



AUSTRALIAN
GARDEN
HISTORY
SOCIETY

Victoria Branch News

SUMMER 2021-22

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Titanga book launch, November 2021 - Image: Anna Wolf

Dear Victorian Branch Members,

Welcome to our summer newsletter. How wonderful the easing of restrictions coincides with our warmer weather and longer days so we can make the most of our gardens and landscapes.

At last, we are able to have more confidence in our ability to deliver our program of events, so we thank all members for sticking with us and supporting those activities we could deliver during the difficult Covid era.

Needless to say, the first few months of 2022 will be busy as you can see from the diary dates below. It was great to catch up with many members and friends in person at a recent event. We thank the Lang family for hosting the official launch of our Titanga booklet at their property, and also the assistance given by members of the Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum Trust Inc, who led tours of the nearby botanic gardens. Sadly, the recent Walk and Talk around the System Garden at the Parkville Campus of the University of Melbourne (which was to be followed by our end of year picnic tea), needed to be postponed because of the extreme weather on the day. We are grateful to Virginia McNally for agreeing to lead this tour again, as our first event next year.

Our second event for 2022 will highlight another part of the University of Melbourne - the Burnley Campus of which many members have fond memories during their student days there. The event, detailed below, demonstrates one way we use income generated by our events. AGHS Vic Branch made a contribution to the production of this new book, "Burnley Gardens: their design and the people who loved them" by former lecturer Michele Adler.

It will be launched together with two lectures introducing us to two little known, but important women in the early days of horticulture and Burnley. Guided tours of their work in the garden will also be available. Please book in to join us.

We are very pleased that we our first bus trip for the year will be an extra special one with well-known horticulturalist and local, Stephen Ryan, leading us around several Mt Macedon gardens in their autumn glory. Also, after two previous postponements, we are very happy that the Melba/Streeton bus trip can finally occur. Dates and details for both trips are below.

Committee News

At the AGM, long term committee member, Anthony Menhennitt, stood down after many years of service and we thank him for always being willing to lend a hand where required and representing AGHS on several external committees. Also at the end of 2021, Tim Gatehouse, is standing down but has agreed to continue writing garden histories for publication so we thank him for being so generous with his time to make such publications possible and for all the committee support he provided.

We are very pleased to welcome to the committee, relatively new member, Robyn Teed to help with organising events. Also, Wendy Nichol has recently joined us and brings much needed administrative skills and a range of ideas and contacts for all sorts of events.

So, on behalf of the Victorian Committee, I would like to send all members our best wishes for the Festive Season and a healthy and event-packed 2022.

Wendy Dwyer - Chair

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Susan Foran, Virginia McNally, Libby Robin, Julie-Ann Stewart, Amanda Wells, Julian Patterson, Liz Newton, Peta Hughes, Robyn Tribe.



Diary Dates:

Wednesday 2 February 2022– Summer *Walk and Talk* at the System Garden and Campus of University of Melbourne led by Virginia McNally (postponed from December 2021).

Saturday 12 February 2022– rescheduled mini-Symposium with FOBG and the Victorian Herb Society at Burnley Gardens with two lectures on early students, Ina Higgins and Hilda Kirkhope, launch of new book “Burnley Gardens: their design and the people who loved them” and guided tours to see their work.

Wednesday 30 March 2022 – Special bus trip to view Mt Macedon gardens in their autumn glory led by well know horticulturist and local resident, Stephen Ryan

Friday 29 April 2022 – rescheduled bus trip to visit the house interiors and gardens of Dame Nellie Melba and Sir Arthur Streeton who were friends.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MINI SYMPOSIUM AT BURNLEY GARDENS



Ina Higgins c. 1901.



Hilda Kirkhope and dog

Date: Saturday 12 February 2022

Time: 2pm – 5pm

Location: Main Admin Building Burnley Campus, University of Melbourne

Parking Free parking along Yarra boulevard.
No parking on campus.

Cost: \$40 members, \$50 non-members

BOOKINGS: <https://www.trybooking.com/BVTJU>

Join us with the Friends of Burnley Gardens and The Herb Society of Victoria, for a special afternoon to launch the book, “Burnley Gardens: their design and the people who loved them” by Michèle Adler, to which AGHS contributed funding. We will hear a lecture from well-known horticulturist, Sandi Pullman, about Ina Higgins, a significant Burnley trailblazer in the early 1900s who promoted women in horticulture and was an important landscape gardener. The second lecture, by former Burnley lecturer Michèle Adler, will be about Hilda Kirkhope, who was a staff member at Burnley in the 1930s and one of the few women who designed a section of the Burnley Gardens. Following afternoon tea, the Burnley Guides will lead tours around the gardens to show where these two identities left their legacy. **Please note:** It is a requirement of the University of Melbourne that all visitors be double-vaccinated and carry proof of vaccination or medical exemption.

