



Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch

Newsletter February 2020 No 1

www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au

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

28 FEBRUARY

Amble in STEP

22 MARCH

40th Anniversary Garden
Party

3 APRIL

Telling the time by the
Sun

2 MAY

Walk: Beside the Qbyn
River

15 MAY

Gundaroo Film Morning

10 JUNE

Talk at NLA with Sophie
Thomson

23–25 OCTOBER
2020

AGHS National
Conference – Sydney
*Many Dreams One
Landscape*

5–8 NOVEMBER
2021

AGHS National
Conference – Hobart

NEW YEAR

It hardly seems appropriate to send New Year Greetings after the shocking start to our year, and I know Sue has written to all members regards this. We can only hope that things continue to improve – at least it is raining today.

Judy Pearce, Newsletter Editor

NEXT EVENTS

A Late Summer Amble in STEP

FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY, 4PM

STEP or the Southern Tablelands Ecosystem Park is part of the National Arboretum Canberra (NAC). In fact it is Forest 20 of that Arboretum. In 2002 with the aim of creating a *regional botanic garden* the Australian Native Plants Society and the Friends of the Grasslands began a campaign to achieve a site and space for this endeavour.

It is a *microcosm of the vegetation typical of the Southern Tablelands region of NSW and the ACT*. This bioregion (the Southern Tablelands) is regarded as severely endangered as well over 90% has been cleared and/or modified and there are very few significant areas left of the original plant communities due to a combination of pastoral and farming activities as well as towns and other urban development.

The idea behind STEP is to present as many of the key species of plants as possible for enjoyment and for education as they are species which can be grown with minimum effort in our environment.

STEP is run by a voluntary organisation in association with the management of the NAC and in 2019 celebrated the 10th anniversary of the first plantings.

Since planting the 16 species of key eucalypts as the *structure* of the garden (they now refer to it as a *regional botanic garden*) they have planted around 20 more trees of the region and around 180 of the approximately 240 species of understory plants of the forests and woodlands of the region.



BRANCH COMMITTEE

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

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

While late summer is the toughest time of the garden, and especially in a drought, there are now wonderful *allees* of the trees beginning in most cases to achieve canopy closure and the grasses and the last of the daisies will be in full evidence.

Max Bourke will introduce us to the history of the site and the rationale for its establishment and then we will be taken in groups on a guided tour. A walk around the site now shows the foresight of the original proponents and once again reinforces the old adage *the best time to plant a tree is ten years ago and the second best time is today*!".

Groups will return to *The Clearing* for refreshments.

We thank our Branch members Max and Margie Bourke who have been volunteers at the Southern Tablelands Ecosystem Park since its inception in 2009, and have facilitated this visit for us.

Meet at 4pm: at the Main Car Park of the National Arboretum Canberra— There will be no need to pay to park at that time. The group will then be led across the road and down a gently sloped gravel path to *The Clearing*, the STEP meeting area.

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

Bookings: Through TryBooking, <https://www.trybooking.com/BHJBG>

40th Anniversary Garden Party

SUNDAY 22 MARCH, 3PM

Join us to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Australian Garden History Society. This is a national celebration with each Branch holding an event to commemorate the ruby anniversary.

The English Garden was chosen as the site for our celebration as the Branch has several historical links with the area.

In 2009 the Branch undertook a condition

assessment of the trees with accompanying brochure, in 2012 the Branch sponsored the digitisation of Charles Weston's nursery records and in 2016 the WW1 commemorative plaque was unveiled.

Venue: The English Garden, Weston Park, Yarralumla – from Weston Park Rd follow signs to the Heritage Nursery and Yarralumla Gallery and Brasserie. There will be AGHS signage from the car park.

