

# ACT Monaro Riverina Branch

Newsletter September 2022 No 5



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

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## BRANCH DIARY

15 OCTOBER

*Joint event with NT  
A Visit to Lambrigg*

20 OCTOBER

*Visit to Two before Ten's  
Urban Farm Garden*

2 DECEMBER

*Visit to Richlands &  
Riversdale*

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## AGHS NATIONAL CONFERENCES

HOBART  
11-13 NOVEMBER  
2022

*Landscape on the Edge:  
Challenge and Opportunity*

BRISBANE  
29 SEPTEMBER –  
1 OCTOBER 2023

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## BRANCH COMMITTEE

Bronwyn Blake (and Co-  
chair of the NMC)  
Sue Cassidy  
Anne Claoue-Long (and  
State NMC Representative)  
Nancy Clarke  
Lynne Curran  
Louise Gaudry  
Susan Phillips

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**LOVELY LAMBRIGG**  
**Saturday 15 October, 2.00 – 4.30 pm.**

### A joint AGHS/National Trust ACT event

This replaces the event that was planned to take place as part of the Canberra and Regional Festival on 30 April.

The National Trust (ACT) and the ACT Monaro Riverina Branch of the Australian Garden History Society invite you to visit Lambrigg, once the residence of William Farrer who made a major contribution to the wheat industry by developing a strain of wheat that was resistant to wheat rust. Lambrigg was the site where Farrer conducted his work on genetic selection for his wheat varieties.

William Farrer married Nina de Salis (from Cuppacumbalong) and their home was completed in 1894. It stands above the Murrumbidgee River and is surrounded by a beautiful and significant homestead garden which includes trees planted by the Farrers. The garden has been skilfully and thoughtfully developed by the current family across more than seventy years. In 1995 AGHS researched and recorded the garden in a report that includes a detailed plan. During your visit you will have the opportunity to explore the garden, plan in hand, seeing how it has changed in the nearly thirty years since then.



Photo Mary Johnson

During the visit we are welcome to explore the garden which surrounds the historic house, and view the landscape and river from the spacious verandahs, but we will not have access to the house interior. Refreshments will be served in the garden.

Lambrigg is located north of Tharwa. Detailed directions will be provided on booking. There is plenty of parking but limited toilet facilities.

<b>Bookings</b>	Essential at <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CCBQV">https://www.trybooking.com/CCBQV</a> . Numbers are limited. Bookings opened 15 September.
<b>Cost</b>	Members of AGHS and the National Trust, \$20, others \$25 (includes afternoon tea).
<b>Enquiries</b>	<a href="mailto:events@nationaltrustact.org.au">events@nationaltrustact.org.au</a> (National Trust) or Nancy Clarke <a href="mailto:clarkenancy624@gmail.com">clarkenancy624@gmail.com</a> (AGHS)

## VISIT TO TWO BEFORE TEN URBAN FARM ARANDA Thursday 20 October, 2.30- 3.30 pm.

**A talk about and tour of the sustainable urban farm at *Two Before Ten* with an option to stay on for drinks at the adjacent 10 Yards bar.**

If you wish to purchase drinks or lunch at the Café before the event starts and to avoid disappointment, make a booking direct. The Café closes at 2.00 pm.

<https://twobeforeten.com.au/cafes/aranda/>

### **About Two Before Ten Urban Farm**

Aranda is the home of many modernist homes and of Two Before Ten. Formerly the Aranda Shops, the 1969 building that houses the café and bar where the urban farm is based was designed by Dutch architect, Dirk Bolt (1930-2020). Bolt worked in Canberra from 1964 to 1971, becoming a significant architect of the modern era and worldwide proponent of sustainable urbanism.

After being vacant for almost two decades (c.1996-2013), Bolt's building and surrounding land is now a bustling community hub. Two Before Ten has rewritten the history of the shops and established Urban Farm which realises and updates Bolt's concepts of 'sustainable urbanism'.

