

Inflorescence

March 2016

Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 26 April – Friday 29 April 2016:
Autumn in the Monaro – Fully booked!

Saturday 18 June: - Winter Seminar

2pm to 4.30pm: Talk by Max Bourke AM

*Conservation of landscapes and places – the past 50 years
and the future*

At Bradman Museum Theatre, St Jude's Street, Bowral.



Max Bourke AM

Max is an agricultural scientist with a commitment to biodiversity conservation and environmental protection. He is a member of the Council of the Friends of the National Arboretum, Canberra.

His talk will cover the establishment of the conservation movement post WWII, government legislation and community actions and the beginnings of the AGHS up to the present, with some speculation on where it might all go.

Afternoon tea will be followed by two short films from the ABC New Eden series, presented by Richard Heathcote, curator of historic 'Carrick Hill', Adelaide — Australia's most intact twentieth-century heritage house museum and garden. He is the National Chairman of the AGHS. The series traces the development of Australia's earliest colonial residences, from the veranda-clad pastoral homesteads to ornate Victorian mansions and Edwardian townhouses.

Please book as early as possible to assist the committee! (Please note: booking form for this event is on page 4.)

Sunday 21 August - AGM and lectures

The arrangements and speakers for the AGM are being finalised. More information and the booking form will be available in the next *Inflorescence* due out in June.

Saturday 17 September - Coach Trip to Sydney

A coach trip is being planned for members to visit the **Museum of Sydney** to see *Florilegium: Sydney's painted garden*, followed by lunch at the **Royal Botanic Gardens** and an opportunity to see the new attraction—*The Calyx*. After lunch we will visit the **State Library of New South Wales** to view *Planting Dreams: Celebrating Australian gardens*.

Florilegium: Sydney's painted garden—a major exhibition will be held by Sydney Living Museums at the Museum of Sydney from 30 July to 30 October 2016. The Florilegium Society at the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney was formed to create a florilegium, a collection of contemporary botanical paintings of some of the most significant plants in the living collections of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust.

The paintings will be showcased in this exhibition, which will explore the role of the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney and its influence on the private gardens, public parks and landscapes of New South Wales since 1816. The Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney, celebrates its 200th birthday (officially opened 13 June 1816) and is publishing a set of contemporary botanical paintings of historically significant plants as part of the bicentenary celebrations. Colleen Morris has written the historical text and botanist Louisa Murray the botanical text.

As our AGHS Branch had made a donation to support the florilegium publication, the committee decided that members would be particularly interested in a trip to Sydney to join in the celebrations. There are 87 paintings included with full-colour plates, plant descriptions and history. It is very exciting to note that Elaine Musgrave has contributed four of the paintings and she will accompany us on the trip to Sydney. Most of the artists are Australian, but others are from the UK, USA, Japan, Korea, Canada, France and New Zealand.

The Calyx will be opening in June 2016 and is being built around the site of the current Arc Glasshouse, in the south-western corner of the garden and will replace the existing Tropical Centre pyramid and foyer.

The two exhibitions at the State Library of NSW (3 Sept–31 Dec 2016) will bring together highlights from the Library's collection. *Planting Dreams* will explore the fusion of ideas, influences and inspirations that have shaped our gardening culture. The other exhibition will showcase the best of contemporary public and private gardens in NSW

through a series of State Library commissioned works by leading Australian garden photographers.

It will be a very busy day starting out from the car park at Mittagong RSL at 8.15am and returning about 6pm. Booking forms will be available in the next newsletter.

For your Diary: Friday December 2 Christmas Party

Jazz Picnic on February 27



It was a perfect evening in a perfect garden

The Southern Highlands AGHS Jazz Picnic event hasn't always enjoyed such perfect conditions. We've been completely soaked, blown away and had to find our way in misty rain. This year, however, was a delightfully warm evening with balmy summer breezes and a stunning location in Kim and Peter Martin's Sutton Forest garden. Many thanks to them for all their hospitality.



Jazz band: Next on the List



Meg Hemming, Robin and Richard Miall, and Ron Hemming

National Management Committee Planning Weekend

The face-to-face meeting took place on 27-28 February in Domain House, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. Richard Heathcote, the new NMC chairman, kept us all in order (in the nicest possible way) and we managed to get through the agenda very efficiently.

One of the major decisions was to support the rebirth of a scholarly journal based on the tradition of *Studies in Australian Garden History* aimed at a professional and scholarly audience. Entitled: *Gardens + Environment*, it will be produced by a university E-press (possibly Monash or ANU). This will be in addition to the journal *Australian Garden History*, which all AGHS members receive as part of their membership fee. Included in this latest edition is a wonderful article by Laurel Cheetham on *The Berrima Bridge nurseries—a conservation and management plan*.

