

AGHS

South Australia Branch

Newsletter – May 2022



Dear AGHS SA Branch members,

Like this year's Autumn rains, which have been rather light and variable to date, so is the correspondence from your SA Branch Committee, for which I apologise. We could blame COVID, but it is mainly due to a lack of time and people-power.

By now you should all have received via Australia Post your copy of the April 2022 edition of the *Australian Garden History* magazine, which includes the excellent article by Margaret Phillips titled "*Captain Charles Sturt, Collector and cultivator as well as explorer*" (pages 10–13). Sturt's farm in the former Reedbeds west of Adelaide, was called *The Grange*, from which the beachside suburb takes its name. The house museum is currently closed for the construction of the new Visitor Centre, but it should be open again in August 2022. The resurrection of the garden at *The Grange* has been supported by a small number of volunteers from the SA Branch of the AGHS. Read the story on their website at charlessturtmuseum.com.au or follow the progress on Facebook: facebook.com/charlessturtmuseum. We hope to plan a visit there later in the year.

The AGHS 42nd Annual Conference in Hobart this year from 11th–13th November was advertised on page 32 of the magazine, with the alert that bookings opened on 2 May 2022. As many people have discovered to their dismay, numbers were limited and the conference was fully booked within days, so they have missed out. There is now a waiting list, but event venues in Tasmania (similar to SA) are required to comply with COVID-19 Safety Plans which may require masks and physical distancing, so unless we hear the rules have been relaxed, late-comers like me are likely to miss out.

Back to the AGHS magazine, after you finish reading the contents, please think about the statement at the bottom of the front cover:

AGHS - promoting awareness and conservation of significant gardens and cultural landscapes.

As a committee, we are hoping to host a strategic planning day, so that we can discuss and consider how we might best achieve these aims in South Australia with our small management group and our dwindling and dispersed membership. More of that later, after we manage to gather the SA committee together for a meeting...

In the meantime, there are lots of Garden and History events happening in Adelaide, so do look up the following websites and find something to suit your interests. These events and venues are organised by government departments and funded by the taxpayer, and there are many areas of common interest with gardening history.

festival.history.sa.gov.au

adelaidenationalparkcity.org/events

adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/

carrickhill.sa.gov.au

AGHS SA has also been a great supporter of the National Trust in SA since our founding about forty years ago. They have some great properties with beautiful gardens, which are always worth a visit, and you don't need us to organise it for you. Go to nationaltrust.org.au/sa and click on "What's on".

Open Gardens SA has a very wide following, since they re-launched in SA after the collapse of the national scheme. With a large and active committee, they employ an admin person who updates the website and memberships. For Open Gardens to visit, go to opengardensa.org.au.

Here are some other events that AGHS SA may wish to link in with later in the year:

The SA Nature Festival – naturefestival.org.au – 6th to 16th October 2022

World Rose Conference – wrc22.aomevents.com.au – 27th Oct to 3rd November

So please put on your thinking caps and let us know how you can help, and make suggestions about what activities you would like to see AGHS SA support in the future, particularly for the next half of 2022. You are welcome to reply to me personally, or Cc the Committee, whose emails are included above.

Happy reading and gardening!

Best wishes,

Patricia

Patricia A Michell
Chairman,
AGHS SA Branch