

# Australian Garden History Society

## West Australian Branch

### Summer Newsletter 2026



*The Australian Garden History Society promotes awareness and conservation of significant gardens and cultural landscapes through engagement, research, advocacy and activities.*

#### *A Season of Celebration and Progress*

Since our last newsletter, our Branch has enjoyed some very successful and convivial events. Members attended the Guildford Garden Festival, visiting three distinctive gardens followed by lunch at the Rose & Crown. In late November, we also celebrated our Christmas gathering in the tranquil gardens at the heritage-listed Woodloes Homestead — a fitting setting to conclude the year together.

The AGHS National Management Committee has introduced an annual theme to guide Branch activities, with **Trees** selected for 2026. Caroline Grant discusses this in her newsletter article and would appreciate members' contributions of photographs or oral histories on significant trees in Western Australia.

I am also pleased to report that our Historic Gardens Grants Program is in its final stages, with release anticipated in late March or early April. The program will assist owners of significant gardens with restoration, re-creation, and conservation management planning.

You are warmly invited to attend my upcoming talk on Historical Gardens in Darlington, with the second part to follow in April. (Further details are listed in the newsletter.) Finally, members wishing to become more involved in Branch activities — including participation in our monthly branch meetings which we are looking to have a Zoom (online) option — are encouraged to contact our Secretary. We would be delighted to invite you, and welcome your involvement.

*Ursula Sharman, Chair, AGHS WA Branch*

#### West Australian Branch

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#### West Australian Branch Committee

**Chair:** Ursula Sharman  
([westaustraliangardenhistory@gmail.com](mailto:westaustraliangardenhistory@gmail.com))

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Lynette Petersen

**NMC:** Felicity Farrelly

**Newsletter/Membership/Web Page:** Lyn Oliver

**Social Media Liaison:** Ursula Sharman

**General:** Sue Medalia

Australian Garden History Society Inc. (Inc in NSW)  
ABN 97 291 212 843  
ARBN 654 108 915

Welcome to the West Australian Branch. Our Branch has approximately 55 members throughout the state. We conduct numerous events during the year, including lectures and garden visits. Members, guests and visitors are welcome to all events. We communicate with our members by newsletter, email and the AGHS website for all events.

<https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au>  
[info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au](mailto:info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au)

## ***Summer Sight*** *John Viska*

As part of the AGHS 2026 Year of the Tree initiative our first article highlights *Cassia fistula* which is flowering now. It is a small to medium sized multi-branched tree with pendulous, yellow racemes of wisteria like flowers. It is known by many common names such as Golden Shower Tree, Shower of Gold, Indian Laburnum and Pudding Pipe Tree. The plant, which originates from India, is now in full flower, revelling in Perth's heat with some excellent mature specimens seen in older suburbs such as Kelmscott and Gosnells.



Cassia fistula

[cassia fistula - Search Images](#)

The first instance in print appears in an article on December 24, 1931, in the regular gardening column *The Garden* of the *Western Mail*. The author, writing under the pseudonym *Columbine*, titled the article, *The Government Gardens' Plants New to Perth, all new and attractive from India in the Nursery*. At that time, John Gates, the Director of the Government Gardens, now known as *Stirling Gardens*, referred to the tree as the *Indian cork tree*. As all the plants were seedlings it would be at least a decade before any flowering specimens would have been seen in Perth. In fact, it was not until 1949, articles on its culture, appeared on a regular basis in the local press.

## ***National Management Committee*** *Felicity Farrelly, AGHS NMC member for WA & AGHS NMC Secretary*

### **AGHS NMC Planning Meeting 6-7 February 2026, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne**

The new committee met with new Chair Helen Oates, who spoke to a review of the membership and the roles of the NMC and the need to address the finances that primarily come from membership and conferences.

The main issues discussed were:

1. Review of AGHS
2. Management of Finances - contribution principally from Membership fees and Conferences.
3. Membership Fees
4. Conversion of 'Friends' to members-branch membership coordinator request.
5. Awareness of the Kindred Spirits fund and potential opportunities for writers.
6. Request for branch advocacy officers
7. New Policy - a position statement has been sent to the media highlighting the dangers of using plastic (artificial) grass.

