

BRANCH CUTTINGS



Issue 72 – Nov 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

DECEMBER

Date: Sunday, 3rd December, 2023, 4:00pm-8:00pm

Event: **AGHS Christmas Party** in the beautiful garden of John and Chay Kaleski. John's parents were long-time AGHS members Peter and Anne Kaleski. The garden has been recently redesigned by Myles Baldwin who we hope will be present at the event to conduct a guided tour.

Cost: AGHS Members \$20, Non-members \$30, Students \$5 includes Christmas dinner and drinks.

Venue: 23 Cherry Street, Warrawee

Bookings: Trybooking

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1141277>



The Rumsey Rose Garden Parramatta Park and its Heritage Roses Glennis Clark



The organisation Heritage Roses in Australia Inc. (HRIA) was formed in 1979 and is a fellowship of those whose aim is to advance the preservation, cultivation, distribution and study of old garden roses, roses no longer in general commercial cultivation, roses of historical importance, species roses and their hybrids. The organisation was formed to bring together people who love and collect old roses, the roses of antiquity and the survivors from Australian colonial gardens. There was also interest in finding and rescuing Australian bred roses, for example those of [Alister Clark](#), Frank Riethmuller and Mrs Fitzhardinge.

The Rumsey Rose Garden located in Parramatta Park originated when Roy and Heather Rumsey gave Heritage Roses Sydney Group two of every rose remaining in their nursery, at the time when their nursery went on the market, on the proviso that we could find a garden to grow them, where they would be accessible to the public. These 400 roses were taken to David Clark's nursery at Maroota for about 2 years where a group from HRIA Sydney used to go and weed and tend the potted roses until a garden was ready to receive them. HRIA Sydney paid for the

extra roses to fill out the garden at Parramatta Park – eg the groups of **Mutabilis**, rugosas, **Comtesse de Labarthe**, (marketed as Duchesse de Brabant) and **Old Blush**. HRIA Sydney has also paid for replacement roses. This a beautifully planned garden and the credit for the original design goes to Heritage Roses Sydney Group members Judy Andrews and Gillian Batchen.

Much discussion took place amongst the club members about possible suitable areas. Parramatta was considered ideal climatically for roses – better than North Shore or the coast. The Wisteria Gardens in the grounds of Cumberland Hospital was a site favoured by the Parramatta Historical Society. However, the area available was not big enough and, at that time, access was not good, it being locked to the public except by invitation. The lovely area behind Old Government House in Parramatta Park, which was originally Mrs Macquarie’s vegetable garden and contained rose trellises was next considered and in company with The Chairman of the National Trust a visit was made one Monday but as it was closed a fence climbing exercise had to be undertaken! A lovely area but the National Trust decided they wished to keep it for a demonstration Colonial vegetable garden. The mayor of Parramatta was facing Local Government elections and thought the Murray Gardens adjacent to the Tudor Gatehouse in O’Connell Street would be favourable in spite of, obvious to us, drawbacks – a huge Holm Oak, diseased eucalypts and other large trees, a significant slope, traffic noise, a stagnant creek with lots of willows and subject to flooding, an Aleppo Pine grown from a seed taken from Gallipoli and the original site of convict cottagers – the archaeologists were getting agitated!! – the Council arranged for survey work to be carried out and of course this threw up many problems as they would not even allow for the removal of the diseased trees and they wanted an oak avenue which would further shade the proposed garden. This was in the 5 to 10 year flood level and the once in 100 year flood would completely submerge the garden.

HRIA put forward a suggestion asking Council to consider the old bowling green site near the Macquarie Gate House which was flat, mown, with no trees, no creek and a carpark next door but it was flatly declined by Council. However, by March 1994 the Murray Gardens plan was adjusted to fit the old bowling green site and Council accepted the idea.

