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## Newsletter – Winter 2019

### WEST AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

## Self-Drive Day Tour Berkshire Valley, Moora Thursday 11 July / \$25

Be sure not to miss a unique opportunity to visit this historic farm. Berkshire Valley farm is a significant site on land opened only on request. The property is about 20 kilometres out of Moora and was a thriving ‘village’ in the 1860s with beautiful local stone buildings including a coach house for travellers, a wool shed, a mill, stables, haysheds, piggery, a large courtyard garden, an olive grove, residences and WA’s first double arched stone bridge.



Berkshire Valley woolshed from the road.  
*Retrieved from*  
<http://wanowandthen.com.au/Berkshire-Valley.html>



The coach house and olive grove. *Retrieved from*  
<http://wanowandthen.com.au/Berkshire-Valley.html>

The self-drive to Moora takes approximately 2 hours from the outskirts of Perth.

**The route and timetable:**

**8.30-9.00** Leave Guildford and travel up West Swan Road to meet the Great Northern Highway. Travel to Bindoon (approx. 45 minutes) where you can grab a coffee at the local bakery on the left hand side when driving through town. **Bindoon Bakehaus & Cafe** 27c Binda Place, Bindoon, (off the Great Northern Highway).

After leaving Bindoon, continue travelling north and take the Bindoon-Moora Road (116) on the left about 5-7 minutes out of town. This road will take you through Mogumber to Moora. This road will lead you directly into the main street of Moora.

**11.15am** Rendezvous at the **Historical Society building** opposite the Shire buildings on the left near the **Australian Draughthorse Memorial (statue and mural)** in Clinch Street.

We will be shown through a very good local museum displaying Moora's early history. A light lunch will be served by members of the Moora historical society. Dietary requirements notify Ros Stewart in RSVP.

At **1.00pm** we will drive in convoy to the Berkshire Valley farm on the Moora-Miling road. After approximately 18 kilometres a sign on the right hand side of the road will read- Old Geraldton Road /Moora Heritage Trail. We will turn left and drive along this road for approx. 5 minutes. The farm is on the right hand side.

By 3.00pm or earlier if desired, we will return to Perth either by heading back to Moora or by driving east then south to New Norcia and back to Perth along the Great Northern Highway.

RSVP and payment by 5<sup>th</sup> July to Ros Stewart as below.

**Cost of \$25.00 includes lunch at Moora and access to two museums and the farm.**



Berkshire Valley Farm, Courtyard Garden. *Photo Leon Tang.*

### ***Oral History, Patsy Vizents NMC Representative***

The oral history interview conducted with our Chairman John Viska, has been uploaded onto the AGHS website and is available via the link below.

There will be several other interviews available there soon.

<https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/publications/john-viska/>



### ***National Management Committee, Patsy Vizents NMC Representative***

The next meeting of the NMC will be held in Sydney on 7th of July. This meeting will approve submissions for the AGHS 2020 grant to assist branches with their nominated projects to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the formation of AGHS. WA branch is proposing to publish in book form, the two exhibitions undertaken on Historic Gardens of Perth. The NMC will also discuss progress made on a National Marketing Strategy, the structure of the NMC and other topics initiated on the working day workshop meeting held in Melbourne in February.

### ***2020 Celebrations Progress Report, Patsy Vizents NMC Representative***

The NMC has proposed that all branches gather on a particular day, at a particular time to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of AGHS in 1980. It is referred to as a Virtual Garden Party and the 22nd of March, 2020 has been agreed upon as a suitable day on which we meet in a significant garden in our own location and celebrate the Society with cake and liquid libation. Keep the date in mind for our WA branch gathering which, to keep in synchronisation with those in the other states, will probably be held in the early afternoon.

## ***Event Diary 2019***

### ***Historic Gardens of Perth, Western Suburbs***

Wednesday 3rd July. 2:00pm Talk by Chairman for the WA Royal Historical Society. History in the City series Citiplace Conference Room at the top of the escalator on Perth Train Station. Entry \$5 including afternoon tea. AGSHWA members who missed the exhibition are warmly invited to hear John's overview of the event.

### ***Berkshire Valley self-drive day tour***

Thursday 11th July. See page 1 for details.

### ***AGHSWA Annual General Meeting***

Sunday 11th August. Falls Farm, Lesmurdie. Details will be provided closer to the date.

### ***AGHS 40th Annual National Conference 2019***

25 October - 27 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/>

### ***Christmas Function***

Sunday 8th December. At an historic private property in Guildford. Details will be provided closer to the date.

## ***Recent Events***

### ***Roses of Woodbridge – Heritage Roses from Charles Harper's Nursery, John Viska, Chair***

A successful event between the Australian Garden History Society (WA), Heritage Roses in Australia Inc and the Woodbridge NTWA Volunteers on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th April 2019 took place as part of the National Trust Australian Heritage Festival.



