

BRANCH CUTTINGS



Issue 67 – February 2022

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

AGHS FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Date: 23rd February 2022, 7:00pm

Event: **Callan Park and Broughton Hall: A Historic Hospital and Parkland in Transition.** Online talk via Zoom presented by Roslyn Burge

Cost: \$10 AGHS members; \$15 non-members; students \$5

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=854028&>

MARCH

Date: Friday, 18th March, 2022, 1:00-8:00pm

Event: **Lavender Bay promenade from Luna Park to Wendy's Garden, with afternoon tea, guided walking tour of Carradah Park to Balls Head and sunset drinks at The Coal Loader, Waverton.** David Banbury from North Sydney Council will provide a tour of The Coal Loader including the tunnel.

Cost: \$95.00 AGHS members; \$115.00 non-members; students \$50.00

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/BXJMC

Date: Saturday, 19th March, 2022, 1:00-5:00pm

Event: **Eastern Suburbs garden tour including Rose Bay Cottage, the oldest house in Woollahra, coach tour of South Head and Watsons Bay and an exploration of Vaucluse House gardens.** Afternoon tea included.

Cost: \$95.00 AGHS members; \$115.00 non-members; students \$50.00

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/BXKHD

Date: Sunday 20th March, 2022, 9:45am

Event: **See Sydney Under Sail - A Day At Sea**



We had planned a three hour harbour cruise on board the Sydney Heritage Fleet's "**James Craig**", but have discovered that they are already having a bigger and better event on that day.

They are running a six hour cruise under sail outside the heads. This cruise includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. The nominal cost is \$155, but it is \$140 for seniors and Dine and Discover vouchers can be used. Full details can be found at [James Craig Link](#) . Because this is a Sydney Heritage Fleet event, bookings must be made at this link. We are still finalising details of how AGHS members can book and these will be distributed to members when known, hopefully in the week ending Friday, 17th February. David and Angela Low travelled on the James Craig from Hobart to Sydney in February 2019 and can heartily recommend it. One day we had all 21 sails aloft as shown above.

APRIL/MAY

Dates:

- Tuesday 5th – Thursday 7th April 2022
- Tuesday 3rd – Thursday 5th May 2022

Event: 2022 Blue Mountains Tours with Stuart Read

The Blue Mountains garden tours were originally planned for pre and post Conference September 2021

Stuart Read leads tours departing and returning to Sydney. Both will be 3-days, 2-nights (staying in Katoomba). We will visit a range of private and public gardens. Some were on the first AGHS tour out of Sydney in 1981, like *Everglades* at Leura, and high-Victorian *Wynstay* at Mount Wilson. They aim to give an idea of the diversity and challenges of mountain gardens. Each is limited to 48 people.

The mountains suffered shocking fires over 2019-2020. What is remarkable is the erratic impacts and bounce-back to life, with rains and time. A good opportunity to visit 2 years on, and better understand the resilience of nature and gardeners.

Participants will learn something of fire-centred ecology, with eucalypts depending on it for a clear ash bed to germinate seed. The Blue Mountains are World-Heritage-listed for their eucalypt diversity as a core heritage value. Phone Head office on 0419 977 703 or email info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au for more information. Online bookings are open. Numbers are limited

https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/product/blue-mountains-tour-2022/?mc_cid=09b78136d0&mc_eid=9e9f3f4537



MAY

Date: Saturday 22 May

Event: Botanic Endeavour Exhibition, Royal Botanic Gardens Guided Walks and Cocktail party at Botanic Gardens
7th to 22nd May Botanic Endeavor Exhibition, Lion Gate Lodge

Details to come

SEPTEMBER

Date: Sunday and Monday 25th and 26th September

Event: Sunday - Explore Sydney's inner western Federation suburbs and the historic Parramatta region's garden history gems on this tour including Horsley.

Monday - Tour the Camden District including The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan, lunch at Denbigh, scenic tour of the area and visit to Camden Park's Macarthur family estate.

Details to come

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR Sydney Branch

Welcome to the 2022 February Branchcuttings summer edition.

The Sydney Branch was lucky indeed to hold our Christmas Party, December 5, during a short but safe COVID window, before the spread of Omicron closed down many later Christmas events.