Parramatta Council undertook to construct and maintain the garden under the guidance of HRIA and appointed a contractor. Roy Rumsey gave instructions for preparation of the ground. This included removal of masses of palm roots which had travelled right across the bowling green. This site had originally been an old convict mill, so an archaeologist hovered ready to pounce on old pieces of rusty pipe and shards of china. Unfortunately Roy Rumsey died as the plans were being drawn up so never saw our garden.



The rose garden was opened on 26th August 1995 by Councillor Haines, Mayor of Parramatta and Gillian Batchen, Sydney Coordinator of HRIA who each planted a Rugosa rose. Refreshments were served in a marquee under the trees. The Mayor was duly re-elected and a plaque appeared on the brick wall west of the garden acknowledging all the Councillors – no mention of Heritage Roses. HRIA erected a plaque acknowledging the contributions of Roy and Heather Rumsey and HRIA. The garden became under the control of The Parramatta Park Trust and it is currently under the management of the State Government body Greater Sydney Parklands.

HRIA Sydney has regular working bees at pruning time and have paid for the purchase of over 250 extra roses, in particular the species roses budded by Peter Cox at his nursery in Thirlmere on top of the replacement roses.

If we don't look after these roses they may disappear from nursery lists and consequently from home gardens. These old roses are a lot tougher and, according to some of us, more beautiful, than the modern roses. Many, such as the noisettes, teas, chinas and hybrid musks, do very well in our Sydney climate. I hesitate to name actual roses as favourites as I will miss some out and no doubt many can be added to this very short list of some of the heritage roses that do well in Sydney. **Souvenir de la Malmaison** both bush and climbing; **Stanwell Perpetual**; **Old Blush**; **Perle d'Or**; **Cécile Brunner**; **Mutabilis**; **Buff Beauty**; **Cornelia**; **Felicia**; **Lavender Lassie**; **Penelope**; **Blush Noisette**; **Crépuscule**; **Lamarque**; and **Madame Alfred Carrière** with the last three being climbers. The old tea roses which originated from china do particularly well in Sydney and some of the favourites are: – **Général Galliéni**; **Monsieur Tillier**; **Devoniensis**; **Lady Hillingdon**; **Madame Antoine Marie**; **Marie Van Houtte**; **Comtesse de Labathe** (also known as **Duchesse de Brabant**); **G. Nabonnand** (also known as **Jean Ducher**) and **Safrano**. The Australian bred Alister Clark roses are all worthy plants for the Sydney garden with some of them being **Borderer**; **Suitor**; **Cicely Lascelles**; **Lorraine Lee**; **Sunlit**; **Sunny South**; and **Mrs Fred Danks**.



We, lovers of old roses, can all only enjoy the garden along with the wedding parties who come to be photographed and the public who come to enjoy the peace and perfume.

Glennis Clark

Glennis is Coordinator Sydney Group, Heritage Roses in Australia Inc., Tuesday, 17 October 2023

Images: Glennis Clark

NEW MEMBERS

The Branch would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new local members:
Annette Cullinan, Robyn and David Marginson, and Sarah Wood

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Sydney Branch

I'm sorry that this newsletter is late in coming out. The Conference attendance and then more computer problems have delayed it.

Haven't the clouds of purple jacaranda been delightful lately? Joining them in brilliance have been the Illawarra flames, and now the white blossom and rusty trunks of the Angophoras are brightening the landscape. Graham's and my monthly weeding outing with a dedicated local Bush Care group, in the tiny piece of Blue Gum High Forest at Turramurra Memorial Park, is starting to show some pleasing results.

At the AGHS Sydney Branch AGM in August we welcomed some new committee members and sadly farewelled our much valued and indefatigable secretary, Susan Stratton. Since then, Ba An Le has also decided to leave the committee. Our 2023-24 Committee Office bearers were elected after the AGM at our September committee meeting. The new Sydney Branch executive committee is: Anne Smith, Chair and Editor; Steve Halliday, Vice-chair and Communications; David Low, Treasurer; Jan Churcher, Minutes Secretary; Stephen Hathway, Wendy Robinson, Judie Rawling, Stuart Read and Christina Kanellaki Lowe. Stuart and Christina have returned after a break.

