The newsletter of the Sydney and Northern New South Wales Branch of the Australian Garden History Society

# BRANCI UTTINGS



#### Issue 65 – June 2021

This branch is affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society & National Trust of Australia (NSW)

#### **AGHS FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**JUNE** 

Date: 16 June 2021, 7pm AEST

Event: BEYOND THE LAWN: Lawns in New England Gardens and the tools used to maintain them. Bill Oates will

present an illustrated talk inspired by Richard Heathcote's 'The Blade exhibition about Australian lawns.

Venue: Digital Zoom

Cost: members \$10, non-members \$15, students \$5

Bookings: https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=767249&

**AUGUST** 

Date: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021, 6:00pm

Event: AGM Geoffrey Britton will present a talk on the historic property Varro Ville, a special cultural landscape that also happens to have particularly important buildings as well as other exceptionally significant features.

Venue: Annie Wyatt Room, National Trust, Observatory Hill

#### **SEPTEMBER 2021**

#### 2021 Annual National Conference

Thursday 9 September: optional afternoon walks through the Royal Botanic Gardens will highlight its landscape cultural heritage, including historic trees.

#### Friday-Monday is Fully Booked

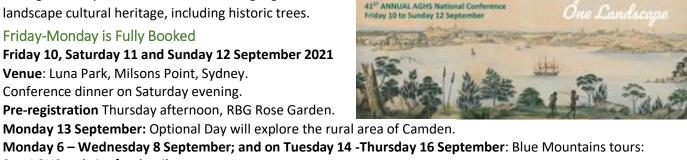
Venue: Luna Park, Milsons Point, Sydney. Conference dinner on Saturday evening.

Monday 6 – Wednesday 8 September; and on Tuesday 14 -Thursday 16 September: Blue Mountains tours: See AGHS website for details.

https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/events-conference/2020-annual-national-conference/

# Green Necklace Harbour Cruise on the tall ship "James Craig" under motor not sail.

Date: Thursday 9 September, 10:00am for a 3-hour harbour cruise from the Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour. The Green Necklace Harbour cruise will raise awareness about the landscape heritage of the harbour centred on the findings of the 2018 study commissioned by AILA. Its vision is to conserve the 'green necklace' of Sydney Harbour - a series of parks, government institutions and Crown land, fragments of open space and remnant bushland around the Harbour foreshore, and to recognise these as one cultural landscape. The cruise is part of the events on the optional Thursday before the conference.



LECTURES ONLY and VIRTUAL CONFERENCE LECTURES -Tickets available

# Of landscapes and lunacy: a brief history of Glengarrif House, the Wisteria Gardens and the broader grounds of the former Parramatta Hospital for the Insane

Glengarrif House, the Wisteria Gardens and the broader grounds of the former Parramatta Hospital for the Insane survive as a record of an Edwardian approach to health and well-being. As a cultural landscape they reflect a medical response to mental illness that believed the "agitation" of the insane could be calmed by beautiful surrounds, by participating in agricultural work and gentle outdoor exercise (Hickman 2014). With exotic trees and flowering vines planted over one hundred years ago, this part of the Cumberland Hospital Precinct remains valued today as a quiet haven on the edge of the bustling CBD that is modern Parramatta.

Situated on the upper reaches of the Parramatta River, and originally on the land of the Burramatta clan of the Darug people, in 1788 the area was part of 500 acres claimed by Governor Phillip as the Government Domain. While private land grants were made here in the 1790s, most were resumed during Governor Macquarie's tenure. As well as enlarging the Domain, Governor and Mrs Macquarie built the Parramatta Female Factory to provide a home and work for unassigned, unmarried female convicts and their children. This institution opened in 1821 as an idealistic attempt to improve the lot of female convicts, however it deteriorated over the years. In 1843 inmates rioted, complaining of maladministration, inadequate food, and overcrowding. In 1848 the Female Factory closed, and the buildings were converted for the use of the mentally ill.