With an acre of land, the Urban Farm supports Two Before Ten cafés across Canberra, growing fresh, sustainable produce throughout the year. From mixed lettuce, to cherry trees and sweet corn crops, the farm helps reduce their packaging and food miles as well as turning the compostable green-waste from the cafés back into productive fruit and veg in a sustainable circular system. And the café also continues to source home grown produce from local gardeners.

Join us for a visit to this special place in the hearts of locals and many from across Canberra. With an on-site café serving great coffee and delicious food both indoors and out, as well as bar, roastery, yoga studio, mushroom growing rooms, beehives, fruit trees and an expansive vegetable garden there will be lots to see and experience.



*A recent view of the Aranda shops and Urban Farm*, photo Greg Johnson

To listen to managing Director, Chris Dennis and read more of their story go to the link <https://twobeforeten.com.au/aboutus/>.

**Cost** Members \$10, others \$15.

**Location** 68 Bandjalong Crescent, Aranda

**Booking** At <https://www.trybooking.com/CBDOI>

**Enquiries** Nancy Clarke [clarkenancy624@gmail.com](mailto:clarkenancy624@gmail.com) or 0423 690 626

## END OF YEAR VISIT TO RICHLANDS AND RIVERSDALE Friday 2 December

### A Self-Drive Day visit to Richlands and Riverdale.

AGHS members and friends are invited to a special end of year day, a self-drive visit to Richlands just north of Taralga and Riversdale, the historic house and garden in Goulburn.

Richlands has a long history. Land in the Taralga area was taken up by the Macarthur family from Camden Park in the 1820s, and the house was built in 1845. The estate was managed for the Macarthur family until 1908 when the property was resumed by the New South Wales Government. It was broken up for closer settlement and sold in 30 smaller lots in 1910. The central section was purchased by Henry Twynam and it is still in family hands. Stephen and Rosanna Horn, branch members of AGHS, are the current owners and have generously invited us to see the Georgian house and walk in the grounds with its roses and old trees.



**Back view of Richlands**, photo Rosanna Horn

After morning tea we will drive to Riversdale in Goulburn.

Originally built as a coaching inn (1840) Riversdale became a school and then a small holding. In 1872 it was bought by the Twynam family. In 1967 it was purchased by the National Trust, becoming one of their real treasures.

After lunch in the courtyard, we will have a guided tour of the house interior and a special tour of the garden which has gone through two major phases of restoration by teams of volunteers. The Riversdale gardeners, led by the expert Roz Loftus and including Rosanna, have been working hard during winter to get the garden into shape and to erase two years of COVID neglect and it is looking splendid.



This is a great opportunity to see these interconnected properties and spend a happy early summer day with friends.

If a member would like to attend but has transport difficulties, please contact Nancy Clarke. We may be able to arrange transport.

We will meet at Richlands at 10 am. and about 11.30 am. we will drive to Riversdale in Goulburn. The finishing time will be approximately 3 pm.



*Riversdale*, photo Michael Bligh

- Locations** Richlands is less than two hours' drive from just about anywhere in Canberra. Riversdale in North Goulburn is some 40 minutes' drive from Richlands. Driving instructions will be sent to you when you book.
- Cost** AGHS members \$50, others \$55 (includes visits to the two properties, morning tea and a boxed lunch, and a guided tour of Riversdale as well as a special tour of the Riversdale garden).
- Bookings** Essential at <https://www.trybooking.com/CCLAX>. Bookings close Wednesday 23 November but early bookings would be appreciated to assist the Committee in planning the day.
- Enquiries** Nancy Clarke [clarkenancy624@gmail.com](mailto:clarkenancy624@gmail.com) or 0423 690 626

## PAST EVENTS

### *THE ENDURING CAMELIA TREE* Thursday 25 August

Our Branch member, Dr Stephen Utick (right) has had a life-long love of camellias and it was a privilege to have him share his enthusiasm and knowledge of their history in Australia at the 2022 Annual General Meeting of our Branch. Dr Utick is Vice-President of the International Camellia Society (ICS) (Oceania), Chair of that Society's Committee for Historic Camellia Conservation and Visiting Curator (Theaceae, the family of Camellias) at the Royal Sydney Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust.

