

BRANCH CUTTINGS

Issue 74 – July 2024

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

AUGUST

AGM

Date: Wednesday, 28th August, 2024, 6:00pm for refreshments, 7:00pm for AGM and talk

Event: AGM followed by an illustrated presentation, *Elusive Traces of Migrants' Gardens* by Helen Armstrong AM.

Helen's talk will include fascinating stories about migrant gardens, the importance to migrants of growing food and sharing memories, and how gardens have changed in succeeding generations.

Cost: This event, including the talk, is free for members.

Non-members \$10, Students \$5, includes light refreshments

Venue: Annie Wyatt Room, National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill

Bookings: details to be advised

AGM Documents will be sent in a separate email closer to the date.



SEPTEMBER

See end of newsletter for two fundraising open weekends (non-AGHS) to be held in historic gardens in the Camden area at Denbigh and Camden Park.

OCTOBER

AGHS Annual National Conference

44th AGHS Annual Conference, **Hesperia: Looking West**

Date: Friday 18th, Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th October 2024.

Optional Day Monday 21st October. Pre-conference Tour

Tuesday 15th October to Thursday 17th October

Bunbury WA 18-21 Oct

Venue: Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre 2 Blair Street, Bunbury, Bunbury, Western Australia, Australia

<https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/events/2024-annual-national-conference/>



NEW MEMBERS

The Branch would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new local members: Janet Bate, Annette Cullinan, Robyn Godding, Roy Hill, Esther Ronco and Alan Yuille

BALLS HEAD HARBOUR HEADLAND – A GEM THAT CONTINUES TO INSPIRE

Part one of a two-part article by Christine Hay

Numerous stories tumble from the rocky headland of Balls Head. Too many to count. For generations, this landmark at the heart of Sydney's harbour has inspired deep and lasting connections to its landscape and waterways.

To recognise this significance, in 2018 *Balls Head Reserve* was nominated for the State Heritage Register (SHR). One of ten landscapes submitted by the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA NSW), they form part of a visionary concept - the 'Green Necklace of Sydney Harbour.' A strategy to conserve 'highly valued areas of remnant and regrowth vegetation around the harbour, along with the public parks and foreshores reserves that may form a serial listing proposal.'¹

Part of Waverton peninsula, *Balls Head Reserve* is adjacent to *Carradah Park and Berrys Bay Precinct*, another AILA nominated landscape,² and the *Balls Head Coal Loader Precinct* listed on the SHR in 2021.

As one significant cultural landscape, their stories are interwoven.

Balls Head is one of several headlands encircling Me-mel,³ an island rich in local Aboriginal values, also known for its convict history as Goat Island. The other headlands include Carradah Park, Berry Island, Wollstonecraft Foreshore Reserves, Yurulbin, Ballast Point and Manns Point. In 2023, Berry Island and Wollstonecraft Reserves became the first AILA Heritage study nominations to achieve SHR listing. Signalling a shift in thinking, they combined as *Badangi*. The listing recognises First Nations people's significant connection to Country and the harbour.



Image left: *Balls Head Reserve* looking south across *Berrys Bay* from *Carradah Park*.
Image by C.Hay

Views south from the Balls Head were quite different 20,000 years ago when glacial conditions caused ocean levels to be much lower. Instead of the wide waterplane we see today, the Parramatta River coursed through a deep sandstone valley of Triassic origin flowing east for kilometres to the ocean. More recently, some 7000 years ago during the Holocene Epoch, this gorge filled to become the lapping waters and recognisable land shapes we know today as Sydney Harbour. Balls Head's familiar form however was also influenced by a dyke, a molten fissure during the volcanic times of the Jurassic. The affected land becoming the narrow saddle connecting the 'head' to the peninsula.⁴

The everyday life and ceremonies of the Cammeraygal,⁵ the traditional custodians of Balls Head, are recorded across the peninsula and in the reserve. A rock shelter, an archaeological site, reveals traces of local shellfish from nearby bays, of Sydney rock oyster, Sydney cockle, now rare, and the extinct mud oyster. These were perhaps gathered by

¹ C.Hay, C.Morris and J.Quoyle, *AILA NSW Landscape Heritage Study*, 2018, p 35-37.

² Nominations for the *Balls Head Reserve* and *Carradah Park and Berrys Bay Precinct* were produced by the author. They formed part of the AILA Heritage Study.

³ Val Attenbrow, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past, Investigating the Archaeological and Historical Records*, UNNSW Press, Sydney, 2nd edition, 2010, p 10.

⁴ Attenbrow, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past*, pp 152-156.

C. Herbert, 1983, *Sydney 1:100 000 Geological Sheet 9130*, 1st edition. Geological Survey of New South Wales. The Balls Head dyke is visible on the map which is easily found online.