In 1858, more land from the Government Domain was granted to the asylum for use as a farm, and patients were encouraged to undertake farming duties (Higginbotham 2010). The 1886 *Report of the Inspector of Public Charities* recorded that the farm supplied "sufficient vegetables, with the exception of potatoes", and that a dairy herd was kept, although it did not "supply all the milk required for the patients". Pigs were also kept and fattened on kitchen waste and were then sold for the institution's benefit (Smith 1999). The asylum received some funding from government but, like many others of its type at this time, was expected to be largely self-sustaining. Patients worked to produce most of their own food and to raise additional income where possible. This was viewed as therapeutic, as well as being a financial necessity (Hickman 2014).

In 1878 the *Lunacy Act of NSW* was passed and had a significant effect on what is today the Cumberland Hospital Precinct. Dr William Cotter Williamson, who came to the hospital in 1883 as an Assistant Medical Superintendent, was key to implementing the reforms needed. During his tenure Dr Williamson oversaw extensions and additions to the buildings as well as improvements to the landscape and gardens along the riverbank.

For Dr Williamson, who had a keen interest in botany, these improvements embodied the principles of Moral Therapy, where the gardens were an integral part of effective patient care and therapy. Dr Williamson "systematically and scientifically" involved his more able-bodied patients. While they continued to grow much of their own food and maintain a dairy herd on the farm, they now also shaped a carefully designed environment -building terraces, rockeries, paths, and amenities including "a champion cricket ground". Planting rhododendrons, roses, exotic palms, and deciduous trees throughout the Hospital grounds, they created a landscape of "soothing magnificence and calm splendour". Dr Williamson is recorded in a newspaper article from 1897 as being "a stickler to the opinion that occupation benefits the sane as well as the insane". Although "no one is worked unwillingly", there were extra rations for those who did the "more laborious and responsible undertakings". As well as cricket, Dr Williamson understood the benefits of outdoor "amusements to beguile" his patients, organizing concerts, boating and picnics in the gardens, to alleviate "the gloom which is a natural concomitant of ...chronic insanity" (Cumberland Free Press, 6/2/1897).

Between 1899 and 1910 a lot more work was done to improve the hospital and grounds. Dr Williamson worked closely with the Government Architect Walter Liberty Vernon to design and build new wards, roadways, and landscaping (Higginbotham 2010). By 1911 the Hospital for the Insane was recognised in the *Jubilee History of Parramatta* as "one of the showplaces of Parramatta", and Dr Williamson was again publicly lauded for achieving this: "not at the expense of, but to the material benefit of the patients... He has turned the grounds into beauty

spots... knowing well how occupation in the preparation of attractive landscapes is as beneficial as the contemplation of them" (Smith 1999).

By this time food production was clearly no longer a pressing need, and 5 acres of the Hospital Farm was appropriated to build a new residence for Dr Williamson and his family. Glengarrif Cottage and the Wisteria Gardens were built in 1906-7. The house was designed by Vernon in the "arts and crafts" Federation style. In 1907, Williamson accompanied his daughters, Nora and Nightingale, on a musical tour of Japan, and the wisteria, after which the Gardens are named, is reputed to have been brought back from this visit. Another Japanese element that was added to the gardens at that time was a 'Tori' gate folly. A torii gate typically stands at the entrance of a Japanese Shinto shrine and represents the division between the physical and spiritual realms.

The gardens were intended as a place of solitude and contemplation for the Medical Superintendent. They were, however, very much part of the broader hospital and were built and maintained by patients, who also used to work in Parramatta Park, where Dr Williamson was a Trustee (Smith 1999). Bordering the Park, the reputation of the gardens quickly grew, and they became a popular attraction, with visitors gathering at the Park fence to view the spectacular spring blossom displays. Also popular were a pair of black swans who lived on the Parramatta River and nested in the gardens. In 1929 Dr Guy Prior, then Superintendent, bowed to public pressure and first opened the gardens for a small entry fee. In 1930 he allowed the sale of items made by the patients - such as needlework and toys - from stalls on the lawns (Comber 2018).

Glengarrif House, the Wisteria Gardens and the broader grounds of the former Parramatta Hospital for the Insane have been recognised as of one of the finest examples of an Edwardian landscape in NSW. The Wisteria Gardens, overlooking the ponded Parramatta River, still retain much of their original form, with narrow access ways and paths, designated areas for lawns, bedding displays and arbours of original surviving wisteria vines, prunus trees and English elms, as well as the creek crossing and the 1908 boundary fence and gateway to Parramatta Park.

