

# BRANCH CUTTINGS



Issue 62 – October 2020

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

## AGHS FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### OCTOBER 2020

**French Gardens – presented by Angela Low**

**Date: Wednesday 21 October, 2020, 7:00pm**

**Venue:** Digital Webinar via Zoom (booking link below)

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

Angela Low will present an illustrated talk on some of her favourite gardens of France, including the grand, formal gardens of Versailles as well as some smaller gardens with a more relaxed, informal quality. The presentation will explore a variety of garden types and designs while highlighting the characteristics that create a distinct Gallic style. Angela is a fluent French speaker which has given her greater access to people and places in France.



Image: Angela Low

<https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/events-conference/sydney-branch-french-gardens/>

### NOVEMBER

**Botanic Endeavour - presented by Colleen Morris**

**Date: 18 November, 2020, 7:00pm**

Colleen Morris will present a Webinar on Zoom on *Botanic Endeavour*.

*Botanic Endeavour* is the Florilegium Society's latest project and the publication of the book coincided with the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the collection of plant specimens along the east coast of Australia by Sir Joseph Banks and Dr Daniel Solander. This new collection of paintings aims to illustrate the link between the historic Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander specimens held in the National Herbarium of New South Wales and the plants cultivated in the Living Collections of the three Gardens of the Royal Botanic Garden and Domain Trust.



Colleen will discuss the background to the book, the herbarium collection, the paintings, and the search for the Aboriginal names for the plants featured in the book. The *Botanic Endeavour* exhibition planned for in 2020 will now be held in August-September 2021. See below for details of the book.

Booking information to be emailed at a later date.

**Above: *Leptospermum laevigatum***

Artist: Angela Lober

### NOVEMBER

**AGHS Annual General Meeting**

**Sunday 15 November 2020, 9am for 9:30am via ZOOM online.**

The Annual General Meeting will be followed by guest speaker, AGHS Patron, Professor Tim Entwistle who will speak on the topic:

***Managing living collections and landscapes in a (climate) changing world***

See the link in the October National E-news

## DECEMBER

### AGHS Sydney Branch 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Christmas Party

**Date:** Sunday, 6 December

**Venue:** Eryldene, 17 McIntosh Street, Gordon

This will be a late afternoon party with music, refreshments and a celebration cake.

Details and booking information to be emailed at a later date.



## SEPTEMBER 2021

### 2021 Annual National Conference



**Date:** amended core conference dates **Friday 10, Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 September 2021**

**Venue:** Luna Park, Milsons Point, Sydney.

Conference dinner on Saturday evening.

**Thursday 9 September:** optional afternoon walks through the Royal Botanic Gardens will highlight its landscape cultural heritage, including historic trees. Pre-registration will occur in the RBG Rose Garden afterwards.

Optional Day on **Monday 13 September** will explore the rural area of Camden.

Blue Mountains tours: Monday 6 – Wednesday 8 September; and on Tuesday 14 -Thursday 16 September

See AGHS website for details.

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

**Green Necklace Harbour Cruise on the tall ship “James Craig”** under motor not sail.

**Date:** **Thursday 9 September**, 10:00am for a harbour cruise from the Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour.

The Green Necklace Harbour cruise will raise awareness about the landscape heritage of the harbour centred on the findings of the 2018 study commissioned by AILA. Its vision is to conserve the ‘green necklace’ of Sydney Harbour - a series of parks, government institutions and Crown land, fragments of open space and remnant bushland around the Harbour foreshore, and to recognise these as one cultural landscape. The cruise is part of the events on the optional Thursday before the conference.

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

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## AGHS SURVEY

Don't forget to complete AGHS survey. The link went out in the October National E-news.

Or see the link below

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V3HHMLR>

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## Journey to the Landscapes of Great Britain: Part 5 – Angela Low

I did not realise this series of articles would take so long, but in these extraordinary Covid times it has been lovely to relive past journeys and I hope it has amused the readers as well. 2018 seems a long time ago, another sort of lifetime. I will gallop through this last selection of properties in Great Britain as most are well known, and every place has a website where you can gather information and see beautiful images.