Woodbridge, National Trust WA  
*Photo Leon Tang*

The event Roses of Woodbridge-Heritage Roses from Charles Harper's Nursery was the result of an initiative between the two societies based upon the Festival's theme, Connecting People, Places and the Past.

As the Woodbridge property was the location of Charles Harper's commercial nursery and orchard for twenty years, it was appropriate to have the exhibition there.

A committee consisting of representatives from the groups met on three occasions to plan the event. A spreadsheet was compiled of over 100 varieties of roses grown at Woodbridge between ca 1895 and 1915 when the enterprise ceased. This was sent to Heritage Roses in Australia who circulated it to its members to ascertain which of the varieties were still grown and more importantly those that would be in flower. As a consequence 25 were identified and subsequently exhibited. Each was displayed in a specimen vase accompanied by its varietal name, date of commercial release and to what rose category it belonged.

The labelled rose specimens, a display of antique nursery implements and the history of the Woodbridge Nurseries were exhibited in the Billiard Room. Period floral arrangements in antique glass, china and silver vases provided by the societies' members complemented the existing house interpretation.

Charles Harper's nursery and the role that it played in providing the state with fruit trees and vines and his role in the emerging fruit growing industry of the state is not well known and judging by the public interest in the exhibition, further interpretation of Harper's commercial enterprise by the National Trust is warranted.



Specimen Heritage Roses,  
Billiard Room  
*Photo Leon Tang*

Each visitor was given an AGHS journal and pamphlet on the history of rose growing in WA and members of both societies had membership information available.

Through extensive newspaper, radio and social media advertising, undertaken by the branch and Heritage Roses in Australia Inc. 900 people were attracted to the weekend display.





Dining Room, Woodbridge  
*Photo Leon Tang*



Kitchen, Woodbridge  
*Photo Leon Tang*

Many thanks to all who volunteered on the successful event from beginning to end.

***Pioneer Hostess – A talk by Gillian Lilleyman, May 26th, Sue Monger***

Members and visitors gathered to hear Gillian speak on the topic of Fanny Brockman (nee Bussell) and her role in caves tourism, illustrating the parallel between the Yanchep region and that of the Margaret River area. The limestone, common to both, gave rise a tourism industry in the late 18th and early 19thCenturies when the caves became a drawcard. Frances Louisa (Fanny) Brockman was a pioneer in providing accommodation for early tourists at her property Burnside, along with her brother John Bussell at Wallcliffe House and her sister Edith at Ellensbrook.

Fanny, 1850 – 1925, wrote her diary between September 1872 and June 1905 and details daily living, farm activities and a number of visitors. It appears she may have been a better tourism hostess than she was a farmer; she suffered stock losses either by unreliable shepherding, poor fences or seasonal toxins in the native vegetation. However, she made a success of the dairy and her diary records the quantities of butter sent to market.

Visitors to the region increased with the improvement of access to the caves. Travel by bicycle was common and with the introduction in 1903 of PS Bignell's daily horse dawn coach service from Busselton numbers grew further. As the destination became more popular Fanny built The Ark at Burnside to increase the accommodation and hosted government parties, Vice Regal guests as well as the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York in 1901.

Fanny is buried in St Mary's churchyard in Busselton.

Our thanks to Gillian for this unusual aspect of Fanny's diary.

## ***For Interest***

Phillipa Nikulinsky exhibition at the Lawrence Wilson Gallery (UWA) from 25 May until 17 August 2019.



**Philippa Nikulinsky AM is a Perth-based, internationally recognised botanical and wildlife artist.**

Nikulinsky Naturally is a survey of her work from the 1970s to the present which provides a perspective on the unique qualities of her practice - focusing on the evolution of her working methodology and exploring the ways in which she continues to interrogate the botanical riches of the Western Australian landscape. Curated by Ted Snell.

Image: Philippa Nikulinsky, *Mistletoe Bird*, 2014, 68 x 100cm, watercolour and pencil on Arches hot press paper.

For more information please follow the link:

<http://www.lwgallery.uwa.edu.au/exhibitions/nikulinskynaturally>

## ***Olive Offer***

"About 4 years ago I took cuttings from an olive tree in Mourambine which is old Pingelly. This old tree was planted in circa 1875 by the friars who commissioned the church. To my knowledge only seven trees of this age are still growing in WA. I am offering my two to a good cause".

If you're interested please contact **Peter Jenkins Snr** at [pbj72045@hotmail.com](mailto:pbj72045@hotmail.com).

## ***New Members***

A warm welcome to Christine Curry.