



AUSTRALIAN
GARDEN
HISTORY
SOCIETY

Victoria Branch News

OCTOBER 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Victorian Members

Welcome to our mid-Spring newsletter. With daylight saving kicking in, it's great to have more time to spend in our gardens and see our 'iso projects' coming to fruition. My attempts to grow 'serious vegetables' are being watched closely every day, in the hope that we are not just feeding the local wildlife!

This month we have a quiz on old-fashioned garden plants to test your knowledge, a few snippets from our committee members and news of our upcoming events. Remember if you have any contributions to the newsletter, please email them to the address at the bottom of the last page.

It was heartening to see over 70 members and friends supporting the Victorian Branch at our recent zoom lecture. From Sydney, National Co-Chair, Stuart Read, illuminated us on "The History of Garden Design Using Native Plants 1788-Now". The zoom lecture format is providing the Branch with the opportunity to present many interstate speakers and topics not easily available in the Mueller Hall format, all from the comfort of home and has even had overseas interest. It also allows us to earn some revenue for the Branch so the Committee is

considering continuing this into next year.

EVENTS

Attached is information and a Trybooking link for our next lecture on 29 October by Helen Botham, who will speak about 'Governor La Trobe: His Melbourne House and Garden.'

This is a visual feast as Helen uses his cousin, Edward La Trobe Bateman's drawings and paintings to lead us through the garden and unfold the story. For those of you who do not already know, the lecture will reveal the link with Bishops Court and provide background information to our planned visit to La Trobe's cottage and Government House once the venues re open.

On 25 November ACT member Max Bourke will present a zoom lecture entitled, "Out of the Woods - Trees and the Evolution of Arboreta". He will cover how arboreta were conceived in the 19th century, the part they played in tree science and their new role in conservation as evidenced by the National Arboretum in Canberra. Booking information will be in the next newsletter.

Free event – Tuesday December 8 at 5.30pm for 6pm start. Walk and



Photo Trevor Pitkin: *Luculia gratissima*

Talk - Picnic with the Patron: Professor Tim Entwisle will introduce us to The New Arid Garden in the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and will answer any questions you've ever want to know about the RBG.

The Arid Garden has been redeveloped recently to showcase its 60 year old collection of 100 rare species. It now also tells the story of Robert Field and his collection, along with the 1936-38 Harry Blossfeld expedition to South America to collect specimens in the wild. So come and learn the history of cacti, aloes, agaves and bromeliads that have unique adaptations to arid conditions and may have a place in your summer garden. The RBG allows us the space to have appropriate social distancing so bring a picnic tea, your friends and some coins for our traditional Christmas raffle.

More details next newsletter.

WENDY DWYER | CHAIR

Welcome new members!

We are very happy to welcome these new members to the Vic Branch family. We hope you enjoy our communications and are able to join us for our outdoor activities in the near future!



Eugenie Bruning, David James, Leisl Lacher, Maria Mithen, Jane McKee, Andrew Craig, John Sheely, Maja Zweck, Markus Neilson, Jane Stewart Moreau, Lee Tierney, Kate Baker, Mandy Stroebel.

ONLINE TALKS

Governor La Trobe: His Melbourne House and Garden. by Helen Botham

Date: Tuesday October 29th
Time: Login from 5:30 pm for 6 pm start
Price: AGHS members \$5
 Friends of RBG Mel. & Cranbourne \$5
 Non-members. \$10

Booking Link: <https://www.trybooking.com/BLYZI>

When you book on TryBooking you will receive a confirmation email with a zoom link. **Please retain this email to access the talk.**



Most Victorians are not aware that our first Lieutenant Governor, Charles Joseph La Trobe, developed a beautiful garden around his 12½ acre Jolimont estate during the nearly 15 years he spent in Victoria. His home and garden became an oasis for him and his family in this foreign land.

Drawings by Edward La Trobe Bateman give us a flavour of the every-day matters of life at Jolimont in its hey-day, and show how the garden had become a haven of Mediterranean and Australian native plants. Present-day photos of the La Trobe's Cottage garden show some plants we know he grew, through studying the lists of plants sent to him by Ronald Gunn in Van Diemen's Land and the Sydney Botanic Gardens, and some which were named after him. After La Trobe returned to Europe in 1854, his estate was subdivided. The cottage remained until 1964 – its story, leading to its ownership by the National Trust, will be revealed.



Helen Botham has carried out research into garden history for the National Trust and the Australian Garden History Society and was a researcher and contributor to the Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens. Being also a member of the La Trobe Society, and founding chair of the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage, she has a particular interest in the garden La Trobe created at Jolimont and now coordinates the La Trobe's Cottage garden volunteer group. Her book, published in 2006, 'La Trobe's Jolimont – A Walk Around My Garden' uses the illustrations of Edward La Trobe Bateman to give an insight into La Trobe's Jolimont estate and the people who lived there.

