Journal for free.

If you have any comments or further ideas for website content please contact anyone on the ACT Monaro Riverina committee who will ensure Lisa in the AGHS office and the NMC receives your suggestion.

INTRODUCING THE NMC

A new outline of the National Management Committee is now available on the AGHS website. Members can find it under the committee resources tab after logging in. It was produced in reaction to the survey results where quite a few members expressed confusion about what the NMC functions were. Please have a look.

COMPOSITION OF THE NEW NMC

Following the AGM, the new NMC comprises the following members:

Bronwyn Blake – Co-chair
Stuart Read – Co-chair
Lynne Walker – Secretary
Stephen Hathway – Treasurer
John Maurer – Public Officer
Annabel Murray
Lynne Paul
Stephen Halliday – Sydney Branch Rep
Patricia Michell – SA Branch Rep
Anne Claoue-Long – ACT Monaro Riverina Rep
Anna Long – Victoria Rep
Patsy Vizents – WA Rep
Ann Wegener – Queensland Rep
Lyn Barrett – Southern Highlands Rep
Prue Slatyer – Tasmania Rep
Francesca Beddie - Editor
A Northern NSW Branch Rep still to be nominated

AGHS SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Another initiative in progress is a AGHS select bibliography listing publications on Australian garden history and specific Australian gardens, designers and botanical exploration and illustration. It is not intended to provide recommendations of practical gardening books. You will have to turn to your local garden club for that. The bibliography will soon be available on the website and Branch members will then be invited to look and comment if their favourite books/authors have escaped the initial listing.

TOUR: GARDENS OF NEW ENGLAND AND THE HUNTER VALLEY 19 MARCH – 10 APRIL

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

For more information go to

<https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/events-conferences/category/tour/>

OF INTEREST

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS www.anbg.gov.au

Friends Thursday Talks have recommenced with new arrangements. 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>

Exhibition: 15 December – 23 January

Reclaiming the Bush – Explore the minute details of native flora found in the Australian bush. Artist Stephanie Jakovac offers a sensory experience of bush flowers during the bushfires and the human involvement trying to contain the destruction.

Free Guided walks and Flora Explorer Bus Tours (\$8, \$5) commenced in December'

NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY MAGIC OF MARION <https://www.nca.gov.au/marion>

Exhibition: *Marion, a Woman of Genius*

Discover more about Marion's life and work. Besides being a noted architect she was a gifted painter, community organiser and sometime believer in fairies and elves. This free exhibition at Regatta Point has been extended into 2022 and will reopen Monday 1 November, 9 - 5 weekdays and 10 – 4 weekends and public holidays.

Sewing Workshop

Making with Marion

Marion was an advocate for sensible, comfortable dressing. Bring your machine and fabric to Regatta Point and join a workshop to learn how to make the famous 1920s 'One Hour Dress', Cost \$22

The workshop was postponed because of the COVID restrictions and is expected to take place early in 2022.

NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA

www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au

For details on walks, workshops, school holiday activities 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/>