Speaker Bios:

Sandi Pullman is a graduate of Burnley College and is currently researching Burnley’s first Principal, Charles Bogue Luffman for her PhD. She is a horticulturist and initiated the formation of the Friends of Burnley Gardens in 1997.

Michèle Adler was a lecturer at Burnley for 30 years and a long-time President of the Friends. She is the author of the new book, “Burnley Gardens: their design and the people who loved them.”

University of Melbourne System Garden Summer Walk & Talk

Date: Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Time: 5.00 for 5.30pm

Meet: Tin Alley access gates. Approximately 50 m up from Royal Pde/ or via Swanston St

Bring: Picnic dinner & drinks.

Note: It will be possible to leave your belongings near access gate while we walk.

Tables & seating will be provided. Toilets available nearby.



Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/BUPAL>

Please join us for the rescheduled tour of the University of Melbourne's System Garden and horticultural environs. This tour will be led by Virginia McNally who has been an arborist/horticulturalist at the Parkville campus of The University of Melbourne for more than 30 years and has recently assumed the role of Curator of the System Garden. **Note:** It is a requirement that all participants be double vaccinated and may be asked for proof of vaccination or a valid medical exemption certificate on the day.

Getting there:

Tram 19 along Elizabeth St, stop 12

Tram 67 along Swanston St. End of terminus near Tin Alley entrance

ONE DAY BUS TRIP - AUTUMN IN MT MACEDON WITH STEPHEN RYAN

DATE: Wednesday 30 March 2022
COST: \$165 members \$180 non-members
DEPARTURE: 8.30am sharp Russell St Extension Bus Loop
 (behind Ian Potter Gallery)
RETURN: Approx. 5pm depending on traffic
INCLUDES: Morning tea, lunch and notes
BYO: Water bottle, mask, sanitiser
Cancellation: No refunds after 2nd March

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/BVQLU>

REMINDER: THERE ARE A LOT OF STEEP STAIRS AND WALKING ON THIS TRIP SO MEMBERS MUST BE CAPABLE AND PREPARED FOR THIS.



Durrol garden view

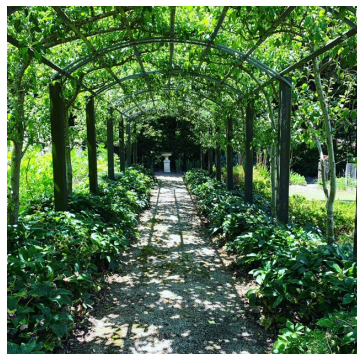
Join us for a trip to explore several beautiful and significant Mt Macedon gardens in their autumn glory led by well-known local and horticulturist Stephen Ryan.

We will visit Turgurim, Stephen Ryan's own garden established nearly 40 years ago which features impressive plants emphasizing form, texture and colour. Next stop is Alton, one of Macedon's finest terraced hill stations established in the 1870s. It features an amazing tree collection and impressive Arts and Crafts house considered one of the best in Australia. After lunch by the Mt Macedon and District Horticultural Society at the golf club, we will visit the beautiful garden at Durrol, which is of National Significance being designed by Edna Walling in 1925. The final stop is Dicksonia Rare Plants nursery displaying over 2000 different plants from around the world.



STEPHEN RYAN - is a well-known horticulturist and a passionate plant collector. He has lived in Mt Macedon all his life and ran his family nursery until 1980 when he started Dicksonia Rare Plants. As a media personality, he has worked as a host on ABC television's Gardening Australia and written many articles for magazines and newspapers. He currently does a regular radio slot with Melbourne's 3CR station and ABC Bendigo Regional Victoria. Stephen promises to share his local knowledge and enthusiasm for plants and the history of the area.

A MELBA/STREETON DAY IN THE YARRA VALLEY AND DANDENONG RANGES



DATE: FRIDAY 29 APRIL 2021
DEPARTS: 8.30 AM BUS PARK RUSSELL ST EXTENSION BEHIND
 FEDERATION SQUARE
RETURNS: 5.30 APPROX DEPENDING ON TRAFFIC
BYO: MASK, HAND SANITISER, WATER BOTTLE
COST: \$155/\$170 (INCLUDES MORNING TEA, LUNCH, SNACKS,
 GUIDED TOURS AND NOTES.)

BOOKINGS OPEN EARLY 2022.
 see next Newsletter for details

ADVOCACY NEWS

Wombat Park, Daylesford

Wombat Park is set to be sold by auction in early December, after a year of inactivity since the failed private sale process. AGHS awaits the position of Heritage Victoria with respect to registration of this property following several approaches over the last year to encourage acceleration of the assessment process, based on the high quality and extensive documentation that attached to the submission.



