

# ACT Monaro Riverina Branch

## Newsletter June 2022 No 3



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

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### BRANCH DIARY

#### 16 JUNE

*Zoom talk: Jason Chongue and the Plant Society*

#### 29 JUNE

*Versailles Gardens in Fact and Fiction*

#### 8 JULY

*A Visit to Callum Brae*

#### 25 AUGUST

*AGM, 5.30pm  
Annual Lecture, 6.00pm*

#### 15 OCTOBER

*Joint event with NT  
A Visit to Lambrigg*

#### 2 DECEMBER

*Visit to Richlands & Riversdale*

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AGHS NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE,  
HOBART

#### 11-13 NOVEMBER

*Landscape on the Edge:  
Challenge and Opportunity*

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

After starting our program for 2022 by successfully holding events which had been deferred due to COVID last year, it was hoped that the events the Committee had planned for the next few months would be able to take place as scheduled.

Unfortunately La Nina had not been factored into our plans, and was to become the disrupter of our next two scheduled events.

The first was in April, our joint event with the National Trust to celebrate the Canberra Heritage Festival at Lambrigg. This was unable to proceed, but is now re-scheduled to take place on **Saturday 15 October**.

The second was a visit to Callum Brae, when our chosen route became impassable due to a flooded path. We now intend to visit on **Friday 8**. Details about the event including booking arrangements are on Page 3.

With the wintery conditions in mind, you will not need to leave home to take part in our next event, a ZOOM lecture by Jason Chongue on indoor plants, which is on **Thursday 16 June**. A flyer advertising this event was sent to all members in May, but details including booking arrangements can be found on Page 2.

Following on from the success of our film day last year, I invite you to join us in the warm historic Gundaroo Memorial Hall on **Wednesday 29 June**, for a cheery afternoon in the Gardens of the Palace of Versailles. We'll begin with a warming bowl of home-made soup followed by a talk by Max Bourke on the designer, Andre Le Nôtre, and then we'll settle down to watch the movie, **A Little Chaos**. Further details are given on Page 2.

Finally, if you are looking for a new area of interest and involvement, why not consider joining our Committee? Our AGM will occur on 25 August in conjunction with the Annual Lecture. The new Committee members will be elected at this time. You will see that this Newsletter includes the AGM Notice on Page 4.

Please ring me if you would like to discuss this further.  
**Margie Bourke** (0417 668 563)

## WELCOME TO A NEW MEMBER

The committee would like to welcome the following new member who has joined since the last Newsletter.

- Mary Mathias, Braidwood

## 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

## JASON CHONGUE AND THE PLANT SOCIETY ZOOM Lecture: Thursday 16 June, 5.30pm

We are delighted to confirm that the much anticipated ZOOM lecture by Jason Chongue will go ahead on Thursday 16 June.

Jason Chongue is the Creative Director of design studio and store The Plant Society. After gaining a wealth of experience working as an architect and interior designer, Jason merged his passion for plants and design by establishing The Plant Society in 2016, focusing on designing with plants in small urban spaces. Since being established, The Plant Society has grown exponentially and has attracted a loyal following in Australia and globally. Jason regularly travels internationally to pass on his knowledge to aspiring plant enthusiasts in plant workshops.

Most recently, Jason was the Creative Director of the Garden State Festival in Victoria, a partnership between the Plant Society and the Yarra City Council. Commenting on the Festival Jason said: *We strive to celebrate the modern gardener through a festival that celebrates the skill set gardeners have perfected over generations. It is time to show that gardening is its own artform. We may be an extension of our plants – however we are artists with a palette oozing with atmosphere.*

This is sure to be an informative and inspirational talk.



Photo: Armidale Habib

Jason is on Instagram @jasonchongue and The Plant Society's website is <https://theplantsociety.com.au>

**Cost** \$10 for AGHS members and \$15 for non-members

**Bookings** <https://www.trybooking.com/BZSAQ>

**Enquiries** Nancy Clarke at [clarkenancy624@gmail.com](mailto:clarkenancy624@gmail.com)

## VERSAILLES GARDENS IN FACT AND FICTION Wednesday 29 June, 12.00 sharp

### SOUP, A TALK AND A MOVIE IN WINTERY GUNDAROO

Join us in the warm historic Gundaroo Memorial Hall on Wednesday 29 June, for a cheery afternoon in the Gardens of the Palace of Versailles. In pre COVID days very many of us visited these gardens, often rather overwhelmed by their magnificence and commandingly ordered design.