It was a smaller than usual AGHS Christmas crowd but nonetheless we had 40 attendees. Anne and Graham Smith generously hosted this intimate event at their charming home in Turramurra. A cool summer evening, members gathered in their garden, its expansive lawn expertly mown with the AGHS symbol! We all enjoyed a garden tour, led by Anne, and inside the special Christmas Tree (Mt. Spurgeon black pine *Prumnopitys ladei*). A big thank you to them both from the Branch. Special thanks also to Angela and David Low for all their efforts and delicious catering to make the event a success, and to Susan Stratton, Alex Hawthorne, Gina Plate and Mary Jane Morgan for their assistance on the night. It was a lovely party and heart-warming to catch up with many steadfast members, and exciting to meet some new ones.

At the NMC AGM in November, it was confirmed that Northern NSW is no longer a sub-branch of the Sydney Branch as per the updated constitution ratified at the recent AGM.

It has been a welcome partnership and we have forged some strong, supportive bonds which we trust will continue.

Although the holiday season was marred with new COVID alerts and safety concerns, our usual warmer months was softened by welcome rain and cooler temperatures. I managed to get away into some rural areas, travelling to Canberra, Jindabyne, Dalgety, Nimmitabel and south coast, along as many backroads as possible, which revealed overall a lush and well-watered countryside. At the Buckley Crossing Hotel, farmers were pretty pleased at the steady rain falling in early January. Yes it's been a lovely wet summer, though now we gardeners are faced with, not only dealing with extensive new growth due to the favourable growing conditions but weeds going haywire and much insect activity. Yes it's a busy time of year in the garden for many of our members.

When members raise their head from their many garden tasks, please take the time to read over our upcoming March events and consider booking soon before they fill up! The Branch welcomes members from near and far to join us on our behind the scenes, guided garden visits and thrilling James Craig tall ship cruise. The Blue Mountains tours, led by the one and only Stuart Read, is also a must for members and I strongly recommend booking early to avoid missing out.

Recently, the Senior Citizen of the Year for 2022 was awarded to St John Ambulance volunteer Valmai Dempsey for a lifetime dedicated to the care of others. Listening to Valmai, she spoke of the value and rich rewards of being a volunteer and the positive difference it has made to her life. Many members of the Australian Garden History Society would agree and acknowledge the benefits of being involved on committees to advocate for the celebration and protection of landscape heritage. Our Sydney Branch committee is in need of new members, including a Treasurer (see details in the newsletter), and I urge members to come forward as we would love to welcome you into our warm and dedicated group. Why not give me a call or send a text message to me on 0410 342413 or an email to the branch at aghssydney@gmail.com.

As a reminder, we have Roslyn Burge's, not to be missed, online talk on Callan Park on Wednesday 23 February. Finally, enjoy the end of summer and we very much look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events in March. Details for the events can be found in the newsletter.

Christine Hay (Chair)



*Right: Nimmitabel main street,
early January 2022,
Far right: Meroogal, Nowra,
Sydney Living Museum*



NEW MEMBERS

The Branch would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new local members:
Malcolm Anderson, Joanna Cheung, Donna Moon

HORSLEY

Anne Smith

Horsley is one of the historic properties which the Sydney Branch Committee plans to visit in the September garden tour to western and southwestern Sydney.



Horsley, with its original 1830s bungalow, outbuildings, plantings, layout and entry situated in a remnant rural landscape now rare on Sydney's Cumberland Plain, is a significant part of our garden and architectural history.

It is located on the traditional land of the inland Darug people whose country extends from the Blue Mountains to the coast.

200 acres of land at Prospect was granted to Colonel George Johnston of Annandale in 1805 as a reward for his role in suppressing the Castle Hill (Vinegar Hill)

convict uprising. He named the property 'King's Gift'. The land was given to his daughter Blanche who married Lieutenant George Weston of the East India Company who had visited family in Sydney previously. After spending two years in India the Westons returned to Sydney in 1831 and took up the land. While their house was built they lived in a large Indian tent. It is thought that the name Horsley came from where Weston family members had large estates in West Horsley, Surrey in England.

The house is a rare surviving example of a bungalow built in the Indian style. The Anglo-Indian influence includes the room layout, details and fittings such as the folding casement doors and louvered shutters of teak which came from India. The outbuildings, arranged like a village street, also have heritage significance. Leading from the house outbuildings included a kitchen, laundry, stables, coach house, blacksmith's shop, servants' quarters and barn. The land produced timber for sawmills and was used for agriculture and livestock including breeding successful race horses. The estate had productive vineyards and orchards. Original brick drains can be seen around the house. Convict-made bricks from clay on the



estate can be seen in all buildings especially where rising damp has caused stucco to flake off the external walls.