OCTOBER QUIZ OLD-FASHIONED FAVOURITES

Springtime means many beautiful blooms appearing in our gardens. This month we thought it might be fun to see if you can recognise some of these lesser known, but old favourites in the photo collage below.



1. *Enkianthus quinqueflorus*. A deciduous or semi-evergreen shrub, pink bell-shaped flowers.
2. *Pseudotsuga menziesii* 'Hess Select Blue' a good blue foliage form of the Douglas Fir.
3. *Garrya elliptica* 'James Roof'. This form has extra long catkins.
4. *Geranium maderense*. Native to Madeira.
5. *Edgeworthia gardneri*. Nepal Paper Bush, an evergreen shrub.
6. *Luculia grandifolia* deliciously perfumed large white flowers occur through autumn
7. *Corylopsis sinensis* var *sinensis* 'Spring Purple' from China.
8. *Heliotropium* sp. Garden Heliotrope
9. *Primula vulgaris* - English primrose

Photos 1-7 courtesy of Don Teese,
@teesedon on Instagram



With regard to old fashioned garden favourites, this saucer is decorated with corn flowers. They were the favourite flowers of Marie Antoinette, and were depicted on porcelain for many years after her death, until into the 1830s. The saucer dates from c. 1790, made by the Rue Thiroux porcelain factory in Paris, which was patronised by Marie A. indicated by an impressed crown on the underside,

Corn flowers seem to be more prevalent in Europe than Australia. They are also known as Bachelor's button - to be worn in their button holes by young men in love (or on the market), although I can't say I've ever noticed any.

Tim Gatehouse

Dear Members,

If you are receiving this newsletter only in hardcopy, but do have an email address, could we please ask you to consider changing to email delivery. Preparing a separate newsletter for printing and the associated postage is difficult in these times with limited funds and volunteers. Apart from the savings for the Branch, you too will benefit from more timely updates and more extensive content, including links to online events. If you are able to supply an email address, please contact Lynda Entwisle at aghsvic19@gmail.com

Thank you for considering this request.



OCTOBER ADVOCACY

P32675 St Kilda Road - 25 LED installation screens and lighting upgrades

This application by the City of Melbourne is a collaborative push with National Gallery Victoria to install electronic artworks on the centre verge opposite the NGV site. A letter expressing strong objection to the concept and the implementation proposals was submitted to Heritage Victoria, to all CoM councillors and their CEO, on 26th August 2020. The objection centred on the loss of the sense of cultural place created at the confluence of three heritage elements (Domain parklands, St Kilda Boulevard and Arts Precinct) by introduction of clutter and distractions incompatible with appreciation of the grand boulevard. HV have granted the permit for this project (October 5th) with some conditions, principally a reduction in the period of the 'temporary' installation from 25 years to 5, and complete removal at the end of the project. Vic Branch is considering its position on this determination.

City of Glen Eira tree register

Council has passed a Classified Tree Local Law that defines protections for trees on its Classified Tree Register, as well as a permit system to manage the Tree Protection Zones of such trees. Vic Branch wrote to all councillors in support of the initiative.

Fawkner Park Permit Determination by Heritage Victoria At a Council meeting in late 2019, the City of Melbourne resolved to request a review by the Heritage Council of the heritage permit refusal for works in Fawkner Park. The Branch made a submission to Heritage Victoria objecting to the proposal which sought to remove the existing basketball court near Pasley Street and construct a new sports court further west of the existing facility, landscaping works, drainage improvement works, selected tree removal and new tree planting works and pathways. These works, on the eastern side of Fawkner Park, would result in an unacceptable detrimental impact on the cultural heritage significance of this site. In mid September 2020 Vic Branch made a follow up submission to the Heritage Council hearing which, after many delays, occurred on 2nd and 5th of October 2020. Vic Branch awaits the determination from HV.

VICTORIAN BRANCH COMMITTEE

Chair & Secretary: Wendy Dwyer

Vice Chair & Newsletter: Lynda Entwisle

Treasurer: Anne Aston

Committee members:

Speaker/Tour ideas: Robyn Robins

Working Bee Coordinator: Diana Ellerton

Advocacy: Trevor Pitkin

Garden Histories: Tim Gatehouse

NT Landscape Reference Group: Anthony

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NMC Rep: Wendy Dwyer

Catering Coordinator: Annie Woodside

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month, 3.30pm - 6pm at Burnley Gardens, except for October when the meeting will be held on 3rd Tuesday of the month. We welcome members to join committee meetings at any time. If you wish to discuss opportunities to get involved please contact Wendy Dwyer aghsvicbranch2@gmail.com, or contact a committee member. Go to our Webpage www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/branches/victoria/ for more news and updates. Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome and should be addressed to aghsvic19@gmail.com with newsletter in subject line.