After delicious home-made soup, we will find out something about the REAL story of the Gardens, with a short talk by Max Bourke about the genius and significance of Andre Le Nôtre. Not only was he responsible for the design and innovations evident in the use of water at Versailles, but he also designed Vaux-le-Vicomte, Saint Cloud, Chantilly and the Tuileries Gardens among many other great works of *la style française*. He will also introduce his favourite garden designer, a colleague of Andre.

We will then watch **A Little Chaos**. This lavish and delightful movie presents the story of the development of the Gardens through a highly fictional lens, but one gratifying to those who love beautiful gardens and a good story, particularly a romantic one. It builds on the idea that behind every great man (Andre Le Nôtre in this case) is an even greater woman (a gifted female architect, Sabine de Barra, who champions the introduction of 'a little chaos' into the perfection of Le Nôtre's design).

After the movie we will enjoy afternoon tea, and conversation about wonderful gardens.



**Location** Gundaroo Soldiers' Memorial Hall,  
52 Cork St Hall

**Cost** \$30 – incl. lunch, the talk, the film & afternoon tea

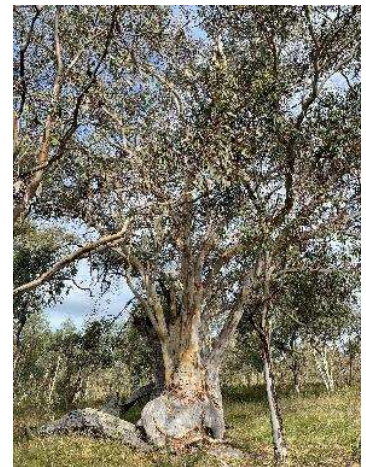
**Bookings** are essential at <https://www.trybooking.com/BZWYG>

**Enquiries** Bronwyn Blake, 0439 718 580, [blakesos@hotmail.com](mailto:blakesos@hotmail.com)

## A GUIDED WALK THROUGH CALLUM BRAE Friday 8 July, 1.30 PM

Although Callum Brae is located on the intersection of Mugga Lane and Narrabundah Lane in Symonston it is not well known.

We again invite members to bring along friends for a gentle guided walk to see some magnificent old Yellow Box and Blakely's Red Gum trees in a grassland habitat – a precious remnant of the Canberra landscape at the time farming began in the region. Keep a look out for Scarlet Robins and Flame Robins, amongst other bird species which have been recorded here – a favourite location for bird watchers. Our destination will be three little buildings, and their purpose will be explained, before we return to the Reserve entrance. The walk and talk will take approximately 1 hour.



*Blakely's Red Gum, Photo by Max Bourke*

After the walk enjoy a BYO afternoon tea and a chat. Please bring a folding chair, a thermos, and something to share for afternoon tea.

**Directions** The entrance to the Reserve is in Narrabundah Lane, Symonston, where there is plenty of roadside parking. Meet inside the gate at 1.30pm.

**Cost** This is a free event.

**Bookings** are essential, through Try Booking, <https://www.trybooking.com/BZYOO>

**Enquiries** Margie Bourke, 0417 668 563.

## **SAVE THE DATES**

### **THE BRANCH AGM AND ANNUAL LECTURE**

**Thursday 25 August**

**5.30pm AGM**

**6pm Annual Lecture**

Please join us for the AGM to be followed by our Annual Lecture. The AGM will commence at 5.30 (see this page for the AGM notice). The Annual Lecture will follow at 6pm and arrangements for this event are still being finalised. They will appear in the next newsletter or will be sent under separate cover when available.

### **A VISIT TO LAMBRIGG**

**Saturday 15 October**

#### **A joint AGHS/National Trust ACT event**

This will replace the event planned to take place as part of the Canberra and Regional Festival on 30 April. Unfortunately it had to be cancelled because of the weather and we are now working with the National Trust to confirm details which will be available in the next Branch Newsletter.

