



AUSTRALIAN  
GARDEN  
HISTORY  
SOCIETY

# *Victoria Branch News*

SPRING 2023

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Victorian Branch Members

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. It's so wonderful to see our gardens begin to bloom as the days get longer and warmer, making working in the garden and daily walks a very pleasant experience.

We hope you enjoyed our last two Winter Lecture Series presentations. Dr David Marsh, UK garden historian's "Little Men in Red Hats – the history of garden gnomes," was so well received we have invited him to speak again next year. It was also very pleasing to be able to catch up with the many members and friends who attended our recent AGM and lecture. We thank Helen Page for providing us with the fascinating story of the late Ken Duxbury's Postcard Collection which, as Helen said, "is pure garden history gold." Thankfully it is now safely housed in The Library of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, and will soon be digitised and made available to researchers.

Finally, we have a couple more events remaining in 2023 which are detailed below so please put them in your diary and sign up. I am also looking forward to catching up with lots of Victorian members at the Ipswich Conference in late September.

**Wendy Dwyer**  
Chair – Victorian Branch



*Eucalyptus preissiana, 'Bell-fruited Mallee'*

### DO YOU HAVE A GARDEN HISTORY RELATED PROJECT THAT NEEDS SOME FUNDING?

As our branch has now returned to a healthy financial position, we encourage owners of historic gardens or those involved in research to consider applying to the Victorian Branch for funding. Depending on the nature and scope of the proposal, funding may be available from both national and branch resources. Below are further details on how to apply.

First step is to email the Victorian Branch at [aghsvicbranch2@gmail.com](mailto:aghsvicbranch2@gmail.com) with a brief outline of your funding proposal.

If your proposal relates to Garden Restoration and is a larger project, Garden Restoration Fund Guidelines and Application forms are available on the AGHS website.

Reading these will give you an idea of the type of projects supported and if there is an opportunity for funding from the Branch as well as the National Management Committee.

**The paper work isn't as daunting as it first appears!**

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The committee would like to welcome the following new members who have joined since the last Newsletter:

Sandra Virgona, Ann Lahore, Clare Harvey



### Diary Dates:

**29 September - 3 October:** National Conference Ipswich, "Digging into the past – above and below the Limestone Hills"

**Friday 17 November** – Planting Paradise: A guided visit of Heide gardens

**December** – Christmas Walk & Talk, Maranoa gardens & Beckett Park, Balwyn

**February** - Walk & Talk, Garden City. Details TBC

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ‘PLANTING PARADISE: THOSE WHO SHAPED THE HEIDE GARDENS’

In this special garden talk join Head Gardener David Murphy, for a guided ‘walk’ in the footsteps of Sidney Nolan and other colourful characters who left their enduring mark on the Heide landscape. Featuring lesser known tales and anecdotes, this presentation celebrates the contributions of artists who helped to make Heide the Eden it is today.



**Friday, 17 November 2023**

#### TIME:

10am Morning Tea – 11am tour

**COST: \$50.** This is a **members only event** as numbers are limited so book early.

#### INCLUDES:

Devonshire morning tea and other delights at Heide Kitchen

#### ENQUIRIES:

LYNDA ENTWISLE - Mobile:  
0466 925 370

**LOCATION** Meet at the Heide Kitchen café for Morning tea. Free parking available on-site and additional parking available in adjoining Banksia Park (enter via 5 Templestowe Road).

**BOOKINGS:** <https://www.trybooking.com/CLHYC>

If you wish to stay for lunch at the Heide Kitchen café you are strongly advised to make a reservation : **Phone: (03) 9852 2346**

**NOTES:** This walk will last for approximately 45 minutes and cover sloping and uneven ground. Please be prepared for this and wear comfortable shoes.



## MARANOA GARDENS - CHRISTMAS WALK AND TALK

THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER 2023

Please join us for the AGHS Vic Branch end-of-year celebration and tour of Maranoa Gardens led by Andrea Dennis, horticultural specialist, followed by a visit to Beckett Park where we will have our picnic dinner.



**TIME:** 4.45 PM FOR 5.00 PM  
**Meet:** Car park Parring Road, Balwyn  
**Bring:** Picnic dinner & drinks. Seating and rugs  
**COST:** FREE TO MEMBERS AND GUESTS

### GETTING THERE:

**Car:** Parring Road, Balwyn. Car parking on site.  
**Tram 109:** Get off at Northcote Ave/Whitehorse Rd. Walk east along Whitehorse Road for one minute then turn left into Kireep Road. Walk for about 4 minutes (300 m) until you reach the gardens.