Stephen's presentation was in three parts - Perspectives and Value for Garden History, The Historical Context and A Major Announcement for ACT-Monaro-Riverina Branch. In addition, he brought along several historic and species



Photo Greg Johnson

camellias in flower, and spoke about the flowers that members had brought to decorate the room, including a large display of the early Australian cultivar Helenor from a 50+ year old tree in a Canberra garden.

For many of us, camellias are a reliable garden performer – always pleasing in appearance, and spectacular in their winter and spring displays. Stephen commenced his talk by reminding us of their longevity – with trees more than 360 years old in Japanese gardens far exceeded by planted tea (*Camellia sinensis*) in Yunnan, China possibly more than 3200 years old. Meanwhile, a *Camellia japonica* ‘Anemoniflora’ imported by Sir William Macarthur in 1831, planted at Camden Park NSW, and subsequently used for breeding garden camellias in NSW, is probably the oldest surviving camellia in the southern hemisphere (>175 years old).

Stephen went on the outline how the 2020 ICS Apoliu Declaration is a statement about the significance of ancient and historic camellia trees as a priceless and irreplaceable botanical and genetic repository while encouraging conservation of these trees globally. The Declaration provides criteria for specifications of Ancient Indigenous Camellia Trees and Historic Ornamental Camellia Trees, with standards for measurement and recording of the trees, and institutes International Awards for Significant Ancient Indigenous Historic Camellias.

The second part of Stephen’s talk noted that we are near the bicentenary of the introduction of the camellia to Australia, with a possible introduction in 1821 and a definite planting at the RBG in Sydney in 1823. Camellias became important early plantings in rural properties and Australian raised camellia cultivars were among the first nursery products of colonial NSW.

A cavalcade of Australian bred and imported cultivars were distributed by early nurseries including the Shepherd family’s Darling Nursery, and Michael Guilfoyle’s Exotic Nursery in Sydney in the 1850s, and Sheather’s Camellia Grove Nursery, Parramatta in the 1860s-1870s, with many of our historic trees now 100 to 150 years old.

‘Alba Plena’ was the first significant camellia cultivar imported from China to the West in 1792 and it was brought to Australia in 1825 by Colonial Secretary, Alexander Macleay. In the 1890s this cultivar became prominent as a symbol for suffragists campaigning for the women’s vote in New Zealand, enhancing its popularity as well in Australia.

Today, NSW colonial camellia heritage is being championed by Camellia Ark Australia through efforts to propagate and conserve early cultivars.

The final part of Stephen’s presentation took us to the Parish of All Saints, Bodalla, NSW and the pioneering legacy of Thomas Sutcliffe Mort (1816-1878) who constructed and planted a garden including a camellia grove, which still survives after 155 years.

Stephen went on to describe how one cultivar among the seven remaining camellia trees at the property enabled him to determine the source of the plants as Shepherd’s Darling nursery. The characteristics of the flowers on one tree, together with a nineteenth century illustration, allowed the identification of a lost cultivar – imported from the United Kingdom, the name of which will be formally announced in coming months. **Greg Johnson**

## BRANCH NEWS

### 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Thursday 23 August

The well-attended Branch Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 23 August at the Griffin Centre Canberra. Unfortunately, the Branch Chair, Margie Bourke was unexpectedly unable to attend (COVID intervened) and though she was able to come in

by ZOOM, Lynne Curran chaired the meeting very capably. The Branch's activities for the year were reviewed and our sound finances noted. During the year Committee (and NMC) member Anne Claoue Long has used her heritage expertise to produce a number of intelligent and sound submissions to the NCA and the ACT Government on various development proposals and heritage matters. Our Treasurer Sue Cassidy has been away for several months but has capably continued in her role as Treasurer remotely.

