



Australian Garden History Society  
Tasmanian Branch

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## Newsletter No. 115

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#### Newsletter:

Our newsletter is published periodically.

Please send your contributions by email to Prue Slatyer.

For national information see:

[www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au](http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au)

### *From the Chairman*

Our prodigal newsletter has returned! We cannot guarantee the frequency of its publication but we will try to ensure that members receive at least two each year.

I know many of you enjoyed our first event for 2017 – a visit to specialist nurseries and gardens of southern Tasmania. It was a wonderful opportunity to explore three very different gardens and to obtain additions for our own gardens. In this newsletter are details of our next event (on 21 April) – a visit to two gardens in the north of the state. We look forward to welcoming you to these gardens, which should be in their full autumn glory.

The AGHS website is being redesigned. It will be much more user-friendly with links to other sites of interest to garden lovers. Visit the website (*see details, below left*) over the coming weeks to check for upcoming activities both in Tasmania and in other states on the mainland.

The annual AGHS conference on 27-29 October, 2017, which was to have been held in New Zealand, will now be held in Melbourne. You will receive more information about the program and venue in the near future. It is to be hoped that a conference in New Zealand will be possible at a later date. Happy gardening. **Lynne Paul, Chairman**

## ***AGHS Tasmanian Branch Christmas function report***

On 26 November, 2016, members of the Tasmanian branch of the AHGS enjoyed a visit to the *Jolly Farmer* at Perth, followed by a delicious Christmas lunch at *Tahara*, Deloraine.



Members and visitors wandered through the beautiful garden at the *Jolly Farmer*, admiring lush sweeping lawns surrounded by glorious pastel-toned perennial borders featuring iris, aquilegia, lupins, delphiniums, peonies, roses and clematis (*pictured, left*). A delightful bower created by four weeping elms, looked like a perfect spot to hide away with a book.

Other notable trees in the garden included a tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), a ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*), an enormous liquidambar (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), an Indian chestnut (*Aesculus indica*) and a variegated elm (*Ulmus minor 'Variegata'*). The current garden surrounds an intriguing one-and-a-half-storey brick house dating back to 1826 that for many years served as a coaching inn, one of many on the busy Launceston to Hobart route. The *Jolly Farmer* is the house and garden of artist Michael McWilliams and Robert Henley.

Lunch was served at *Tahara*, at Deloraine, the home of Chairman Lynne Paul and husband Rod. Members and guests strolled through expansive park-like surrounds before settling down to an impressive repast laid out in the main dining room. The stately home was built in 1889 for Major Caleb John Lee Smith (1849-1916), who was a resident of the Deloraine district for 50 years and a prominent figure in the public affairs of the community. The grounds at *Tahara* feature many stately trees including specimens of chestnut (*Castanea sp.*), laurel (*Laurus nobilis*), oak (*Quercus sp.*), liquidambar and copper beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) as well as rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas and extensive plantings of roses.

**By Carol Bacon**

### ***Branch diary***

**Our events include an autumn garden visit, May landscape lecture and a series of winter lectures. Book for these events on the separate flyers and booking form emailed to all members.**

#### **21 April: A northern excursion to Old WesleyDale and Wychwood at Mole Creek**

**11:30am** Meet at Old WesleyDale (1970 Mole Creek Road). Explore the garden. Owners Deb and Scott Wilson will tell us about the development of this wonderful garden and the details of the historic estate. Bring a picnic and a rug or chairs to enjoy lunch in the garden or in the heritage barn if the weather is unkind. Tea and coffee will be available.

**1.30pm** Drive 8km to Wychwood (80 Den Road). Meet owners David Doukidis and Matt Bendall and explore the garden and the nursery. Plants for sale. Tea and coffee will be available.

**COST** \$25 members, \$40 non-members

**BOOKINGS CLOSE 15 APRIL, 2017** (book on the booking form emailed separately to members)

### **About the Mole Creek gardens:**

**Old Wesley Dale (1861)** Deb and Scott Wilson began their garden in 2001 around some wonderful old trees including birches, liquidambars and poplars. They have developed a peaceful English-style garden with plantings defined by hedges and walls. Perhaps the best-known feature of the garden is the clipped elephant hedge of *Lonicera nitida*. The 'ha-ha' wall is an important feature built to serve as an invisible barrier between the stock paddock and the garden while drawing in the natural borrowed landscape of the lake, rolling green pastures, hedges and the magnificent Western Tiers.

