

Contact: Sue Monger
susanmonger@yahoo.com.au

Newsletter – Spring & Summer 2018

Celebrating the founding of the
WEST AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

Happy 30th Anniversary



Christmas Function and 30th Anniversary Party

Sunday 9th December 2 – 4.00 pm

Mosman Park Memorial Park walk and afternoon tea

Meet at the Palmerston Street entrance gates, just south of Glyde St. There is parking on the street and in Memorial Drive. To mark the centenary of the end of WWI we will have a guided walk of some of the memorial features of the park, followed by afternoon tea at Mosman Park Golf Club, 2 Marshall St, Mosman Park. 3.00 pm. **WARNING!** It wouldn't be a Christmas function without the Chairman's Quiz, would it! You might find some useful information in the news that follows. Please note the Club is NOT within walking distance of the Memorial Park.

Cost \$25.00 includes catered afternoon tea, celebratory bubbles and tickets in the raffle.

So that numbers for catering are confirmed please make your payment by Monday 3rd December by **Direct deposit Bendigo Bank BSB 633 108, account number 1481 26360 It is important that you use your surname as the reference or by cheque payable to Australian Garden History Society WA** posted to the Treasurer Max Stewart, 103 Holmfirth St, Coolbinia 6050 ph 9444 1536

RSVP Sue Monger susanmonger@yahoo.com.au or 9384 1575 by Monday 3rd December. Please notify me of dietary requirements other than gf and vegan.

The year in review

It hardly seems a year since we gathered at Hazel McDougall House in Como to celebrate another year of AGHS WA activities. Neil McDougall, for whom the surrounding park is named, operated a dairy on the site until 1946.

In the cool of April Gillian Lilleyman led a walk through some of the grounds of the University of Western Australia focussing on the work of Henry Campbell and his collaboration with Hubert Wakefield when laying out the grounds in the 1920's.

Ros Stewart was behind the masterful stroke of a bus trip through the Swan Valley in May where we explored historic gardens such as St Lennards and Caversham House and enjoyed the delights of Houghtons and Kosovich wineries. A picnic lunch in the grave yard of All Saints Anglican Church connected us with many of the Valley's pioneering families.

John Viska's local history research led to his talk on Early Nurseries in the City of Vincent, presented at the Grove Community Centre. The lakes and swamps were ideal for nurserymen of the 1880's and demand for ornamental and productive plants increased as a result, in part, of the gold rush and newly developed suburbs.

The Chittering Valley beckoned for the AGM in August. Some of us met at the Bindoon and Districts Historical Museum to view the collection before moving on to Diane Pope's historic property Enderslea, for a picnic lunch and the AGM.

Months of planning came to fruition in September for the Historic Gardens of Perth: Western Suburbs. The exhibition ran for ten days at the Cottesloe Civic Centre.

Mittagong (NSW) was the venue for the annual National Conference hosted by the Southern Highlands Branch in late October.

AGHS mourned the death of its popular and respected Patron Sue Ebury, Countess of Wilton. The Society was pleased Professor Tim Entwisle agreed to accept the role and introduce himself at the Mittagong Conference where he was the guest speaker at the dinner.

Recent Events

Annual General Meeting.

On a glorious Autumn day we travelled through the lush Swan Valley to the Bindoon and Districts Historical Museum with its 'memory lane walk' of household artefacts many of which were donated by the Dickerson family, and impressive display of restored farm machinery.

Diane and Bruce Pope were our hosts at Enderslea, settled by Henry and Sarah Morley in 1883. We appreciated having access to the house where we admired Diane's eclectic collections and enjoyed a picnic lunch on the verandah.

The restored historic barn, built by ticket of leave men in the 1850's, was the setting for the meeting. Thank you to Diane and Bruce for your generous hospitality.



Afternoon tea in the restored historic barn at Enderslea
Ann Forma, our host Diane Pope, Rachel Roe, John Viska and Carmel O'Halloran

A presentation was made to Carmel O'Halloran, who has stepped down as the Branch Representative on the National Management Committee. Carmel has done a sterling job in keeping WA to the fore in that important forum and ensuring the WA committee was kept abreast of national matters. Thank you Carmel.

Results of the election office bearers: Chairman John Viska, Secretary Lynette Petersen, Treasurer Max Stewart, NMC Representative Patsy Vizents, Website Theresa Putland, Membership and Newsletter Sue Monger, Committee Ros Stewart

Congratulations to the committee and thank you, on behalf of the members, for the work you do to advance our branch through informative talks and interesting excursions.

Welcome to the Committee, Patsy. Members who attended the 2015 AGM at Heathcote may remember Patsy's talk on the history of Rottneest Island where she was the Heritage Officer. Patsy is a member of the Editorial Advisory Committee (for the journal), which has given her an insight the work of the NMC and therefore is well placed to take over from Carmel. She has hit the ground running on our committee and undertaken several tasks one of which is to conduct an oral history with John Viska. The NMC has an active sub-committee which works on adding interviews with

relevant people to expand its collection. A booklet containing 20 interviews was launched at the conference.

