

Events 2020—for your diary:

Sunday 22 March 2.30 am to 4.30 pm	40 th Anniversary Party and Tree Planting at SHBG. Free event for AGHS Members. See booking form on page 7.
Weekend 18 & 19 April	SHBG (Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens): Open Gardens and Plant Fair Weekend
Friday 8 May 7.15 am to 5.30 pm	Canberra tour (details p.4): Lanyon Homestead and Lake Burley Griffin See booking form on page 7.
Sunday 21 June	Winter seminar: Georgina Reid and Rick Shepherd. Further information and booking form will be in the May edition of <i>Inflorescence</i> .
Sunday 23 August	AGM Lunch and Speakers: Stuart Read and Dr John Pickard
September—Date to be advised	Opening of the Harpers Mansion Colonial Camellia Walk. Free event for AGHS Members
September—Date to be advised	Opening of the Berrima District Museum Exhibition. Free event for AGHS Members.
October 23– 26	AGHS National Conference: Sydney
31 October to 2 November	Millthorpe Garden Ramble and Carcoar Tour
Friday 4 December 4.30 to 7.00 pm	Christmas Party

For this national celebration, the Southern Highlands branch will be gathering at the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens for a bit of a knees-up and tree planting. A ‘virtual party’, every branch will be participating at their own special locations. The SHBG is our place for ‘history in the making’ and many of the AGHS members are regularly involved with the working bees on Tuesday mornings. Despite the less than perfect summer we’ve just experienced, the gardens are looking beautiful thanks to the February rainfall and the wonderful work by the volunteers—the dahlias and salvias are particularly splendid. So come along—it’s free for AGHS members and only \$10 for non-members and your friends (see booking form on p. 6). Please book as soon as possible for catering purposes.



Invitation to all past committee members to the 40th Anniversary Party

Just in case we’ve missed any of the past AGHS committee members, please pass the message on to friends about the Anniversary party.

40th Anniversary Party and Tree Planting at the SHBG

Sunday 22nd March 2020



SHBG on 3rd March 2020 (photos M. Probyn)



Views from across the garden



Dahlia Clarion



Aster novi belgii (Blue Gown) - Michaelmas daisy

Photos from the Long Lunch

Over 100 members and friends of the Australian Garden History Society (Southern Highlands branch) welcomed David Stuart and John Swainston to “The Stables” Bendooley Estate on 23 February for a Long Sunday Lunch. David Stuart was Australia's Ambassador to Austria from August 2012 until October 2016 and John Swainston is a recent past president of the Australian Institute of Professional Photography and is also a Past President of the Photo Industry Council of Australia.



David Stuart at the podium (photo John Swainston)

David arrived in Vienna as an enthusiast for Ferdinand Bauer's contribution to Australian botanical history. David's

engagement with the Natural History Museum (NHM) led to the mounting of the first ever public exhibition of the Museum's extensive archival holding of Bauer's illustrations of our flora and fauna.

Ferdinand Bauer, while little known in his own time, is now internationally acclaimed as one of the greatest botanical artists of all time. His work is particularly significant for Australia as he was the first European to record in exquisite detail and unprecedented range the unique plants and animals of our continent.

David spoke about Bauer's career, and described the remarkable technique that made possible such an accurate picture of Australia's biodiversity. Bauer was selected by Sir Joseph Banks in 1801 to be the natural history draughtsman on Captain Matthew Flinders' expedition and he was one of the few to accompany Flinders on all stages of the first circumnavigation of the continent of Australia. Later Bauer was to spend eight months on Norfolk Island.

Two hundred years later, Bauer's detailed illustrations of Australian flora and fauna are still remarkable, both for their scientific value and as art. His technique of developing a numbering system for almost one thousand colour hues allowed him to reproduce form, tone and shading with extraordinary precision. Johann Goethe said of Bauer's work that 'we are enchanted at the sight of these leaves: nature is revealed, art concealed, great in its precision, gentle in its execution, decisive and satisfying in its appearance'.

Today his work is spread around the globe, the illustrations concentrated in Vienna, his finished watercolours in the UK, and some pictures in Australia and the US.



Lunch at The Stables (photos John Swainston)





John Swainston (photo M. Probyn)

John gave an engaging overview of the history of photography and the use it has always played in recording flora since the late 1800's, the techniques needed to obtain detailed imagery and the evolution of the equipment, giving examples of the newest medium x-ray for plant specimen photography.