⁵ Also known variously by other names. Attenbrow, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past*, p 23, labels the area Gamaragal.



women. An abundance of stone implements in the shelter point to tool maintenance likely by men. Glass and lead artefacts also found in the overhang help illuminate the lives of Aboriginal people, living so close to the epicentre of the early British colony.⁶

Rock engravings in the reserve and near the Coal Loader amplify the Cammeraygal's strong connections to the place, particularly the carvings on the saddle where once extensive views of the harbour were visible to the east and west.⁷

In 1788, Governor Phillip led an expedition north from Manly Cove between 15-18 April. One scouting group, guided by Lieutenant Henry Lidgbird Ball returned early.⁸ They arrived opposite Sydney Cove on 17 April, having found their way across Cammeraygal land. Balls Head was likely named on this occasion.⁹

Between 1795 and 1800, Governor Hunter allotted 'garden ground on the North Shore, above Ball's Head, for the use of the Reliance...'. The ship's crew of the Porpoise later farmed there.¹⁰

Image left: Sketch interpretation of the carvings near the Coal Loader entry. The large figure may be a whale or shark. Source: North Sydney Council, Aboriginal Rock Carving, The Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability, image on public signage next to engravings.

Little attention was given to the headland until the 1820s, when the deep-water at Balls Head drew the interest of Englishman Edward Wollstonecraft. He and Scottish born Alexander Berry were business partners, shipping merchants who settled in Sydney around 1819. Promised land near the Shoalhaven River by Governor Macquarie in 1821, Wollstonecraft bargained for a grant on Sydney's north shore to be included. Its 524 acres (212 ha) became known as Crows Nest 'because from its highest part sweeping views of the harbour and countryside were possible.' The grant included Balls Head. Wollstonecraft and his sister Elizabeth lived a quiet life at the secluded farm despite the notoriety of family in England. In 1827 Berry married Elizabeth.



Image left: Portion of Conrad Marten's sketch *Berry's Bay, St. Leonards*. The horizontal headland in the middle-distance is of Balls Head. Source: Dixson Library, SLNSW. File title 'Album of sketches and wash drawings of Sydney, ca. 1838-1857? Drawn by Conrad Martens.' FL642745. Image cropped by C.Hay.

<https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/record/YK5Q6m6n/keBILWJApM8kz>

When Wollstonecraft died in 1832, his estate, including the Crows Nest land, passed to Elizabeth. Near Balls Head, Berry built a sandstone warehouse using convict labour. It stored fruit and vegetables grown at their south coast Coolangatta estate for the Sydney market.¹¹

⁶ Sandra Bowdler, 1971. *Balls Head: the excavation of a Port Jackson rock shelter*. Records of the Australian Museum 28(7), pp 117–128, plates 17–21.

⁷ Carvings were first identified by non-Europeans in 1840, 1899 and 1968;

North Sydney Council, *Aboriginal Rock Carving*, The Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability, public signage;

W.D. Campbell, *Aboriginal rock engravings at Port Jackson*. Memoirs of the Geological Survey of New South Wales, Ethnology, 1899. Refer Balls Head engravings Plate IV Figure 4.

Ian Hoskins, *Sydney Harbour, A History*, University of New South Wales Press Ltd, Sydney, 2009, p 9.

⁸ Vivienne Parsons, *Henry Lidgbird Ball (1756-1818)* Australian Dictionary of Biography (ABD) online 2006. Ball was Commander of the Supply in the First Fleet.

⁹ C. Hay, *The Governor's Gift, Phillip's Landscape Vision*, unpublished report, 2015.

¹⁰ *Historical records of New South Wales*, Volume 6 (1806,1807,1808), National Library of Australia, p 170.

¹¹ M.D. Stephen, *Edward Wollstonecraft (1783-1832)* Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 2, 1967, online 2006.

T.M. Terry, *Alexander Berry (1781-1873)*, ABD, Volume 1, 1966, 2006. *The Sydney Mail*, March 23, 1938, p 6.