8. 2026 Year of the Tree: members are asked to publicise trees within branches that are unique in their neighbourhood.
9. Conference in Orange 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September - bookings will open 13 April 2026.

### **Review**

The NMC is made up of an Executive Group which comprises of a Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and a Public Officer. The Public Officer must be a NSW resident for purposes of compliance with legislation governing public societies.

The role of Branch representatives was highlighted in a review of the NMC and their roles are more clearly defined.

### **Management of Finances**

The AGHS principally depends on its revenue from membership (just over 1000 members) and conference profits. The current operating budget at half year has only 50% of the membership fees paid and with six months to go, the treasurer has asked all members to pay their fees for the current financial year.

Working for three days in the office is Executive Officer, Sarah Edwards, and also employed on a casual basis is a bookkeeper and an Information Technology (IT) consultant.

Now that the new membership software system, TidyHQ, has been implemented, this has led to the decision to bring in line all member subscription payments by March 31st, 2027. The month of March will become Membership Month. In 2026 to ensure that all memberships become due in March, a quarterly billing program will be implemented whereby memberships will be paid quarterly as they fall finalising in the month of March 2027. Further details will be sent out with your membership renewals.

### **Membership Fees**

The membership fee has remained the same over the last three years. It was resolved that fees would increase by a modest amount to reflect CPI and other administrative cost increases. Members will receive information about the new fees and payment schedules before the end of this financial year.

### **'Friends' to Members**

The Vice Chair, Eleanor Dartnell, from the Southern Highlands branch of NSW, has been delving into ways to activate interest in the AGHS. Many 'friends' attend events with the same attendance fee for both member and non-member. Tidy HQ provides a clearer picture of membership. The Chair, Vice Chair and members of the newly implemented Membership Group (Including Marketing and Communication) will address these issues and come back with recommendations at our next meeting.

### **Kindred Spirits Fund**

The opportunity for branches to support members in obtaining grants from the Nina Crone Fund and the Kindred Spirits Fund was discussed:

1. Nina Crone Writing Fund – supports writing by young people for specific commissions on aspects of Australian garden history. Editor oversees commissioning.

2. Kindred Spirits Fund – derived from royalties from sales of *Kindred Spirits: A Botanical Correspondence* by past-patron Joan Law Smith. Interest plus up to 10% of capital may be used annually. Purpose is to foster education and for the scientific, literary and/or artistic aspects of the AGHS mission.

### **Year of the Tree**

The NMC has welcomed the idea from elected NMC and WA member, Caroline Grant, for the AGHS to have a Year of the Tree in 2026. This is of particular importance as many local governments are still reluctant to implement protection for trees on private land. This loss of trees is an Australia wide problem and we hope that this focus will bring more attention to the protection of bush and tree areas. Branches have been requested to bring articles to the Quarterly journal to advertise the 'Year of the Tree for 2026'.

There were discussions on many items and I will keep you posted.

### ***The Theme for AGHS in 2026 is Trees*** *Caroline Grant*

In the latest editorial of *Australian Garden History* (vol. 37, no. 3, January 2026) members will have noticed that the National Management Committee has introduced a new theme to guide Branch activities. This year the theme is trees, because they are such important elements in our gardens, and for life itself, especially in our expanding cities which in many cases are getting hotter. Shade from trees is one of the best tools we have to cool off.

Today, sadly, Australian cities have inadequate canopy cover, due to the removal of many trees and despite the planting of new ones. According to the CSIRO, Perth's tree canopy covers only 22 percent of the city, when the ideal is 30 percent. Urban forest expert Professor Cecil Konijnendijk of the University of British Columbia introduced the 3-30-300 rule: the ideal being that every person can see 3 trees of a decent size from their home; every neighbourhood should have 30 percent tree canopy; and people should live within 300 metres of green space.