Yantaringa Gardens, Ivanhoe

An approach was made to AGHS to understand what kind of assistance could be provided to renovate the residential gardens associated with the original property of Sir Herbert and Annie Olney, Yantaringa. The garden they established in the early 1920s was recognised through an award in 1928 and was well known at the time because of the bowling green fitted with electric-lights that the gardens incorporated.

A site visit with the resident concerned for the restoration of the remnant garden was held. The Heidelberg Historical Society has been able to provide some images from the past which can be used to identify both layout and plant types.

The first stage of assistance involves creating a plan of the original gardens, using MMBW plans, heritage photographs and contemporary aerial images. An article for the AGHS journal is planned once this work is done

Goronga, Pakenham Upper

This property is the subject of a recently released history by Tim Gatehouse. As part of its work in raising awareness of special properties, AGHS has committed to producing an addition to its Pictorial series for Goronga, to complement the written history.

A site visit was made in early November to capture images. This Pictorial is expected to be published on the website in the first quarter of 2022.

Royal Exhibition Buildings (REB) and Carlton Gardens, World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA) draft World Heritage Strategy Plan

The draft Review of the World Heritage Strategy Plan was released in mid-July for anyone to view and respond to.

This background review found that the 2009 Strategy Plan has been generally successful in conserving and protecting the World Heritage values of the REB & Carlton Gardens through managing and controlling development within the WHEA through Local Policies and Design Development Overlays. The review revealed a range of gaps, omissions and risks which are required to be addressed through revisions and updates to the Strategy Plan and associated statutory policy implementation framework.

AGHS prepared a brief response to acknowledge the high quality and practicality of the work, with no substantive issues to raise.

Carlton Gardens master plan draft for review

A draft masterplan addressing the gardens that form part of the world heritage site along with the Exhibition Building was released as part of the overall process of refreshing the planning documentation (see entry above).

As for the WHEA documentation, this draft is of high quality. AGHS has responded with commentary around the treatment of the southern entry and the style approach to amenities in the northern part of the gardens.



Image: Royal Exhibition Building, 1926 : courtesy State Library of Victoria

City of Melbourne committee membership

The City of Melbourne has sought applications for membership of its the Parks and Gardens Advisory Committee. AGHS has applied, with some initial encouragement from CoM, but has not been advised of an outcome at this stage. There have been several delays reported due to the strong community response, which is a good sign.

The committee is involved in strategy development, policy review, planning and design considerations and community engagement planning around complex issues affecting Melbourne's parks, gardens and urban landscapes. These issues include climate change, urban expansion, water shortage and increased use.

Kamesburg Gardens, Brighton

An approach was made from a former gardener at Kamesburg, a large property on 6 acres in suburban Brighton, to establish what status the gardens surrounding this property held in AGHS. The national committee is investigating its status with respect to the Remarkable Gardens register.

Meanwhile local research has continued into records associated with the gardens, with a view to preparing an article on the property for the AGHS journal. Bayside City Council, which took over the property in 1996 when it was relinquished by the Department of Veteran Affairs, commissioned a master plan in 1997.

This plan is comprehensive, and first indications are the Council has been following it over the years to a large extent. One note of particular interest is the plan's assessment of Kamesburg as second only to Rippon Lea as an exemplar for the era and type of estate.

A preliminary site visit with the Parks Management Officer is scheduled for late November.

Garden Visits Protocols

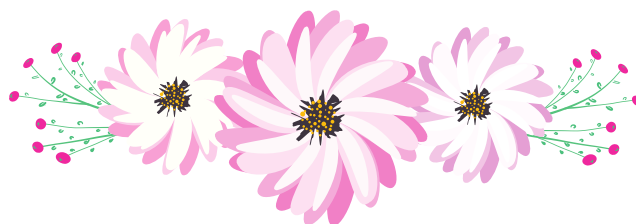
Garden Visits - 'keeping it nice'

Members of the AGHS enjoy the privilege of visiting private gardens on tours organised by the Society. As we look forward to a post-lockdown era of being able to participate in garden tours again, we thought it timely to remind members of the AGHS protocols for visiting private gardens.

Courtesy requires that the privacy of garden owners be respected and that there be some restrictions during and after such visits. The following actions are to be avoided:

- peering in the windows of the residence
- taking photos without the owners permission
- publishing photos on social media or elsewhere without permission
- making comments which could offend the owners

If these simple rules aren't followed we may not be permitted to repeat our visit, the reputation of the Society could be impaired and the number of owners willing to invite us diminished.



VICTORIAN BRANCH COMMITTEE

Chair & Secretary : Wendy Dwyer

Vice Chair and Newsletter: Lynda Entwisle

Treasurer: Anna Long

Committee members:

Working Bee Coordinator: Diana Ellerton

Advocacy: Trevor Pitkin

NMC Rep: Anna Long

Catering Coordinator: Annie Woodside

General committee:

Robyn Teed

Wendy Nichol

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month, 4pm - 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, 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.