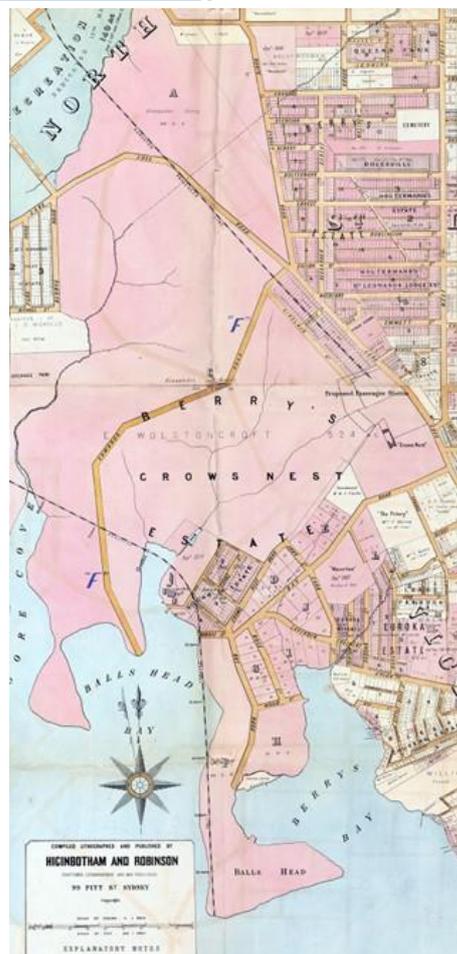


Image above: A portion of Holtermann's ca 1870-1875 panorama looking south-west over Berrys Bay. It features the distinctive forested landform of Balls Head and its sheltered north and north-eastern facing slopes. A clearing on its SE tip and small structures to the Balls Head waterline are evident. Tucked behind the RHS headland, on the saddle of the peninsula is a house likely that of Berry's clerk, Mathew's, built ca 1853. [Source: Mitchell Library SLNSW Panorama of Sydney from the Holtermann residence, Ref code: 63595 http://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=FL1252139&embedded=true&toolbar=false]

In 1845, following Elizabeth's death, Alexander Berry inherited his wife's property including the Wollstonecraft estate. While some gradual subdivision of the north shore land arose, little changed at Balls Head. Into the 1850s and 1860s Berry continued to adapt the peninsula for shipping, leasing land to two steam ship companies. When he died in 1873, his brother David inherited his estate. With his death in 1889, an estate valued at £1,250,000 was left to his cousin John Hay as principal beneficiary. The will contained several large bequests. Subsequently, in 1906, sections of the Berry Estate were returned to government ownership. This included Balls Head and Berry Island. In return for the transfer, it was agreed and settled that a public hospital would be built in the village of Berry.

In the early twentieth century, the deep-water frontages of Berrys Bay, Waverton peninsula and Balls Head lured new mercantile interest. By 1906, below the saddle, Woodley's Shipyard was built adjacent to Balls Head. It followed earlier shipyards in Berrys Bay such as Dunn's and Ford's. A Quarantine Depot set up next to Woodley's in 1912, and a coal loader on the west side of the peninsula in 1913-17.¹³ The industrialization of the western harbour began to threaten Balls Head's scenic qualities. Henry Lawson, the celebrated Australian writer,¹⁴ expressed his displeasure in a 1916 poem 'The Sacrifice of Balls Head'. He sounded an alarm on behalf of the 'harbour people', its 'poorer families' at the 'sordid crime' of 'cutting down Balls Head. To make a wharf for coal.'

Right: 'Berry's Crows Nest Estate' map by Higinbotham and Robinson, 1887. Source: Stanton Library



The siblings were related to feminist philosopher Mary Wollstonecraft, an aunt, and Mary Shelley, a cousin, author of Frankenstein.

¹² C. Marten's 1830s artistic works, views from the north shore, often feature an impression of Balls Head.

Douglas Dundas, *Conrad Martens (1801-1878)*, Volume 2 1967, 2006.

¹³ Berry, ADB; M.D. Stephen, *David Berry (1795-1889)*, ADB, Volume 3 1969, online 2006.

Ian Hoskins, *A Short History of Balls Head and Berry Island Reserves 1906-1940*, 2016.

GML, Waverton Peninsula Industrial Sites, CMP, p 62.

Russell, *The Opposite Shore, North Sydney and its People*, p 81.

National Trust, National Trust Register Listing Report, Former Quarantine Boat Depot, 2015, also refer David Berry Hospital Act (1906). http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/dbha1906211/

State Heritage Inventory for BP Site (Former)

State Heritage Inventory for Woodleys Boatyard

State Heritage Inventory for Former Coal Loader

¹⁴ Brian Matthews, *Henry Lawson (1867-1922)*, ADB, Volume 10, 2006. The poem can be read in full at <https://waverton.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Henry-Lawson-Poem.pdf>

Lawson mourned the loss of 'wild trees', 'great brown rocks', 'deep grass and wild flowers' for the coming 'soulless cranes', 'grimy trucks' and 'grimy loads.' Although the coal loader went ahead, the need to protect Balls Head struck a chord with the community. Other threats were on the horizon.

How was Balls Head saved from the brink and later reafforested?

Read Part 2 of the Balls Head story in our next newsletter.

Christine Hay is a Landscape Architect (RLA, AILA) and heritage practitioner (M. Herit. Cons. USYD). And author of the State Heritage Register nominations of Balls Head Reserve and Carradah Park Berrys Bay Precinct (as part of the AILA Landscape Heritage Project (Hay, Morris and Quoye 2018).