At the Treenet symposium in September 2025, Sebastian Pfautsch, Professor of Urban Management and Planning at the University of Western Sydney, gave a presentation called "We need more old trees in our cities":

<https://treenet.org/resource/we-need-more-old-trees-in-our-cities/>

He spoke very powerfully about how rapidly Australian cities are losing old trees. This highlighted a role for us as members of the Australian Garden History Society. As garden historians, we are concerned with old, significant trees. We can help to conserve them by improving community knowledge. With our skills in advocacy and research, we can help members of the public to research trees that they wish to conserve in their neighbourhoods.



This need has recently been demonstrated with the proposal to redevelop the Rankin Gardens adjacent to the Subiaco Council buildings which were damaged by fire. Expansive redevelopment of the site is proposed, that would impinge on the rose garden area, and possibly necessitate removal of, or cause damage to, the historic Norfolk Island pine trees, *Araucaria heterophylla*, in the gardens. There is information available via the Facebook page of the Subiaco Tree Canopy Advocates.

There are Tree Canopy Advocates in many areas of Perth, and they have pages on Facebook, but members of the public who are interested in protecting trees may not know where to look for background information about significant trees. Establishing the reasons for significance is particularly important when trees are under threat: it is easier to make an argument to a council or property owner for the protection of a tree if its cultural and/or natural significance is appreciated by a concerned group of people.

The National Trust of Western Australia has a Significant Tree Committee which meets regularly to evaluate nominations from the public. The nomination form for adding a significant tree to the National Trust's register can be found at: <https://www.ntwa.com.au/register-of-significant-trees/>

There are many categories of significance, including: aesthetic value, form, condition and vigour, visual prominence, rarity, age, historic associations, horticultural value, ecological value, and whether the tree has a connection with Aboriginal cultural practices. It is not necessary to fill in all the fields, but supplying good photographs and an accurate location is essential for the assessment to progress.

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage have published a document regarding guidelines for identifying and assessing significant trees: [https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2026-01/guidelines\\_for\\_significant\\_trees.pdf](https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2026-01/guidelines_for_significant_trees.pdf)

The threat to our trees posed by the Polyphagous Shothole Borer (PSHB) has increased public awareness of trees especially in Perth's historic parks, although perhaps not to the extent that we might expect. People have been very distressed to see large trees very visibly removed from Mounts Bay Road and Hyde Park, not to mention the distress when infected trees were removed from private gardens. The advent of the borer puts our old, significant trees at risk and makes them very precious.

Not everyone has a garden or cares about gardening, and some people actively hate trees. They have their reasons: these might vary from allergic reactions to plane tree pollen (*Platanus x acerifolia*), to a fear of blocked drains, mess created by fallen leaves, branches dropping and damaging their roof, or they may have a deep fear of a branch dropping and

killing a loved one. Trees cause problems between neighbours and between ratepayers and councils, but these disputes provide an opportunity to help educate people about the benefits of trees.

Regardless of attitudes to trees, everyone's health is affected by the loss of canopy and the resultant increase in temperature in our cities and towns due to urban heat island effect, which is deadly. It affects the young and old, and people who are unwell. For more information, see the World Health Organization document "Heat and health":

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-heat-and-health>

Trees, especially large old trees, form a very important part of Perth's canopy. Over many years the AGHS West Australian Branch has conducted events including "walk and talk" activities in historic gardens containing significant trees, and published newsletters containing information about significant trees: for example the Cloisters fig tree (*Ficus rubiginosa*) and the trees lining Fraser Avenue in Kings Park. Members may have photographs and other pieces of oral or documentary evidence that could contribute to our knowledge of old and significant trees in Western Australia, especially our park and street trees.

Such information could be collated and prepared to create an archive of information. This would be useful for advocacy, which is part of the mission of the Australian Garden History Society, along with engagement, research and activities.

Regarding old trees that may have once been common, but are now important due to their age and aloneness, I quote the English garden historian Tom Williamson:

*Nothing is more deserving of preservation than a rare survivor of something once common.*

### ***The Gardens of Paradise, Humayun's Tomb, Delhi*** Sue Davis (text & photos)



What a joy it was to return to the gardens at Humayun's tomb after an absence of 50 years. Then, it was a sad remnant of its chequered past. Now it is a restored example of the once famous Char Bagh (Four Gardens), representing the Islamic concept of paradise. Each of the four gardens is further divided into eight smaller gardens with walkways, creating thirty two miniature gardens with Humayun's tomb in the centre.