Cost: Free members, \$10 non-members (plus 50c ticket fee) including refreshments. **We would love your family and friends to join us for this special occasion.**

Bookings: Through TryBooking, <https://www.trybooking.com/BHWBI>

Enquiries: Sue Byrne suebyrne@effect.net.au, 0413 840 931



Telling the Time by the Sun: an enlightening afternoon

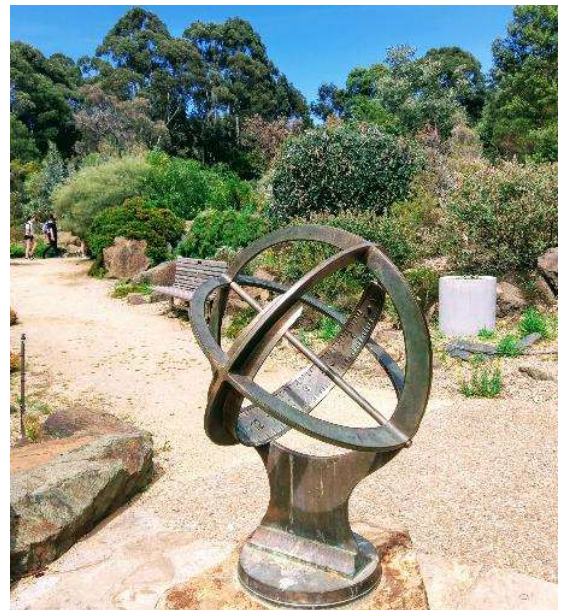
FRIDAY 3 APRIL, 1.30PM

Using the apparent movement of the sun to mark the passage of time goes back to antiquity, with people from many different cultures creating devices – sundials – that use a light spot or a shadow to record time. 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.

Canberra is fortunate to have publicly accessible sundials, several of them devised by the Adelaide based physicists Dr Marg Folkard and John Ward of *Sundials Australia*. On Friday 3 April 2020 we have an opportunity to hear Marg talk about the history and science of sundials, as well as the exacting art of creating them. She will focus in particular on two sundials – the armillary sphere in the Australian National Botanic Gardens and the analemmatic or human sundial at Mt Stromlo. She will also refer to others that her firm has created across Australia and beyond.

The Sundials Afternoon will start in the theatre of the ANBG. After this, we will walk to the sundial near the rockery in the ANBG. Flora Explorer, the ANBG mini-van will be available for participants with limited mobility. After afternoon tea we will drive in our own cars to the sundial at Mt Stromlo Observatory, so we can tell the time by our own shadows in the late afternoon light.

This event has been organized jointly by the Australian Garden History Society and the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens to celebrate several milestones: the AGHS 40th birthday, the ANBG Friends' 30th birthday, and the 20th anniversary of ANBG's sundial – a gift from its Friends.



Armillary Sphere, ANBG, Photo Nancy Clarke

- Venue:** We start in the Theatre, Australian National Botanic Gardens (opposite the Visitor Centre), and finish at Mt Stromlo Observatory. This is a self-drive event.
- Timing:** The talk will start in the Theatre at 1.30 pm. We have a very full afternoon so please arrive in good time. We anticipate that our visit to Mt Stromlo will finish by 5.15 pm.
- Cost:** Members of AGHS and Friends of the ANBG: \$15. Others: \$20 (plus 50 cents ticket fee). Afternoon tea is included.
- Bookings:** Through TryBooking, <https://www.trybooking.com/BHORJ>
- Bookings **OPEN on Sunday 16 February**. Booking for this event is essential as the number of places in the Theatre is limited for safety reasons.
- Enquiries:** Nancy Clarke clarkenancy624@gmail.com, or ring 0423 690 626

Beside the Queanbeyan River: An afternoon walk with Stories on the way

SATURDAY 2 MAY, 2- 4.30PM

This afternoon walk forms part of the 2020 Canberra and Region Heritage Festival <https://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/heritage-festival> and is presented by the Australian Garden History Society, ACT Monaro Riverina Branch and the National Trust ACT.

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

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



The Suspension Bridge, Queanbeyan. Photo Nancy Clarke

We will finish the walk (it is about 2km long in total), with refreshments near the Sensory Gardens.

