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Newsletter – Spring 2019
WEST AUSTRALIAN BRANCH



AGHS WA
Christmas Function
Sunday 8th December 2pm to 4pm, \$10

Elizabeth Atkins has very kindly offered her home for the gathering at 25 Market Street, Guildford. Cost \$10.00 includes raffle tickets. Please bring a plate of finger food to share. Drinks will be provided. Feel welcome to bring guests who may be interested in joining the Society.

Careful perusal of the Journals and '2019 in Review' may be helpful for the Chairman's Quiz!

RSVP Sue Monger susanmonger@yahoo.com.au or 9384 1575 by Wednesday 4th December.



Nuytsia floribunda - West Australian Christmas Tree

Retrieved from <https://www.gardeningwithangus.com.au/nuytsia-floribunda-western-australian-christmas-tree/>

New Members

A warm welcome is extended to Marilyn & Siok Cheng and Andrew Pavledis.

Vale

It was sad to note the passing of the following four during the year:

- ***Eva Pervan***, a member of the original committee, qualified Landscape Architect who taught garden design at Bentley TAFE.
- ***Mike Davis***, an early member and on the organising committee for the 1998 and 2005 WA National Conferences. Our condolences to Sue.
- ***Jenny Cocks***, a member and related to the Barratt family that established the Wellington Nursery in Perth in 1860. Our sympathy is extended to her family.
- ***Dr Lise Summers, Gillian Lilleyman***
Australian Garden History Society members will be saddened to learn of the death of Dr Lise Summers. A former member of the Society, Lise was senior archivist at the State Records Office for over twenty years. After graduating from UWA, Lise undertook further studies at the University of NSW and Edith Cowan University before completing her PhD at the University of Melbourne. Her thesis 'From Wasteland to Parkland' is a seminal reference on the development of Perth's public gardens and open spaces. Lise's studies in this field, coupled with her intimate knowledge of the resources of the State Records Office, made her advice on a number of the Society's projects invaluable. Her friendly and knowledgeable assistance was much appreciated. She will be sadly missed.

In 2009 Lise showed a group of members through the workings of the State Records Office, and in April 2015 she gave a well-attended talk Naturally Urbane: parks in the city at the Grove Community Centre.

Annual General Meeting, John Viska

The 30th AGM took place at Falls Farm, Lesmurdie on 11th August with 24 members and a guest in attendance. Prior to the meeting members enjoyed a stroll in the grounds, maintained by Heritage Roses in Australia.

As a result of community action in the mid-1980s, Falls Farm, part of the Sanderson Estate, was saved from demolition. The surviving building, constructed from the local lateritic rock, with its north facing veranda covered by an aged vine was one of the earliest farmsteads in the area. Remnant productive plants including a fig, loquats and a vine covered pergola were surrounded by degraded bushland. Neil and Pauline Tonkin, ably assisted by the Lesmurdie Ratepayers Association, applied for community grants and in conjunction with fundraising field days raised the capital to restore the derelict cottage. A heritage rose garden was designed and with the assistance of Bentley TAFE students the paved area installed. Roses, the result of community members buying a plant from a selection made by the committee, were planted in the cruciform rose garden. The WA branch of Heritage Roses in Australia

tend the roses and recently have planted climbers to grow over the pergola. Volunteers assist with the garden and the property is a popular venue as well as functioning as a community centre. In recognition of the superb effort by the late Neil Tonkin the site has been named Neil Tonkin Park.



AGM attendees in the grounds of Sanderson House as part of a walk around St Brigid's College. Photo: L. Tang



The chairman presenting the guest speaker Pauline Tonkin, with a nursery voucher for plants for Falls Farm. Photo: L. Tang



Retiring committee member Theresa Putland describing the location of the former grotto at St Brigid's College Lesmurdie. Photo: L. Tang

AGHS WA Committee

Theresa Putland has resigned from the committee. Her role included responsibility for updating the website and recently she organised the successful excursion to Moora and Berkshire Valley Farm. Thanks for a job well done Theresa, and we look forward to your continued interest in AGHS events.

Lyn Oliver, previously co-opted to the committee, was formally elected as was Boris Roglich. Lyn has hit the ground running in her portfolio and we look forward to Boris's input.

AGHSWA Committee

Chairman: John Viska

Secretary: Lynette Petersen

Treasurer: Max Stewart

NMC Representative: Patsy Vizents

Newsletter & Website: Lyn Oliver

Membership: Sue Monger

Committee Members: Ros Stewart and Boris Roglich

Oral History, Patsy Vizents NMC Representative

As of 10 September 2019, there are 11 oral histories uploaded onto the main AGHS website under the Projects and Reports drop-down menu. These interviews have been recorded as part of the National Oral History Collection and mainly focus on the development of the Australian Garden History Society. As we approach the 40th anniversary of the Society's foundation, it is interesting to understand how many people were involved and committed to the formation of this vibrant and valuable garden history movement.

https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/publications-projects/?category=National+Oral+History+Collection#filter=.iso_29

National Management Committee, Patsy Vizents NMC Representative

In a matter of weeks, several WA Branch members will be winging their way across to Wellington, New Zealand to join other Australians and our New Zealand "cousins" in the floral feast that awaits us in the 40th National Conference, "Expanding Horizons" 25th to 27th October. There are still places available for those who may be interested in attending, although the pre and post-conference garden tours, led by AGHS member, Stuart Read, are fully booked. The larger South Island tour with Lyn Walker is still available and is a great opportunity to see some major historic gardens in this glorious region of New Zealand.

