

# ACT Monaro Riverina Branch

## Newsletter February 2023 No 1



Australian Garden History Society  
[www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au](http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au)

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### BRANCH DIARY

#### 24 MARCH

*Member only Hackett walk  
– TBC*

#### 15 APRIL

*Heritage Festival: National  
Trust Open Day, Duntroon  
Dairy*

#### 21 APRIL

*Self Drive Tour: Four  
Gardens of the Monaro*

#### 22 APRIL

*Heritage Festival: Hackett  
Heritage walk, joint event  
with NT*

#### 29 APRIL

*Heritage Festival: Kingston  
Heritage walk, joint event  
with NT*

#### 11 MAY

*Westbourne Woods: Walk  
and Talk*



### WELCOME TO 2023!

We have begun the new year with a great deal of optimism and already enjoyed our first event with our special guided tour of the stunningly beautiful Cressida Campbell exhibition at the NGA. Many thanks to AGHS member and NGA guide, Kay Johnston and her two colleagues Judith and Rosslyn who treated us to a very special afternoon. Thanks also to those members who kindly brought some delicious food to share in the grounds of the Sculpture Garden afterwards.

Planning of upcoming events is well underway, including a self-drive trip to the Monaro, activities with our long-time partner, the National Trust, during Heritage Week in April, a walk and talk through Westbourne Woods with Friends of ACT Trees in May and our popular Gundaroo Film Day in winter. Please note the dates in your diaries and book early as many have limited numbers.

If your new year's resolution was to spend more time focusing on the care of your local cultural landscapes and significant gardens, please contact our small hard working committee, we would love to hear from you!

Many thanks.

**Bronwyn Blake**  
**Chair**

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### CANBERRA AND REGIONAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2023

<https://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/heritage-festival>

#### National Trust Open Day Saturday 15 April, 10am – 3pm

The Open Day for the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival is back after the unfortunate cancellations of the last couple of years, thanks to Covid and the weather!

For the first time in over ten years, the Open Day will be at Duntroon Dairy and **once again AGHS will be have a presence there.** With the Festival theme of *Sharing Stories*, this will be an opportunity for people to hear stories about the oldest European building in Canberra which is still standing.

#### AGHS NATIONAL CONFERENCES

#### 43<sup>RD</sup> AGHS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

IPSWICH, QLD

29 SEPTEMBER –

1 OCTOBER 2023

2 optional days – 28 Sept  
and 2 October

Registration opens 1 May

#### 44<sup>TH</sup> AGHS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BUNBURY, WA

18 – 20 OCTOBER

2024

## BRANCH COMMITTEE

Bronwyn Blake, Chair  
Sue Cassidy, Treasurer  
Anne Claoue-Long, State  
NMC Representative  
Nancy Clarke, Secretary

Lynne Curran  
Louise Gaudry  
Susan Phillips

The Open Day will run from 10 am to 3 pm. Do come to enjoy the guided tours, entertainment, refreshments and various stalls and in particular, do drop by the AGHS stall. We would love to see you there.

**Location** Duntroon Dairy is accessed via car parks on Kelliher Drive, Russell

## SAVE THESE DATES FOR THESE OTHER HERITAGE FESTIVAL EVENTS

The Branch is pleased to again partner with the ACT National Trust to present two informative walks during the Heritage Festival. These will be advertised to the general community via the Heritage Festival program so keep an eye out for the booking details which we also hope to provide to you in a later email.

### *HACKETT HERITAGE: A MID-CENTURY MODERN HUB* *SATURDAY APRIL 22, 9.30 – 11.30AM*



A butterfly roof, Besser blocks, crazy paving and cordylines! See them all and how California came to Canberra and developed its own local character in our domestic architecture, gardens and urban development. From the simple to the simply stunning, original to latest renovation, mid-century modern has stood the test of time in Hackett and other suburbs established in the 1960s-1970s.

The short suburban walk costing \$20 and looking at mid-century modern themed architecture and gardens in Hackett will be led by AGHS member Anna Howe.

### **FRIDAY 24 MARCH**

The AGHS is also hoping to host a slightly different more garden focussed version of the Hackett walk just for AGHS members on **Friday 24 March - Cordylines among the Callistemons**. We are still working out the details with Anna and will provide more information and booking details in due course. Make sure to save that date too!

### *KINGSTON PARKS, GARDENS AND WINDBREAKS – OLD AND NEW* *SATURDAY APRIL 29 APRIL, 9.30 – 11.30AM*

Kingston Foreshore is not renowned for its gardens but there are plenty of parks and green spaces in the vicinity. We will visit some of the oldest (Telopea and Bowen Parks) and some new ones along the shores of the Lake and Jerrabomberra Creek and finish with refreshments in Norgrove Park.

