



# *Victoria Branch News*

**SUMMER 2021**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

Dear Victorian Branch Members,

Happy New Year and welcome to our first newsletter for 2021. We trust you are having a relaxing summer with family and friends and making the most of our relative “freedom” in these uncertain times. The cool weather has been a bonus for our summer gardens and, if it’s anything like my coastal garden, the plants (and weeds) are flourishing.

Your committee is working hard to plan a variety of “Covid – safe” events that can be rolled out as restrictions allow. It is hard to plan too far ahead as our environment is so fluid at the moment but we have lots of ideas we are hoping to deliver.

It was wonderful to see over forty members attending the December Walk and Talk in the Arid Gardens at the RBG which was our last event for 2020.



Led by our Patron Professor Tim Entwisle, we were informed of the thinking behind the design of the new garden, the history of the plant collection and introduced to some weird and wonderful cacti and succulents. Afterwards members enjoyed catching up over a picnic tea in and around the adjacent Tecoma Pavilion.

So, if you weren’t able to attend, make sure you visit the Arid Garden next time you are at the RBG as it is a fascinating new space.

### **EVENTS**

**WALK AND TALK  
BISHOPSCOURT THURSDAY  
25 FEBRUARY 10AM**

Our first event for the year will be a slightly different walk and talk at Bishopscourt in East Melbourne on Thursday 25 February at 10 am. This two-acre site has been the residence of the Anglican Bishop (later Archbishop) since 1853 and is a rare example of an inner city Melbourne mansion and garden which is largely intact. Long time members may recall the 1998 proposal to subdivide the Hotham Street frontage which required a permit application to Heritage Victoria. This was strongly opposed by AGHS and

other parties and eventually refused.

We will be guided around the property by two Bishopscourt volunteers.

Tim Gatehouse (who is also an AGHS committee member) will run the house tour, and Helen Botham, who delivered our extremely successful La Trobe lecture last year, will guide us around the garden and remind us of La Trobe’s connections with Bishopscourt. Both these guides are extremely knowledgeable and will tailor the tours to the interests of our members. If you would like to read more about the history of Bishopscourt, please log on to our website and download the free garden history which I wrote some years ago. The historical facts are still relevant and interesting.



**Garden History - Bishopscourt**  
Garden History Booklet  
[gardenhistorysociety.org.au](http://gardenhistorysociety.org.au)

See below for details of the event and Trybooking link. Book early as numbers are limited. There is a charge which includes morning tea and a donation to the garden. We hope you can join us.

**LECTURE VIA ZOOM BY COLLEEN MORRIS ON  
"Charles Moore and Joseph Maiden- Outreach and  
Impact" WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH 6PM**

As a precursor to our annual conference in Sydney, we have arranged for well-known NSW AGHS member, former NMC Chair and respected Garden Historian, Colleen Morris, to deliver our first lecture for the year. Colleen will speak about Moore and Maiden, who like Guilfoyle and Von Mueller in the Melbourne context, were two very important figures in the history of the Sydney Botanic Gardens. We hope this lecture will entice you to book in for our conference if you haven't already. The flyer and Trybooking details are below.



Opuntia & Christmas bush from one of Maiden's publications

**WORKING BEES**

Our first working bee for the year is at Longacres in Olinda on Saturday 20 March. Please see below for further details.

**40th Anniversary Garden Histories Project**  
Don't forget that garden histories for Umina and Longacres are available for free downloading from the AGHS website or you can order a hard copy for a small charge.

The Victorian Branch Committee is continuing to plan a full program for 2021, and we look forward to sharing details of these events in forthcoming newsletters.

WENDY DWYER | CHAIR

**Welcome New Members**

A warm welcome to *Johanna Bails*, we do hope you enjoy our newsletters and events.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Bishopscourt Walk & Talk

**Date: Thursday 25th February**

**Time: 9:45 for 10:00 am start**

**Cost: \$30 members / \$40 non-members -  
(includes morning tea & donation to garden)**

**BYO: face mask and hand sanitizer.**

You are invited to join us for morning tea and a guided tour of the house and garden at Bishopscourt specially designed for AGHS members.

