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Australian Garden History Society
Tasmanian Branch

*Season's Greetings &
Happy New Year*

Summer 2022–23 Newsletter No. 125

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From the Co-Chairs

Season's greetings! It has been a very busy

We will miss her many skills. However, we welcome new Committee members Andrew

year for the branch as we held seven local events plus were the hosts for the very successful National Conference held in November.

In addition, our advocacy efforts with objections to the proposed Cable Car development on Kunanyi/Mt Wellington have added to a successful outcome. A Memorandum of Understanding between AGHS Tasmania and National Trust Tasmania was also negotiated leading to the establishment of a joint committee between the two organisations. More about proposed joint projects in 2023. As well, three interviews were completed for the National Oral History program.

We have had changes to the Committee with the resignation of Jane Long and more recently Mary Ramsay. After serving nine years on the Committee, our constitution requires that Prue Slatyer must resign.

Robert Tissot, Ann Stark, Ian Kilgour (Treasurer) and Leslie Kilgour.

Our membership is steadily growing and with a strong Committee in place, we feel AGHS Tasmania is heading for a great 2023! A personal note from Jean is that due to health and family reasons, she has made the difficult decision to step down from the position of Co-Chair and from the Committee effective at the end of December 2022. However, she will continue with the Oral History interviews and with Chairing the Joint AGHS Tas/National Trust joint committee.

On behalf of the AGHS Tas Committee, we wish you all the best over the festive season and a wonderful 2023!

Jean Elder & Rosie Mackinnon
Co-Chairs

NEWS & EVENTS



Above left: Conference Convenor, Prue Slatyer, at the conclusion of the 2022 AGHS conference in Hobart in November. Above right: A panel discussion on Day 2 of the conference featuring, left to right: Artist Deborah Wace, who spoke and sang at the conference; colonial history expert Dr Alison Alexander, MC for Day 2 Sally

Dakis; owner of Glover property Patterdale, Carol Westmore; and Tara Edmanson from Government House Estate.

AGHS conference Hobart conference 2022 success

The 2022 Australian Garden History Society Conference in Hobart in early November was a huge success with around 250 delegates attending from around Australia. With a theme of 'Landscape on the Edge', the conference heard from passionate speakers and visited inspirational historic gardens in southern Tasmania.

One of the strong messages to come from the conference was the importance of cultural landscapes and the need for the AGHS to champion their value and protection.

To catch up on any sessions from the conference, follow these links:

Day 1: [Opening session](#)

Day 1: [Second session](#)

Day 2: [Opening session](#)

Day 2: [Second session](#)

Day 3: [Opening session](#)

Day 3: [Second session](#)

Conference dinner

A high point was the Conference Dinner at Glen Albyn on Saturday evening when delegates gathered on the terrace to enjoy sunset-lit views across the River Derwent. The dinner itself was held under sparkling lights and featured an entertaining talk by historian Dr Malcolm Ward on the love letters of George Meredith of Cambria, Swansea, which shed a new light on life in the early 19th century.

Launch of AGHS position statement

An important part of the conference was the launch, by patron, Prof. Tim Entwisle, of the Society's position on climate change statement. To read the statement in full, see the [AGHS website](#).

AGM 2022

The AGM was also held at the conference and saw the election of a new National Chair, Lynne Walker from New South Wales. The AGM also included discussion about the future of the Society and the need for a membership drive to attract younger members along with professionals involved in aspects of garden and landscape history.

[View the AGM here.](#)

Save the Date
43rd AGHS Annual National Conference Ipswich
29 September - 1 October 2023



Nerma Gardens

Photo c/o Discover Ipswich website

Bookings open Monday 1 May 2023

Tasmanian branch Christmas garden party

This year's Christmas party took the form of a garden party at the home of members Jill and Chris Webster in New Town. The Webster's home was formerly the stables of neighbouring *Sunnyside* estate. Despite threatening skies, the weather remained kind. The afternoon included a tour of *Sunnyside*'s historic garden. The house was designed by William Porden Kay in the mid 19th century for merchant and politician Thomas Daniel Chapman. Kay was also the architect for Hobart's Government House. The photos below show the *Sunnyside* garden and members enjoying the garden party with drinks, hors d'oeuvres and music. The party also included the traditional Christmas quiz, which was compered by Chris Webster and won in a closely contested final count by members Chris Wisbey and Sally Dakis. Photos Birgit Kruse



Cards with historic flavour

Cards printed from linocuts by Tasmanian printmaker Carlton Cox feature historic and industrial sites and buildings with a focus on northern Tasmania as well as farm and other machinery.

Carlton's images are inspired by scenes from within his local surrounds, particularly the gardens, landscapes and historic properties of the Tasmanian northern midlands region. Carlton mostly uses the traditional technique of linocut, which evolved in the early 1900s from the age-old art of woodblock printing. Linocut generally produces a bold image with the use of rich, oil-based inks that are layered to create a picture from individually hand carved blocks, one for every colour.

A small limited edition of unique art works are created from the blocks, each one with its own subtle difference. Each image takes many weeks to produce, from the intricate carving process to the pressing of inked plates on to heavy cotton paper. Every colour requires several days of drying before the next layer can be added, making a multi-coloured work a lengthy process.





Linocuts by Carlton Cox: Midland sky (top), Guard Tower, Port Arthur (above right). Both images are 300x300mm. Above left: printmaker Carlton Cox. For more images of Carlton's work [visit his website.](#)

Linocuts by Carlton Cox: Midland sky (top), Guard Tower, Port Arthur (above right). Both images are 300x300mm. Above left: printmaker Carlton Cox. For more images of Carlton's work [visit his website.](#)

ARTICLES

Buckland to Orford Convict Road

Dr Malcolm Ward reveals the fascinating history of a little-known convict-built road on Tasmania's East Coast. Members will be able to enjoy a tour of the road in February 2023.

On the north and west side of the Tasman Highway between Buckland and Orford on Tasmania's east coast, lies a remarkably well-preserved roadway constructed by convict labour in the 1840s. It has not been over-written by later road construction due to its location by the original surveyor, James Erskine Calder. He put the road on a side of the river not favoured by locals, who eventually had a new alignment constructed where the Tasman Highway is today.



Part of the old convict road. This bridge of ashlar sandstone on *Woodsden* property, 'first culvert', upstream side. Photo: M Ward

[Read the full story of the convict road here](#)

Visit the convict road with AGHS

Dr Ward will lead a walk along the convict road for the Australian Garden History Society in early February 2023. Details of the walk and booking information will be emailed to members in January.

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden needs greater recognition

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden near Burnie in the state's north west is a public garden in search of love and appreciation writes Jennifer Stackhouse

The 11-hectare garden was established 41 years ago by members of the Australian Rhododendron Society (North West Tasmanian Branch). The first planting was a magnificent, yellow-flowered rhododendron called 'Golden Dream'. The plant is still going strong says volunteer General Manager, Geoff Wood, but the golden dream of those original founding members of Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden (EVRG) has become a little tarnished as the garden continues to struggle for both recognition and funding.



Left: Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden, which recently celebrated 40 years, includes many ornamental trees and features including a Japanese pavilion. Right: Rhododendrons bloom in the garden from late winter to early summer.

[Read the full story here](#)

FESTIVE LISTENING

Mistletoe: festive and freaky

Find out all about mistletoe, one of the traditional plants of the festive season in an episode of Branch Out, a podcast from the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney. Listen on Spotify [here](#); or on Apple [here](#).



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