**Chatsworth** is one of the grandest estates in Britain. Situated in a wide valley in Derbyshire in the north of England, it was first developed by Bess (of Hardwick) and her husband William Cavendish in the time of Henry VIII. Their son William became the first Earl of Devonshire in 1618. Sixteen generations of the Cavendish family have lived here and the current custodian is the 12th Duke of Devonshire, Peregrine, son of Deborah, who was youngest of the Mitford sisters. During her time as chatelaine of Chatsworth she turned things around to make the estate self-sufficient and it is truly impressive. 'Debo' died in 2014 aged 94. The house has recently reopened after



32 million pounds spent on restoration. We saw one craftsman applying gold foil to gild one of the wrought iron gates. The garden covers more than 40 hectares and the park and farmlands beyond 400 hectares. Many buildings and village hotels have been restored for paying guests. We rented a small farm cottage adapted as a BnB. This gave us free entry to house and garden. The house is full of treasures from all its ages. The garden has been continually worked for 500 years. William Kent and Capability Brown were involved in the 18th century, John Paxton established a huge conservatory in the 19th, (now demolished and replaced by a maze.) The enormous front lawn has a central circular pool with a fountain. After we were there in June Britain had a July heatwave and the parched lawn revealed ghostly designs of the 17th century paths, flower beds and parterres. Beyond the lawn is the great Canal pond with the Emperor Fountain, a huge water jet installed to impress Tsar Nicholas of Russia in 1844. Gravity fed, this could reach a height of 90 metres but the Emperor never came! We caught a little golf buggy to tour the garden which not only gave us access to more of this vast area but also a very knowledgeable guide. Every corner revealed another garden design; every generation had made their mark: the cascade, woodland walks, rose garden, greenhouses, azalea dell, rock gardens, arboretum. I loved the Vinery, an 1834 glasshouse now filled with a very special grapevine laden with fruit. Another greenhouse was used by Paxton to grow the 'Cavendish' banana from Mauritius, which was later sent to Samoa, and is now the world's most cultivated commercial crop. One of the newest gardens is a Rockery with a lovely waterfall, where thousands of new plants had recently been installed. In June 2019 a multi-million pound renovation and restoration of the garden was begun. Definitely worth a return visit ....one day.

**Cranborne Manor Garden** This garden was most highly recommended by one of my fellow committee members at AGHS, Gina Plate, her absolute favourite of many UK gardens visited years before. It is in Dorset, not far from the south coast and is ONLY open on Wednesdays. Our whole itinerary had to be arranged around this, but it was certainly worth it. We stayed with relatives near Andover, in their thatched cottage with its own lovely garden, left them to spend one night on the Isle of Wight and timed our return for an afternoon at Cranborne. You arrive at a very large and busy garden centre and gift shop where you buy a ticket, walk to the back of the nursery to a modest door in a big wall, and let yourself through into paradise.



The Manor House was originally built as a hunting lodge for King John in about 1207. In 1604 King James 1 granted the house and land to Robert Cecil, 1st Earl of Salisbury, who enlarged the house. His son, the 2nd Earl added another wing and put much time into the garden, employing the celebrated John Tradescant, some of whose



garden designs and yew hedges still exist. Cranborne was then abandoned for nearly 200 years until the family returned in 1867 and successive generations added to and refined the garden. The latest was The Dowager Marchioness of Salisbury, a great garden designer in her own right, who describes Cranborne in her book 'A Gardener's Life'. She only died in 2016. The estate is about 1200 hectares of farmland plus over 900 hectares of woodlands, and the park and gardens, and we seemed to have it all to ourselves. The house is approached through an archway in a redbrick wall to reveal a plain circular South Front entrance edged by a squared off Walled Garden with climbing roses and herbaceous borders. From there we walked through gateways and arches in walls and hedges to discover one treasure after another: Rose Garden, Croquet Lawn with amazing yew hedges, North Front Garden with very old pleached apples, The Mount Garden with a sundial set up on a grassy mound, kitchen garden and orchard, etc. Everything was beautifully kept, climbing roses and peonies at their peak. I loved the way each area gave glimpses of the surrounding farmland; the Chalk Walk even had widows cut into yew hedges. In the wilder areas grass allees were cut through flowering meadows, large statues placed amongst the flowers. A truly magical place.