### **A VISIT TO RICHLANDS AND RIVERSDALE**

**Friday 2 December**

#### **A full day's outing**

For our end of year event, we have planned a self-drive day out, visiting two colonial properties in the Goulburn region. In the morning we will visit Richlands, the historic Macarthur family homestead just beyond Taralga. Branch members Rosanna and Stephen Horn, the property owners, have generously invited us to explore this fascinating property – and to admire the abundant roses in the old garden. After morning tea, we will drive to the National Trust property Riversdale in Goulburn, for lunch and a guided tour of the house and the splendid garden. This will be a day to remember. More details will be included in the next Newsletter.

## **BRANCH NEWS**

### **NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AGHS ACT MONARO RIVERINA BRANCH**

**5.30PM, 25 AUGUST 2022**

**GRIFFIN CENTRE, CANBERRA CITY**

The Annual General Meeting of the ACT Monaro Riverina Branch of the AGHS will be held on Thursday 25 August 2022 in Meeting Room 6 in the Griffin Centre at 5:30. This is an important event in the branch calendar and we encourage all members to attend.

We give our heartfelt thanks to our outgoing Chair, Margie Bourke, and to long serving Committee member, Dr Greg Johnson, for their outstanding contribution to the work of the branch over many years. Their networks and expertise have ensured access to speakers and gardens that would otherwise have been difficult to secure. At our functions, their culinary skills are unsurpassed. Their dedication to the work of our Branch has been to the great benefit of us all.

With the departure of Margie and Greg, we are looking for new members to join the Committee. The Committee meets monthly and works collaboratively to develop a

program of activities for members as well as to advocate for the preservation of landscapes of significance. The Branch Committee also works closely with the Society's national office and other Branches. Without adequate representation on the Committee, the work of our Branch will suffer. If you are interested in joining the Committee, or know someone who you think might be interested, please contact Margie Bourke on 0417 668 563.

Committee members are elected for a three-year term, with the option of one renewal.

**Nominations close on Thursday 11 August.** Copies of the Nomination Form are available from Nancy Clarke, [clarkenancy624@gmail.com](mailto:clarkenancy624@gmail.com), 0423 690 626.

The AGM will be followed by our Annual Lecture – always a highlight in our calendar. There will be more information about the AGM and the Annual Lecture as well as booking information in our next newsletter.

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH

### A DAY COACH TRIP TO THE E G WATERHOUSE CAMELLIA GARDENS AND BARE ISLAND TUESDAY 19 JULY

The **E. G. Waterhouse National Camellia Gardens**, located in Caringbah, overlook beautiful Yowie Bay. In 2014 the gardens were recognised by the International Camellia Society as a Camellia Gardens of Excellence as one of only sixty Camellia Gardens of Excellence in the world and were opened by Lady Cutler on 18 July 1970 to commemorate the bicentenary of the arrival of Lt James Cook at Kurnell in 1770. The Gardens, named after Professor Eban Gowrie Waterhouse a distinguished Australian linguist and expert on camellias, contain one of the largest collections of camellias in Australia.

**Bare Island**, located within Botany Bay close to the bay's northern headland, is one of Sydney's most picturesque venues and is nationally significant as an almost completely intact example of late nineteenth century coastal defence technology. It is one of the more substantial and impressive of the many fortifications built around Australasia. Captain Cook first spotted the area now known as Bare Island in 1770, and referred to it in his journal as 'a small bare island'. The fort built in the early 1880s to protect Sydney's back door was in operation until 1908. In 1912 Bare Island became a retirement home for war veterans continuing to operate until 1963 when it was transferred to the New South Wales Parks and Wildlife Service for use as a museum and tourist attraction.

For full details of this outing go to the Southern Highlands page of the AGHS website at <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/branches/southern-highlands/>

### EXHIBITION: GARDENS AND LANDSCAPES OF THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS THEN AND NOW

A themed exhibition in the Williams Gallery at the Berrima District Museum, covering almost 200 years of landscapes and gardens old and new, includes early photos, the botanical drawings of Lousia Atkinson, the Hordern Gardens of Bowral, and a number of local gardens, many familiar from AGHS visits. It will be on for about 6 months (no closing date available at the moment).