The Branch Committee for 2022/2023 is Bronwyn Blake, Sue Cassidy, Anne Claoue-Long, Nancy Clarke, Lynne Curran, Susan Phillips and Louise Gaudry. We welcome to the Committee Louise, who is a very long standing AGHS member. Office bearers for the next year will be elected at the next Committee meeting.

We have lost three highly valued Committee members – our wonderful Chair Margie Bourke – who has been a stalwart of the Branch serving it in many roles for some twenty years, including several terms on the Committee - Greg Johnson who has just completed nine creative and committed years as a committee member, and Fleur Flanery whose other commitments particularly to the Australian Landscape Conference are now so demanding that she's no longer able to contribute fully to our committee. All promise to continue to support AGHS and the Branch. We thank them all.

**Nancy Clark**

### ***Thanks to Two Outstanding Longstanding Serving Members of Our Committee***

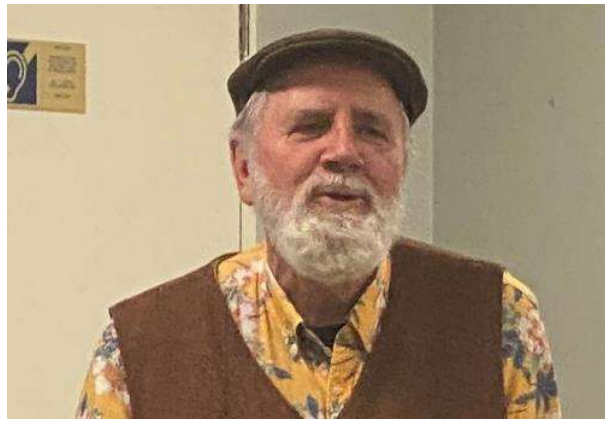
As reported at the AGM, two of our long serving and outstanding Committee members have stepped down from the Committee.



For over 20 years, **Margie Bourke** has been involved with the AGHS, serving in a variety of capacities, most recently of course as our Chair. Margie graciously stepped into that leadership role at a time when no one else was able to assume the mantle and proficiently steered us through the COVID years.

Margie was first elected to the branch Committee in 2003 and with some gaps served four terms, including as Vice Chair in 2006. She was the convenor of the very successful AGHS Conference held here in Canberra in 2016 – *The Scientist in the Garden*. The Conference talks took a somewhat different approach to earlier ones, being both scholarly and accessible. This was a three-year project beginning in September 2013 and Margie ably led a large team to a polished and very successful event.

Margie's extensive networks within Canberra and beyond have been invaluable. Through them, our branch has been able to access gardens which would have otherwise been closed to us and to bring a range of interesting and talented speakers to entertain and educate our membership. Being an active long term Canberra resident, Margie is held in very high esteem across a broad spectrum of society. Her love of the natural world, quiet demeanour and graciousness have made her an effective communicator as well as an excellent ambassador for the AGHS over many years. In her 'retirement', Margie will continue her involvement with the National Arboretum and various other environmental endeavours as well as travel to see her far flung family around the globe.



After nine very productive and energetic years as a Committee member, **Greg Johnson** has completed a full term and under the rules of our Constitution, must retire. This is a cause of deep regret as Greg brought a lot of expertise to the Committee as a plant pathologist, photographer, Instagrammer, plant propagator and plant collector.

His botanically patterned shirts were always a source of interest and conversation at Committee meetings, and his flair with flowers and food enriched Branch functions as well as entertaining his Instagram followers.

In addition to his Committee work, Greg was a presenter at a number of branch events. He gave us a virtual tour of his beautiful garden via ZOOM in 2020 where his artistic talents and fascination with plants is evident. Greg was also the driving force behind the AGHS' first Photography Competition for the Society's 40th birthday celebrations and we hope to continue the competition in coming years.