Humayun's tomb was commissioned by his chief consort, Empress Bega Beyum in 1558. The fortunes of the surrounding gardens have fluctuated with the times. The decline of the Mughal dynasties saw



the gardens become unimportant. They became an encampment of local peoples and were used as vegetable gardens and refugee villages during the partition with Pakistan. More recently in the early 20th century there was a serious attempt by British rulers to restore the gardens to Islamic standards but not until 1999, after two years of research, were the gardens completely restored. 12 hectares of lawn were replanted and over 2,500 trees and plants, including mango, lemon, neem, hibiscus and jasmine cuttings were planted.

Installation of a new water circulation system for the walkway rills was also undertaken. Other tasks in the mammoth restoration project included setting up a rainwater harvesting system and desilting and revitalising old wells discovered during the restoration work.

Funding was a collaborative effort by the National Cultural Fund, The Aga Khan Trust for Culture and the Oberoi Hotels Group. Text provided mostly by Wikipedia

**Photo:** Rills are narrow water channels through which water flows gently and are usually linear and relatively small in scale.

### ***Oral History*** Patsy Vizents, Chair of the Oral History Committee

As we begin a very interesting year for oral history in AGHS, I thought it prudent to discuss how we go about selecting and undertaking oral histories. Many of the interviews, and certainly most of those undertaken for WA, have been prompted by the call for the history of this society to be recorded (2002) and so most of the collection reflects that directive from NMC. Our branch has had many dedicated members who have worked on the management committee since its founding in 1988 and this too is reflected in the interviews. Past members have reflected on what they found most interesting about AGHS activities; conferences, talks, the journal and mostly, the activities and trips to gardens within the state. Walking through gardens that have been tended or restored with like-minded “others”, is a major part of why we enjoy what being part of the Australian Garden History Society is all about. It still is of course and long may it continue. We learn so much about history and gardening through talks and walks, even if we thought we knew about each subject and there is nothing like being in the place itself.

Other ways that we select interviews is through suggesting interviewees and this has happened several times. A name is suggested and then discussed with members of the oral history committee, most of whom have experience with AGHS that is long and involved. Recognising the significance of the proposed interviewee for the society or for a location or for the nation is the first understanding. This can be employment, gardening activities, broadcasting, or dedication to environmental causes and issues. We are no longer focusing on AGHS related topics (history of the organisation) so we need information from others to back up the original suggestion and this takes time, relying on others to reply with opinions and ultimately we make decisions on our resources and ability to contribute to a broader body of knowledge on the topic of interest. If the person has been interviewed before, is it valuable to

interview them again because often the interviewee will repeat information that is already publicly available? Certainly, if the interviewee has connections with AGHS activities that allow us to direct our interview towards a specific topic, such as in the Kingsley Dixon interview reflecting the talk he provided to WA branch members and guests on Wyemando Nursery in 2021. We may start off with a name and a vague description of why the person is of interest but we end up with a folder of information, including articles, sometimes videos, testimonies and photographs to support the interview and this material goes into background information forming a valuable resource on that particular person. It is a really interesting and worthwhile process and suits people who really enjoy following trails and clues.

The mention of resources reminds me that we are only capable of interviewing people because we might have one person willing to undertake interviews on the ground in that location. Not everyone feels confident with interviewing techniques and technology and it does take practice but with many online training packages available, and plenty of willing subjects longing to tell their stories, we can all practice on family members and try our hand at recording our family histories as a start. Sorting questions, information, guiding interviewees and monitoring how they are feeling so that you don't spend too long on topics or the whole interview itself. All these skills are part of how we undertake interviews and I am always happy to discuss this topic further so please do not hesitate to email me on [patsoir@gmail.com](mailto:patsoir@gmail.com) especially if you are considering joining me in this fascinating and valuable resource as part of your interest in AGHS.