We are most grateful to Brigid Whitbread, Local History Librarian, Queanbeyan Library for her support, suggestions and advice as we put this event together.

- Venue:** We will meet on the Queanbeyan River Path **under** the Queen's Bridge (Trinculo Place, Queanbeyan East)
- Parking:** in Wanniasa St/Molonglo St or in Trinculo Place or nearby and then walk to the bridge underpass.
- Start:** The walk starts at 2 pm – look at the fishy mural while you are waiting.
- Cost:** Adults \$15 (plus 50 cents ticket fee), accompanying children (10 years old and over) free. Refreshments included.
- Bookings:** Through TryBooking, <https://www.trybooking.com/BHNZT>
Bookings **OPEN on Thursday 19 March** and are essential.
- Enquiries:** Nancy Clarke clarkenancy624@gmail.com, or ring 0423690626

SAVE THE DATES

Gundaroo Film Morning
Friday 15 May

A joint event with the Canberra First Garden Club to view the Film **The Gardener** in the Historic Gundaroo Soldiers Memorial Hall. More details in the next newsletter.

Winter Talk with Author and Gardening Australia's
Sophie Thompson
Wednesday 10 June, 6pm

Joint event with The Friends of the National Library. More details in the next newsletter.

BRANCH NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

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

- Sue Manuel, Canberra
- Pamela Mathie, Canberra

AGHS BRANCH SEEKING DONATIONS FOR BOOK SALE

Turn your preloved garden books into funds for our digitisation project

Next year is our 40th Anniversary Year and one of the special events we are planning is a book sale of garden themed material. The Branch Committee has already received several donations for the sale but we are seeking more.

If you have time over Christmas and New Year (and even into January or February!) please go through your bookshelves and make a pile of pre-loved items to donate.



You will be sending your books to good homes with like-minded people within the society, and proceeds from the sale will be channelled into our digitisation project with the National Library of Australia. This project helps to preserve garden history in printed form for all to access and enjoy into the future. Two good outcomes from your clear out – and you will gain some empty shelf space as well!

To arrange leaving your donations at our next event, dropping them off in the inner north of Canberra, or, if you have many boxes for collection (one always hopes) please email annecl@icloud.com

Thank you!, **Anne Claoue-Long**

NEWS FROM OUR NATIONAL OFFICE

41ST ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2020



To be held at Luna Park, Milsons Point. Bookings will open May 1 2020. Conference brochures will be sent to you with your April 2020 AGH Journal. The Optional Day on Monday 26 October will explore the rural area of Camden.

Stuart Read will lead Pre and Post Tours to The Blue Mountains - (October 19 - 21 and October 27 - 29).

Check the AGHS website for further information.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH NEWS

LONG SUNDAY LUNCH: THE STABLES, BENDOOLOLEY ESTATE SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY

Our Branch members are welcome to join members of the Southern Highlands Branch for their events. The next event is The Long Sunday Lunch which will include a private tour of the old *Bendoololey* homestead garden before moving to *The Stables* for lunch.

Speakers will include David Stuart speaking about Ferdinand Bauer and his journey with Matthew Flinders; and John Swainston, a talented photographer, who will explain the ins and outs of the camera and share his extensive photography knowledge.

Enquiries: Lyn Barratt on 02 4862 3442.

OF INTEREST

2020 AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE

www.landscapeconference.com

27 – 30 March

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF CANBERRA

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

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

www.anbg.gov.au

Lectures on a variety of topics are offered by the Friends of the National Botanic Gardens at 12.30pm on most Thursdays. No bookings are required, entry by gold coin donation. Be warned that the talks are very popular and spaces are limited. For details and updates check the Friends' website at www.friendsanbg.org.au.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF CANBERRA

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

LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN GUARDIANS (LBGG)

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

NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA

www.arboretumcanberra.org.au

OPEN GARDENS CANBERRA

www.opengardenscanberra.org.au