If you are aware of others in WA whom you think would be relevant and interesting interviewees Patsy would be pleased to hear from you. patsoir@gmail.com

Annual National Conference 26 – 29 Oct

Gardens in Times of Peace and Conflict

Coinciding with the centenary of cessation of hostilities in World War 1, the theme of *Gardens in times of Peace and Conflict* enabled presenters to explore the creation of gardens and cultural landscapes by men and women with a strong sense of purpose. The conference commemorated that sense of purpose, examining the roles gardens and landscapes played during WW1 and after it. It was also a chance to welcome the new AGHS patron, Professor Tim Entwistle, Director and Chief Executive, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

Presentations included:

- Remembrance Avenues and driveways,
- Commemorative remembrance gardens in cemeteries, public gardens and townscapes
- The Poppy Seed Project which established the Flanders Poppy as the emblem of Anzac and Remembrance Day commemorations.
- WASPS – the Women's Agricultural Security Production Service, war-time labour force
- Weeds and the war on such enemies in the garden
- Gardens established by internees in Australian camps.

The 11 presentations were thoughtful and respectful as can be imagined by the theme, and it is hoped that the papers will be available on the AGHS website shortly.

Visits to gardens of note in the Southern Highlands were a pleasure for all. The approx. 250 delegates enjoyed seeing modern or newly established gardens, such as Greenbrier Park in Mittagong as well as historically significant, established gardens such as the National Trust property Retford Park, Bowral.



Oldbury Farm Moss Vale

Of note was the visit to Oldbury Farm in Moss Vale, established between 1822 - 28 but which is now, along with having a fine arboretum and historic garden layout, the site of a School of Gardening, specifically designed for Head Gardeners on estates, or those who have qualifications in horticulture but who do not have the full range of experiences required by all head gardeners. The hawthorn hedging design is being taught, along with path laying and of course hedging. At Oldbury and in most of the magnificent gardens visited, the hedging was outstanding; clipped to perfection. A bonus for conference attendees was having two of the landscape designers of gardens we visited, Michael Blyth and Charlotte Webb OAM, discuss their projects either on site or during the conference chat sessions. Words and image by Patsy Vizents.

Historic Gardens of Perth: Western Suburbs

Several members took the opportunity to visit the Jarrah Room in the Cottesloe Civic Centre to view the exhibition which was opened by Richard Offen, historian and radio presenter, on 7th September. The Committee thanks the Town of Cottesloe for making the space available *gratis* for the ten day period. Financial support from Lotterywest and the National Management Committee contributed to the series of panels which explored the history of gardens, societies, parks, institutional and recreational spaces in the Western suburbs that contribute to the garden heritage of Western Australia.

Research for the panels was done by Gillian Lilleyman, Anne Forma, Robin Chinnery, John Viska, Elizabeth Hof, Lorraine Lingard and Lisa Williams. See 'Looking Forward' 21st November.

Looking Forward

Wednesday 21st November Nedlands Library 60 – 64 Stirling Hwy opp. Langham St

John Viska will be on hand 10.30 – 11.30am to speak about the Exhibition, specifically the many green spaces in the City of Nedlands. Free event. Book online nedlands/evanced.info/signup

Wednesday 28th Nov Royal Western Australian Historical Society 49 Broadway, Nedlands

A presentation on Augustus Oldfield a little known plant collector who took part in three expeditions in WA between 1850 – 60 \$10.00 Bookings essential 9386 3841 histwest.org.au
2019

March 31 Guildford Heritage Festival Stirling Square 10.00 – 5.00 pm

AGHS will have an information stall & closer to the time there will be a call for volunteers to assist.

Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 April 10.00 – 4.00 pm AGHS WA, Heritage Roses in Australia and National Trust WA Woodbridge Volunteers 'Roses of Woodbridge: Heritage Roses of Harper's Nursery'. This event will form part of the National Trust's Heritage Festival.

25 – 27 October National Annual Conference Wellington, New Zealand

Other Items of Interest

There is a flyer attached for an exhibition at the WA Maritime Museum Fremantle until 9 December

French Explorers in WA The Art of Science: Baudin's Voyagers 1800-1804, Return to Australia: Freycinet 1818 Museum entry \$15.00 \$7.50 concession 9.30 am – 5.00 pm

The exhibition is highly recommended by Theresa Putland.

Subiaco Museum, 239 Rokeby Road, November through January 2019 Exhibition of gardening in Subiaco as a developing suburb. Opening hours Tuesday - Friday 10.00 am - 4.00 pm Saturday 10.00 am - 2.00 pm

Enderslea Chittering Valley

National Trust Heritage Festival 2019

Friday April 24, Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 five performances of Moondyne and Me: the making of a bushranger which explores the legend behind Joseph Bolitho Johns, better known as Moondyne Joe. Referencing the novel written by John Boyle O'Reilly the play explores their experiences in the Swan River Colony of the 1860' and '70's. Flyer attached.

With good wishes to our members for Christmas and the coming year.