Christine has guided several walks of the peninsula for the AGHS and is a past Chair of AGHS Sydney Branch.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Sydney Branch

Hello Everyone,

I hope that you are all managing to keep warm in the chilly winter weather.

Our Sydney AGM is coming up on 28th August. I do hope that many of you can make it. My time on the committee is up and I will be stepping down. It has been a great privilege and experience to be a member of the Sydney Committee. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with so many interesting and generous people who are a delight to spend time with. I encourage you to consider joining the committee if you have time and expertise. The talk following the AGM will be by Helen Armstrong AM on migrant gardens and promises to be enlightening. We are fortunate to have such a well-respected authority on migrant gardens and landscapes as our speaker.

After a magical couple of months away Graham and I have arrived home inspired by many glorious gardens plus ancient buildings and walls in England, Scotland, France and Singapore, with our hearts lifted by, among many other things, roses in profusion, wild garlic and cow parsley-lined pathways, bluebell carpets beneath trees, red poppies bordering wheat fields and, in Singapore, the orchids. (Image: Dunmore Pineapple, Anne Smith)



It has been great to catch up with so many members at our events this year. A large group gathered in Richmond, undaunted by the rain, to see historic Durham Bowes, St Peter's Church and the Richmond Lowlands, all part of a significant, but threatened, landscape. The guided walk through the bush of the beautiful Oatley Park peninsula and Lime Kiln Bay was delightful. A lovely day out in Leura in the Blue Mountains was spent visiting The Braes, a Sorensen garden, and then lunching in Committee member Stephen Hathway's delightful garden. Colleen Morris's talk and tour of the Florilegium exhibition of Rainforest Species at Risk at the Botanic Gardens, added to with anecdotes from Beverly Allen, revealed exquisite art and fascinating and important conservation issues. At this month's visit to the Chinese Gardens of Friendship, Oi Choong and Julian Siu took us on a wonderful journey through the gardens describing the garden's development, design and plans for future management. I am very sorry to have missed the previous two events, Flavia Scardamaglia's talk on Professor Leslie Wilkinson and Stuart Read's one on Chinese Gardens, but all accounts they were great evenings apart from our sound system issues which have been addressed. Even the rain and cold didn't keep people away.

The AGHS Annual Conference to be held in Bunbury, WA, in October, promises to be another not-to-be-missed conference. As well as fascinating and thought-provoking talks and lovely landscapes to visit, it's always great to catch up with members from across the country at the conferences. There are still some places available for the Conference if you still wish to book.

Warm regards,
Anne Smith

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

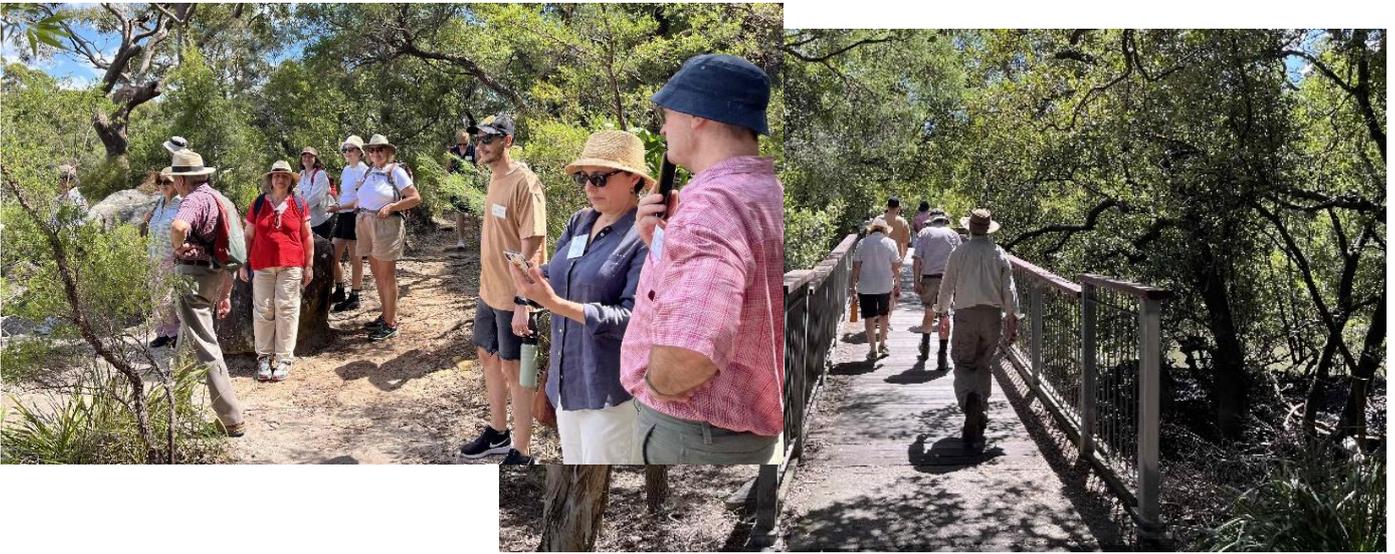
PAST AGHS EVENTS DURHAM BOWES AND RICHMOND LOWLANDS

In February the historic Richmond Lowlands, including the 1804 State Heritage listed property, Durham Bowes, and St Peter's Anglican Church were visited by a large AGHS group, undeterred by the rain. The threat from a proposed new road impacting Durham Bowes' historic, listed setting was highlighted. The tenant at the church rectory generously spoke about the construction of the house and allowed AGHS to wander in the grounds and enjoy the view from the garden seating.



