

Dear Members,

Welcome to our Newsletter and Diary Dates for upcoming events.

**'HALLOWED TURF'** with Richard Heathcote

On Thursday 29 April, a group of us enjoyed an illuminating presentation by Richard Heathcote in the beautiful Great Hall of Carrick Hill.

Accompanied by a slide show of interesting gardens, we learned how progression occurred from fields 'mown' by sheep, then scythes and much later by mechanical lawn mowers.

There were also massive changes in design concepts - exuberant flower beds were replaced by the open vistas of lawns, pioneered by the 18th C English landscape artist, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown.

He designed over 170 parks, and was nicknamed 'Capability' because he would inform his clients that their property had 'capability' for improvement.

Afterwards, we visited the newly open Wall Gallery to wander through and enjoy the Australian Museum of Gardening's travelling exhibition, 'The Blade - Australia's Love Affair with Lawn'.

A fitting finale to the evening was a glass of 'bubbly' in the Library.







**'The Blade'** Exhibition will be open in Carrick Hill until the end of May, so even if you were unable to join us, you still have the opportunity to visit and enjoy this fascinating and most informative display.



## Dates for your Diary

### MAY -

We trust you are making the most of the amazing variety of events that are on offer as part of the SA History Festival

### JUNE - Tuesday 22nd at 7.00 for 7.30pm

Lecture by Emeritus Professor Barbara Santich, renowned food historian, author and lover of all things French.

Professor Santich spent several years living in France in the late '70s, and wrote a memoir about that time called 'Wild Asparagus, Wild Strawberries'.

The lecture will focus on Jean-Louis Edouard Bourbaud, a French wine expert who came to SA in the mid-19th Century, and who also encouraged mulberry growing for silk production.

At the Naval, Military and AirForce Club, (NMAFC) 111 Hutt Street, Adelaide  
- corner of Angas and Hutt Streets.  
- please note - entry is from **Angas** Street ONLY.

There are 40+ on-site parking spaces (mainly behind the building), with Disabled parking at the front.

Entry to the building is up the ramp to the right of the Main Front door.

QR/signing-in will be required.

The meeting will have a special French flair, with a Welcome glass of 'bubbly', wine, beer or soft drinks, and cheese platters on the round tables, with 'Cabaret' style seating.

The cost is \$25 pp. It would be appreciated if you could bring the correct money, in notes.

NB please **RSVP** for catering purposes - patonkin@me.com before **Thursday 17th June**

### JULY - to be confirmed

### AUGUST - AGM - **Sunday 22nd August 2021**

Details to follow

### SEPTEMBER - Friday 10th - Sunday 12th

AGHS National Conference, Luna Park Sydney.

Details as found in the quarterly AGHS magazine

## HISTORICAL NOTES by Di Wilkins - BICENTENNIAL CONSERVATORY

The 'Bicon', as it is known, won 12 Design Awards in the Australian Institute of Architects' 'Sir Zelman Coward Award' for public buildings in 1991. It was designed by Adelaide architect Guy Marron in 1989.

It is a State Heritage icon, and as the Advertiser editorial of 13 January 2021 variously states, 'it is an architectural gem', 'a triumph of design, function and optimism' and that the 'Gardens icon deserves protection'. David Attenborough considers it to be the best tropical Conservatory in the world. It is the largest single-span glasshouse in the Southern Hemisphere.

Several years ago I walked through this wonderful space at 11pm, after queuing with hundreds of other Adelaide residents in Plane Tree Drive, to view first hand the amazing opening of the 'stinking huge tropical arum lily'!

The type of glass used is critical to enable the plants to flourish under our hot summer skies. The 2,800 toughened glass panels remain in place, and none have broken in the past 30 years.

The Botanic Gardens had received little funding under the previous state government, resulting in minimal maintenance of this outstanding building. Investment in our State's heritage has for the past 16 years been neglected and under-funded.

Dr Lucy Sutherland, Director of the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium, is to be congratulated on achieving a significant funding this year of \$9 million, to be used for restoration and improvements of our historic Botanic Gardens.

We hope you can join us at our special French event on June 22nd, and don't forget to visit 'The Blade' at Carrick Hill, if you haven't already done so!

With best wishes,  
Dr Pamela Tonkin  
AGHS Committee, Newsletter co-ordinator.