Drawing on his experience as a gardening correspondent for the sub-tropics for *Your Garden* magazine from 1989-95 and as a collector of Australian gardening books, Greg gave a series of four presentations to the branch and broader AGHS membership on garden writing and the history of Australian gardening books. He also led the project to improve access to early Australian garden writing through digitisation of works held by the NLA. This was part of our branch's contribution to the AGHS 40th birthday celebrations and is a lasting legacy for all garden book lovers.

Although he has left the Committee, Greg has organised the event at Two Before Ten in October. In his 'retirement', he will continue his work on plant pathology and international development and, of course, travel.

## ADVOCACY

### ADVOCACY FOR CANBERRA'S PARKS

Recent Branch advocacy has focussed on conservation for two Canberra plantation parks.

**Haig Park** is a 1920s windbreak plantation that was introduced into the Canberra landscape for both climatic protection and city beautification. The plantation consists of 14 rows of mixed species including eucalypts, exotic conifers and exotic deciduous trees. The park extends east/west for 1780 metres across the northern edge of the suburbs of Braddon and Turner. It has long been a significant feature forming a "green gateway" across the formal processional entry of Northbourne Avenue, marking arrival in the central city area.

Haig Park has heritage significance from its history, design, and specific location in the Canberra panorama. It is the only remaining largely intact originally planted shelterbelt in Canberra, and also rare nationally.

While it was located at the urban fringe when first planted, Haig Park is now in the middle of an urban renewal area with proposals for high-rise development on adjacent land where public housing has been cleared away. An AGHS advocacy submission was tendered regarding a development application for six nine-storey apartment blocks immediately adjacent to the park. AGHS asserted there was inadequate setback for the proposal and that the size and bulk of the development insufficiently referenced the



heritage context of the park in the design. It did not provide for an adequate buffer zone to protect the park, thus risking a loss or reduction of the visual aesthetics and experiential significance of the park, and also threatened tree health both during the construction phase and in the long term from its proximity.

The second plantation the Branch submitted comments on is the **York Park North Oak Plantation** in Barton, where the Branch held a most enjoyable event last year. The first oak planted there, and nucleus for the plantation, dates from a visit and ceremonial planting by the then Duke of York (later King George VI) for the opening of the Provisional Parliament House in 1927. The plantation was completed during the 1930s Depression as a public works initiative.

The National Capital Authority has released a new draft Heritage Management Plan for comment. The plan is good overall and should conserve the park well. But the Branch was concerned that the park was no longer considered to be rare in the documentation, despite being the only one of an initial group of six early city plantations planned that was actually implemented. It is the only single species plantation in rectilinear grid format in the central city area. The Branch also considered that the species choice of English Oak, *Quercus robur*, was significant as an indication of the close ties between England and Australia at the time the plantation was established in the 1930s, and that this was not stated in the HMP. Garden History documents many fashions in plantings related to social, cultural and political trends, and this required recognition.

## ACT REGION HERITAGE SYMPOSIUM AUGUST 2022

The Branch also recently submitted a presentation to a heritage symposium convened by local heritage partners the ACT National Trust, Canberra & District Historical Society, Canberra Archaeological Society and Australia ICOMOS. The symposium focussed on *Heritage and Healing: How Heritage Helps*. A presentation by branch member Anne Claoue-Long was titled *Heritage Healing with Plants*.

After an introduction to AGHS for those who were not familiar with our work, the presentation outlined how contact with healthy nature is associated with mental health benefits, promotes physical activity and contributes to overall wellbeing. Canberra's blue and green spaces increase health in many ways with temperature moderation through shade, control of winds and storm water runoff, and improve air quality by filtering pollution and storing CO<sub>2</sub>. The aesthetically pleasing landscapes of Canberra's green spaces also provide wildlife habitat. Overall the benefits of green space have been dubbed "Vitamin G" and it has been scientifically demonstrated that a walk in the woods is rejuvenating for mind, body and soul. Lucky for us that Canberra has so many trees and green spaces. The finale was an identification of at least 26 local heritage parks and gardens to show that we do have heritage healing with plants here in the ACT.