We enjoyed the National Conference in Ipswich from 29th September to 1st October plus the two optional days. It was a great opportunity to catch up with members across the country, do some networking and discuss issues. The perennial discussion of ways of attracting new members plus more young members was raised. Three young Landscape students had their fees to attend the conference paid by a donation. Disappointingly, there were fewer delegates at the conference than in some previous years. The talks, from knowledgeable and entertaining speakers,

informed us about flooding in Ipswich, weeds, railway gardens, varieties of bougainvillea or 'boogainvillea' or just bogans, the artist d'Arcy Doyle, the amazing date palm seed which germinated after 2000 years, carnations and loss of plant varieties, plus so much more. And, of course, we visited lovely gardens around gorgeous old Queenslander houses plus one very young modern house and garden. Some members also enjoyed the pre-conference tour. We have the Bunbury, WA, conference to look forward to next year on 18-20th plus 21st October.

Unfortunately our walking tour of Oatley Park planned for last September had to be postponed due to lack of bookings. Perhaps the date was too close to the AGM and Conference. This park is of local heritage significance and would certainly be worth a rescheduled visit if there is enough interest.

A new National Executive Officer, Sarah Edwards, has been selected to take over after Lisa Nutting's departure at the end of last month. Lisa did an outstanding job and will be missed not just for her hard work but her lovely personality. We wish her the very best in her future ventures and hope to see her at events in the future. We look forward to working with Sarah.

Don't miss the branch Christmas festivities on 3rd December in the beautiful Warrawee garden of John and Chay Kaleski. John is the son of Peter and Anne Klaeski who were branch members for many years. I hope to catch up with you there.

Anne Smith

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

ICOMOS

Sydney hosted a 'heritage Olympics' in September - the General Assembly of ICOMOS (the International Council on Monuments and Sites). This is a non-government organisation of heritage professionals and groups, who gather every 3 years (COVID messed this up: this GA was meant for 2020). Some 1500 delegates from all points of the world gathered - very exciting to do so, again, in person. I met some colleagues I've 'zoomed' for years, but never met. Particular joys were meeting Pasifika colleagues from our region and First Nations peoples from across Australia, and beyond. Diaspora heritage groups hosted particular evenings (Indian, Chinese, Irish, Pasifika), among a packed program over a week.

Not all earnest papers - some very lively and a few controversial panel QnA and workshop sessions - tackling hard issues about heritage and change - climate change, political turmoil, conflicts and mass migration, urbanisation and technological changes. One or two challenges for us all. Social events included tours to the Blue Mountains, Luna Park and Sydney Harbour, and the Sydney Opera House. A heritage trades and crafts fair was on outside and a Heritage Expo inside for the public to sample and question. All terrific stimulus and great to realise our problems are shared in all countries and cultures: we could share more and learn more from each other as to the best solutions and tactics.



Photos are:

- a) Christine Hay, Stuart R. and Dr Senthil Kasiannan snooping about Luna Park 'just for fun' at an evening party there;
- b) Rajeev Maini and Stuart R. suitably 'conference attired' at the Smoking Ceremony which formed part of the opening ceremonies on day one at the International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour. Image by Emma Dortins.
- c) queuing for the ferries to get over the harbour to Luna Park, with the ICC uplit at dusk looking pretty speccy. Image by Stuart Read.

Stuart Read

Stuart is a past co-chair of AGHS and is a member of the AGHS Sydney Branch Committee, a landscape architect, heritage bureaucrat and educator

RECENT EVENTS

SYDNEY AGM and talk on James Jones by Colleen Morris

At the Sydney Branch AGM in August at the National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill, Colleen Morris presented a fascinating talk on James Jones, the little-known designer of public landscapes in NSW. We heard of his work in Europe and NSW and the interesting influences of French landscape design on his work.