All members should have received Vol. 27 No. 3 January 2016 but if anyone has missed out, please let AGHS Head Office know:

<info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au>.

Meg Probyn, NMC NSW Representative

La Trobe's Cottage

The location of Domain House is next door to La Trobe's Cottage, which we visited with Helen Botham, the founding Chair of Friends of La Trobe's Cottage in 2009 and Sandra (Sandi) Pullman, the Garden Co-ordinator. The cottage, built in 1839 by the first Superintendent of the Port Phillip District of New South Wales, Charles Joseph La Trobe (1801–1875), his wife Sophie and children, was made from prefabricated material and brought out from England. First erected in Jolimont, close to where the Melbourne Cricket Ground now stands, it was moved twice before finally allowed to rest in its current position, surrounded by a lovely garden. The only part of it that is truly original is the dining room, added by La Trobe, and this is believed to be Melbourne's oldest surviving structure.



Some of the committee with Helen Botham (3rd from left) and Sandra Pullman (extreme right)

Helen explained to us some of the history of La Trobe's Cottage and the beginnings of the re-enlivening of it around 2004. Richard Heathcote, when he was at the National Trust, encouraged Helen to carry out research into La Trobe's garden on the basis of an 1853 survey held in the State Library, and the 1852/3 drawings of Edward La Trobe Bateman (cousin of Charles). She and Richard worked together on a presentation which provided a 'virtual tour' of La Trobe's 1853 garden, and that led to the publication, in 2006, of Helen's book, *La Trobe's Jolimont, A walk round my garden*. The AGHS provided half the funds for the production of the book, the La Trobe Society the other half.

Sandi has managed to source many of the plantings that La Trobe could well have had in his garden by researching what plants were available to La Trobe in the 1840s. Plant by plant, the Friends have been slowly adding to the garden. A major problem is trying to find the original species, as today any cultivars or hybrids are usually the only plants available.

The cottage contains items belonging to La Trobe and other furnishings from the earliest time of Victoria. The garden was important to La Trobe and his wife as a retreat from all the pressures of government. At first they tried to re-create a garden with plants similar to the ones they remembered at home, with stylish star and moon crescent-shaped beds full of hollyhocks and flowering annual plants. However, by 1852 there was a dearth of help as the gardeners disappeared off to the goldfields and the lack of water meant it was extremely difficult to keep the plants alive during the hot summers. They changed the style of the garden to grow a more suitable palette of plants including species that were drought tolerant. Charles began to appreciate the native plants, several of which were named after him.



Sandi Pullman talking about the *Pandorea pandorana* syn. *Tecoma australis* syn. *Tecoma latrobei* (Wonga Wonga vine)

The development of the garden has been assisted by the City of Melbourne, Citywide, the National Trust, the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage and the Garden of Eden Nursery in Albert Park and other sponsors.

If you are visiting Melbourne it will be well worth your time to stop off in the Royal Botanic Gardens and seek out the cottage in Dallas Brookes Drive, close to the Shrine of Remembrance.

National AGHS Conference in Canberra: 14-16 October 2016

The theme of this year's conference is **The Scientist in the Garden** and will celebrate the historic role of the scientist in helping Australian gardeners adapt to and appreciate our unique growing conditions and wonderful flora. The conference location is the Canberra Rex Hotel, 150 Northbourne Ave, Braddon. Bookings will open on 2 May 2016 and from that day you will be able to book online:

<http://www.trybooking.com/JNHW>

A Registration form will be available from the end of April.

On the late afternoon of Thursday 13 October all conference delegates will be able to attend a special launch in Weston Park, Yarralumla: *Planting Memories*. A commemorative plaque, honouring the men from the Canberra region who volunteered for the First World War, will be unveiled.

Trisha Dixon will be leading two tours to the South Coast of NSW: Pre-conference on Mon. 10 - Wed. 12 October; and Post-conference on Tues. 18 -Thurs. 20 October. A full itinerary will be available from the AGHS office or from the website.

The main conference program is looking exceptionally interesting.

Session 1: In the beginning. . . *Fire Farming* (ANU's Professor Bill Gammage) and *Kangaroo Grass makes for Wetter Landscapes* (CSIRO's John Passioura). Session 2: Adjusting to the Environment: commences with *Colonial Approaches to Gardening Botanically* (Colleen Morris). Followed by two lectures from CSIRO colleagues: *The Backyard Laboratory: Garden Water Management* (Dr Richard Stirzaker) and *Genetics in the Garden* (Dr Oliver Mayo).