OATLEY PARK

Many members enjoyed our outing to Oatley Park in March. The walk around this beautiful bushland peninsula allowed us views through the lovely trunks of the angophoras and *Eucalyptus punctata* to the Georges River and to see glimpses of the historic property Glenlee. Rodger and Matt from the Oatley Flora and Fauna Society spoke about the park and guided us on the walk. Later in the day Jan Churcher kindly led us on a walk around Lime Kiln Bay.



FLORILEGIUM: RAINFOREST SPECIES AT RISK EXHIBITION

Colleen Morris, curator of the Florilegium: Rainforest Species at Risk exhibition spoke about the contemporary botanical paintings of rainforest species by artists from The Florilegium Society at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney and artwork by the Botanic Gardens scientific illustrators. The trees painted for the exhibition included the rare, the common and the overlooked, all at risk from habitat loss, climate change or pathogens such as myrtle rust, the silent killer of many Australian species. Beverley Allen explained details of some of the artwork and the processes involved in producing it. The profit from our AGHS Florilegium event has been donated to The Florilegium Society.



LEURA GARDENS



A small group travelled to Leura in April to see The Braes a magnificent historic Sorensen garden. The excursion there, planned for the previous week, had been cancelled due to heavy rain. AGHS Committee Member Stephen Hathway guided some of the group around the garden admiring the creeks, ponds, terracing, stone walls, and rich plantings. Later Stephen and his partner, Felix, welcomed us to their lovely garden around the corner for a BYO lunch. A few of the group also found time to visit The Everglades next door.

(Images above: Anne Smith)

TALK ON PROFESSOR LESLIE WILKINSON'S ARCHITECTURE, STUDY AND 'GREENWAY', VAUCLUSE

Heritage consultant, Flavia Scardamaglia spoke to a large gathering of members and friends about the extensive work of Professor Leslie Wilkinson and his role as a garden-maker and designer.

(Image: Emma McGirr)



CHINESE LANDSCAPE MAKING IN AUSTRALIA

A hardy group braved a cold winter's night to hear Stuart Read's illustrated talk on how the Chinese have influenced the Australian landscape, gardens and plants over their long history as visitors and migrants. This talk was a great lead-up to the outing in The Chinese Gardens of Friendship.



Margaret Tart (née Scarlett) with Mei Quong Tart and their family in 1900
(Creelman & Co./State Library of New South Wales)

CHINESE GARDENS OF FRIENDSHIP

In July Oi Choong and Julian Siu led members and friends on a fascinating journey through the Chinese Gardens of Friendship at Darling Harbour which included the new pathway and bridge. Some of the history of the gardens and plans for future management were explained as well as important elements of Chinese gardens. The stories of the rocks were fascinating. Interest was expressed in another tour in a different season. Enquiries about other Chinese gardens led Stuart Read to forward a list (see below). *(Images below: Anne Smith)*





OF INTEREST

Chris Betteridge

Christine Hay reports:

'The 2024 National Trust Awards were held at Pymont on 17 May. At this milestone, the 30th anniversary of the awards, it was special and fitting that Chris Betteridge received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his years of dedication to the conservation of landscape heritage. Accepting the award, Margaret's speech about Chris was warm and memorable. An insight into his intrepid approach on field trips to ensure the stewardship of places. For the audience, there were many endearing stories and reflections on Chris's inspirational landscape heritage legacy.'

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/national-trust-heritage-awards-nsw/>



Chinese Gardens to visit in NSW, & Australia

Stuart Read

A question raised at the branch's July visit to Darling Harbour's *Chinese Garden of Friendship* was, what other Chinese gardens are open to visit, in NSW? Or Australia, for that matter.

Good question. Here are a few options listed below, from a longer list I've compiled, including New Zealand, which has a few, too. A list of Japanese gardens in Australia is for another day...