Work is underway on both the 2020 Conference in Sydney and the 2021 Conference in Hobart. There are a lot of hard working volunteers in AGHS undertaking the responsibility of preparation and presenting national conferences, something which we can all enjoy and participate in.

To keep pace with the nation's CPI, it was proposed and agreed at the last NMC meeting on 26 August, 2019, to increase membership fees. There has been no increase in membership for many years but our management and publication costs have definitely done so. Proposed membership increases are based on the individual rate rising from \$72 to \$78.

Membership Fee Increase from 1 November 2019			
Membership Type	Annual	2 Year	3 Year
Individual	\$ 78	\$ 140	\$ 211
Household	\$ 117	\$ 234	\$ 351
Corporate	\$ 265	\$ 530	\$ 795
Not for Profit	\$ 117	\$ 234	\$ 351
*Student	\$ 30	-	-
* Digital, Full time student, one year only			

This year four members step down from the NMC, having served their years of responsibility in their elected roles; the Chairman Richard Heathcote, Vice Chair Dr Jess Hood, Secretary Roslyn Burge and Dr Ruth Morgan. Nominations for these positions will be sought before the National Conference in October and the invitation is extended to Branches to encourage members to register their interest beforehand. It is a chance for members to participate in management of the Society and to contribute to forward planning as the Society moves into the next years of activity. The Treasurer's position is also vacant.

It should also be noted that Bernadette Hince, Editor of the AGHS Journal is also finishing her term of service in March of 2020. She has done a marvellous job managing the production of each volume of the magazine for the last five years. I'm sure you all agree that the Journal really is the most welcome item in our post box but if you prefer to receive your copy electronically, please contact Lisa Tuck at info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au and register your change of preference. The NMC is seeking a replacement for her and should there be anyone with the editing skills and experience who is interested in this position, please contact Lisa Tuck, our National Executive Officer on email: info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au for further information.



National Executive Officer, Lisa Tuck
Photo: S. Monger

The Branch acknowledges Richard Heathcote's contribution to AGHS during his tenure as Chairman since the AGM 2016. There have been some stormy seas for him to navigate, but his reliable hand on the tiller steadied the good ship AGHS and he leaves the Society in good shape for his successor. Thank you, Richard.

2020 Celebrations Progress Report, Patsy Vizents NMC Representative

The WA Branch was successful in securing a \$10,000 grant from the NMC 40th Anniversary Fund for the project proposed to mark the 2020, 40th Anniversary of the founding of the AGHS. This will contribute to the production of a book which will combine the work undertaken in 2011 and 2018 on the exhibitions, Heritage Gardens of Perth. Work is underway on combining the text and photographic research into a major publication which will be the first major historic work of this kind on gardening, nurseries and public gardens in Perth.

22nd March, 2020 is the date for our Garden Party celebration which will see all branches across Australia, gather in a local garden of significance at the same time (across our time zones!) to toast and commemorate the founding of the AGHS. A Perth garden is yet to be chosen for the WA gathering but please register the date in your calendar for the afternoon of Sunday, 22nd March. For those who may not be able to attend because of distance or any other circumstance, please note the time that we will be gathering and perhaps you too may join in by toasting at the same time, in a garden of your own choice. The Perth garden and times for the afternoon garden party, will be provided well before hand but because it is a Virtual Garden Party, we want to be connected by time and purpose across the nation. If you are not able to attend on the 22nd March, can you provide the name and place where you will be able to "raise a glass" so we can contribute this in our Perth celebrations.

Event Diary 2019

AGHS 40th Annual National Conference 2019

25th to 27th October 2019, National Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington. There are still some vacancies for the conference although the pre and post tours are fully booked. <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/events-conference/aghs-40th-annual-national-conference-2019/>

Recent Events

History in the City, Royal Western Australian Historical Society, 3rd July, John Viska, Chair AGHS WA

The chairman delivered an illustrated talk on the Society's recent exhibition *Historic Gardens of Perth, Western Suburbs*. The presentation was for the RWAHS program, *History in the City* with 35 people attending. This is the fourth time the talk has been requested by community groups and received a positive response.

Berkshire Valley, Clinch Farm, Mill and Museum, 11th July, Theresa Putland

The Moora Historical Society hosted 32 AGHS WA members and friends who enjoyed the Society's excellent museum in the town which was followed by a visit to Clinch Farm in the Berkshire Valley.

In Moora we received a warm welcome and tour of the beautifully displayed historical material collected by the people of Moora. This was followed by a light lunch which was provided by members of the Society. At lunch, notes detailing nineteenth century gardening events at Berkshire Valley were presented by the Chairman.