At the AGM the new committee was voted in. See the list of Committee members in the Chair's Report.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE, IPSWICH, QLD

Digging into the past – above and below the Limestone Hills

Inspirational and passionate speakers and lovely gardens and landscapes made the national Conference in Ipswich another great AGHS event. Many Sydney members attended and it was a great opportunity to reconnect with members from around the country and to make some new contacts. We came across some interesting plants with some standouts being the sausage tree, the drunk parrot tree and the brilliant tree waratah.





(Images: Anne Smith)

NEWS

BOOK NEWS

Weeding between the lines, by John Dwyer, is an anthology of essays about weeds and what they tell us about our relationship with nature. It has just been published by AGHS with a foreword by Tim Entwisle.

Weeding between the lines is available from the AGHS online shop. See details at: <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/product/weeding-between-the-lines>



Badangi Listing on State Heritage Register

The Minister for Heritage has directed the listing of Badangi on the State Heritage Register following recommendation from the Heritage Council of NSW. Badangi has been listed due to its heritage significance to the people of the state of NSW. Badangi is located in Wollstoncraft and Greenwich and consists of Manns Point, Holloway Park, Greendale Park, Smoothery Park, Milray Reserve, Gore Cove Reserve, Berry Island Reserve, Badangi Reserve, Berrys Creek, Gore Cove and Balls Head Bay. Some of our members might remember our delightful walk around Berry Island Reserve a few years ago. Information about Badangi's significance can be seen on Heritage NSW website. Click on the link below.

[HMS - ViewItem \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/heritage/parks/places/badangi)

VALE

As the end of the year approaches one's thoughts go to some of the great garden luminaries who have died over the past year. Not all have been AGHS members but would be well-known to the AGHS community. In case some of you weren't aware they are listed below.

Christopher Betteridge, Director of Betteridge Heritage, was a foundation member of AGHS, a botanist, heritage practitioner, promoter of, and advocate of natural & cultural heritage landscapes. Chris presented talks at AGHS events. A tribute was included in the July issue of the Australian Garden History magazine.

See the link to an Oral History recording by Roslyn Burge on the Gardeh History website.

<https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/publications/chris-betteridge/>

Peter Valder OAM, an original member of AGHS was renowned in the horticultural world. He was a botanist, mycologist, author, lecturer, television presenter and inspiring and entertaining speaker whose property, Nooroo, at Mount Wison was celebrated. An Oral History recording can be found on the AGHS website.

See the link for an obituary by Colleen Morris and John Challis.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/tv-horticulturist-famed-for-burke-s-backyard-appearances-dead-at-94-20230606-p5deae.html>

Ian Stapleton, a heritage architect, was a partner in the office of Lucas Stapleton and author of books on heritage. This year he received a long time heritage achievement award from National Trust of NSW. Ian along with Clive Lucas were the leading architects in the restoration works of numerous places in urban and rural Tasmania, Victoria and NSW.

Carrick Chambers AM, botanist, teacher, researcher and author was director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens for 10 years from 1986 overseeing many developments there including the opening and development of the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah and the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan and recognition of the Wollemi Pine

Hazel King OAM was a highly respected horticulturist, educator and advocate for bushland. She grew up on Yaralla Estate on the Parramatta River at Concord. She was a great supporter of the Canada Bay Heritage Society and was well-known on the Berry Garden Club committee.

Holly Kerr-Forsyth, a publicist, writer, photographer, gardener and charity fundraiser was author of many books including *Remembered Gardens: Eight Women and Their Visions of an Australian Landscape* which tells of 8 passionate women gardeners over 200 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.

DURHAM BOWES/MOUNTAINVIEW, Richmond

AGHS Sydney Branch is composing a letter to the State Government about the likely adverse heritage impacts of the proposed new Richmond Bridge on the State Heritage listed property Durham Bowes/Mountainview at Richmond and the Richmond Lowlands. The letter brings up the fact that no further heritage impact statement was done on the proposal.

Our branch will attempt to arrange an AGHS visit to this historic property in the New Year.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Royal Botanic Gardens

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

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 Friday and Saturday 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 Wednesday to Monday, 10am – 4pm.

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

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