**Highgrove** This lovely garden is situated in a quiet part of Gloucestershire, near Tetbury. It is the property that HRH The Prince of Wales bought in 1980 and for 38 years has been developing as a garden of many parts, all managed on organic principles. I booked a garden tour with supper on-line from home, and found an airBnB nearby. On arrival we had to go through strict security. No cameras, phones or any recording devices were to be taken in. We were assigned to a guide, in a group of about 15, and at 4.30pm started our 2 hour tour. Louise the guide said if she caught anyone taking photos or trying to look through windows, she would have to shoot us. It was fabulous, overwhelming, with such a huge range of garden ideas brought to perfection. The Marchioness of Salisbury was invited initially to help design the whole, but evidently Charles had his own ideas too, and has made a distinctive and unique place. My favourite was the wild or meadow garden, now carefully managed, where local wildflowers grow in great profusion in a grassy sward with a mown walkway through it. It was established by Miriam Rothschild, a bold experiment using a mixture of seeds she called 'Farmer's Nightmare'. Now over 30 species thrive, as the seasons change. When we were there it was all yellow and white with little native orchids, pink or purple, popping up. The blue Comassia, a feature in early Spring was all but finished, but some white ones persisted. Later on it is mown and the heritage Hebridean sheep brought in to graze and trample fallen seeds into the soil for the next season. The Thyme Walk is lined by golden yews which were 'blobs' originally, now a succession of quirky shapes as each gardener could develop his own design. It is framed by a large Cedar of Lebanon, the one big tree present before the current garden construction began. We visited the Stumpery based on roots of fallen trees, a pair of topiary elephants matched to a smaller stone one called 'Scratch', apparently a favourite of the Royal grandchildren, and finally the walled Carpet Garden, opened for the first time that season. It is inspired by a Turkish carpet and has colourful Islamic tiles, a central basin fountain and water rills flowing underfoot. It is planted with equally colourful plants and 2 old cork oaks. This was installed at The Chelsea flower Show in 2001 and won a coveted silver-gilt medal. After all that we



went into the function centre and had a Pimms and a delicious supper. We sat with tattooed Mark from Sussex who was on an extended road trip, knew nothing about gardens, but loved his visit. I can recommend this book although written 10 years ago.

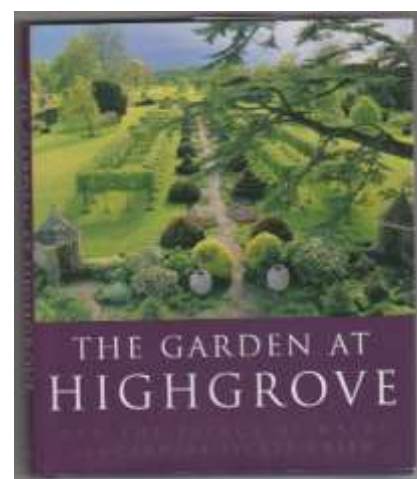


Image on left: from website <https://www.highgrovegardens.com/>

Right hand image: Front cover of 'The Garden at Highgrove', by HRH The Prince of Wales and Candida Lycett Green

Angela was a member of the Sydney AGHS committee member until recently. She is a biologist who works part time on a voluntary basis at The Australian Museum working behind the scenes on curatorial work with marine Invertebrates.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to our spring newsletter and the first by our new committee! The new season, with its surge of growth, has inspired our fledgling group into action. Although COVID 19 has generated a climate of uncertainty, the Sydney Branch has nimbly adapted to the situation, by moving our event program online. Thanks to a great Sydney Branch crew, and much behind the scenes hard work, our webinars have proved popular with members, and as a channel for attracting new friends. Speakers and members are all adjusting to our new format and we thank everyone for their support; it has been rewarding to see so many familiar and new faces on zoom. We all deserve a pat on the back! While webinars have their challenges and never can replace face-to-face, the opportunities to attract a wider audience and engage in bigger advocacy conversations is exciting. Already our webinars are forging results, sparking connections, conservation actions and journal articles. This is heart-warming.