From 1929 until 2017 the gardens were opened every September for the public to enjoy the spring blooms and bright colours planted out in annual beds. In September 2017 Ministers Brad Hazzard and Gabrielle Upton announced that Cumberland Hospital's Wistaria Gardens and Glengarrif House would be transferred from Western Sydney Health to to Parramatta Park (Parramatta Sun, 19/9/2017). To the disappointment of the community, the Wistaria Gardens remain in limbo while they wait for the transfer to be enacted – and while the gates are open, Western Sydney Health hasn't planted the annual spring flower beds since the announcement, and Parramatta Park Trust has not stepped in to fill the void.

It is now three years that the wisteria and cherry have bloomed over empty garden beds – lunacy!





Wisteria at Parramatta. Garden scene, 22 September 1938. Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, FL16013750

#### References:

Comber, J. Statement of Heritage Impact: Cumberland Hospital Subdivision DA, Unpublished Report, 2018 Cumberland Free Press, 6/2/1897

Hickman, C. *Cheerfulness and tranquillity: gardens in the Victorian asylum*. www.thelancet.com/psychiatry Vol 1 December 2014

Higginbotham, E. Britton, G. & Kass, T. Conservation Management Plan Cumberland Hospital East Campus & Wisteria Gardens, Unpublished Report, 2010

Parramatta Sun, 19/9/2017

SHR Inventory Form Cumberland District Hospital Group

Smith, T. *Hidden Heritage: 150 years of Public Mental Health Parramatta 1849 – 1999.* Greater Parramatta Mental Health Service, 1999

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

#### Sydney & Northern NSW Branch



#### Dear Members,

Welcome to the winter edition of our Branch Cuttings newsletter. With the beginning of June, we have, right on cue, record cool temperatures and more cold weather across Sydney region and NSW on its way. While a time to stay indoors and hibernate, I'm feeling the benefits of walking in nature, certainly a brisk walk around my local Cooks River through its green open spaces does wonders for my wellbeing. I love the watery scenery, birdlife and trembling leaves.

National Reconciliation Week, 27 May to 3 June, has a powerful message - *More than a word. Reconciliation takes action* - it calls us all to take the journey to broaden the Australian community's relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Our AGHS National Conference in September, Many Dreams // One Landscape, aims to raise awareness, through truth-telling, of Sydney's landscape history with an Aboriginal perspective.

Our conference is booked out! Our Sydney committee however remain super busy finalising its details. Although there are threats of pandemic outbreaks and mice plagues (and who knows what may come our way) in the coming winter months, we intend to emerge victorious in early spring with a special event for our very special AGHS membership. Yes the committee has worked tirelessly on the conference and thanks to the pandemic, double time due to its postponement. Our 2021 Conference however has a momentous and ground-breaking addition – Virtual Attendance! For all our dear members unable to make the Sydney Conference they can now feel the exhilaration of the live event at Luna Park from the comfort of their own home or garden. There's no excuse not to join in (but we'll understand if you can't).

The Sydney Branch Committee is excited to present two events in the months leading up to the conference. One on 16 June by the Chair of the AGHS Northern NSW sub-branch Bill Oates titled *Beyond the Lawn* and the other talk is on Varro Ville at our AGM on 4 August. Details are in the newsletter.

However, with all these activities, advocacy remains an important focus for the Branch. Addressing proposed changes to the Heritage Act is a current item on our agenda. It takes time and energy to respond to the many calls for advocacy support and we invite members to assist us in our letter writing campaigns - why not drop a line to the Editor outlining your availability?

I hope you are all enjoying or plan to enjoy a winter break, a rest before the stirring burst of spring and the planned activities of our Sydney Conference. Our committee is brimming with excitement and looking forward to welcoming delegates in early September to Sydneytown (in person or virtually).

Take care.

## 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY AT ERYLDENE

Stuart Read has shared the text of the talk he presented at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at Eryldene in December 2020, his talk covering the years 2010-2020.



