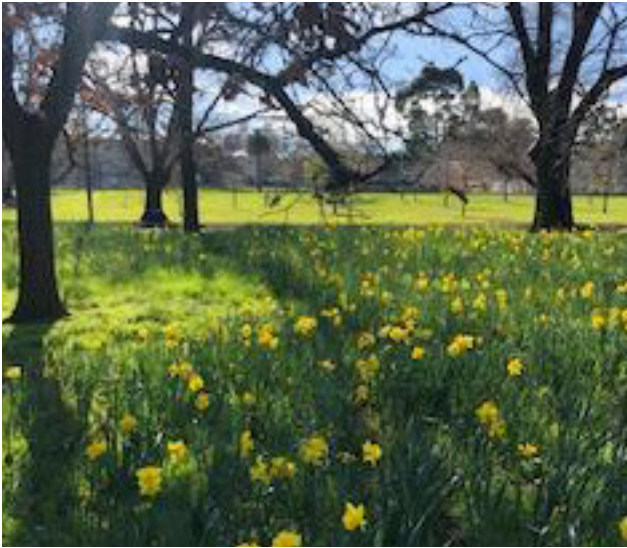


## VICTORIA BRANCH NEWS UPDATE: AUGUST 2020



Hello Members,

Walking in my local public park, Fawcner Park South Yarra, I am cheered by the beautiful spread of golden daffodils which seem to be beckoning spring to hurry along. We are blessed with our public parks and gardens in Victoria and I hope that like me you too are making good use of our allotted one hour of exercise to take full advantage.

As I walk around my neighbourhood, I see evidence that spring is indeed only a few heartbeats away. I pass gardens where spring flowers are popping their hopeful heads prematurely out of the ground with such determination to greet the world, I stop and reflect on the contribution that plants, gardens and gardeners make to our collective wellbeing. It most certainly has been a long winter of restrictions here in Victoria which we have taken in our stride.

**Please find attached:**

Nomination form for Vic branch committee.

I am grateful to all Victorian members for continuing to support us during this long period of disruption and assure you that 2021 will be a full year of lectures, trips, working bees and all the other activities we have had to postpone in 2020.

On Monday 24 August 2020 at 7 pm we will hold our annual general meeting by Zoom. The formal proceedings will be followed by an illustrated talk by Tim Gatehouse on 5 gardens in New Zealand. Tim visited these beautiful places whilst attending the conference in NZ in 2019. Join us and join in - you will be able to ask questions and contribute.

Please contact us for copies of the AGM documents which will include the treasurers and the chairs report, attached to this newsletter you will find a nomination form to join the Vic branch committee. Should you wish to nominate please let us know by filling in the form and either emailing back or mailing to the address below. We have received one nomination from Trevor Pitkin who is known to many of you and his nomination will be put up for formal acceptance at the AGM.

Stay safe and keep your gardens ready to welcome the spring rush of blooms.

Robyn Robins

Chair

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## AUGUST QUIZ - 'GRAND GARDENS'

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Image: 'Cranlana' By Tim Entwisle

The July Quiz on significant Melbourne gardens proved popular so I have produced another along a similar vein to get you thinking and researching during lockdown. The theme this month is 'Grand Gardens of Victoria'. Enjoy!

### THE QUIZ

1. Originally 20 hectares in size, this property overlooks the Yarra River in suburban Melbourne and the 'principal part' of the garden was thought to have been laid out and planted in 1857 by William Sangster. Soil was a problem for the first gardeners and although a Moreton Bay fig and several Araucarias flourished other species struggled. In 1959 the National Trust purchased the now two-hectare sized property and set about rejuvenating the garden. The Victorian era characteristics of the plantings were retained but an Ellis stones rockery and pool were added. The existing fountain garden, croquet lawn and distinctive hedge of mature Monterey Cypress are still there.
2. This regional house and garden were built around 1860 and named after the home city of its Hungarian owner. The garden is an example of a late nineteenth/early twentieth century suburban one and it was owned and tended by the one family for 118 years. Interesting structural features which have survived are an aviary and a tennis pavilion. When the tennis court was converted into a formal garden the pavilion was used as a fernery. The massive clipped hedge planted in front of the house is probably the largest in Victoria.
3. The garden of this well-loved Melbourne property, which has been used as a backdrop for locally produced dramas, is complex and covers about 14 acres. It includes a large lake, extensive shrubberies and flower gardens, an orchard and a fernery. The fernery, one of the largest to be constructed in a private garden, has meandering paths, trickling streams and hundreds of species of ferns and palms. The Hollywood inspired swimming pool added in the 1930s has a pergola which supports varieties of ivy and pillar roses.
4. The 'Quartz King', George Lansell, created the garden of this regional property from 1870 onwards. It is located on the site of the highly successful 180 Mine and as parts of the property became redundant for gold-mining, George expanded the garden. The grounds cover some 7.57 ha. and features an ornamental lake, garden, Roman-bath and the Pompeii Fountain. Many of these items were imported from Italy and serve as a testament to the extravagance of the goldmining period.
5. This property is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2020 and is still owned and loved by the original family. The garden was designed and laid out in 1932 by renowned architect Harold Desbrowe An near who died shortly afterwards. It represents an intact and well-preserved example of the Arts and Crafts movement, popular at that time. The sunken garden is a feature with clipped conifers and hedges, water features and Italian marble statues. The garden also contains many significant mature specimen trees: English oaks, a giant Cedar of Lebanon and a notable Pin Oak at the top of the driveway.