As the new Chair, I'm thrilled to be part of the committee and look forward to what's ahead. The major event in our calendar for the coming year is the 2021 National AGHS Conference.

The postponement of our 2020 conference in late July due to COVID-19, with three months to go, was a disappointing blow to the Conference sub-committee. The silver lining is, we have much in place for the 2021 conference. So yes the AGHS Annual Conference *Many Dreams One Landscape* will proceed. After so much work and time invested in preparation, the whole committee is thrilled to have the support of the National Management Committee and the green light. The amended core conference dates are Friday 10, Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 September 2021, including a conference dinner on Saturday evening. The optional day is Monday 13 September into the historic Camden region. Blue Mountains tours are: Monday 6 – Wednesday 8 September; and Tuesday 14 - Thursday 16 September. On Thursday 11 September, the James Craig, a prize vessel of the Harbour Heritage Fleet will sail on a harbour cruise from 10am (50-100px). The cruise will highlight 'Sydney's Green Necklace'. Later, on Thursday afternoon, guided walks through the Royal Botanic Gardens will include one on historic trees. Pre-registration will occur in the RBG Rose Garden afterwards.

Sydney is experiencing a rush of development much accelerated by the circumstances of COVID-19. As a knock on affect, our new committee has already received several requests for advocacy support. We are reaching out for letter writers to join a sub-committee to assist in these demands. In the interim, our committee is devising an advocacy strategy to manage and advise on such requests.

At our recent AGM, four of our long standing executive committee members stood down- James Quoyale, Tempe Beavan, Gina Plate and Angela Low. All will be greatly missed.

The committee intends to celebrate them at our upcoming Christmas Party, 6 December.



Above: Eryldene. Image: Anne Smith

This event to be held in the beautiful gardens of Eryldene. It will be special for another reason, we will be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the AGHS, a great milestone for our Society and its members. We look forward to welcoming you on that day.

New Sydney Branch executive committee: Christine Hay, Chair; Steve Halliday, Vice-chair; David Low, Treasurer; Susan Stratton, Secretary; Christina Kanellaki Lowe, Anne Smith, and Helder Esteves.

Kind regards,  
Christine

### AGHS NORTHERN NSW Sub-branch

After 4 months of being unable to go into the AGHS Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez property, AGHS volunteers were delighted to return in August, just in time for a number of pruning sessions. Of course all sessions were socially distanced and the hardest part was the lack of our usually social morning teas. We also managed to extend our collection with missing roses arriving from nurseries around the country. We are awaiting news from the National Trust as to when the property will reopen.



*Above: Rose pruning at the AGHS Heritage Rose Garden*

The Cold Frame at Saumarez Homestead has been restored to its former glory thanks to the expertise of Richard Bird and Jarrad Stevenson. See images below.



*Images: Lynne Walker*

Helen Wilson  
Secretary NNSW Sub Branch

### NEW MEMBERS

The Branch would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new local members: Lucy Creagh, Steven Halliday, Sarah Harvey, Frank Hutchinson, Justin Hutchinson, Julianne Mahony, Jane Miura, Brad Vale, Fiona Wallace



