

BRANCH CUTTINGS



Issue 70 – February 2023

This branch is affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society & National Trust of Australia (NSW)
We acknowledge and pay respects to the traditional owners and custodians on whose land we walk, work & live.

AGHS FORTHCOMING EVENTS



FEBRUARY

Date: Wednesday, 22nd February, 2023, 6pm to 8.30pm. Talk at 7:00pm.

Event: **Ferdinand Bauer and the Hapsburgs** -an illustrated talk by David Stuart
See further details at the end of the newsletter.

Cost: AGHS Members \$20, Non-members \$30, Students \$5 includes light refreshments.
Bookings essential

Venue: Annie Wyatt Room, National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill and possibly online

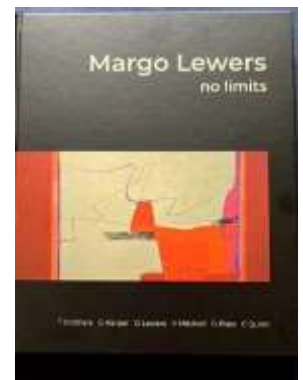
Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CFMZF

MARCH

Date: Saturday, 18 March 2023, 3-5pm

Event: 3:00pm **Book Launch of 'Margo Lewers no limits'**. Darani and Tanya, Margo's daughters, will be launching the book at The Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of the Lewers Bequest.

Venue: The Penrith Regional Gallery, 86 River Road, Emu Plains



MARCH

Date: Thursday, 16th March, 2023, 12.15pm

Event: Luncheon talk by Mark Hovane - 'A Journey Through Japan's Exquisite Seasons'

Mark has recently played a lead role in a spectacular exhibition and lecture programme on the seasons as they occur in Japanese gardens and landscapes. This was held at the National Museum of Natural History in Luxembourg.

AGHS members have been invited to join this event.

Cost: \$80 for lunch and talk

Venue: the Union University & Schools Club, 25 Bent Street, Sydney 2000

Dress Code: coat and tie for men, smart city clothes for women

Bookings: Robin at the Club can accept bookings and payment by credit card. Direct number is 8988 7625.

APRIL

Date: Wednesday 19th April, 2023, 6pm to 8.30pm

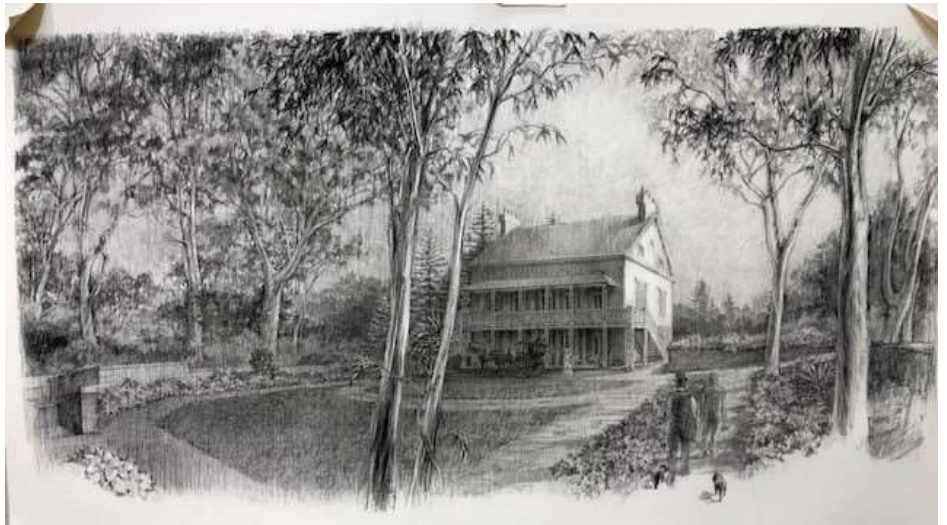
Event: Illustrated talk by Wendy Robinson on the ancient Egyptian use of plants in art and hieroglyphs
Save the date. **Details to be finalized.**

ROTHWELL LODGE
Ferry Road, Glebe
Robert Hannan and Peter Crawshaw

The AGHS Sydney Branch held their annual Christmas party at the home of members, Robert Hannan and Peter Crawshaw. The afternoon included some discussion and photographs of the original larger garden.

Rothwell Lodge – 1847 (picture 1) in Glebe is one of a few surviving villas built on the ridge end of the now inner city suburb of Sydney. The Glebe was granted to the Anglican Church by Governor Phillip in 1790 ostensibly to create a church farm to support clergy and schools. This didn't eventuate and in 1828 the church sold a considerable portion of the grant into private hands. The largest estate, gradually increasing to 90 acres was purchased by George Allen, Sydney's first colonially trained solicitor. He employed architect John Verge to build *Toxteth Park*, a substantial gentleman's residence. The remainder of the church land was developed into housing for church tenants and has now been owned by State Government since 1974.