He showed how the use of light strongly influences the detail and clarity of photographs in the garden and advocated the "golden hour" (the first hour and last hour of light in the day) as an excellent time to take photographs as it enables beautiful photographs to be taken even with a cell phone camera. John recommends everyone records their garden with their phone or camera as gardens change significantly over time. One doesn't need a mirrorless camera or a single lens reflex camera to take beautiful photographs: a pocket camera or a cell phone can also produce excellent photos. For close-up photographs, a macro lens is necessary to achieve perfect clarity down to the finest detail. For those who are technologically savvy he illustrated how he records the weather at the time of his photograph, as this enables him to create a picture of what is happening not only in the garden but of the effects of the weather as well. John provided beautiful artistic imagery on the screen in all its detail to finish the day.

Two sides of the same coin 18th century and 21st century illustrations of plants and the creativity of its forms.

A note from David Stuart: If you log on to the State Library website, and use the catalogue, entering "Ferdinand Bauer" and using the category "Digital Archives", the *Illustrationes Florae Novae Hollandae* comes up. It is then possible to look at it from home, though perhaps this requires a library card (which can also be obtained on line—the key thing is not the card itself but your card number and self-selected personal code).

Before the lunch we all met at the Berkelouw's bookbarn carpark, but instead of browsing inside, we walked along the driveway to Bendooley House and garden, where we gathered under the covered area, especially designed for wedding parties. There we were given a little booklet, *Bendooley House and Garden Landscape*, produced for the AGHS by Jenny and Mark Woodwell (pictured below). The information in the publication by Jane Cavanough, Anthea Prell & Tim North, *Gardens of the Southern Highlands New South Wales 1828–1988* (*Australian Garden Journal*, 1988) was the

inspiration for additional research. Congratulations to Jenny and Mark and many thanks for all their research (with special thanks to Paul Berkelouw and Linda Emery (Berrima and District Historical Society).



Mark and Jenny Woodwell

Paul Berkelouw welcomed us all to the property and narrated some of the family's history, including the more recent decision to diversify their business from books to restaurant and weddings. Paul explained that in 1976 his parents, Leo and Noelene Berkelouw, had bought the house on 100 acres, relocating the family and the Antiquarian Bookselling business to the Bendooley Estate. The Book Barn was built in 1988.

He invited the group to walk up to the house and to explore the lovely garden with its rose garden and extensive lawns.



Peter Middleton and Paul Berkelouw (photos M. Probyn)



Members enjoying a pre-lunch stroll (photos M. Probyn)



Stuart Read and Susan Hand



Les & Elaine Musgrave, Clive Probyn & Deidre Hill



The driveway to Bendooley House

Bauer's Gynea Lily Etchings

Members who heard the talk on Ferdinand Bauer by David Stewart may be interested to know that Bauer's three etchings in full colour of the Gynea Lily are currently on display in the National Gallery of Australia's exhibition *Belonging*.

The display case containing Bauer's works also contains three etchings after drawings by Sydney Parkinson, intended for publication in Bank's *Florilegium* but not published until the 20th century.

It also contains full colour illustrations from four works published by Australian female botanical artists of the late 19th century.

This cabinet alone makes a visit to the Canberra Bubble well worthwhile!

By Neil Porter (AGHS Monaro/ACT Branch)

Tour: Lanyon Homestead and Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra

Friday 8 May 2020



The original Lanyon House, drawn from an 1865 engraving. It was demolished in the 1890s.

Lanyon Homestead, built in 1859 and extended 1905, is one of Australia's premier historic properties, sitting at the heart of a classic Canberra landscape of natural beauty. Experience the restored homestead, and discover the Convict-era outbuildings and gardens that make Lanyon Homestead the gem of Canberra's history. Set at the foot of the Brindabella Ranges on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River the precinct's centrepiece, the homestead, has been beautifully restored and furnished.

Flowers in the picking garden were first planted by the Cunningham family and today flowers from this garden are used in floral arrangements in the homestead. The nut lawn contains chestnuts, olives, mulberry, fig, loquat, pomegranate and Mexican hawthorn. The distinct 'rooms' of the Lanyon gardens are created by photinia hedges providing shelter to the vegetable, flower and rose gardens—some of which are the oldest species in the Canberra district.