**Wychwood** In the middle of 2016 Melbourne city gardeners David Doukidis and Matt Bendall bought this property from its creators and long-time owners Peter Cooper and Karen Hall. They will guide us through the garden, which covers just over a hectare, with plantings of rare and heritage apples, roses, perennials and many beautiful cool climate deciduous and evergreen trees.

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### ***Member's art exhibition in Launceston***

While members are visiting the north of the state for our garden tour in April, take time to enjoy a special treat by visiting a new exhibition at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in Launceston. The exhibition is called VAST and is a collection of prints and drawings by Robyn Mayo, a member and former chairman of the AGHS Tasmania Branch.

This is Robyn's fifth exhibition and is a visual record of her travels through Arnhem Land and the Gulf Country to the north, the desert areas of Rainbow Valley, Chambers Pillar, the Painted Desert and the Simpson Desert, and to the south Lake Eyre and the Flinders Ranges between 1996 and 2013.

"I like to work plein-air because it is easier to feel the landscape's many changing moods," says Robyn of her work.

The exhibition will also tour to Ballarat, Victoria from 16 June to 13 August and to Goulburn, New South Wales, from 8 September to 7 October. To find out more about Robyn's work see her website: [www.robynmayo.com.au](http://www.robynmayo.com.au).

**DATE: 8 April to 28 May, 2017**

**VENUE: QVMAG (Art Gallery at Royal Park, 2 Wellington Street, Launceston)**

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### **27 May: The Australian Garden at Cranbourne: the process of design. A lecture by landscape designer Paul Thompson**

Paul Thompson is a landscape designer specialising in Australian plants. He was nominated one of the best 10 planting designers in the world by American on-line magazine, *Landscape Architects Network*, in 2014. His work over the past 40 years is diverse, ranging from small private gardens to large public landscapes including seven botanic gardens.

His most notable work is the Australian Garden of the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne in Victoria, which has won numerous Australian and international design awards. In his Hobart talk, Paul will speak about the design process for this garden, which he carried out in collaboration with landscape architects Taylor, Cullity, Lethlean.

**TIME: 2pm**

**VENUE: Runnymede, 61 Bay Road, New Town, Hobart**

## **WINTER LECTURE SERIES (20 June, 25 June, 20 August)**

Three winter lectures are being held; two by visiting garden historian and AGHS member Stuart Read, who will speak in both Launceston and Hobart in June. Garden writer and AGHS Tasmanian Branch committee member, Jennifer Stackhouse, will speak in Hobart in August at the AGM.

### **1. Tuesday 20 June**

Lecture by Stuart Read: **Three 'Ss' – Singapore, Spain and Sydney.** *How modern botanic gardens are adapting to stay relevant.* The lecture will be followed by a Q&A session.

**TIME: 5:30 pm (light refreshments will be served before the lecture)**

**VENUE: Ida Birchell Room, Pilgrim Church, 34-38 Paterson Street, Launceston**

### **2. Sunday 25 June**

Lecture by Stuart Read: **Brown, Green, other colours and players.** *Capability Brown and contemporaries' English landscape parks and selected south west UK gardens.* The lecture will be followed by a Q&A session.

**TIME: 2pm**

**VENUE: Runnymede, 61 Bay Road, New Town, Hobart**

**About Stuart Read:** In 2005 Stuart won a fellowship from the Pratt Foundation/International Specialised Skills Institute to travel through Spain to study the management of change in old and new parks and gardens. In 2010 he led a tour of Spanish gardens for the Friends of the Historic Houses Trust of NSW. Trained in science, amenity horticulture and landscape architecture in New Zealand, he has specialised since 1991 in Australian, world and now NSW heritage areas. Stuart strives to ensure acceptance of landscapes as a valid type of heritage place worth managing sensitively. Particular passions are lessons from historic gardens, tracing global plant movement and better management of cultural landscapes as part of our future identity and economy. He is an elected member of the National Management Committee of the AGHS

### **3. Sunday 20 August**

**AGM and lecture by Jennifer Stackhouse on her research on the garden at Home Hill**

*Home Hill* just outside Devonport was the home of former Tasmanian Premier and Prime Minister Joseph Lyons (1879-1939) and of Dame Enid Lyons (1897-1998), the first woman elected to Australia's federal parliament. The house and garden reflects the work of Dame Enid, who created the garden over many years and decorated the house. She bequeathed the estate to Devonport Council. The National Trust manages the house and its historic contents, which can be viewed on a guided tour (details [www.nationaltrust.org.au/places/home-hill/](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/places/home-hill/)). There is no charge to attend the AGM and lecture.

**TIME: 2pm**

**VENUE: Philip Smith Building, 2 Edward Street, Glebe, Hobart (the meeting will be held on the first floor)**