**DUE TO RESTRICTIONS BOOKINGS REQUIRED**

**<https://www.trybooking.com/BOEOC>  
Enquiries: Wendy Dwyer 0408 340 967**

## Charles Moore and Joseph Maiden- Outreach and Impact an online talk by Colleen Morris

**Date:** Wednesday March 17th  
**Time:** Login 5:45 pm for 6 pm start

**Price:** AGHS members \$10  
 Friends of RBG \$10  
 Non-members. \$15

**Booking Link:**  
<https://www.trybooking.com/BOGYN>

**Note:** When you book on TryBooking you will receive a confirmation email with a zoom link. Please retain this email to access the talk.



The band lawn in the Lower Garden and Sydney Botanic Garden, 1895

This talk will discuss the influence of two directors of the Sydney Botanic Garden: Charles Moore whose directorship spanned from 1848 to 1896 and then the Joseph Maiden era from 1896 to 1924; periods of continuous direction of 48 and 28 years respectively. As to record-keeping the two men were the antitheses of each other. On Moore's death the assiduous Maiden, who left voluminous records, wrote that Moore 'wrote but little'.

On Moore's death the assiduous Maiden, who left voluminous records, wrote that Moore 'wrote but little'. However Moore's talent as a designer had an impression on a young William Guilfoyle who undoubtedly drew on his knowledge of the Sydney garden when he designed Melbourne Botanic Garden. Both Moore and Maiden were influential in shaping attitudes to botany, horticulture, forestry and science in NSW and Australia at a critical time and this presentation will broadly discuss their legacy.



**Colleen Morris** is a landscape heritage consultant, author and curator specialising in garden history, cultural landscape assessment and conservation management. She has prepared conservation plans for many of Australia's most significant historic gardens, including the botanic gardens of Adelaide and Sydney and Sydney's Government House and Domain. She has a particular knowledge of plant introductions to Australia and was instrumental in devising the Colonial Plants database for Sydney Living Museums. A more recent project undertaken with Christine Hay and James Quoyale was the AILA Landscape Heritage Conservation Listing project.

Colleen was the National Chair of the Australian Garden History Society from 2003-2009, is Deputy Chair of the National Trust (NSW) Landscape Conservation Committee and is a member of the Heritage Council of NSW.



## Working bees

Working bees are one way we support custodians of private historic gardens and demonstrate that we value their contribution and the assets they maintain. These are **Members Only** events.



### Longacres, Olinda

**Date:** Saturday March 20th

**Time:** Start at 10 am

For further details and to register, please contact Di Ellerton.

diana.ellerton@icloud.com OR  
telephone 9397 2756



### Medlow Bath, Surrey Hills

**Date:** Sunday April, 24th

**Time:** 10am start

For further details and to register, please contact Di Ellerton.

diana.ellerton@icloud.com OR  
telephone 9397 2756

## ADVOCACY NEWS

### Wombat Park, Daylesford

In mid 2019 AGHS submitted a proposal, prepared by Miffy Gilbert, to register Wombat Park residence, Garden and Stables as well as the Elm entrance and broad acres. Gilbert had undertaken a significant study of the property in 1994 for a thesis, and revisited the site in 2015 to assess changes in the horticultural aspects.

Wombat Park was put on the market in 2020 with expressions of interest closing in mid December last year. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, Heritage Victoria had not advanced their assessment as part of the registration process for this site as at January 19 2020. Further advice is expected later in January.

### Fawkner Park, South Yarra

The Heritage Council published its decision in early December 2020 regarding the appeal that had been lodged by the City of Melbourne against the original decision to reject their proposal. Hearings finally occurred in early October, which were dominated by advisors and consultants acting for the City of Melbourne, with minor inputs from objectors. AGHS refreshed its objections in writing, with some additional reference to the impacts the pandemic had had on usage of green, passive spaces (such as Fawkner park). Heritage Victoria chose to set aside the original decision, leading to the issue of a permit to proceed with conditions for the revised (2019/2020) proposal.

Meanwhile, it emerges that the City of Melbourne has been remiss in not updating a master plan for the park, which its own records show should have been addressed 4-5 years ago. In effect, the proposal now permitted is unsupported by proper planning reference documents. As a result, AGHS will be writing to the City of Melbourne councillors seeking their support to halt any move to begin work under the issued permit for Fawkner Park until the proper planning processes, associated documentation and public consultation are complete.

