



Victoria Branch News

AUTUMN 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members

Welcome to our autumn newsletter. What a wonderful summer it has been after the wet end to 2022, and the gardens have certainly been spectacular.

Your committee held a planning day in late January, and we have a very interesting program for you to share with family and friends. Why not introduce someone new to an AGHS event – we visit some wonderful places, hold interesting lectures, advocate for historic gardens and cultural landscapes and have lots of fun along the way.

We started the year on 9 February with a very informative walk and talk, to Mont Park led by committee member Trevor Pitkin. A full report is available below. Also a pictorial essay of Mont Park, funded from Victorian Branch resources, is currently being loaded on to our website so do be sure to check out this wonderful record of the site which will be available by mid-March.

A self-drive day trip to Beleura, Mornington and Peter Nicholson's adjacent garden on 1 March sold out very quickly. Held in conjunction with the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (ADFAS), our excellent volunteer guides led a very interesting tour of both the C19th century house and five-acre garden as we heard about the legacy of early owners and the talented Tallis family. The Nicholson garden was designed as a naturalistic counterpoint to the encroaching urban sprawl with garden terraces built into steep slopes and access to the Belerua Cliff Path Walk with its spectacular views. Peter and a volunteer group are working towards indigenous revegetation of the path and its reopening for all to enjoy.

Below are the diary dates for our upcoming events including working bees and lectures. This year we have arranged a few quirky topics which we hope you will enjoy so please put them in your diary.

We hope you can join us on our weekend bus trip to Glorious Gippsland on 1-2 April. This will be a fun weekend in an area not often visited by AGHS. So bring your friends, sit back on the bus and relax as the surprises unfold. Bookings must close on 16 March so please book in now. **See below for details.**

Best wishes

WENDY DWYER - CHAIR

Committee News:

Ros Savio had joined the committee bringing a wealth of experience and will share the advocacy role with Michaela Hill. Michaela will also represent the Victorian Branch at the National Management Committee meetings. Trevor Pitkin will now focus on Projects. We are always looking for new ideas and assistance so please consider what you might be able to offer and contact a committee member.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The committee would like to welcome the following new and rejoining members: Janita Winata, Amber Whelan, Alyson Glare, Sandy Staggered, Elizabeth McNaughton, Margaret James, Brian Hancock Frances Minson, David Milne, Elizabeth Foster.

Diary Dates 2023

March

Sunday 26 - Working bee, Longacres in Olinda

April

Sat 1-Sun 2 - Glorious Gippsland bus trip. Details below. Bookings must close Thursday 16, March.

Sunday 23 April - Working bee, Medlow in Surrey Hills

June

Tuesday 6 - Zoom Lecture, Sarah Kirby, 'Exhibitions, Music and the British Empire'. Details to be advised soon.

July

Tuesday 11 - Zoom Lecture, Dr David Marsh, 'Little men in red hats - the story of garden gnomes'. Booking details soon.

August

Wednesday 30 - AGM and lecture at Mueller Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

GLORIOUS GIPPSLAND

AGHS GARDEN TOUR
SATURDAY 1 - SUNDAY 2 APRIL 2023



The Holy Plain homestead in Rosedale

- COST:** AGHS Members \$425 | Non-Members \$475 | Single supplement \$65
- BOOKINGS:** Close 5pm Thursday 16 March. No cancellations after this date. Please book early as limited to 40 travellers.
- DEPARTURE:** 8.15am arrive to Russell Street Extension, Coach Pickup (behind Federation Square). Please be on time for Coach departure at 8.30am Saturday. Return 5.30pm Sunday.
- INCLUDES:** Close 5pm Thursday 16 March. No cancellations after this date. Please book early as limited to 40 travellers.
- BRING:** Overnight luggage, AGHS Name Badge, water, mask, hand sanitiser, insect repellent, sturdy walking shoes, sunscreen and hat.
- NOTE:** Lots of uneven ground so travellers will need to be capable and prepared.

Bookings: TRYBOOKING www.trybooking.com/CFQKX

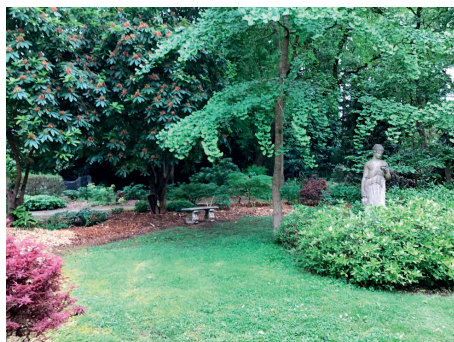
Enquiries: Wendy Nichol 0414 529 711.
Note itinerary subject to change at the organisers' discretion.