Throughout this time Glebe's social housing estates closer to Parramatta Road have been proudly working class. At the other end of Glebe and on the high ridges overlooking the harbour the mercantile and professional classes had built on the subdivided lands of the original gentlemen's estates, most of which were eventually demolished.



*Image above: Rothwell Lodge, Drawing by Robert Shepherd 2021
Created from evidence from the c.1860 mud map, 1853 watercolour by William Leigh,
Photos c.1870 by Professor Smith Sydney University and photo c.1870 from Dawes Point
By the American & Australasian Photographic Company / Rowntrees Gas Works.*

John Verge was also employed by James Bowman, First Fleet surgeon, to build a large house *Lyndhurst* (picture 2) for himself and his wife Mary (John and Elizabeth Macarthur's daughter). Both *Lyndhurst* and *Toxteth* remain but have been altered and their grounds heavily subdivided. The houses had substantial gardens that we can glean from plans, paintings and early photographs. *Lyndhurst* became the focus of an anti-expressway movement in 1969 earmarked with many other houses for demolition. Jack Munday (BLF) and the "green bans" action together with community members agitated and squatted, resulting in the abandonment of the plan which would have had disastrous consequences for large parts of Glebe and Annandale.



Image: William Leigh, watercolour C.1853 SLNSW PXA/1987/44 Looking up Blackwattle Bay, Pyrmont to the left, Lyndhurst centre, Rothwell Lodge far right.

Rothwell Lodge was built on a smaller subdivision and originally abutted the boundary of *Lyndhurst*. We know it was constructed in 1846 and that the first owner, Reverend William Binnington Boyce, his wife and daughters were in residence in 1847. The Boyces were related by marriage to the Allens of Toxteth Park and later returned to England. Other Allen family members occupied the house for the next twenty or so years. By the early 20th century the house was a boarding house and factory and much of the middle class end of Glebe had seen its terraces and free standing cottages divided into flats and rooming houses.

The plan of the *Rothwell Lodge* and garden outline dates from about 1860 (picture 3) and shows a circular path and garden beds. Later photographs from the early 20th century indicate Norfolk Island pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*) planted when the garden was established. On the cliff face in front of the house there is remnant planting of Cape Vine (*Tecoma capensis*). We can only surmise the planting would have mirrored other 19th century Sydney gardens. The formal garden and stables indicated in the 1860s plan were subdivided in the 1950s for a public park. Helene Kirsova who was instrumental in establishment of the Australia Ballet Company purchased small areas of land in the inner city for children's parks, eventually coming under Council ownership. The park was originally designated *Kirsova Number Three*. An initial plan to reorder the park in 2021 would have resulted in a very inappropriate design. After heated discussion some more respectful elements from the 1860s have now been included.