## RECENT EVENTS

### AGM and IAN INNES, *MIGHT I HAVE A BIT OF EARTH?*

Steve Halliday

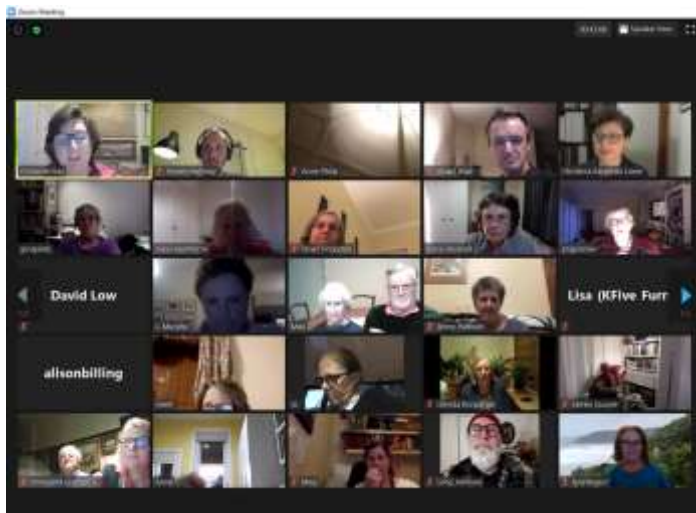
The Sydney and Northern NSW Annual General Meeting was held on August 19 at 7pm. For the first time in the branch's history the meeting was held digitally via Zoom it was preceded by a webinar - 'Might I have a bit of Earth?' presented by Ian Innes. We were joined by 40 members and supporters for a night of formalities and European dreaming.



Ian Innes Webinar was a pictorial history of his career, beginning in architecture before being stung by the garden bug and falling in love with the industry. He took us around the United Kingdom and Europe, to the prestigious properties and palaces that he worked on and even mentioned a stumble that he thought he might never recover from. Images spanning his career visually took us to these beautiful locations as Ian described his career roles and steps getting him to his current role as Director of Heritage and Collections at Sydney Living Museums. It was a pleasure to have Ian present for us and it left some of us asking where hadn't he worked or what significant site hasn't he had a hand in?

*Above: Screen shot of some of the AGM attendees*

### MARION'S GARDEN WEBINAR



A fascinating online AGHS talk on the life of Marion Mahony Griffin was enjoyed in September. Glenda Korporaal spoke of the work of this talented architect, artist and passionate environmentalist. Marion's architectural drawings and beautiful portraits of Australian trees illustrated the presentation.

*See some of the attendees at left.*



For those who would like further immersion in the world of Marion Mahony Griffin see the exhibition by Sydney Living Museums *Paradise on Earth* which celebrates the career and legacy of Marion Mahony Griffin.

**Museum of Sydney, 7 November, 2020-18 April, 2021**

<https://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/exhibitions/paradise-earth>

## **WINTER WEBINAR: AVENUES OF HONOUR**

On Wednesday evening, 29 July, 2020 Stuart Read revealed, in a fascinating talk, the extent of Avenues of Honour in Australia and NZ, their history and their role in marking WW1 sacrifice and patriotism which is especially important in small country towns. Here the death of a huge number of ANZACs had a major impact. The need for documentation of these avenues and groves of trees and for their preservation and renewal was highlighted. With no face-to-face meetings due to Covid-19 this was the Sydney Branch's first venture into webinars, a venture which has proved successful and popular.

For more information see the link below or watch the presentation on YouTube

<http://www.avenuesofhonour.org/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nCUvg\\_kEWk&ab\\_channel=AustralianGardenHistorySociety](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nCUvg_kEWk&ab_channel=AustralianGardenHistorySociety)

## **OF INTEREST**

### **HISTORIC MOUNT GILEAD ESTATE**

The early 19<sup>th</sup> Century colonial estate of Mount Gilead at Appin has been officially added to the State Heritage Register. It is of exceptional significance as a cultural landscape. The estate has both indigenous and colonial importance.

Original buildings include an 1836 sandstone windmill tower. There is evidence of the Dharawal people's land use in art sites, rock shelters and artefacts among others.