The price is again \$20 and there will be a variety of speakers knowledgeable in the history and landscape character of the area.

## Four Gardens of the Monaro Friday 21 April, 10.15am – 3pm

On Friday 21 April we have the opportunity for an autumn visit to four lovely Monaro gardens, two in Cooma, followed by two a little further south, near Nimmitabel. This will be a self-drive day, with arrival at our first garden visit planned for 10.15 am. We plan to allow everyone good time to visit and enjoy the four gardens and arrive back in Canberra before dark.

We very warmly thank our hospitable and generous hosts.

AGHS will provide morning and afternoon tea, and tea/coffee at lunch. Please bring your own picnic lunch. Driving and other information will be sent to people who have registered.

Gardeners of the Monaro need to be resilient and adaptable! When Anne and Howard Charles moved from Nimmitabel to Cooma in 2017 they exchanged fertile basalt for sandy shale and an established and beautiful garden to one which was awaiting development. In five years, they have reshaped the two acres surrounding the house to create a garden of contrasts and surprises. Both natives and exotics flourish. A long gabion wall defines the entrance, and extensive plantings of deciduous trees complement the ancient eucalypts. A paved terrace looks onto a grassed area backed by a long densely planted perennial border, and vegetable gardens and a chicken run nestle behind the house. Skilfully planted creepers soften the front steps and hedges conceal the service areas. We will have morning tea here.

At *Blairgowrie*, also in Cooma, Jenny Slatyer and internationally respected artist Imants Tillers have sympathetically enhanced an historic garden. The property was established in the 1860s and the venerable elms, pines and poplars are reminders of successive owners. An Edna Walling inspired area was planted in the 1930s and Jenny and Imants have restored the original layout and created a European styled garden which celebrates the four seasons. Imants' stone studio nestles amongst the trees. Dense growth around the perimeter of the property ensures both privacy and a sense of mystery.

We will enjoy our picnic lunches at our next garden, John Rose and Denham Williams' *Mia Mia* at Nimmitabel. This is a garden of both strength and tranquility. First plantings were in 1989 when the house was built by the previous owners, and John and Denham have expanded and enriched the original design. A tree lined drive opens into a shady oasis densely planted with flowering bulbs and perennials. In spring the garden is a sea of daffodils followed by aquilegias. Judicious planting has preserved views to the surrounding landscape. Well established vegetable beds, berries, fruit trees and a picking garden are attractive and productive.

*Erindale* is right on top of the Great Dividing Range with sweeping views down the Tom Groggin valley. First settled in the 1850s, the house dates from 1916, but the garden was developed in the 1980s. When Richard and Lainie Lawson bought the property in 2001, they more than doubled the garden by moving a fence to include a rocky hill. They have retained the original layout of the garden, and expanded it with more deciduous trees and perennial borders. The creation of a dry gravel garden on the rocky hill is still a work in progress, with low growing native and exotic shrubs merging into the paddock below. We will enjoy our afternoon tea here, before leaving for home.

<b>Cost</b>	\$30 AGHS members, \$35 non AGHS members.
<b>Bookings</b>	Numbers are limited and bookings essential: <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CFYOU">https://www.trybooking.com/CFYOU</a>
<b>Bring</b>	Suitable clothing, and your picnic lunch
<b>Inquiries</b>	Nancy Clarke 0423690626 or <a href="mailto:clarkenancy624@gmail.com">clarkenancy624@gmail.com</a>

## SAVE THE DATE

### Westbourne Woods Walk and Talk Thursday 11 May

**Meet at 2:45pm outside the Royal Canberra Golf Club for 3:00pm departure**

Friends of ACT for Trees (FACTT) convenor, Paul Scholtens, will take us on a guided walk to the Nicholls incinerator through Westbourne Woods. Ipswich and Canberra each have one of the remaining seven incinerators designed by Eric Nicholls and Walter Burley Griffin for the Reverberatory Incinerator and Engineering Company. Paul will give us some background on Westbourne Woods and point out significant trees, while AGHS member and historian, Anne Claoue-Long will tell us a little about the incinerator and its significance. It's opportune to focus on the ties between Ipswich and Canberra as Ipswich will host the 2023 AGHS Conference later this year.

Sturdy shoes are required as some of the walk to and from the incinerator will be between the fairways. Dogs are not permitted.

Booking details will be provided at a later date.

## PAST EVENTS

### CRESSIDA CAMPBELL - a Special Tour at the NGA Wednesday 1 February

The Branch program for 2023 started with a wonderful afternoon event for thirty AGHS members and friends - a special guided tour of the exhibition **Cressida Campbell** in the National Gallery of Australia, led by Kay Johnston, long standing NGA guide and AGHS member, and two of her Gallery guiding colleagues Rosslyn Jackson and Judith Wood.