Completed in 1963, after the Molonglo River which ran between the Canberra city centre and Parliamentary Triangle was dammed, Lake Burley Griffin is an artificial lake in the centre of Canberra, named after the American architect, Walter Burley Griffin, who won the competition to design the city of Canberra.

As we cruise the lake on the MV Southern Cross, and after lunch on board, Anne Claoue-Long, Canberra based AGHS member and historian, will talk about the history of Lake Burley Griffin with stories about the pre-lake landscape, the

capturing of lake waters and the lake's ongoing use. The heritage significance of the lake and its parklands within the designed landscape of Canberra will be explained and the contentious issue of lakeside development at West Basin will be described with an explanation of why the AGHS has Lake Burley Griffin and its parklands on its list of landscapes at risk.

Fun Lake Burley Griffin facts: there is an early colonial era cemetery beneath the lake waters; half of the lake is missing as East Basin was not completed; the lake shore was outlined by its trees years before the lake waters were impounded; Italian labourers from Bonegilla migrant camp were used to dig out the lake bed; the lake nearly did not fill in time for its opening yacht regatta; the lake has platypus and water rats living in it but no lake monster or bunyips.

Booking form on page 7. Please book early.

Ray Bradley

SHBG—Open gardens and plant fair on the weekend April 18-19

Volunteers required to help at the AGHS stall at the Plant Fair. Please contact Ruth Bailey (0409 126 718 or ruthbailey1428@gmail.com) if you could spare some time on either the Saturday or Sunday to help with the AGHS stall. The gardens open are:

- **Bibury, Burradoo.** A heritage listed Prof Wilkinson designed residence is the centre piece to this period styled 3 acre garden with a Mediterranean influence.
- **The Copes Garden, Burradoo.** A garden with two distinct styles. Classically structured with hedges and massed ground covers along with a contemporary blend of grasses, perennials and drystone walls.
- **The Gould's Garden, Bundanoon.** An exquisitely refurbished town garden with expansive views, pleached Lindens, ponds, perennials and hedging.
- **Greenbrier Park, Bowral.** A large 3 ha garden with panoramic views. Featuring a haha, lake, ruin and rill. Extensive plantings of exotic trees within a backdrop of large Eucalypts.
- **Sutton Tops, Sutton Forest.** A 2.5 acre hilltop garden with panoramic views and an outstanding collection of trees, roses and perennials.

Helping Hands

We have two 'Helping Hands' projects in the pipeline: camellias in Station Street and *Tiranna*. The latter project has been postponed until next year due to unforeseen circumstances but **Station Street Camellias** project is still on the books. We are waiting for Wingecarribee Shire Council to reply to our letter.

Thanks to Peter and Margaret Chadwick, the camellias survived the terrible summer and the February rains have helped their recovery. We will keep you informed of the situation.

Historic Gardens Review (UK)

Stuart Read drew our attention to Dr Stephen Utick's article *Conserving Camellias* in the current edition of the *Historic Gardens Review* (Issue 40) mentioning Retford Park, Camden Park, Oldbury and Harper's Mansion.

Stuart Read also has a short entry on the Australian Bush Fires, which have been widely reported in the UK. It's well worth looking up this excellent journal. It is complete with beautiful photos of camellias and properties.

Conserving Camellias



In these times of drought and bush-fires, Camellia Ark Australia is working to preserve collections of camellias that often have a historic background.

Stephen Utick discusses the scheme's background and future plans.

SHBG: Earth Hour Sculpture in the Gardens

Saturday 28 March @ 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm



Artists, established and aspiring, are invited to enter the SHBG inaugural Sculpture in the Garden exhibition and competition. As the centrepiece for the Earth Hour event in March 2020, sculptures are to include 80% recycled materials. Prizes offered, including People's Choice. So, work on something inspiring, enter the competition and bring your friends to vote on Earth Hour. Heidi McGeogh's work for 2018 Earth Hour is shown in this photo, courtesy of Brian Rapsey.