The landscape has been depicted in the works of such artists as the Lindesays and Ure Smith.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=1291064>

[https://ausprint.meltwater.com/print\\_clip\\_previewer/281973649?text=on](https://ausprint.meltwater.com/print_clip_previewer/281973649?text=on)

### **HENGDUAN MOUNTAINS ALPINE FLORA**

[https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/07/many-beloved-garden-flowers-originated-mountain-hot-spot-oldest-its-kind-earth?utm\\_campaign=news\\_daily\\_2020-07-30&et rid=677275295&et cid=3429589](https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/07/many-beloved-garden-flowers-originated-mountain-hot-spot-oldest-its-kind-earth?utm_campaign=news_daily_2020-07-30&et rid=677275295&et cid=3429589)

See the link for an interesting article by Erik Stokstad in *Science* referring to the potential threats of climate change and development on the ancient and diverse alpine plant communities of the Hengduan Mountains in southwest China. This is one of the world's oldest and richest alpine plant communities with over 3000 species including a wide range of Rhododendrons, Primulas, and Gentians. This flora has evolved over 30 million years influenced by geologic uplift, erosion, snow and monsoons.

### **COOK'S LANDING PLACE REDESIGN, KAMAY BOTANY BAY**

Stuart Read has brought to our attention the Indigenous-led redesign for Cook's landing place at Kamay Botany Bay National Park, Kurnell. See the link below to an article in the SMH.

There are multiple layers, both cultural and natural, in this landscape of 'first contact' between Cook's crew and the Gweagal / Cadigal peoples. The redesign includes visitors' centre and sculpture and involves Indigenous architects and artists.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/indigenous-architects-artists-to-lead-redevelopment-of-cook-s-landing-place-20200811-p55ip0.html>



## RECENT PUBLICATION: *BOTANIC ENDEAVOUR*

Colleen Morris

A beautiful new limited edition publication featuring the recent botanical paintings by artists of The Florilegium Society at the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney. The paintings link the historic Banks and Solander specimens held in the National Herbarium of NSW with the Living Collection of the three Gardens and mark the 250th anniversary of Captain Cook's voyage in HMB Endeavour. The focus is the time and place of the collection of these specimens, their history and invites reflection on what they mean to science, to the Indigenous peoples, to those who collected them and to the Gardens today. The 45 paintings are reproduced in a full colour and paired with the newly digitised Banks and Solander specimen images. Written by Colleen Morris, each species has its indigenous names and uses where known, a description and quotes from the journals of Joseph Banks, Daniel Solander and artist Sydney Parkinson.



Published by the Florilegium Society with support from the Australian Garden History Society and limited to 600 copies. The size is 245 x 300mm and 132 pages. The price is AUD65. As our exhibition has been postponed, the book is now available from the Society by mail order from May 2020. Enquiries to: [botanic.endeavour@gmail.com](mailto:botanic.endeavour@gmail.com)

*Above: Lambertia formosa (Mountain devil) by Elaine Musgrave*

## CITY OF SYDNEY ARCHIVES –DEMOLITION BOOKS 1900-1920

City of Sydney historian Laila Ellmoos has curated an exhibition based on City of Sydney Archives – Demolition Books 1900-1920 and the exhibition was installed in Customs House just as COVID hit.

Now it's a virtual exhibition with photographs of people and streetscapes and a wonderful insight into Sydney and all its changes as well as the archives and restoration and curation process:

<https://www.sydneycustomshouse.com.au/visit/exhibitions-events>

See also an article in SMH about it: <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/developing-sydney-capturing-change-19001920-20200310-h1mfdr.html>

## OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

### National Trust

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

**Open day at Riversdale, Goulburn: 24 October, 10am – 4pm**

In celebration of Goulburn 200, The National Trust will be welcoming visitors to this free open day, where carefully managed social distancing will allow for entry to the Riversdale to view the exhibition and selected rooms of the homestead. Guests are also invited to enjoy the award-winning gardens, winner of the Best Heritage Garden and Betty Jane May Memorial Prize at the 2020 Lilac City Festival Gardening Competition -relax on a picnic rug, enjoy music and play garden games. Refreshments will be available.

**Retford Park**, in the Southern Highlands has reopened following COVID-19. Current openings are on the first weekend of every month, from 10am – 4pm, on both the Saturday and Sunday. Visitors can pre-book in advance of open weekends

Newsletter collated and edited by Anne Smith. Contact Anne on [smith777@bigpond.net.au](mailto:smith777@bigpond.net.au)