Curated by Bud Townsing from the Southern Highlands Branch of the AGHS and Linda Emery from the Berrima District & Family Historical Society, the exhibition makes excellent use of the high resolution screens in the Gallery to display images. Certainly worth a visit. More info at

<https://www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au/museum/current-exhibitions>

The Museum is at 1A Market Place & Bryan St Berrima and is open Fridays to Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Entry free.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### ***ZOOM LECTURE: THE EDWARDIAN GARDEN – GOLDEN AND DELICIOUS 30 JUNE, 5.45 FOR 6.00PM***

#### ***SPECIAL ONLINE LECTURE BY RENOWNED UK GARDEN HISTORIAN, CAROLINE HOLMES***

Gardens of a golden afternoon are glimpsed in black and white photographs and nostalgic cottage paintings. The Mediterranean inspired the architecture of Harold Peto's designs and the colours in Gertrude Jekyll's early paintings and later plantings. Peto's richest client was Daisy, Countess of Warwick, for whom he designed in the grand Italianate manner at Warwick House. Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens collaborated in 70 projects creating the Surrey Style as showcased in the architecture and gardens of her former home, Munstead Wood. Not just Surrey, their influences inspired the country house and garden style across the world whilst echoing the need to understand local practicalities. The kitchen garden inspired visual and edible feasts in the ground and on the plates of contemporary gardening books. Jekyll wrote many gardening books which were published across the world in English speaking countries, her attention to drifting colours in flower borders came to represent the quintessential 'Edwardian' garden. Her travels in North Africa inspired her designs for rock gardens as can be glimpsed in photographs of Frederick McCubbin's Fontainebleau garden on Mount Macedon. We will also look at paintings by Rupert Bunny, E. Phillips Fox and John Peter Russell that evoke the colour and sensation of their pre-World War One world.



**Caroline Holmes** is a highly respected Garden Historian, author of 12 books including 'Water Lilies and Bory Latour-Marliac, the genius behind Monet's water lilies' launched in Giverny in 2016. She was keynote speaker at the International Water Gardens Conference held at Giverny in 2019. Course Director for University of Cambridge ICE, accredited lecturer for The Arts Society and has spoken on every continent except Antarctica. Her design consultancies range from Human Renaissance gardens surrounding Notre Dame-de-Calais to devising the planting for The Poison Garden within The Alnwick Garden in Northumberland. Academic but not dry, she likes to sift the humour from the humus. In addition, she is now chairing an RHS panel to assign 'Award of Garden Merit' to hardy water lilies. [www.horti-history.com](http://www.horti-history.com)

<b>Location</b>	A ZOOM link will be provided with reminder email before the session.
<b>Cost</b>	\$12 members, \$15 non-members
<b>Bookings</b>	<a href="#">The Edwardian Garden - Caroline Holmes Lecture Tickets   TryBooking Australia</a>
<b>Enquiries</b>	Wendy Dwyer 0408 340 967

## **AGHS POSTAL ADDRESS**

Australia Post is unable to deliver the Society's mail directly to Head Office at Gate Lodge, 100 Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne and therefore the AGHS has needed to change the Postal address to:

**PRIVATE BAG 2000, SOUTH YARRA VIC 3141.**

A reminder that the office is open Monday – Thursday 9am – 4pm and Gate Lodge is open every Wednesday or other times by appointment.

## **OF INTEREST**

### **CAMELLIA ARK AUSTRALIA (CAA) SHOALHAVEN AND SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS TWO DAY TOUR**

#### **Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 August**

An exclusive garden tour of camellia collections and heritage sites. For more details contact CAA's Secretary Stephen Utick, 0421 972 287, [sutick@grapevine.com.au](mailto:sutick@grapevine.com.au)

### **AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS [www.anbg.gov.au](http://www.anbg.gov.au)**

**Friends Thursday Talks** recommenced in February. 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> This calendar also provides information on other talks, walks and activities in the Garden.

### **NATIONAL TRUST (ACT)**

For details on monthly Heritage walks go to:  
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/heritagewalks-act/>

### **NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA [www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au](http://www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au)**

For details on walks, workshops 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/>**