Venue: Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens
1 Old South Rd, Bowral, NSW 2576
Phone: 02 4861 4899

Friends of the Botanic Gardens Sydney

PLANTS—an immersive exhibition of over
150 artworks inspired by the love of plants in
the green heart of the city

21 March –5 April 2020

Open 10am to 4pm

Entry free

Lion Gate Lodge, RBG Sydney

AN INVITATION TO A FRIENDSHIP AFTERNOON



Friendship through Gardening

The Committee and Members of the Australian Garden History Society are invited to join the Members of Bowral Garden Club for a talk and afternoon tea on

Monday 11th May 2020 at 1.30pm for 2.00pm

Guest speaker will be Judy Horton OAM

Venue: Carrington Room, Mittagong RSL, Mittagong

Cost: Gold coin donation

RSVP: 17 April 2020

Roz Mulligan – 0410 583 849 or email
secretary@bowralgardenclub.com

AGHS Southern Highlands Branch Committee

Chair & NMC Rep: Lyn Barrett
Treasurer: John Biffin
Secretary: Jennifer McCormac
Tours: Ray Bradley
Event Co-ordinator: Ruth Bailey
Editor: Meg Probyn
WSC Heritage Rep: Laurel Cheetham

Email: aghs.sh.info@gmail.com



Happy 40th Anniversary

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Australian Garden History Society an exciting range of events and projects is planned around the theme

People, Plants and Places

One of the highlights of the year will be an Australia-wide Virtual Garden Party when eight regional Branches will host parties. The Southern Highlands Branch party will take place at the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens:

Sunday 22 March 2020

2.30pm - 4:30pm

A tree will be planted to commemorate the event.

Current AGHS members have free entry.

Non-member entrance fee is \$10.00.

Please book early!!

ADVANCE NOTICE

41ST ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2020



This year's conference will be held at Luna Park, Milsons Point. Bookings will open May 1 2020. Conference brochures will be sent to you with your April 2020 *AGH Journal*. The Optional Day on Monday 26 October will explore the rural area of Camden.

Stuart Read will lead Pre- and Post-Tours to The Blue Mountains (October 19–21 and October 27–29).

Check the AGHS website for further information.

Booking Form for the 40th Anniversary Party

at The Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens
Corner of Old South Road and Kangaloon Roads Bowral
NSW 2576

Sunday 22 March 2020:

Your name/s:

Non-members name/s:

.....

Your email:

Your Phone:

Cost per person	Numbers attending	Amount Included \$
AGHS Members ***Free		
Non-members \$10		
	TOTAL	

***For catering purposes, members wishing to attend please send an email to aghs.sh.info@gmail.com and advise of any dietary requirements.

Payment Options for Non-members:

By Cheque: payable to Australian Garden History Society:
PLEASE NOTE: USE OUR FULL NAME (Australian Garden History Society).

Please return this form and cheque to

AGHS Bookings, PO Box 2327, Bowral 2576

By EFT: Account name: AGHS

BSB: 012 547 Account Number: 237 514 077

- Include the following reference information:
22 March and your surname
- Email the above booking details to
aghs.sh.info@gmail.com

By Direct Debit: if paying directly at an ANZ branch, record your phone number as the reference.

- Email booking details to aghs.sh.info@gmail.com

Please Note: No tickets will be issued.

For catering purposes no refunds can be given for cancellations after bookings close on 13 March 2020.

No late bookings accepted.

Enquiries: Ruth Bailey 0409 126 718
email: ruthbailey1428@gmail.com

Booking Form for the Canberra Tour

Lanyon Homestead and Lake Burley Griffin

**Cost \$75: includes coach travel, morning tea, admission to Lanyon Homestead, lunch and cruise
Friday 8 May 2020:**

Your name/s:

Non-members name/s:

.....

Your email:

Your Phone:

Cost per person	Numbers attending	Amount Included \$
AGHS Members \$75 per person		
Non-members \$75 per person		
	TOTAL	

For catering purposes, please send an email to rbb1945@bigpond.com and advise of any dietary requirements.

Payment Options:

By Cheque: payable to Australian Garden History Society:
PLEASE NOTE: USE OUR FULL NAME (Australian Garden History Society).

Please return this form and cheque to

AGHS Bookings, PO Box 2327, Bowral 2576

By EFT: Account name: AGHS

BSB: 012 547 Account Number: 237 514 077

- Include the following reference information:
8 May and your surname
- Email the above booking details to
rbb1945@bigpond.com

By Direct Debit: if paying directly at an ANZ branch, record your phone number as the reference.

- Email booking details to rbb1945@bigpond.com

Please Note: No tickets will be issued.

For catering purposes no refunds can be given for cancellations after bookings close on 24 April 2020.

No late bookings accepted.

Enquiries: Ray Bradley 02 4861 4090
email: rbb1945@bigpond.com