1. **Sydney, Darling Harbour Chinese Garden of Friendship (1985-93)**, Committee from Guangdong Province of PRC, sister state: Guangdong province. Southern Chinese style strolling garden. Darling Harbour... by Guangdong Landscape Bureau (1988) (Valder; Missingham, 2004). State Heritage Register (2018), LEP listed. NTA (NSW) classified. <https://www.darlingharbour.com/precincts/chinese-garden>
2. **Wagga Wagga, Wagga Wagga Botanic Gardens (1962, opened 1969), Camellia Garden (1984-88)** Bicentennial Project part-funded by Quota Club, Hume Branch of the Camellia Society, Council and citizens. It celebrates a sister-city relationship of W-W with Kunming. Cultivars of *C. japonica*, *C. reticulata*, *C. sasanqua*. Azaleas, magnolias also a feature. <https://wagga.nsw.gov.au/parks-and-recreation/parks-beaches-lakes/botanic-gardens>
3. **Blue Mountains, Mount Tomah, Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Plant Collectors' Walk** (focusses on Asia, including China, Japan, Korea) (BMBG opened 1988). The walk is a woodland style setting featuring plants discovered by some great (Western) plant hunters e.g.: Robert Fortune, EH Wilson, Reginald Farrer, Frank Mayer (of Mayer lemon fame) etc. <https://www.botanicgardens.org.au/blue-mountains-botanic-garden-mount-tomah>
4. **Central NSW, Hilltops, Young, Pitstone Road, Chinaman's Dam, Lambing Flat Chinese Tribute Garden (1992)** Rotary Club project to recognise the contribution of the Chinese community in the 1860s, and ongoing contributions to Australia. (A gold rush at Lambing Flat led to racist riot attacks on Chinese diggers. It increased facilities of *Chinaman's Dam* (built by Dutch brothers to sluice Victoria Hill gold claims) by establishing this garden at the riot site. <https://monumentaaustralia.org.au/themes/culture/community/display/94302-lambing-flat-chinese-tribute-garden> and <https://www.visithilltopsregion.com.au/see-do/local-attractions/historical-sites-and-heritage-locations/lambing-flat-chinese-tribute-garden/>
5. **Illawarra, Wollongong, Berkeley, Nan Tien Temple (& gardens) (1995), a branch of Fo Guang Shan** – largest Buddhist temple in the Southern hemisphere. Mahayana tradition. Complex and monastery in 'Palace' style. All female run. Won an award for gardening in 1996, first prize in Schools/Institutions section of Wollongong Garden Festival in 2000 (<https://www.nantien.org.au/en/about-us/nan-tien-temple>). State Heritage Register (2024).
6. **Hunter Valley, Pokolbin, Broke Road, Hunter Valley Gardens – Chinese Garden (c1999-2003)** Moon gate, bronze guardian lions, rocks, raked gravels, conifers, camellias, azaleas, bamboo, many edible fruits (cumquats, mulberries, persimmons) (<https://www.huntervalleygardens.com.au/attractions/gardens/chinese-garden/>) Open 9-5/7d.
7. **Sydney, Doonside/Rooty Hill, Knox Road, Nurragingy Reserve, Chang Lai Yuan Chinese Garden (2013)** Liaocheng Municipal Government and Blacktown City Council (sister cities) designed and built this as a gesture of friendship. Chinese artisans and designers of all timber structures and bridge, Ming & Qing style strolling garden, sister city Liao Cheng City. Large lake, 7 arch stone bridge, formal entry gateway, Light Mountain with pavilion and waterfall, diverse plantings including figs, hibiscus, camellias, jasmine (<https://www.blacktownaustralia.com.au/12136/chang-lai-yuan-chinese-gardens/>) .

Chinese gardens around Australia

A.C.T.

Canberra, Parkes, Chinese Embassy (former), garden in front and rear courtyards

<http://au.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/>

Canberra, Lennox Gardens, Flynn Drive, Yarralumla, Beijing Garden (near Chinese embassy)– sister city (since 2000) garden opened 11/2014 (part of Canberra's 100 year birthday celebrations) by Chinese President Xi Jinping, PM Tony Abbott and ACT Chief Minister Katy Gallagher. Adjacent to *Nara Peace Garden*, both part of National

Capital Parklands, under N.C. Planning Authority. 5000m². Beijing City used Tract as project manager and lead consultant (coordination, planning, design, documentation) (Tract). A team of 29 Chinese artisans created its sculptures and pavilion, paths, rock garden and landscaping (ACT Govt).