This large survey exhibition presents more than forty years of works by Sydney painter/printmaker Cressida Campbell and has drawn highly appreciative audiences, with many making return trips. Domestic in content, but almost monumental in scale, the works glow with inner and reflected light.



*Kay with the group in the Gallery, photo Nancy Clarke*

Campbell depicts her home environment, flowers from her own garden, and panoramas of where she is living, frequently including or referencing water. Kay mentioned that people come to the exhibition expecting to enjoy the works, but find themselves overcome by their technical mastery.

Working in two forms, painted woodblocks and single prints – woodcuts - taken from the woodblocks, Campbell has become a superb colourist and master of composition. We see the same chairs, the same ceramic objects from her own collection occupying with dignity just the right space. The exhibition provides a rare opportunity to compare the pairs – the original painted woodblock and its reverse, the single print - of a few of the

works: Otto the cat peers through the balustrade in both woodblock and woodcut. Different aspects of her work attract attraction. Sometimes she concentrates on presenting objects refracted through glass or water, so we look at flower stems and leaves in a large vase, water in a pond, the view through a window or glass door. Or we look closely at the objects in her house – books, pots, cats, kitchen implements, electric irons and cables. Human figures are very rarely depicted, but frequently referenced – we see where they have just been. The clearly defined picture frame cuts objects sharply off, forcing us to look carefully at the form of a half chair or a half bowl for instance.

Visiting an art exhibition with a knowledgeable guide has special benefits – in addition to the special insights the guides offer, there is a particular dynamic associated with a group visit with like-minded friends, and this was particularly commented on by those who were part of this special occasion. Kay, Rosslyn and Judith contributed to making this a quite exceptional experience.

The refreshments served outside in the Gallery's Sculpture Garden on a balmy evening provided a fine opportunity for conversation and discussion.

**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.

- Joyce Cavanagh, Young
- Sheelagh Noonan, Braidwood

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH

Members of our Branch are welcome to join events in the SH. Upcoming events include:

**22 February – Self Drive Excursion to the Berry/Nowra area.** Cost \$25 which includes morning tea and notes. Booking close Monday 20 February. For further information contact Ruth Bailey [ruthbailey1428@gmail.com](mailto:ruthbailey1428@gmail.com)

**29 March – visit to Tavistock** – a 50 year old garden and home that has been renovated in the past few years.

## OF INTEREST

### HAVEST DAY OUT AT LANYON HOMESTEAD

**Saturday 4 March, 10am – 4pm**

Celebrate Autumn in the Gardens with Food, Music, Workshops, Market Stalls and More.

ACT Historic Places are excited to announce their annual Harvest Day Out will be bigger and better than ever, Harvest Day Out is a celebration of all things harvest and all things Autumn.

Themed 'grow – preserve – sustain', Harvest Day Out will include a range of workshops, demonstrations, talks, tours, market stalls, music and a variety of food offerings at Lanyon Homestead.



There is a focus on events that will help us understand important First Nations connections and perspectives, garden stalls, workshops and demonstrations, preserve making demonstrations, and a wonderful plant stall. There will also be market stalls for gardeners, collectors and foodies, as well as food trucks. Entry is free, though some of the activities are ticketed.

For more information about a delightful day, go to the website:

<http://www.historicplaces.com.au/harvestdayout>



## REGISTER NOW!



### CLIMATE RESILIENCE - UNDERSTANDING NEW CHALLENGES FOR HISTORIC GARDENS

30 March 2023  
6:00pm-9:30pm AEDT / 8:00am-11:30am GMT

Eryldene will host an on-line event on 30th March 2023, exploring how historic gardens are building resilience to climate change. Speakers from the UK, USA, Australia and beyond will share local and global garden management experiences with an interactive panel conclusion. For further information visit: <https://www.eryldene.org.au>

Event Registration via <https://bit.ly/crunchevent>

Supported by CreateNSW, AGHS and the National Trust (NSW).



Create NSW  
Arts, Screen & Culture



## NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA

[www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au](http://www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au)

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

## AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

[www.anbg.gov.au](http://www.anbg.gov.au)

**Friends Thursday Talks** - 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. Details are already up for events in early 2023.

## HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF CANBERRA

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

## NATIONAL TRUST (ACT)

For details on monthly Heritage walks go to:

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

## OPEN GARDENS CANBERRA

The president has advised that the Autumn program is just being finalised and will go up on the website very soon. For more information go to

<https://opengardenscanberra.org.au/>

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



For more information go to <https://icomosga2023.org/>