WORKING BEES

These are MEMBERS ONLY events. Please register your interest with Di Ellerton if you wish to attend. Wear appropriate clothing and bring any garden tools you like to work with. Lunch and morning teas supplied.

diana.ellerton@icloud.com OR telephone 9397 2756

Sunday 26 March -
LONGACRES, Olinda
10am start



Sunday 23 April -
MEDLOW, Surrey Hills
10 am start



EVENT REPORTS

Mont Park, walk & talk, February 2023

Led by Trevor Pitkin
Victorian Branch Committee member

It was a spectacular evening for a stroll around the old Mont Park Asylum and environs. Mild temperatures, soft evening light and sulphur-crested cockatoos passing overhead provided a visual and aural accompaniment.

Those of us who were able to successfully negotiate the peak hour traffic out of town (apologies to those who were sadly delayed), gathered at the appointed time in front of the red brick buildings which were the former Chronic Wards. Now known as 'The Terraces', and currently used as an administration block for La Trobe Uni and a Year 9 campus for Ivanhoe Grammar.

The Mont Park landscape was a typical example of Hugh Linaker's landscape style, mixing exotics and native trees, and contrasting forms especially narrow crowned and fastigate forms and palms. Sadly, there is no commemoration of his work here apart from the relics of his plantings. Trevor told us that an arboretum was planned to honour his contribution but it never came to fruition (you can read more about Hugh Linaker in an early issue of the AGHS Journal).(1)

First stop after our introduction was Woodlawn Crt, the location of the former Superintendent's house. All that remains from that home now is a grassy circle surrounded by some remnant shrubberies with aloes, typical of the period. Also remaining are water gum (*Tristanopsis laurina*), some large Canary Island palms and cypresses where the boundaries would have been. The grass circle forms a lovely centrepiece for what was the circular driveway and now the lucky houses which overlook it.

Next, we walked to Cherry Street to see the remaining sugar gums (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*), planted as an Avenue of Honour down to the Macleod station. World War One veterans nurtured these trees from seedlings under Linaker's guidance. The larger trees in that avenue are original plantings from 1919, so now over a century old.

On our return route, we stopped behind the old nurses' quarters to appreciate the Brazilian peppercorn tree (*Schinus lentiscifolius*), listed on the National Trust Register of Significant Trees and one of only a few known in Victoria.

Final stop was Ernest Jones Hall, built in 1930 in the style of a Spanish Mission church and, a memorial to Dr W. Ernest Jones. We approached the building along a path lined with pencil pines (*Cupressus sempervirens*) and then circumnavigated the building to view the impressive backdrop of large Monterey cypresses (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*).

As is our tradition, many of us stayed on to enjoy a picnic dinner in the twilight. Sitting under the old river red gum in front of the Terraces was a relaxing way to finish our walk and enjoy the pleasant surroundings on a beautiful, late summer evening. Many thanks to Trevor for his research and time spent preparing to lead this informative walk.

1. Australian Garden History, Vol. 20 No. 4 April/May/June 2009
2. <https://www.montparktospringthorpe.com>
Images: Mark Dwyer & Lynda Entwisle



Top to bottom: Old chronic wards, -The Terraces, Trevor explains the Avenue of Honour, Brazilian Peppercorn, Ernest Jones hall

Beleura & Peter Nicholson garden Day trip, March 1



Clockwise from top left: View of Summer House Beleura, Fish pond in Japanese garden, Peter Nicholson in cliff-top garden, Beleura facade.

ALSO OF INTEREST

LATEST PICTORIALS

Also on the website under "Projects and Report/Pictorials" view the latest pictorials including.

- Belmont
- Wombat park
- Goronga
- Mont Park



VICTORIAN BRANCH COMMITTEE

Chair & Secretary : Wendy Dwyer
Vice Chair and Newsletter: Lynda Entwisle
Treasurer: Anna Long

Working Bee Coordinator: Diana Ellerton
Projects: Trevor Pitkin
NMC Rep: Michaela Hill
Catering Coordinator: Annie Woodside
Booking Officer: Robyn Teed
Events Coordinator: Wendy Nichol
Advocacy: Ros Savio & Michaela Hill

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month, 4.30- 6pm at Burnley Gardens. We welcome members to join committee meetings at any time. If you wish to discuss opportunities to get involved please contact Wendy Dwyer aghsvicbranch2@gmail.com, or contact a committee member. Go to our Webpage www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/branches/victoria/ for more news and updates. Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome and should be addressed to aghsvic19@gmail.com with newsletter in subject line.

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