<https://www.parks.act.gov.au/find-a-park/urban-parks/lennox-gardens-district-park>

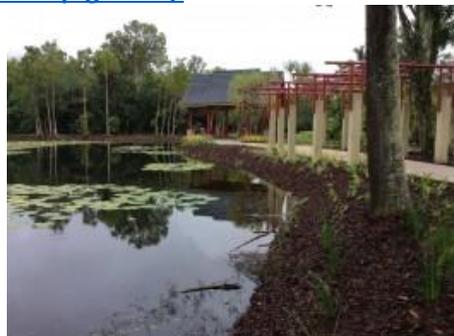
Canberra, Acton, Australian National University, Australian Centre on China in the World, siting based on feng shui principles, architecture and garden referencing traditions. Spirit wall shelters entry from noxious spirits, Moon Gate, sloping paths on sides of a fan-shaped courtyard end at a rock garden of five large boulders kept on site and arranged to represent China's five sacred mountains. Four terraces planted for the seasons: flowering peach, hebes and bergenias (spring); *Magnolia* 'Vulcan', *Daphne*, jasmine and *Agapanthus* (summer); maples, azaleas, abelias and box (autumn); and Japanese black pines, dogwood and lily turf (winter). Stylised plum-blossom and pin-wheel windows overlook the courtyard (Howe, 2015). <https://ciw.anu.edu.au/>

Queensland

Bundaberg North, Thornhill Street, Bundaberg Botanic Garden, Chinese garden (1985+) including a moon gate and ylang ylang tree <https://www.bundaberg.qld.gov.au/botanic-gardens>

Cairns, Edge Hill, Greenslopes Street, Centenary Lakes, Zhanjiang Friendship Garden (2015), 0.2ha designed by Andrew Prowse Landscape Architect and Kim Morris (Garden City Design Co.) – the same team designed a sister city Australian Garden (34ha) in Zhanjiang, S. China (Bone, in *The Cairns Post*, 20/7/2014).

<https://www.northcove.com.au/centenary-lakes-cairns-chinese-friendship-garden/>



(images from: <https://www.artsandculturemap.com.au/zhanjiang-friendship-garden>)

The Chinese-style garden celebrates the Sister City relationship of Cairns and Zhanjiang. It opened on 21 November 2015 and incorporates traditional features in a contemporary style, to reflect the cultural heritage of the Cairns region. Entry pillars announce "arrival", with graphic motifs of traditional cloud patterns of Zhanjiang. Boulders of Chillagoe marble marking the importance of rocks and mountains in Chinese garden culture. A Moon Gate is inscribed with "Friendship Garden" and carved granite dogs at the entrance represent ancient sculptures unique to Zhanjiang.

Designers consulted the Sister Cities Advisory Committee, the Consul-General to Mayor Wang Zhongbing, the Zhanjiang Urban Management Bureau, the Cairns and District Chinese Association and the Friends of the Botanic Gardens in preparing the brief. The style was also influenced by the designers' involvement with the 37ha Sino Australian Friendship Garden at Zhanjiang (<https://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/experience-cairns/botanic-gardens/garden-areas> - 2023).

Tasmania:

NW, Burnie / Romaine: Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden (1981+) by Australian Rhododendron Society members. 11 ha, with over 24,000 rhododendron species and cultivars, grouped and planted by origin, so has regional Chinese as well as Japanese, Himalayan, New Guinea, Pacific, American sections (<https://www.emuvalleyrhodo.com/about-the-garden>).

NW, Eugenana (S of Devonport), The Tasmanian Arboretum (1986+) includes an Asian – Himalayan collection, with (for example, on cherries, apricots and plums): *P. x subhirtella* 'Pendula', *P. mume* and *P. cerasifera* 'Pollardii'. An avenue of dawn redwoods (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) greets visitors on its front driveway. **Camellias, etc.** <http://www.tasmanianarboretum.org.au/>

SE, Hobart, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Garden, Chinese plant garden (1992 collecting expedition+), stocked with plants originally sourced in Yunnan, SW China. Supplemented by wild-collected material from RBG Melbourne.

Includes a layer of deciduous trees (maples (*Acer*), red bud (*Cercis*), birches (*Betula*) and conifers with understorey plantings of species rhododendrons. The layout/treatment is informal / naturalistic, not Chinese (Lockwood, 108; [Chinese Collection - Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens \(rtbg.tas.gov.au\)](http://rtbg.tas.gov.au)).

Victoria:

Goldfields, Bendigo, Farmer Lane, *Yi Yuan (Garden of Joy) (1996)* was based on the Imperial Palace, Beijing. Stone lion guardians, pine trees, cypress, a weeping cherry, bamboo, gravel, pool with carp, covered walkways around a walled precinct with formal gate house, Buddhist Temple (Yuan Yin Miao (temple of the Goddess of Mercy). Pomelo tree, Iris, 8 Immortals statues, Chinese elms. Open 9-5/7d (<https://www.bendigoregion.com.au/explore-bendigo/a-virtual-tour-of-the-chinese-gardens>).

Goldfields, Bendigo, 1-11 Bridge Street, *Golden Dragon Museum, Garden (1996)*, walled garden with ponds, covered walks, pavilions, bamboo, sculpture, rocks. 9.30-5/Tues.-Sunday (www.goldendragonmuseum.org).