For more about "Vitamin G" go to the AGHS website and log in using your email address and password. Then under the Journals tab go to the "Purchase Journals Online" button and find the Journal Vol 32, no 3, Jan 2021. Click on the "Select Options" button and change the Journal Media to Digital. You can then download a PDF copy for free by completing the cart order and checkout details. Look for the Bookshelf article *How Good are Gardens*.

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH

### SELF DRIVE CAR TRAIL IN THE STHN HIGHLANDS SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

After a successful AGHS-SHB self drive car trail in April 2021, Jane Clifford and Jenny Carroll have created a different trail which promises to be very interesting and educational.



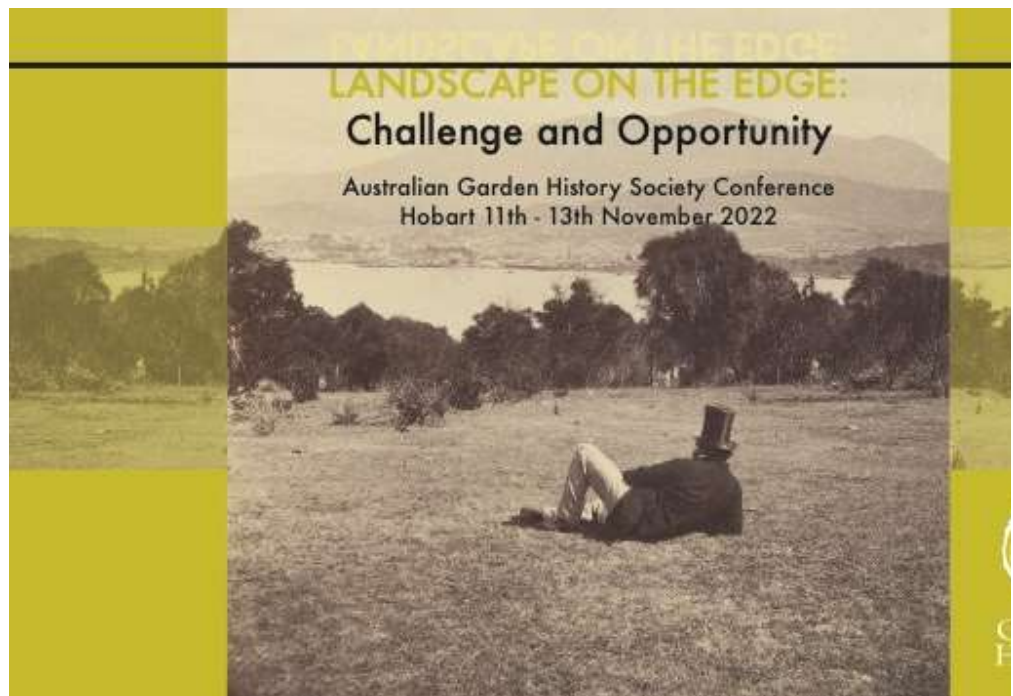
This time our car trail will be exploring some of the region's southern villages and will start at Sutton Forest in the parking lot on the corner of Exeter Rd and the Illawarra Hwy. You will need to turn into the Exeter Rd to access the car park. Driving instructions, a questionnaire and supplementary notes will be provided at the starting area.

The start time will be 10:00 am. and we'll arrive at our final destination by 3:00 pm. for afternoon tea. A tour of the property will be conducted by Nick Corbett of the National Trust. We will create two tour groups so everyone will not need to have arrived before commencing the first tour. This is not a race so drive safely!

The driving part of the trip is approximately 110 km and should take about 1.5 hours. Please car pool if you can to save on petrol and minimise the number of cars at the final stop (we keep this a secret until the day but you'll love the property)! Additional time will be used looking at sites, answering questions and in the middle having lunch. The total time from start to afternoon tea will be approximately 4-5 hours. There will be places to buy lunch along the way but recommend everyone to take a picnic lunch with them and enjoy the countryside.