*Reference consulted: Historic Gardens of Victoria by Peter Watts, 1983 OUP*

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## IN MY GARDEN - MY BANKSIAS BY WENDY DWYER

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Image: Wendy Dwyer

I have a lot to thank Celia Rosser for. Not only did she inspire me to take up botanical art, but also to grow as many banksia species as possible in my coastal garden. The challenge is that I garden at the foot of the Otways close to the Southern Ocean in heavy clay soil often with significant rainfall and have found out that many of the banksias I'm attracted to come from Western Australia thriving in quite different conditions. However, not to be daunted I do try to keep in

the back of my mind what I'd been taught when I studied horticulture at Burnley that, as good gardeners should know, it's just a case of appropriate plants for appropriate places. But aren't nurseries seductive and who hasn't come away as a nursery victim with a few inappropriate but interesting plants? Adding up my plant list I see that I've attempted to grow twenty-nine different banksia species in thirteen years. Only about ten are currently doing well.

My biggest successes include unsurprisingly the coastal *Banksia integrifolia* which I'm trying to make into our boundary trees as they are visited frequently by the yellow-tailed black cockatoos, *B. spinulosa* "Birthday Candles" the very popular dwarf cultivar which has candles from March until September and the prostrate *B. blechnifolia* and *B. repens* which have been excellent in the steep rockeries except for hiding the resident tiger snakes. One of my favourite candles is on the *B. media* as it is big, golden and long-lasting, closely followed by *B. ericifolia* which changes to a lovely rusty orange colour. I've also been pleasantly surprised by the success of the small tree *B. plagiocarpa* which comes from Hinchinbrook Island and has an interesting leaf, branch structure and smaller candles. So I can recommend trying banksias in your garden if your haven't fallen under their enduring charm already.

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Dear Readers,

Do you have a special plant or place in your garden that forms part of your personal garden history? The committee have shared some of their favourites and now we would love to hear from our members too. Please send your contributions to the Newsletter Editor at [lynda.entwisle@gmail.com](mailto:lynda.entwisle@gmail.com)



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## TREE MONTH - WALK IN NATURE OR 'HUG' \*A-TREE

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A message from B. McNicholas Director, Walk in St Kilda Rd & Environs  
**Walk in Nature or 'Hug'\*a-Tree and share your photos in August**

This is the first time in 25 years that public planting and nature care events for Planet Ark have had to be cancelled – but let's connect with nature as and when we can, safely, by sharing a photo. In this way we can connect with each other.

Photos can be from anywhere and you don't need to literally hug the tree, just demonstrate your appreciation of it! Of course, if you are in Melbourne or Victoria, you will be wearing a face mask! Hopefully, that will be unique to 2020.

Send your photos now and through August to:  
[hugatree@stkildardandenvironspreservation.org](mailto:hugatree@stkildardandenvironspreservation.org)

AND

if you use twitter, also send a copy to Planet Ark NTD using the hashtag  
**#HugaTreeforNTD**

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### AUGUST QUIZ ANSWERS

- |                                       |                      |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Como House and Garden, South Yarra | 2. Buda, Castlemaine |
| 3. Rippon Lea, Elsternwick            | 4. Fortuna, Bendigo  |
| 5. Cranlana, Toorak                   |                      |

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#### Victorian Branch Committee

**Chair:** Robyn Robins

**Treasurer:** Anne Aston

**Secretary:** Robyn Robins

#### Committee Members:

**Working Bee Coordinator:** Diana Ellerton

**Advocacy & NMC Representative:** Wendy Dwyer

**Garden Histories:** Tim Gatehouse

**Oral History:** Wendy Dwyer

**Newsletters:** Lynda Entwisle

**Rep. Landscape Reference Group/Deputy Secretary:**

Anthony Menhennitt

**Rep. Landscape Reference Group/Deputy Secretary:** Anthony Menhennitt

**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 Robyn Robins [robynrobins2@gmail.com](mailto:robynrobins2@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 [lynda.entwisle@gmail.com](mailto:lynda.entwisle@gmail.com) with **newsletter** in subject line.



**Victoria Branch**

**NOMINATION FORM FOR COMMITTEE**

The Annual General Meeting of the Victoria Branch of the Australian Garden History Society will be held at 7 pm on Monday 24 August 2020 by online video, Zoom.

Nominations for the Victorian Committee are called and should be forwarded by email to Robyn Robins, Chair Victoria Branch at [aghsvicbranch2@gmail.com](mailto:aghsvicbranch2@gmail.com). or may be posted to P O Box 7249, Melbourne, Victoria 3004.

**Nominee**

Name: .....

Address: .....

Email: .....

Phone: Home: ..... Mobile: .....

Date: .....

**Proposer**

Name: .....

Address: .....

Email: .....

Phone: Home: ..... Mobile: .....

Date: .....

**Secunder**

Name: .....

Address: .....

Email: .....

Phone: Home: ..... Mobile: .....

Date: .....