On Friday session 3: Arboreal Adventures has four speakers: *Out of the Woods—Trees on Trial* (Max Bourke AM); *Canberra's Urban Forest—a Landscape, Laboratory and Legacy Unique in Australia* (Dr Jane Tarran); *Parable of the Pines* (Dr John Dwyer); and *The Griffins' Winning Plan for Canberra* (the second lecture by Max Bourke AM).

Saturday morning has three lectures in session 4: Botanical Gardens—Australia's First Scientific Institutions: *The Bicentenary of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney* (Dr Cathy Offord); *Botanic Gardens and Seed Banking: A Journey through Time* (Dr Lucy Sutherland); *Allan Cunningham—a Botanist Explorer* (Dr Toby Orchard).

There will be the usual events associated with the Conference: the Cocktail Party at the National Arboretum on Friday evening; the garden visits on Saturday afternoon to Government House and the

Walcott garden; the conference dinner will be held at the National Press Club.

New Zealand to host the AGHS conference in 2017

Planning is underway to hold the 2017 National (or rather International!) AGHS conference in Hamilton at the Hamilton Gardens Pavilion. For those of you who like to keep their diaries well in advance, the dates will be 27-29 October 2017. The Taranaki Garden Festival takes place from 27 October to 5 November so there will be an opportunity to visit this event too after the conference.

Committee members wanted!

Your AGHS Committee is always interested in any members (or non-members) who would be able to join our dedicated small team of six on the Committee. In particular we need a Treasurer to replace, Don Rees, who is retiring from the Committee at the forthcoming AGM after four years as Treasurer.

The two key requirements for the role of Treasurer are enthusiasm and a level of comfort when dealing with figures. No previous experience or qualifications are required as training and a settling-in period will be provided. Ideally the incoming Treasurer will work with Don for several months prior to the AGM in August to familiarise him/herself with our procedures. Basic computer skills only are necessary. A familiarity with Excel spreadsheets would be of assistance but is not essential as this can be acquired during the transition stage.

In addition to the Treasurer's role, we would like to expand on our small team of six Committee members. Any members (or non-members) who would be interested in filling general duties on the Committee would be most welcome.

Please send an email or letter to Jennifer Carroll, Chair of AGHS to: aghs.sh.info@gmail.com or post to AGHS, PO Box 2327, Bowral NSW 2576 expressing your interest in either the Treasurer role or a general role on the Committee.

You may also phone Jennifer Carroll on 0419 275 402 or Don Rees (for Treasurer role) on 0410 612 354 for a confidential discussion if you wish to have further information.

We also are seeking members for the Planning Committee for the Conference, which will be held in the Southern Highlands in October 2018. If no one is forthcoming we will be forced to tap people on the shoulder, as we need to commence planning meetings from July 2016. Please volunteer!

Coach Tour for 2017

Ray Bradley is planning a coach tour to Victoria for members in autumn 2017. Beechworth will be the first stop and then the coach will take us to all sorts of beautiful gardens for the next week. Watch out for further details.

AGHS Southern Highlands Branch Committee

PO Box 2327, Bowral 2576
aghs.sh.info@gmail.com

Jennifer Carroll	Chair	(0419 275 402)
Don Rees	Treasurer	(4869 5958)
Jo de Beaujeu	Secretary /Projects	(4862 3532)
Narelle Bownen	Projects	(4868 3972)
Julianna Greenane	Events Secretary	(4868 1090)
Meg Probyn	Editor /Meetings Secretary & NMC Representative	(4871 3134)

Sunday 18 June 2016
Time: 2.00pm – 4.30pm

Cost: \$20.00 per member (\$25 non-member) —includes afternoon tea

Your name/s: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Number of places you require: _____

Names of members / guests:

Total payment: \$ _____

June Seminar **Payment options**

1. Cheques payable to **Australian Garden History Society, NSW Branch.**
Please return this form and cheque to:
Bookings AGHS, PO Box 2327, Bowral 2576

OR

- 2 Direct credit to ANZ Bank: Account name:
Australian Garden History Society (NSW Branch)
BSB: 012 547 Account no: 237 514 077

Please make sure you include the following reference information:

18 June and your surname.

Email your phone number and names of your guests to aghs.sh.info@gmail.com

ENQUIRIES: — Jo de Beaujeu 4862 3532
Or email: aghs.sh.info@gmail.com

BOOKINGS CLOSE:
Tuesday: 14 June 2016