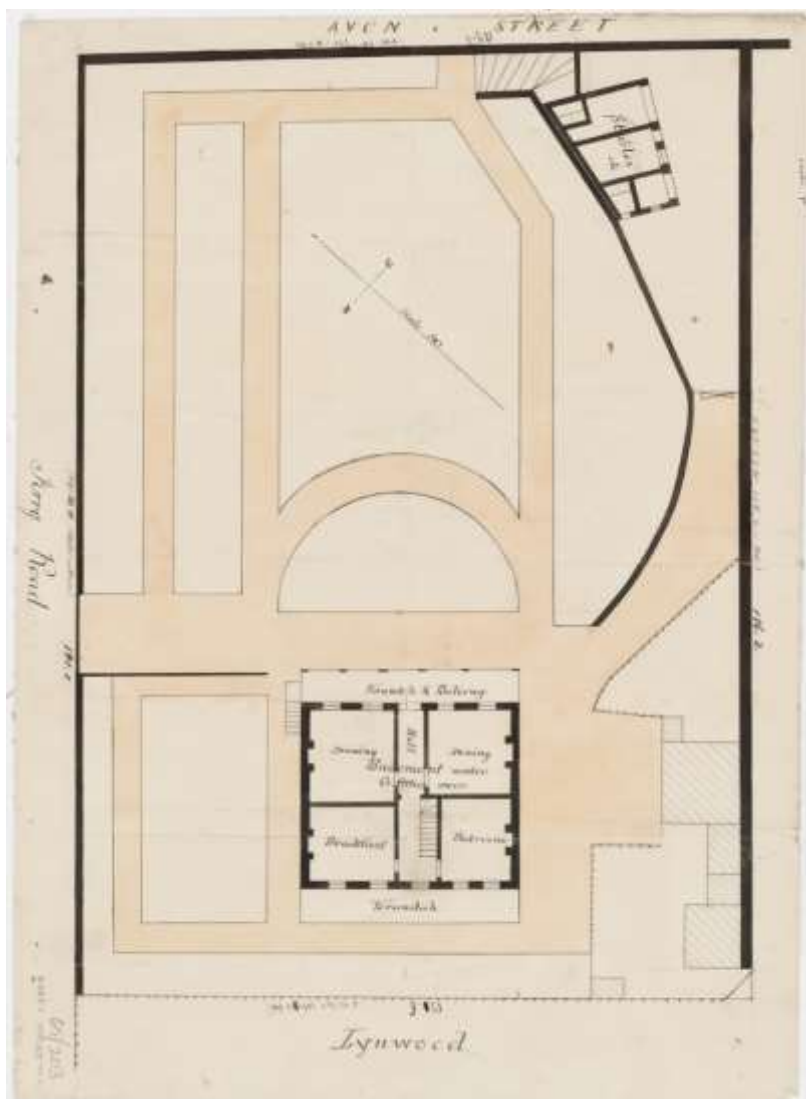


Image above: SL/NSW - SL041920213
Plan of Rothwell Lodge and grounds including the stable c.1860

Since 2014 we have sympathetically added to the garden to create a secluded space in this inner city location.

Glebe retains some evidence of early European landscape features. There is much to see in this early part of Sydney and in 2023 we hope to arrange an afternoon walk for members to more fully appreciate this historical suburb. (picture 4)



Image above: Watercolour c.1860 Frederick James Jobson Rex Nan Kivel Collection NLA NK784/12 Strathmore Glebe Point Rd. Gardenesque style of pleasure grounds at the rear with Blackwattle Bay and the town of Sydney in the distance.

Robert Hannan is a retired landscape designer and with Peter Crawshaw has owned Rothwell Lodge since 2014. Robert and Peter are members of the Glebe Society and were part of a sub-committee that produced a ten day exhibition (with a publication) in 2019 called the *Villas of Glebe and Forest Lodge pre 1870*.

In 2021 they produced an exhibition for St John's Glebe to mark the 150th anniversary of the current church building. Robert was on the Glebe Society bush regeneration committee, (Blue Wrens) 2015 - 2020. He is currently the NSW Branch Chair for the Australiana Society and Peter is national Secretary.

NEW MEMBERS

The Branch would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new local members:
Margot Carter and Jill Rodgers

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Sydney Branch

I hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. Our committee has been taking a bit of a break but are now busy planning the event program and working on some advocacy submissions, the latest an objection to the oversize service station development in Berry.

The humid weather has made working in the garden here uncomfortable recently and unfortunately will do for the next month I imagine. Meanwhile everything is growing rampantly. I have been enjoying the flowers of the hydrangeas and the lemon myrtle tree and am looking forward to the imminent spectacular flowering of our ivory curl tree.

It was great to see so many of our members in person at our branch Christmas Party held at Robert Hannan and Peter Crawshaw's beautiful historic property in Glebe (see article about Rothwell Lodge in this newsletter). The committee and other volunteers produced a sumptuous feast and it was great to hear about the history of the property and to see all the images from the past on display. We are looking forward to Robert and Peter taking branch members on a tour of the area later in the year.

For those lucky enough to attend the National Conference in Hobart in November I am sure you will agree that it was a wonderful event. The lectures were thought-provoking and interesting and the visits to the many inspiring and beautiful gardens were thoroughly enjoyed despite some inclement weather and wet feet. Those of us fortunate to be on the bus with Deborah Wace, one of the Conference speakers and a talented botanical artist and fabric designer, enjoyed a real treat when Deborah sang sea shanties on the way back from the conference dinner. She also sang a piece at the conference after her talk.

Graham and I are looking forward to an overseas trip from mid-May to mid-July to catch up with friends and we plan to visit some lovely gardens in England and France while there.

Our event in February, a talk by David Stuart on Ferdinand Bauer and the Hapsburgs looks to be full of fascinating history and lovely botanical art. I hope that many of you can join us at the National Trust Centre at Observatory Hill for the occasion.