At the last minute, I have managed to get the digital version of the 2025 Oral History Booklet that the WA branch kindly supported for publication in time for the October 2025 Conference in South Australia. Please find it where you link in to the National Oral History Collection on the AGHS website

[https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/publications-projects/#filter=.iso\\_29](https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/publications-projects/#filter=.iso_29)

## AGHS Advocacy Issues - Landscapes at Risk

### **'Galup' Lake Monger** *John Viska*

My article on the Galup/Lake Monger willows in the last newsletter was sent to the CEO, Mayor and Councillors of the Town of Cambridge as well as the Post Newspaper. The only response was from the paper and consequently a reporter interviewed me on site with a subsequent article written about the trees. In the article, dated 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025, Ms Diana Blackie, The Chair of the Friends of Galup Environment Group, stated that the formal plantings were old fashioned and eventually all the exotic plantings will disappear. The initial planting



Lake Monger willows - Search Images

of the willows was contemporary with the replanting of Fraser Avenue, Kings Park and has been a landmark feature of Leederville for ninety years. The extant plantings are a testament to the designed landscapes of the early decades of the 1900s. The planting history and development of the site as a recreational reserve will be the subject for the next event that will take the form of a site walk and talk in May.

**Hyde Park** *John Viska*

Replanting is still to be undertaken on the western island. John Viska may attend the City of Vincent Ratepayers meeting.

**Leschenault Homestead, Bunbury** *Ursula Sharman*

A letter has been sent to Minister Simone McGurk and a reply was received. The next phase is to arrange meetings with Southern Ports, Bunbury.

**Edward Millen Park Redevelopment** *John Viska*

ABC morning radio had a segment on the redevelopment.

**Council Lists of Private Heritage Gardens** *Ursula Sharman*

A full list of private heritage gardens in Guildford has been compiled and a meeting held with Barbara Dundas in November 2025.

**Fremantle Arts Centre** *John Viska*

Fremantle Council Heritage Office has been advised on appropriate plants for the landscaping of the Fremantle Arts Centre.

**Polyphagous Shothole Borer (PSHB)**

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development website states the current situation is as follows:

The national response to PSHB is transitioning from an eradication strategy to a long-term management approach after the National Management Group determined the borer was no longer technically feasible to eradicate.

A national Transition to Management (T2M) response plan is now in place and is being delivered by DPIRD. This phase of the response includes development and implementation of strategies to slow the spread of PSHB through targeted surveillance, the creation of an Integrated Pest Management Program and provision of support and training for landowners to build capacity for long term management of the pest.

Under the national T2M response plan, DPIRD's tree pruning and removal program will focus on trees in the outer Perth metropolitan area that pose a risk of spreading the borer outside the Quarantine Area (QA). All other landowners and managers in the Perth metropolitan area are now responsible for managing borer-affected trees.

DPIRD is committed to protecting Perth's urban tree canopy and WA's horticulture industry by working slowly with local governments, community groups and industry bodies to build resilience against PSHB.

A new Quarantine Area Notice (QAN), to support the T2M phase of the response, has come into effect. The QAN covers the entire Perth metropolitan area. Movement restrictions on firewood, green waste, live plants and plant material still apply to help prevent the spread of PSHB.

[Polyphagous shot-hole borer | Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development](#)

### **Rankin Gardens, Rokeby Road, Subiaco**

AGHS WA Committee alerted members to the save Rankin Gardens petition via email recently. Please be reminded that comments to City of Subiaco close on 27<sup>th</sup> February. To further your research to make an informed decision, information about the civic-precinct redevelopment is available at the link below:

<https://www.subiaco.wa.gov.au/civic-precinct>

If you are interested in supporting the campaign there are two things you can do:

1. Sign the petition which is available on the link below:

<https://c.org/M4dwGKZFjk>

2. Send your comments to the City of Subiaco who are seeking public comments on its plans by 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2026 via the link below:

[haveyoursay.subiaco.wa.gov.au](https://haveyoursay.subiaco.wa.gov.au)

You are also welcome to contact Andrea Hawkes on 0409 296 579 for more information.