I'm glad Colleen [Morris] raised Oral Histories, because that activity greatly picked up in pace and scope in this decade. It may have started in the 2000s but certainly both speed and number grew. Now, I'm pleased to say, all branches have done this, to some degree. Some have embraced it and are on their third and fourth waves of interviews, which is great. This captures something else Colleen mentioned, the camaraderie and sheer fun - of AGHS get-togethers and activities. Bouncing around in busses on country roads. Rustling in shrubberies. Lunches, dinners, chat. Groups of like-minded people getting to know each other, and some

wonderful places, better. Big fun. History after all is story - or stories - and increasingly not just 'his-story' but 'hers-' and 'their-story', not just 'ours'. I don't know if people here have the booklet or were in the Melbourne conference where the booklet was launched, but AGHS now has a 'national collection' of oral histories - which tell stories not just of its creation and growth; but of garden designers, makers, leaders, pioneers in related fields, Australia-wide. It's a great resource.

The other thing that happened in this decade is this branch - Sydney Branch - spawned a baby: the Northern NSW Sub-Branch - a breakaway bunch of radicals in 'The New England'. Malcolm Wilson put me right on the dates and he it was, as then branch chair in the early 'teens, who helped make this happen. Based in Armidale, this small but busy group have done wonders in that time, since. You might have gone, or recall AGHS held a 2013 conference in Armidale - organised by the sub-branch - a huge feat for a small group with next-to-no resources in the bank. I don't know if you've visited Saumarez and seen the Heritage Rose Garden, which that sub-branch organised, installed and now maintains - a tremendous achievement, telling the history of the rose and particularly Australian breeders and varieties, adding interest to that garden as a visitor attraction. Amazing! They rely on the Sydney branch to subsidise auditing fees each year - something like \$800 - and have so far eluded the urge to become a branch and cut the cord - but no big deal.

I checked the journals from 2010 and in the first issue that year, you'll find an editorial from Peter Watts, musing at age 30 how much AGHS had achieved and refocussing on a few themes which remain themes today, and to me: advocacy, Country and connecting with and to Aboriginal people, and landscapes.

I would sum the 'teens up with four themes AGHS re-focussed on these three things: advocacy, Country and landscapes, or cultural landscapes. I'd add a fourth - digital - meaning, embracing the huge changes in how we communicate and how much of the world now engages: online.

In advocacy, I'm proud to note that AGHS's website has an advocacy page and it's national in scope - people who've never heard of or don't belong to AGHS can find us, online, by googling and chasing up on places and issues - here. That's great outreach we do: our 'Landscapes at Risk' list. Others are the 'Avenues of Honour, Memorial Avenues and other commemorative plantings, again, nationally - some of which are well-managed, others at threat. Online information. Trees in cities and towns, have increasingly become a focus - both better understanding the historic waves of interest, and plantings; and advocating for new waves, better care, replanting, understanding. AGHS ran two tree fora - a 2013 one in Perth; and a 2015 one in Melbourne - terrific events and right 'on the money' with current community interest.

'Country' is something AGHS is embracing - trying to re-look at what we think we know about Australia, but asking about First Nations - whose land was this before it was 'settled' by colonials? What kinds of land uses, cultivation, farming did and do Aboriginal people do? Having Bill Gammage speak about his 'Biggest Estate on Earth' book at the 2016 Canberra conference was a highlight for me. It was reviewed in the journal in 2011 - on publication. Zena Compston's more challenging piece in a recent journal caught my eye and asks: how 'colonial' is our mindset, are our institutions, our actions, still? Shouldn't we be re-looking at those, engaging with Aboriginal communities, rethinking 'place'?

Landscapes and 'beyond the garden fence' has long been a theme, from perhaps the 1996 Sydney conference on early colonial gardens - their future, on. Colleen Morris and other chairs and members like Juliet Ramsay and Jane Lennon have written in the journal, raised issues in conferences and AGHS has engaged in advocacy on historic landscapes. Designed landscapes such as parks and parkland are but one type. AGHS's 'Landscapes at Risk' is an ongoing example of this focus, trying to broaden our thinking, our understanding of what might be unique, rare or even just worthy of closer study, some protection.