Anne Smith

Chair (Ph: 0418 961 943 or email: smith777@bigpond.net.au)

RECENT EVENTS

NATIONAL CONFERENCE in Hobart

The AGHS National Conference in Hobart in November was a sold-out event. The speakers inspired us with their scholarship, creativity and thoughts about the future of threatened species and gardens in the world of climate change. We learnt about the geology and plants which connect Tasmania to other continents, plant use by the Aboriginal people of lutruwita/Tasmania, the landscape and plants documented by French explorers and the garden they made in Tasmania; and colonial settlers including artist John Glover. Finally we heard about adapting to global warming threats with work at the seed bank and Botanical Gardens and the Inala Jurassic Garden on Bruny Island. The gardens visits were varied and informative, full of impressive trees and plants.

The National AGM was held at the Conference and we congratulate Lynne Walker on being elected as National Chair. Other elected members are Stephen Hathway, treasurer; Helen Oates, Secretary; Lyn Barrett, Public Officer, Annabel Murray, Anna Long, Prue Slatyer, Dot Evans, Caroline Grant with Branch Representatives, Anne Claoue-Long, ACT; Ann Wegener, Qld; Helen Oates, NSW; Lyn Barrett, Southern Highlands; Dr Patricia Michell, SA; Steve Halliday, Sydney; Rosie MacKinnon, Tas; Michaela Hill, Vic and Patsy Vizents, WA.





(Images: Anne and Graham Smith)

BRANCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Sydney Branch Christmas Party was generously hosted by Robert Hannan and Peter Crawshaw at their home Rothwell Lodge in Glebe. (See article about the property above). Angela Low, despite rushing from another event, once again excelled with providing us with a delicious ham. The entrees, cakes, salads and drinks provided by other committee members and volunteers were also fabulous and much appreciated.





(Images: Anne and Graham Smith)

COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILES

Wendy Robinson

Wendy Robinson, recently elected to the Sydney Committee, was born in Belmont, then a small lakeside town on the north side of Lake Macquarie, but grew up in a number of NSW coastal towns between Byron Bay and Sydney, as her family regularly moved around the State as her father was appointed Headmaster to various state public schools. Gardening was of keen interest to the family as a whole, as wherever they moved (it seemed to her as a child) that her parents established a new garden with every change of location.

Her mother was always interested in borders and shrubs and had a wide knowledge of plants, but it was her father who repeatedly established and tended quite extensive vegetable gardens for the family table, no doubt following the practices of his father, who as a young man trained as a gardener and groundsman at Ardross House near Portadown in Ireland. These influences have led to a lifelong interest in domestic gardening, later gradually broadening to an interest in the history of gardens and landscape, especially in the context of the settlement of Australia, but also growing with a lifelong interest in travel to gardens in Europe and Asia, especially the Mughal gardens of India and Pakistan and their predecessors in Iran and Uzbekistan.



Wendy's career however was in the law, being early articled to a solicitor in Sydney, later practising as a barrister at the private bar and subsequently spending two decades as a Crown Prosecutor, largely conducting homicide trials. Her introduction to the Australian Garden History Society came through Melbourne legal friends John Dwyer KC and his late wife Joan, both very keen gardeners and members, with John being National President of the Society for some years.

OF INTEREST

Broughton Hall

On 21st Dec Stuart Read, Gina Plate and Peter Watts members of the advisory committee of Broughton Hall and Roslyn Burge from Friends of Callan Park, all of whom are AGHS members, attended the unveiling of the first of 26 trees planted at Broughton Hall to celebrate the Queen's 70 years on the throne. A grant was given by the Commonwealth Government for the tree-planting.

Broughton Hall, listed on the State Heritage Register, was once a home to the Keep family who developed a renowned garden with very interesting trees. It later became a military hospital, then a psychiatric hospital and is now a drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility and place of therapeutic care.

Image of Gina Plate and Garth Popple by Stuart Read.



See the heritage listing at: <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=5012311>

AGHS Climate Change Position Statement

At the National Conference Tim Entwisle, AGHS Patron, launched the AGHS climate change position statement which can be read on the website. See the link below.

<https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/2022/11/climate-change-position-statement-2/>

Strickland House

NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) has put out for public comment the draft Master Plan for Strickland House and Nielsen Park. The exhibition period will close on 15 February.

See the link here for information.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/strickland-nielsen-master-plan>

NEWS

OAM for Flora Deverell

Long-term AGHS member, Flora Deverell, has received an OAM for service to the community through a range of roles. She has been very involved in volunteer work for the 'Foundation and Friends' of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney for many years

ADVOCACY

See the advocacy pages on the AGHS Website.

https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/garden-history-now/#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.

Berry DA

The AGHS Sydney Branch have submitted a letter objecting to the modifications to the DA for a service station in Queen Street, Berry due to heritage concerns about the height, mass and style of the development in this historic landscape.