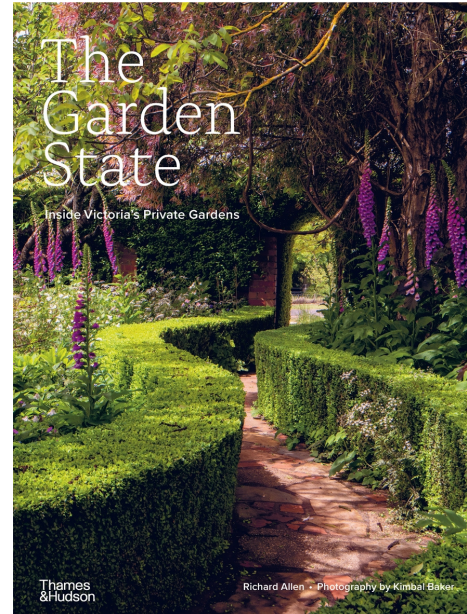
# SUMMER QUIZ

## VICTORIA'S PRIVATE GARDENS

With the situation looking better in Victoria, the summer holidays were a chance to catch up with family and friends for Christmas festivities. If you were lucky you may have received the new book:

*The Garden State, Inside Victoria's Private gardens.*  
Richard Allen, Kimbal Baker. Thames & Hudson

As our patron, Tim Entwisle, discusses in the foreword, many of us look back fondly to when we were known as 'The Garden State'. This new book by Richard Allen with beautiful photographs by Kimbal Baker explores some examples of our notable gardens and I thought that you might enjoy testing your knowledge of their history and design features. Feel free to cheat and enjoy the images if you have the book.



1. This property named after an Aboriginal word for the call of a frog, was one of the last private gardens designed by William Guilfoyle. It was owned by various members of one family for 133 years until it was purchased in 1980 by Peter and Jocelyn Mitchell (a former chair of AGHS). It features sweeping lawns, views of the Pyrenees, a pleached lime walk and a six-hole golf course.
2. This property has a romantic back story. Originally one of three properties owned by a Scottish pastoralist, Neil Black, it was passed to his youngest son in 1880. When this son fell in love and proposed marriage to his visiting Scottish cousin, she suggested a new house would help seal the deal. In July 1909, with a new house and a garden designed by Guilfoyle, he set sail to collect his bride. Sadly, the ship disappeared and the couple never achieved their dreams. With its sweeping lawns, curved paths and ornamental lakes the garden is one of Guilfoyle's signature works.
3. The owners selected the site for this relatively young garden very carefully – they looked at soil type, altitude and rainfall data. The result is a dazzling 2-hectare property on a north-facing slope overlooking a reservoir. It features some existing old trees from the original property (oaks, cedars and poplars) and a more recent forest of silver birch which visitors pass through as they approach the house. There is also a grove of cherry trees to the side of the house. On the slope overlooking the reservoir there are various levels showcasing a variety plants and statues.
4. Located at the southern end of the Dandenong Ranges, this property had its original garden designed by Edna Walling. It features many 'rooms' in the English-style, a wave-shaped topiary hedge of box and a clipped hedge of copper beech leads to the croquet lawn. More recently a deep pond was created by Phillip Johnson in collaboration with the current owners. There are many impressive trees – cedar, dogwoods, tulip trees, for example - and a citrus orchard as well.
5. This property, purchased in 1920 by a well-known Melbourne family, had its garden remodelled and extended by Harold Desbrowe-Annear in 1929. It features strong lines, geometric structures and Italian statues. A further extension to the property in 1932 resulted in the creation of a sunken formal garden, featuring a pond made from Castlemaine sandstone. The plantings include a multitude of box hedges, clipped junipers and cypresses.

Answers at end of newsletter





Longacres, Olinda

### QUIZ ANSWERS- VICTORIA'S PRIVATE GARDENS

1. Mawallok, Stockyard Hill
2. Dalvui, Noorat
3. Broughton Hall,
4. Jindivick Cranford, Sherbrooke
5. Cranlana, Toorak



### VICTORIAN BRANCH COMMITTEE

**Chair & Secretary:** Wendy Dwyer  
**Vice Chair & Newsletter:** Lynda Entwisle  
**Treasurer:** Anne Aston

**Committee members:**  
**Speaker/Tour ideas:** Robyn Robins  
**Working Bee Coordinator:** Diana Ellerton

**Advocacy:** Trevor Pitkin  
**Garden Histories:** Tim Gatehouse  
**NT Landscape Reference Group:** Anthony Menhennitt  
**NMC Rep:** Wendy Dwyer  
**Catering Coordinator:** Annie Woodside

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month, 3.30pm - 6pm at Burnley Gardens, except for October when the meeting will be held on 3rd Tuesday of the month. 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.