'Digital' is perhaps the biggest change in this decade. In 1980 there was no internet, in 1990 there were few 'personal computers'. While AGHS got a website, in the 'teens it was upgraded and made more attractive, navigable, useful, more stuff was uploaded to it - and that continues. Even dinosaurs like me who've just discovered Instagram are amazed it's been around for over a decade. These are all new frontiers we've had to absorb and come to embrace, to survive and be seen and heard in a crowded 'cyber-space'. I'm so encouraged by you being met and greeted by Helder and Steve at the gate, and Steve in starting this event with a welcome - as both 'youth' and as people who embrace technology. You'll have noted Steve's face as our branch webmaster for recent online webinars and talks - calmly helping us learn 'Zoom', find our 'mute' buttons, get a recording to listen to later. Bravo!

This is important - no young person joins a society; or perhaps reads a journal, in print. It's all available online, on the device of their choice: 24/7! So we have to use new media to reach, and hope to win over, younger generations. And we're doing this - one bonus of COVID has been forcing AGHSs' hand on this - putting on events online. And there are big plusses in this - members who live way out of Sydney and could never attend branch events like talks - can tune in online. Members in other states, can do likewise, and are doing so. I've got pals in Melbourne addicted to UK Gardens Trust or Royal Horticultural Society talks online, and you can - they might be at an inconvenient hour, thanks to time zone differences, but often they're recorded, so you can save them to listen at a more convenient time. We're doing so here - a handy thing to increase our outreach, and appeal.

I hosted an online webinar for the Southern Highlands branch a month or so ago, called 'Fabulous at Forty - What next?' and managed to pull in four guest speakers - all done online, remotely - I was amazed it worked - and it wasn't recorded, sorry - but this just shows some of the possibilities we now have, if we take them.

The TROVE project and monthly E-newsletters are both recent developments making more (and encouraging members to take) advantage of online information and areas of interest - links. I'd like to see branches cross-promoting each other's online events - if there's nothing on in Sydney & Northern NSW branch this fortnight, but a cracking talk on in Perth or in Hobart, I'd like to be reminded of it, and have the web-link. There's scope to do this more - not just rely on our website. Newsletters for branches and email can do much.

Peter was teasing me about my brief notes, but I'm conscious there's a cake to cut, nibbles and such to enjoy and people to catch up with - so I'll call a halt there. But I'd say a hearty 'happy birthday and 40th' to AGHS!

Stuart Read AGHS Co-chair

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

The Branch would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new Sydney and NNSW members: Alan Baynham, Christopher Bennett, David Burdon, Carol Collison, Peter Crawshaw, Stephen Davies, Ian Etherington, Jane Grossberg, Jenny Hall, Stephen Hathway, John Miller, Ellen Mortimore, Tori Quine, James Renwick, Sandra Ross, Amanda Shelling, Sandhya Sunil, Janice Zwierzynski, Rebecca Zulaikha.

#### AGHS NORTHERN NSW Sub-branch

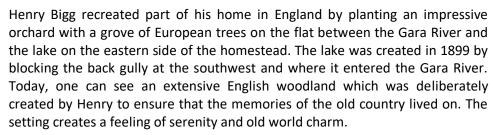
#### Thalgarrah Excursion



On Saturday 22 May the NNSW sub - branch had its first excursion for some time visiting the historic property, 'Thalgarrah', situated on the outskirts of Armidale. Geraldine and John Robertson, the owners, were generous hosts sharing their property and knowledge. 'Thalgarrah' was developed by Henry E. Bigg in the 1870s. In 1878 he

contracted local builders Williams, Seabrook and Brown to build a brick house with a shingle roof. The house with alterations to accommodate various

families stands proudly in 2021. The homestead was where Judith Wright was born. Judith's mother was a member of the Bigg family and she returned to her childhood home for the birth of two of her babies.



Following a fabulous morning tea the group spent the afternoon at Thalgarrah School which opened in 1898 and closed in 1972. Four years later in 1976 it opened as the Thalgarrah Field Studies Centre and since that date has number presented а of environmental studies programs to children of all ages. Branch members Helen Oates and Helen Wilson were able to inform the group about the role of the Environmental Education Centre and all that it offers. Prior to the recent drought, it had a large garden of Australian native plants which is showing some signs of recovery as is the bird life.