### National Conference 2023

29 September to 1 October 2023  
 Ipswich, Queensland

"Digging into the past – above and below the Limestone Hills"



## AGM 2023 PHOTOS



L to R: Helen Page giving lecture, Annie Woodside & Ros Savio on catering duties, Robyn Teed & Lisa Nutting on the desk

## ADVOCACY NEWS

### HV McKay Memorial Gardens, Sunshine

In March AGHS submitted an objection to Heritage Victoria against a planning application from the Airport Rail Link to construct a batter along the east side of the Gardens to accommodate additional rail tracks. This would have had the potential to impact existing trees and views and other aspects of the Gardens and instead an overpass type structure would have been preferred, which had been proposed originally. Unfortunately, in July AGHS were advised that the permit had been granted, however it was pleasing to note that the permit conditions referenced some of the points of our objection, including more stringent controls over the retention of the existing trees. The permit lapses at the end of 5 years, so if the Rail link project is delayed until then, another permit application will be required.

The AGHS has a representative on the current HV McKay Gardens Management Committee, although Brimbank Council are in the process of preparing a new Horticultural Management Plan which would appear to be trying to limit the input of the Management Committee.

### Three Planning applications for residential subdivisions on land to the south of Wombat Park Estate, Daylesford

In late April AGHS were alerted to 3 planning applications for the subdivision of land to the south of Wombat Park estate on land that had been previously zoned residential. Two of these applications impacted the existing Avenue of Honour trees located in Raglan St and the Midland Highway and one impacted a large indigenous tree in Wombat Park. It was too late to lodge an objection prior to the Council meeting where a decision was to be made, but it was evident at the council meeting that most councillors were supportive of all the trees to be retained and the applications were approved with conditions so that all but one tree was to be retained.

AGHS subsequently wrote to the Mayor of Hepburn Shire in support of all the Avenue of Honour trees and the indigenous tree being retained and made some recommendations to lessen the visual impact of the proposed residential developments on the views to Wombat Park.

This submission was acknowledged by the mayor promptly, thanking the AGHS for their input and advising there would be a more detailed response at later date. (Not yet received.)

### The Gong, Buninyong Botanic Gardens, Buninyong

The Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens have advised AGHS that the Ballarat City Council adopted the Draft Masterplan for The Gong and the Botanic Gardens in June. There are aspects of the Masterplan that are not supported by the Friends such as the removal of an excessive amount of vegetation to construct the new dam wall. AGHS made a submission to Ballarat City Council last year in support of the Friends concerns and have promised to submit a response to Heritage Victoria, once the council seeks their approval for the Masterplan.



## **Retrospect and Prospect: gardens, history, and garden history.**

An illustrated talk by noted garden history expert **Richard Aitken**



**Where:** Auditorium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne, 1000 Ballarto Road, Cranbourne

**When:** Sunday 19 November 2023, at 2pm.

**Cost:** \$25, \$20 (Friends members) \$10 Students

**Bookings:** through the following link:

<https://cranbournefriends.tidyhq.com/public/schedule/events/53284-2320-retrospect-and-prospect-gardens-history-and-garden-history>

**Note:** This talk will not be live-streamed or recorded

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## **THE ART OF THE JAPANESE GARDEN: FROM TRADITION TO MODERNITY**

13 September 2023 Lido Cinema 1, 8pm Lecturer Marie Conte-Helm

This lecture introduces some of Japan's most famous gardens and provides context for understanding the Japanese garden as it has evolved through the ages.



**Professor Conte-Helm** has a BA in History of Art and an MA in Asian Art. She held senior academic positions at UK Universities, has lectured throughout the UK and abroad and has been honoured by both the UK and Japanese governments for services to UK-Japan educational and cultural relations.

All lectures are at **8pm at the Lido Cinemas, Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn**. Should anyone wish to attend they would need to book in via Eventbrite and contact Veronica Rickard at [adfasmelbourne@gmail.com](mailto:adfasmelbourne@gmail.com) or **0408 113 669**. Cost for non-members for each lecture is \$30 and includes supper after the lecture. The link on the Eventbrite booking site is generally available approximately two weeks prior to the lecture.



## AILA - FESTIVAL OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

OCTOBER 19 - 22, ADELAIDE

Australian Institute of  
Landscape Architects

UN/EARTH seeks to illuminate the worlds beneath us through exploration of the physical and metaphoric soil horizons upon which landscape architecture practice is founded. The eroding, geologic, cavernous, mineral, and organic processes that have shaped our planet's crust, so often hidden and beyond our gaze, are the primary source materials for UN/EARTH.

See the AILA website for for information



## VICTORIAN BRANCH COMMITTEE

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

**Committee members:**  
**Working Bee Coordinator:** Diana Ellerton  
**Advocacy:** Ros Savio & Michaela Hill  
**Projects:** Trevor Pitkin  
**NMC Rep:** Michaela Hill  
**Catering Coordinator:** Annie Woodside



We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month, 3.30pm - 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](mailto:aghsvicbranch2@gmail.com), or contact a committee member. Go to our Webpage [www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/branches/victoria/](http://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](mailto:aghsvic19@gmail.com) with newsletter in subject line.