The cost for members and non-members is \$10. For more details and a registration form email [ruthbailey1428@gmail.com](mailto:ruthbailey1428@gmail.com)

## NATIONAL NEWS



### National Conference Virtual Attendance

Virtual attendance costs \$200 and lectures will be available for delegates immediately after the conference. So, even if you are unable to attend in real time, the wonders of modern technology will ensure that the full lecture program will be available for you to explore for a limited time after the conference. Further details available at <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/product/aghs-conference-registration-2022/>

## OF INTEREST

### BOOK REVIEW: A STRUGGLE FOR RELEVANCE \_ THE GARDEN AT HARPER'S MANSION BY CHRIS THOMPSON

A highly recommended read!

As you will no doubt have read in the recent National ENewsletter, AGHS member Chris Thompson has recently published a book about the magnificent National Trust property Harper's Mansion in Berrima. Harper's Mansion was built by James and Mary Harper sometime around 1834 when they bought land in the township of Berrima with grand designs ruined by a financial downturn. Whilst the house has been restored, it, and the garden remain largely unaltered. The stories in the book relate to the approach taken by the National Trust in restoring the building and managing the relationship between a heritage house and its surroundings.



Contact the author by email or phone for a copy [chris-thompson@bigpond.com](mailto:chris-thompson@bigpond.com), mobile: 0488 771 375. Cost \$20 + \$10 postage and packing.

### VICTA LAWN MOWER COIN

It pays to have a close look at your change. After the iconic Blade exhibition at CMAG as part of the AGHS 40<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, one of our committee members was surprised to see a Victa lawn mower image on the \$1 coin in her change recently.



The commemorative coin was issued in 2021 by the Royal Australian Mint and was part of the Great Aussie Coin Hunt which features classic Australian icons from all 26 letters of the alphabet. A partnership with Australia Post, the Great Aussie Coin Hunt is now in its third year. In 2021 "V" of course was for Victa! This year "W" is for wattle.

For more information about the Great Aussie Coin Hunt go to

<https://auspost.com.au/great-aussie-coin-hunt>

Image:

<https://en.numista.com/catalogue/index.php?mode=avance&ct=coin&se=Great+Aussie+Coin+Hunt+2&e=australie>

### FLORIADE

**Saturday 17 September – Sunday 16 October**

Theme: ***The Sounds of Spring***

For more information including details on associated activities and Nightfest go to

<https://floriadeaustralia.com/>

#### TULIP TOP GARDENS

**Saturday 10 September – Sunday 16 October, 9 am. – 5 pm.**

Cost : Seniors \$18, others \$20, children free

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

#### OPEN GARDENS CANBERRA

**Commences 15 and 16 October** with the garden of one of our Branch members. For more information go to <https://opengardenscanberra.org.au/>

#### ARTISTS SOCIETY OF CANBERRA

**80<sup>th</sup> Spring Exhibition**

**Friday 21 – Sunday 30 October**

Venue – Fitters Workshop

#### WONDROUS BOX-GUM GRASSY WOODLANDS A COLOURING EXPLORATION OF A DIVERSE ECOSYSTEM

As a follow up to our recent visit to Callum Brae members may be interested in this quite charming resource for kids and adults to be found on the Molongo Conservation website. For more information go to <https://www.molonglo.org.au/post/explore-a-diverse-ecosystem-through-a-beautiful-free-colouring-book?fbclid=IwAR2o7Uo4JCjzExc3tF9Z6CGnggD0kXvPEyyBypi3sIKPB24ZUY9PVJi3Is8>

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### NATIONAL TRUST (ACT)

For details on monthly Heritage walks go to:

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

#### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF CANBERRA

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

#### LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN GUARDIANS (LBGG)

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