The group then drove out to Berkshire Valley and the Clinch Farm. The farm is only open once a year or on request to the present owners, Jill and Fred Hamilton. Prior to inspecting the six heritage listed buildings on the property which was established in the 1840s, Fred gave a detailed history of the walled courtyard garden which research has shown is a rare example extant in WA.

Clinch Mill is managed by the Moora Historical Society and provides displays of Clinch family memorabilia. The group toured the many historic buildings, large courtyard garden and the triple arched bridge. It was an excellent day, not only because of the uniqueness of Berkshire Valley Farm, but also due largely due to the tireless efforts of Kaye Lewis and the members of the Moora Historical Society.



Welcome by Kaye Lewis of the Moora Historical Society.

Photo: L. Tang



Members exploring the historic courtyard garden.

Photo: L. Tang



View across the heritage listed walls to buildings of the farm complex.
Photo: L. Tang

For Interest

Fremantle History Society Annual Studies Day Sunday 27th October 2019

1.30 - 5 pm at MUA Headquarters, Corner Kwong Alley and Queen Victoria Street, North Fremantle

This year's Studies Day focuses on Labour History in the port city, ranging from the history of a former industrial site, the Chinese sea-going workforce in Fremantle, industrial action in the 1930s and finally the Patrick's strike of the late 1990s.

Registrations open at 1.00 for a 1.30pm start

Price: Members: \$20, Non-members \$25

Bookings essential: secretary.fhs@gmail.com; www.fhs.org.au

Facebook/fremantlehistorysociety

Curtin Family Home Lecture 2019, National Trust Western Australia

IS IT TIME TO RESURRECT THE WARTIME 'GROW YOUR OWN' CAMPAIGN

Associate Professor Andrea Gaynor will explore how we can use history to inspire and inform urban food production for resilient and sustainable cities. She will trace changes in the amount and kind of food grown in Australian cities over time, with a focus on initiatives launched during WWII.

Date: Wednesday, 9th October 2019 / **Time:** 5:45pm for a 6pm start - 7.30pm

Where: Grove Library, 1 Leake Street, Peppermint Grove

Cost: Adult \$20, NTWA Members/Concession \$15 (*Prices do not include booking fees.*)

All are welcome. There will be light refreshments and networking after the lecture.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/curtin-family-home-lecture-2019-tickets-70586392801>

The Botanical: Beauty and Peril, Art Gallery WA until 4th November 2019, Free

This major exhibition explores the abundant beauty of the botanical world and the threats that assail it. It draws from the Janet Holmes à Court Collection and the AGWA Collection to present a vivid, involving and sometimes disturbing journey through the diverse representation by Australian artists of the glorious kingdom of plants.

From wildflower rooms to bush fire photography, the show both celebrates the natural beauty of landscapes and plants, and raises bracing issues about environmental destruction and the land rights of Australia's First Peoples. By turns immersive, stimulating, moving and inspiring, the exhibition is designed to stimulate conversations about our botanical world and how we live in it and live with it. <https://artgallery.wa.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/botanical-beauty-and-peril>

2019 in Review, Sue Monger

Our Christmas function last year began with a walk in the Mosman Park Memorial Gardens with former Mayor Ron Norris as our guide talking about the Avenue of Honour and the other war memorials before we repaired to the Mosman Park Golf Club where we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the WA branch. A cake was cut by John Viska, Tessa Watson, Caroline Grant and Sue Monger all of whom have held the Chairman's position.

In April we partnered with Heritage Roses in Australia and the Woodbridge Volunteers to present Roses of Woodbridge: Heritage Roses from Charles Harper's Nursery. Harper's nursery and commercial orchard operated between 1894 and 1915. There were superb floral displays throughout the house and the billiard room featured a display of roses from the

original catalogue that are still available today. Over the weekend more than 950 people took the opportunity to enjoy this feature of the National Heritage Festival.

Gillian Lilleyman's book *Pioneer Daughter; The Diary of Frances Louisa Drake (Fanny) Brockman (nee Bussell)* provided the basis for Gillian's illustrated talk 'Pioneer Hostess'. In the late 19th Century Fanny provided accommodation at her home Burnside for the growing numbers of tourists to the caves in the Margaret River region. Her brother John at Walcliffe House and her sister Edith at Ellensbrook also catered for visitors to the area.

In July, on a glorious winter's day, we ventured to Moora to visit a wonderful regional museum and enjoy lunch provided by members of the Moora Historical Society. Berkshire Valley Farm was established by James Clinch in the 1840's and it was a self-sufficient village with stone woolshed, stables, piggery, residence and mill which now houses a museum. The Hamilton family are the current owners of the property.

There will be a small contingent of WA members at the National Conference to be held in Wellington, NZ in late October.

Event Diary 2020

The AGHS WA Committee is currently developing the following ideas for events in 2020:

- ***Kerry Stokes Collection***, the branch has applied to view a selection of items from the Kerry Stokes Collection and is awaiting a response.
- ***Waroona***, Annual Day in the Country excursion to Waroona.
- ***Garden History Exhibition***, discussions have taken place with the management of the Museum of Perth for a garden history exhibition in the third quarter of 2020.

***The Committee wishes all our members a happy
Christmas and a healthy AGHS filled 2020!
Thank you for support.***