Helen Wilson Secretary NNSW sub-branch







Images: Lynne Walker and Helen Wilson

#### **RECENT EVENTS in SYDNEY**



# **Badangi/Berry Island Walk**

In March AGHS members enjoyed catching up face to face, and were immersed in the remnant bushland and landscape at Badangi/Berry Island where its features and character can still be experienced remarkably unchanged since 1788. James Quoyle and Phil Hunt led the group around Berry Island and highlighted many of the features.

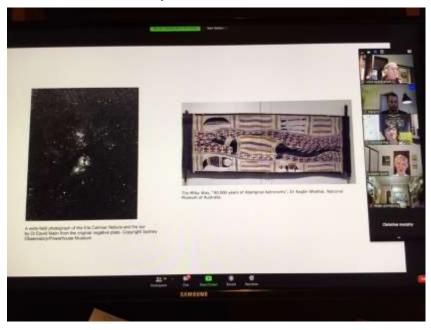
Images: Anne Smith



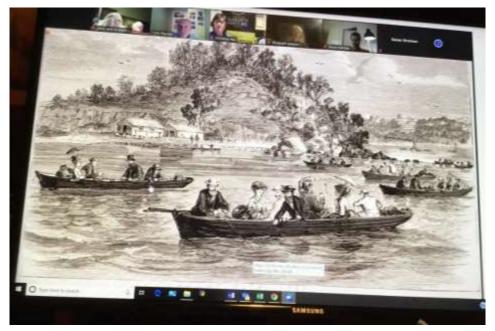


The National Trust's 75 Years of Landscape Conservation

In a February webinar Graham Quint spoke of some of the of the hundreds of bushland, landscapes, parks and gardens which the National Trust has helped to protect with their listing and advocacy.



**Gardens of Garden Island** 



In April Colin Randall spoke to members from across the state in a webinar on the gardens of Garden Island. He presented attendees with wonderful pictures and information about the ship's garden; the naval garden on The Hill; and the lost gardens of Garden Island.

#### **ITEMS OF INTEREST /ADVOCACY**

#### **Avenues of Honour**

In April an article by Gregory Moore in the newsletter *The Conversation* reported on Avenues of Honour and their neglect.

https://theconversation.com/the-years-condemn-australia-is-forgetting-the-sacred-trees-planted-to-remember-our-war-dead-159426

Gregory Moore is part of <a href="www.Treenet.org">www.Treenet.org</a> whose Living Memorials / Avenues of Honour project has been running since 2004. Stuart Read reports that 'thanks to Treenet, AGHS, the RSL's work and community agitation, with government funding, a lot of avenues have been re-planted, replaced, signs and plaques re-mounted, in recent years, as we've commemorated 100 years since 1914, or 1918.'

### **Jack Mundey**

Jack Mundey, patron and past chair of Historic Houses Association and a major figure in Heritage died in March. See the link to his funeral.

https://www.nsw.gov.au/state-funerals/state-memorial-for-jack-mundey-ao

## **Orange Stadium**

A proposal to remove 500 trees for a stadium at Bloomfield in Orange has been delayed by a Heritage Council request

https://ausprint.meltwater.com/print\_clip\_previewer/323220769?text=on

# Parklands White Paper



The National Trust reports that a White Paper has been announced that sets out the proposed governance and legislative structure for Greater Sydney Parklands. The NSW Government established this new authority to manage some of the city's most significant open spaces: Centennial Parklands, Western Sydney Parklands, Parramatta Park, Callan Park and Fernhill Estate.

The National Trust will be making a submission on this important document and encourages others to do the same by 5 July 2021.

MAKE A SUBMISSION

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#### **Night Sky**

In 2008 the national Trust classified but the Macarthur Astronomical Society point out that there is a problem with Light pollution

https://www.smh.com.au/national/national-trust-to-classify-sky-above-nsw-20080327-21zj.html

#### Fernhill

On 14<sup>th</sup> April the Telegraph reported that minister Rob Stokes said that there were no plans to use historic Fernhill Estate at Mulgoa for commercial and residential development but that Greater Sydney Parklands were 'assessing proposals for a plan of management of the site'.

#### Royal parks Draft Plan of Management: public consultation

A **new draft plan of management** for Royal National Park, Heathcote National Park and Garawarra State Conservation Area is open for public comment until **2 August 2021**, together with a **draft mountain biking plan** for **the parks**.