Melbourne, *Royal Botanic Garden, Melbourne (1840s+), South Chinese border*, near Yarra River (1996 collecting trip, -98), plants all from wild-collected seed in Southern China, treatment/ layout not Chinese. Some very unusual and rare species on display. <https://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/melbourne-gardens/>

Melbourne, NE side of city, Spring Street, top of Little Bourke Street, *Tianjin Gardens (1996-98)* (Missingham, 2004) <https://localista.com.au/listing/tianjin-gardens?place=melbourne+cbd-suburb%2c+vic%2c+au> and (lions, outside Chinese Museum, Chinatown) <https://citycollection.melbourne.vic.gov.au/tianjin-garden-chinese-lion-guardians/>

Goldfields/Nth., Ararat, *Gum Sam (Gold Mountain) Chinese Heritage Museum, Garden (2001)* (ibid, 2004) was built by residents with Ararat Rural City Council to commemorate its rich gold heritage. This is Australia's only city founded by Chinese miners, who arrived in the mid-1850s in the Victorian gold rushes. <https://www.gumsan.com.au/>

Melbourne, Springvale, *Springvale Crematorium & Necropolis, Song He Yuan (Lotus Garden) (2001+)* (ibid, 2004), part of Springvale Botanical Cemetery. <https://smct.org.au/ch-en>

Beechworth, Albert Road, Lake Sambell Reserve, *Beechworth Chinese Gardens, (2007)*, dedicated to Chinese who endured riots on the Buckland and sought refuge on diggings near Beechworth. Informal layout with plants like maidenhair tree, *Ginkgo biloba*, Manchurian pear, *Pyrus ussuriensis*, flowering plum, *Prunus cerasifera*, a white marble bridge and pagoda/gazebo'. Unveiled on 7/4/2007 (Beechworth Chinese Cultural Centre). An ongoing project of the North East Branch of the Australia-China Friendship Society in 1998. Today the Cultural Centre and Garden Inc. coordinate management through grants and festivals with support from Indigo Shire Council and Lake Sambell Committee of Management. <https://www.explorebeechworth.com.au/listing/beechworth-chinese-gardens/>

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.

Callan Park

In June AGHS Sydney Branch sent a submission on the Callan Park Plan of Management urging recognition 'of the historic, aesthetic, social and rare significance of Callan Park' and prioritisation of 'conservation, repair and reinstatement over other uses or land-use pressures.' See the AGHS Landscapes at Risk page for some history. <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/23-7-7-AGHS-Landscapes-at-Risk.pdf>

Wyoming, Birchgrove Heritage Listing Amendments

Amendments to the State Heritage Register listing of Wyoming at Birchgrove are under consideration. The amendments add a statement of significance and fill in detail about the property. Submissions have been invited until 5th August. See the link below.

<https://www2.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage/request-a-heritage-listing/nominate-an-item-for-listing-on-the-state-heritage-register/comment-on-nominations>

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Denbigh open weekend

Denbigh, one of Australia's oldest working farms (circa 1810) is listed on the State Heritage Register as 'sited in a very rare and intact early colonial landscape of great beauty and integrity, and is of exceptional cultural significance'. The garden and outbuildings will be open including the pottery and woodworking studios, the new gallery and hayshed café.

Saturday 14 September 2024 - Sunday 15 September 2024, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Denbigh, 531 Cobbitty Road, Cobbitty NSW 2570

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1239646>

Camden Park House open weekend

Camden Park, an intact Georgian house designed by colonial architect John Verge, and built for wool industry pioneers John and Elizabeth Macarthur, was completed in 1835. It features a large, significant colonial garden established in the 1820's and includes many rare botanical species.

Guided Historic House Tours, Garden Tours, Devonshire Teas, Plant Stalls, Gift Stalls, BBQ, Children's Activities, Art Exhibition, Heritage Walks and Macarthur Family History Talks.

Saturday 21 September 2024 - Sunday 22 September 2024, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Camden Park House, 160 Camden Park Road, South Camden

Royal Botanic Gardens

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

Guided walks led by volunteer guides 10:30am daily.

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

Mount Tomah: Daily 9am-5:30pm, **Mount Annan:** 9:30am-4:00pm

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. Entry Fees: National Trust members -FREE, Adults -\$12, Concession/child >5yrs- \$10, Family- \$34
Experiment Farm Cottage is part of an historical Parramatta precinct which includes Hambleton Cottage (1824), Elizabeth Farm (1793) and the Queen's Wharf, all within easy walking distance of each other.

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

Eryldene Historic House & Garden

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

17 McIntosh Street, Gordon

Camellia Open Garden Sunday

Date: Sun 11th Aug 2024, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm AEST

Entry: Members free, Adult \$12.00, Family \$20.00, Concession \$10.00, Children<12yrs free.

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