Horsley homestead influenced 1920s and 1930s colonial revival architecture through architect William Hardy Wilson who designed Eryldene at Gordon. Wilson claimed Horsley was his favourite house. In 1939 the property was purchased by Frederic Moffitt, the father of the present owner, Mrs Helen Kerfoot and her son and family.

The colonial garden is a substantially intact mid-19th century gardenesque-style garden with driveway, carriage loop, garden beds and early plantings, the historic setting complementing the house. A magnificent early avenue planting of Bunya Pines



and rare Himalayan chir pines (*Pinus roxburghii*) possibly planted in the 1860s lines the long entrance driveway up the hill. Other early plantings include African olives.

Entering the garden from that Bunya avenue driveway between Moreton Bay figs a carriage loop forks then forms a circle, now grassed over, in front of the house. Trees and shrubby plants include jacaranda, plumbago, bay,



Illawarra flame, orchid tree (*Bauhinia*) and coral trees. Within the circle see a Natal plum (*Carissa grandiflora*) from South Africa, bird-of-paradise plant (*Strelitzia reginae*), *Murraya paniculata*, crepe myrtle, and *Agapanthus*. Elsewhere in the garden are orchid cacti and pomegranate. To the west of the house is a later tennis court and a variety of trees including a Kaffir plum (*Harpephyllum caffrum*), rare native corkwood trees (*Duboisia myoporoides*), a lemon-scented gum (*Corymbia citriodora*), jacarandas, another Bunya pine, Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) and weeping Boree or myall (*Acacia pendula*). Along the northern veranda a grape vine is trained above eye-level. Northwest of the house a large planting of cape honeysuckle (*Tecomaria capensis*) was once a maze.

Horsley is a significant historic estate both architecturally and horticulturally set within a landscape retaining a feeling of past times.

Anne Smith is an AGHS Sydney Branch Committee Member and past Regional Co-ordinator of Australia's Open Garden Scheme.

Sydney Branch Treasurer

The current branch treasurer, David Low, has reached his maximum permitted tenure and so the branch is looking for a new treasurer. The treasurer is a member of the branch committee and each year the committee members appoint one of their own as treasurer. The job is not at all onerous and does not require any accounting background.

The main requirement is a treasurer's report to each monthly meeting detailing income and expenditure since the last meeting and the balances in the branch's two bank accounts. The main account is with Macquarie Bank and all transactions are carried out online. The treasurer normally initiates each transaction and this needs to be authorised online by one of several other committee members authorised with the bank.

The current treasurer's report is prepared in Excel as that is his area of expertise, but any accounting package could be used if the new treasurer prefers. The number of transactions in the recent audit was about fifty for the whole year.

There is an annual audit, but this has recently been greatly simplified as the branch is not audited as a branch. The audit is now conducted at a national level and all the branch has to do is submit their data in a standard format so that it can be accumulated to national values.

The Northern NSW sub-branch was until recently part of our branch, but they have now gone out on their own as a separate branch.

This is an important but not very onerous role. If you are interested, or would like to discuss the position in greater detail please contact David Low on 0407 464 876 or 9943 1456 or the branch chair, Christine Hay, on 0410 342 413. An extended handover period can be arranged.

NORTHERN NSW

Congratulations to the Northern NSW Branch which is now a branch in its own right and no longer a sub branch of Sydney. NNSW has always run wonderful events independently from Sydney so there will be no great change for their branch. We have been fortunate to forge some good friendships over the years. The committees are working on the location of boundaries.

We continue to look forward to hearing about happenings in NNSW in the future and to catching up with members at AGHS events.

An enquiry about Walter Lewis from Bill Oates, Chair of the NNSW Branch

Hawkesbury Ag College was running agriculture and garden schools for the professional development of rural teachers. Mr Potts had a teaching collection of Lantern slides circa 1906. These are now online at University of Western Sydney.

We have coloured school garden images of Hillgrove Public School in this collection. Other images come from unidentified parts of NSW. I am sure that Mr Henry Tonkin of Hillgrove Public supplied images. I don't know who coloured them though UWS mentions a Mr Walter Lewis died 1930.