TROVE

There is concern about the continued funding for Trove. Trove digitises newspapers and other material. Many of our members will have used this valuable resource for historical research.

If you wish to sign a petition see the link here.

<https://www.change.org/p/fully-fund-trove>

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

AGHS Southern Highlands Branch

Wednesday 22 February: a self-drive tour of the Berry/Nowra area is being planned together with Hazel King OAM of Berry. The branch is in the process of finalising a tour of historical trees with morning tea at a beautiful garden. More details will be available shortly.

Wednesday 29 March: a visit to an Exeter 50 year old garden and home which have been significantly renovated in the past few years. The owners will explain the story of this renovation and how they had to manage and retain where possible old trees and revitalise the soil and gardens through very wet conditions.

Royal Botanic Gardens

<https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/what-s-on>

On the Edge: Species at Risk 18 March-2 April - An exhibition of artwork exploring nature in peril highlighting Australian flora, fauna and habitats under threat.

Guided walks led by volunteer guides -daily 10:30 AM to 12 PM

Growing Friends Plant Sales: Monday - Friday 11am-2pm, Saturday 10am-2pm.

National Trust

See National Trust website for details of properties including the ones below:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/whats-on-nsw/>

Experiment Farm Cottage 9 Ruse Street, Harris Park -open first and third weekend of each month, 10.30am – 3.30pm

It is part of an historical Parramatta precinct which includes Hambledon Cottage (1824), Elizabeth Farm (1793) and the Queen's Wharf, all within easy walking distance of each other.

Entry Fees: National Trust members - FREE, Adults - \$12, Concession/child >5yrs- \$10, Family- \$34

Everglades House & Garden, 37 Everglades Avenue, Leura –open daily, 10am – 4pm.

Entry Fees: National Trust members – FREE, Adults - \$17, Concession - \$15, Family- \$49

Richmond Before The 1850s -A tour to some of Richmond's most unique pre-1850s cottages and churches to uncover their stories.

Date: 2 May 2023 9:30 am — 12:00 pm,

Tickets: National Trust members \$15, adults \$20, concession \$18, family \$45, children under five are free.

Eryldene Historic House & Garden

17 McIntosh Street, Gordon

TWILIGHT JAZZ on the lawn court

Date: Sunday 11 March 2023, 3:00 pm, 7:00 pm

<https://www.eryldene.org.au/>

FEBRUARY EVENT Details

Date: Wednesday, 22nd February, 6pm to 8.30pm. Talk at 7:00pm.

Event: Ferdinand Bauer and the Hapsburgs -an illustrated talk by David Stuart

Cost: AGHS Members \$20, Non-members \$30, Students \$5 includes light refreshments.

Venue: Annie Wyatt Room, National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill and possibly online

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CFMZF Bookings essential



Ferdinand Bauer (1760-1826) is best known to Australians as the natural history artist who accompanied Captain Mathew Flinders on the first circumnavigation of Australia from 1801-03. In Australia for a relatively brief period, from 1801 till 1805, Bauer produced a prodigious and enduring record of our native plants, in the order of 1,500 detailed illustrations and over 200 coloured pictures – and, including those from Norfolk Island, which he visited in 1804-5, around 400 drawings of animals, birds and fish.

As well as reviewing Bauer's career, the presentation will focus on the remarkable technique that allowed him to capture images of an alien continent's flora and fauna with exceptional fidelity. Ferdinand Bauer was as bad at self-promotion as he was assured as an artist. He kept no journals and seemed to hate letter-writing. Through his work,

and the comments of others, principally his companions on the Investigator, we can, however, piece together a sketch of this unassuming and dedicated figure.

Bauer was more than a wonderful artist and fine botanist: he led the way in bringing to Europe an understanding of a significant part of the remarkable biodiversity of the New World. Bauer's work is also significant as part of the German-speaking thread of post-enlightenment exploration and scientific endeavour. The presentation will describe the extensive collections of Australian botanical material held in major museums and other institutions in Vienna and throw some light on the historical reasons for the Hapsburg fixation with Terra Australis.

David Stuart was Australia's Ambassador in Vienna from August 2012 until October 2016. Arriving as an enthusiast for Ferdinand Bauer's contribution to Australian botanical history, his engagement with the Natural History Museum (NHM) led to the first ever public exhibition of its extensive archival holding of Bauer's illustrations of our flora and fauna. The exhibition, held in August 2014, set the path for further collaboration between the NHM and Australian counterparts, including the NSW State Library's 2017 exhibition, 'Painting by Numbers'.

Image above: Ambassador Stuart at the opening of the Natural History Museum's exhibition of Ferdinand Bauer's Australian illustrations, August 2014.

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