## ***Recent Branch Events***

### **Christmas Party at Woodloes** *Ursula Sharman (text & photos)*



Gathering under the trees in the Historic Gardens at Woodloes Homestead

We enjoyed a truly delightful Christmas gathering at Woodloes Homestead, generously hosted by the Canning Districts Historical Society, who opened both their beautiful garden and historic homestead to our group.

We were treated to a fascinating tour by Sarah Jane, who brought Woodloes vividly to life through excerpts from the diary of Mary Cowle — daughter of Francis Bird, the architect who designed and once called Woodloes home. Hearing the personal reflections and stories added a wonderful depth to our understanding of the house and its early days, enriching the afternoon with a genuine sense of connection to the past.

The Chair's Quiz saw us divide into small teams for some friendly competition, with Rachel Roe's team emerging victorious after a spirited battle of wits.

We shared a delicious spread of food and desserts, plenty of conversation, and much laughter. It was a relaxed and thoroughly enjoyable afternoon — the perfect way to close out the year together.



Upstairs in the homestead - recreation of the children's nursery.



Woodloes own Christmas tree, said to be planted for the original children of the homestead back in the 1870s the majestic Bunya Pine dominates the landscape.

Our sincere thanks to Sarah Jane, Geoff, Paola and Lori for their generosity, their time, and for sharing the warmth and history of Woodloes with us. It was a memorable and fitting end to our year.

### ***WA Branch Event Diary: Celebrate 2026 AGHS Year of the Tree***

Events planned for the 2026 Year of the tree starts with a guided walk through John Oldham Park on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March. Later events will include walks of the willows at Galup/Lake Monger and the redevelopment of Edward Millen Park, East Victoria Park.

#### **John Oldham Park Walk**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 11am – 12:30pm

Guided walk by Blake Humble, Alliance Manager Parks and Gardens at City of Perth.

Join us for lunch afterwards at Botanical Café, Kings Park, at your own cost.

Tickets available through Trybooking:

<https://www.trybooking.com/DJXCP>

#### **Boorloo Heritage Festival**

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April

AGHSSWA will attend as per the previous two years including two garden walks for the attending public each day. 10am to 3pm each day. Details will be confirmed.

## **Edward Millen Park Redevelopment, East Victoria Park**

Details will be provided closer to the date.

## **Heritage Weekend ‘History of Rose Growing in WA’**

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April. Details will be provided closer to the date.

## **Galup/Lake Monger Willows Walk**

Details will be provided closer to the date.

## **Annual General Meeting**

Royal West Australian Historical Society

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August. Details will be provided closer to the date.

## **Christmas Party**

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Details will be provided closer to the date.

**2028 AGHS WA Branch 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** A celebration event will be organised.

**2029 Bicentenary of WA.** Premier Roger Cook has responded to the AGHS WA proposal and advised that it has been added to the register of 2029 stakeholders which means that our suggestions will be considered during the stakeholder engagement phase.

## ***AGHS WA Public Talks***

### **John Viska**

‘Colonial Kitchen Gardens’ Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at Hollywood Subiaco Learners’ Club

‘History of Rose Growing in WA’ Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026. Proposed talk for Heritage Weekend.

### **Ursula Sharman**



AGHS WA Chair, Ursula Sharman, is giving two talks on the topic of “Garden History of Darlington”. Part One covers the period from 1890 to 1940 starts at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March, Lesser Hall Darlington.

In this engaging first talk, Ursula explores Darlington’s garden story from the early days of Amherst’s Homesdale property through to the arrival of mains water. Discover the popular plants of the period, design elements of the time, and what these early gardens reveal about daily life in the hills.

Bookings are essential via Trybooking on the link below. [Garden History of Darlington 1890 - 1940 PART ONE Tickets, Darlington Lesser Hall, Darlington | TryBooking Australia](https://www.trybooking.com/DIXKN)

Pencil in the date for Part Two which is at 7:30pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, Lesser Hall, Darlington.

### ***National Event Diary***

**2026 Conference:** Orange NSW 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September with Optional Day 28<sup>th</sup> September. Registration will be available in April 2026.

**2027 Conference:** Canberra, ACT. 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October 2027. Rex Hotel.

**2028 Conference:** Melbourne, Bendigo or Southern Highlands are being considered.