The Lewis obituary reads like AGHS should know about him. Has anybody in Sydney heard of this gardener, friend of the Botanic Gardens and Lantern Slide manufacturer?

Bill Oates

0411 466 791

RECENT EVENTS SPANISH GARDENS TALK

In November Stuart Read presented a fascinating and thought-provoking illustrated online talk, **Spanish Gardens: paradisos y maravillas**, attended by a broad audience from far and wide including overseas.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Around 40 members attended the Sydney Branch Christmas Party at Anne and Graham Smith's Turramurra house, enjoying the opportunity to catch up and celebrate in person. It was great to welcome and meet some new members. A simple version of the AGHS logo was mown into the back lawn under the jacaranda tree. Despite the slightly uncertain weather requiring most tables to be set up inside, the rain stayed away and guests were able to wander in the garden.





ADVOCACY

See the advocacy pages on the AGHS Website.

https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/garden-history-now/?category=Advocacy#filter=.iso_4

As a reminder, any advocacy requests to the Sydney Branch should be accompanied by an outline of succinct points about the required support.

Badangi

Badangi, which includes Berry Island, estuarine tributary and adjoining waterfront reserves, is under consideration for State Heritage listing. Some members would remember James Quoye and Phil Hunt leading an AGHS walk there in March last year and refreshments we enjoyed in this special place. The listing forms part of the Green Necklace, a concept put forward in the 2018 AILA Landscape Heritage Study to protect the landscape heritage values of Sydney Harbour, and combines two of its nominations (Berry Island and Waverton Reserves). Badangi is valued as one of the few natural intact landscapes on Sydney Harbour; importantly the boundary for the listing (curtilage) includes the surrounding waterways.

Our Sydney branch is writing a submission in support of the listing and encourages members to also write submissions.

See links below to details of the listing and information. Don't forget to look at the curtilage map.

<https://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/protecting-our-heritage/nominate-listing-on-the-state-heritage-register/nominations-being-considered/>

<https://apps.environment.nsw.gov.au/dpcheritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5064153>

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Yasmar

A donation has been made by the AGHS Sydney Branch of \$1424.00 for plant identification labels for the garden at Yasmar Estate in Haberfield. This significant garden is considered by AGHS to be a Landscape at Risk. The estate is NSW Heritage listed.

Wingecarribee Shire's Citizen of the Year

The Southern Highland news reported that President of the Berrima Residents' Association, Eric Savage, has been named Wingecarribee's Shire's Citizen of the Year. Eric said that his proudest achievement was commissioning heritage experts, Colleen Morris and Christine Hay, two of our AGHS members, to report on the heritage significance of the "Berrima, Sutton Forest and Exeter area". This report was used by the community as expert evidence in submissions relating to the Hume Coal project and in nominations for the State Heritage listing of Berrima.

See the link to the report.

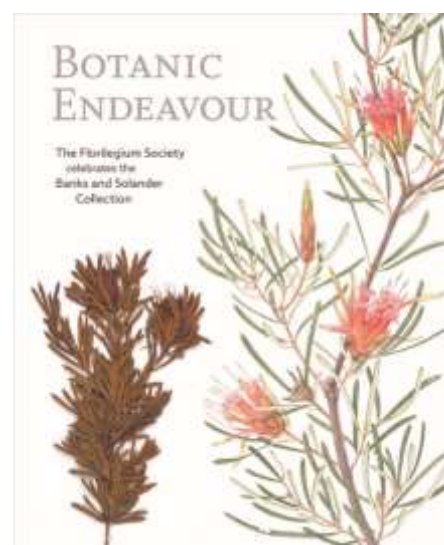
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Royal Botanic Gardens

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

Lion Gate Lodge, Mrs Macquaries Road, Royal Botanic Gardens
May, 2022.

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. The three gardens, Sydney, Blue Mountains and Mount Annan have now reopened. <https://www.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/what-s-on>



National Trust

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

Retford Park, 1325 Old South Road, Bowral,

Gardens open Fridays to Mondays, 10am – 4pm, house tours Saturday and Sunday only.

Entry Fees: National Trust members – FREE, Adults - \$15, Concession - \$10, Family- \$35

Everglades House & Garden, 37 Everglades Avenue, Leura –open Wednesdays to Mondays, 10am – 4pm.

Entry Fees: National Trust members – FREE, Adults - \$15, Concession - \$10, Family- \$35

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