This is an opportunity for everyone who values and uses these parks to help shape the way they are managed into the future.

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/royalparks

### Middle Head and Georges Head

Conservation works are being undertaken by NPWS on historic fortifications at Middle Head and Georges Head in Sydney Harbour National Park and the new 3km walking track to link the historic precincts to the Bondi to Manly Walk.

See the <u>Channel 9 Sydney</u> news story featuring Minister Matt Kean, local MP Felicity Wilson, NPWS Deputy Secretary Atticus Fleming and Senior Project Officer Ian Curtis.

## Guriwal Trail, Centennial Park

Unveiled In May 2021 the Guriwal Trail Arts and Culture Installation in Centennial Park's Fearnley Grounds informs visitors of the native plants and animals and their importance to ancient and continuing Aboriginal culture.

https://www.centennialparklands.com.au/learn/community/virtual-tours/bush-tucker-trail -

#### **Camellia Heritage and Dr Stephen Utick**

# New Appointment at Royal Sydney Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust will focus on 200 year Camellia Heritage in NSW

Dr Stephen Utick, camellia enthusiast and inaugural Chair of the International Camellia Society Committee for Historic Camellia Conservation, as well as a key co-founder of Camellia Ark Australia has been appointed as Visiting Curator Theacea to the Royal Sydney Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust (including both the Sydney and Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens). This honorary appointment is in the context of the approaching 200th anniversary of the first recorded planting of a collection of camellias in the Southern Hemisphere (including tea) in 1823, under the supervision of Charles Frazer, first superintendent of the Sydney Botanic Gardens. An important element of the strategy being developed by Dr Utick, in conjunction also with Camellia Ark Australia, will be recovery and conservation of the camellia horticultural treasures of NSW spanning the 19th century. These plants (mostly clones) are 'living antiques', and are actually the same living material as selected by pioneer horticulturists and nursery proprietors throughout decade after decade of the mid to late nineteenth century. Dr Utick (<a href="sutick@grapevine.com.au">sutick@grapevine.com.au</a> - mobile 0421972287) is keen to hear from other garden history enthusiasts who might be interested in promoting such camellia treasures of NSW horticultural heritage.

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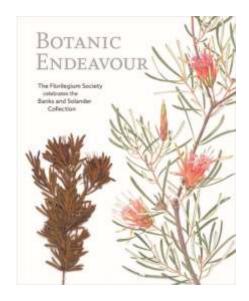
#### **OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST**

#### RBG

# Botanic Endeavour, The Florilegium Society celebrates the Banks and Solander collection

Lion Gate Lodge, Mrs Macquaries Road, Royal Botanic Gardens Saturday 21 August to Sunday 12 September, 10am-4pm. Entry free.

The Botanic Endeavour Exhibition, an exhibition of contemporary botanical paintings links the historic Banks and Solander herbarium specimens with the Living Collection of the Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust, Sydney. The artists have painted plants from the Living Collection linked to some of the specimens collected on the historic voyage and now held in the National Herbarium of NSW; drawing attention to the time and place of their collection, inviting reflection on what they meant to science, to the Indigenous peoples, to those collecting them and to the Gardens now.



#### **National Trust**

See National Trust website for details: https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/whats-on-nsw/

#### HARVEST TO HERITAGE: ARMIDALE FARMERS MARKET AT SAUMAREZ HOMESTEAD

230 Saumarez Road (Enter via Armidale Airport from the New England Highway), Armidale 2350 NSW 13 Jun 2021 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Retford Park, 1325 Old South Road, Bowral, Sat 3 & Sun 4 Jul, 10am - 4pm

Retford Park is open the first weekend of each month with timed entry tickets due to COVID-19 regulations. Bookings are essential. Entry Fees: National Trust members – FREE, Adults - \$15, Concession - \$10

#### **Eryldene**

**July 2021** - Open Sundays -Sundays 4, 11, 18 and 25 with talks and tours and 11am musical performances. **September 2021** - Open Sundays -Sundays 5, 12, 19 and 26

Adults – Members and Concessions \$10, Adults – Non-Members \$18, Children (under 12years) Free.

https://eryldene.org.au/pages/display/calendar

Newsletter collated and edited by Anne Smith. Contact Anne on smith777@bigpond.net.au