

BRANCH CUTTINGS



Issue 55 – June 2018

This branch is affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society & National Trust of Australia (NSW)

AGHS FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JULY

Date: Wednesday 18th July, 6-8:30pm at Annie Wyatt Room, National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill

Event: Chris Betteridge will give an illustrated talk on Jenolan Caves and the cultural landscape

Cost: AGHS Members \$20, Non-members \$30, Students \$5 includes light refreshments. Bookings essential

Online Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/WNTH>

AUGUST

AGM

Date: Wednesday 15th August, 6-8:30pm

Event: Colleen Morris and Christine Hay will speak at the AGHS AGM on the *Berrima, Sutton Forest and Exeter Cultural Landscape Assessment*.

Cost: AGHS Members \$20, Non-members \$30, Students \$5 includes light refreshments. Bookings essential

SEPTEMBER

Date: Sunday 23 September, 2-4:30pm

Event: Walk & guided talk Auburn Botanic Garden (Japanese gardens) and the Old Lidcombe Hospital Site

Cost: AGHS Members \$20, Non-members \$30, Students \$5 includes light refreshments. Bookings essential

PLANTS IN TAHITI



Flowering in my garden in May is a very pretty tall shrub with candles of small white flowers and distinctive leaf venation. It was given to me by a neighbour but neither of us could identify it from our collections of gardening books. Individual flowers resemble *Tibouchina* and eventually we found it on Google, in the same family, Melastomaceae, genus *Miconia*. There are 212 species in the genus and one *M.calvescens* has become a major invasive weed pest in Hawaii. This species has the same leaf vein pattern, but the reverse sides of the leaf are purple and individual leaves can reach nearly a metre in length. Common names include Velvet Tree, The Purple Plague and Bush Currant. It produces prodigious quantities of seed and has been declared a noxious plant.

Visiting Tahiti last year I was enchanted by the exotic tropical plants: enormous Breadfruit trees with fruit the size of soccer balls, deep red Frangipani, soursops,

multicoloured Bougainvilleas and delicate Hibiscus in pastel icecream colours. We were presented with wildly fragrant leis of tiare, the Tahitian gardenia, and saw fabulous fruits and vegetables on roadside stalls and in markets. On these tropical islands with high rainfall and volcanic soils everything seems to grow in abundance. Coconut palms were seen in all sizes with coconuts sprouting on every shoreline. Behind the Museum in Papeete is a garden with many local plants, each one labelled with its common name(s), scientific





name, source and uses. Polynesians arrived in Tahitian islands around 400 AD from Taiwan and the Malay archipelago via Samoa and the Cook Islands. There was already an indigenous suite of plants, but the immigrants brought their own plants to provide food and fibre, medicines, and flowers for fragrance and cultural purposes. These included bananas, taro, sugarcane, coconut, breadfruit and yams; also frangipani, hibiscus, crotons, waterlilies and bougainvilleas. From the 16th century on Europeans arrived and they introduced

avocados, vanilla orchids, tamarind, lemon trees and mangoes. Pineapple plantations were established later. Thus the museum garden plants are labelled Endemic, Polynesian or European.



Breadfruit, *Artocarpus altilis*, is particularly interesting. These were the plants William Bligh was commissioned to collect in Tahiti to provide food for the slaves working on the Caribbean sugar plantations. His first voyage ended in disaster in 1789 with the mutiny on HMS Bounty. The mutineers jettisoned the potted plants and set Bligh and 18 men adrift in a small boat, an open launch, to make their epic voyage back to Europe. In 1793 Bligh was again charged with collecting breadfruit and this time delivered 346 plants to the West Indies. 66 plants were deposited in The Bath Botanical Gardens in Jamaica. The slaves however refused to eat breadfruit and it was used to feed pigs, but today breadfruit is a staple of Jamaican cuisine. I asked a lady taxi driver in Papeete if breadfruit was much eaten in Tahiti today and she enthusiastically replied that she had 3 different trees at home (there are about 120 varieties) so that she could use the fruit all year round, and had more recipes for breadfruit on her iPad than for fish. Apparently you can do anything with

a breadfruit that you can with a potato.

In Australia we are familiar with ornamental garden plants that have escaped to become weed pests, Paterson's Curse and Prickly Pear being two examples, but these scourges are nothing compared to the growth of noxious plants in the tropics. *Leucaena leucocephala* ('acacia') known as White Lead Tree was introduced from tropical America as a source of timber. In the Tahitian climate it grows very fast and spindly and the wood is useless. It sets massive numbers of seeds which persist for years and can be seen romping up the sides of the volcanic mountains. It is becoming a concern in parts of Queensland.

The African Tulip Tree, *Spathodea campanulata*, I first saw flowering as a treasured garden plant at La Mortella, the Walton garden on the island of Ischia off the Amalfi Coast. It looks spectacular with its red-orange flowers amongst the rich green of the forest on Moorea but is also considered a major pest.

Miconia calvenscens was first introduced as a botanical plant in 1937. By the 1980's 60% of the land mass had been invaded and 40-50 species of the 107 endemic plants are threatened with extinction. Native to Mexico it is considered one of the world's most invasive species. My garden plant does not seem to set seed but is very easily propagated from cuttings. I must keep my eye on it.



Finally the recent French film 'Gauguin - Voyage de Tahiti' was all filmed in Tahitian locations including the island of Moorea. In one scene *Miconia calvenscens* is in evidence in the jungle flora. This is a cinematic anachronism a bit like the Roman soldier wearing a digital watch. Gauguin was in the islands in the 1890's, *Miconia* was only introduced after 1937. Forensic botany!

Angela Low

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

SYDNEY BRANCH UPDATE February – June 2018

Dear members of the Sydney Branch

Please accept the apology of the committee for being slow in providing you with updates and information about events, we are in transition, with the loss of significant contributors to the smooth running of things. However, each month we improve, systems are in place and we intend to quicken our pace.

In February we enjoyed a talk about Saumarez Garden, Armidale. The history and making of the garden was revealed to us by Lynne Walker with such enthusiasm. It is a great story of history in the making and it was wonderful to have the cross pollination of the Northern NSW sub branch. The engagement with disenfranchised youth was heart warming and the work continues with generous financial support from local and state government – well done.

In March, Verena Mauldon led us through the cultural landscape of the Macquarie's at Parramatta Park. Verena disclosed influences of Capability Brown evident in the remnant landscape of Old Government House and the Domain, Parramatta Park. The Parramatta Government Domain was also where agricultural production in Australia by the colonists and town planning commenced, and was the site of some of Australia's earliest botanical endeavours.

I couldn't attend the April visit to the Swain Garden in Killara, a hidden gem that has community support and I heard the talk by Joy Bryan, the daughter of the Mr Swain who made the garden and grew up there, was very inspiring.

In May, Greg Johnson gave the first in a series of talks about garden writers in Australia.

Upcoming events:

July: Chris Betteridge will speak about Jenolan Caves and the cultural landscape.

Earlier this year Colleen Morris and Beverly Allen took the *Florilegium* exhibition to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. If you are planning a trip to England, it runs until 16 September 2018 and is in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art – included in the price of entry to the garden.

At the National Trust Heritage Awards 2018, Colleen Morris and Christine Hay won the Landscape Conservation award for the *Berrima, Sutton Forest and Exeter Cultural Landscape Assessment*. This cultural landscape assessment was aimed at raising awareness of the significance of the landscape with a view to encourage further statutory protection and to provide the basis for a heritage impact assessment of a proposed coal mine in the area.

The Sydney Branch continue to allot \$500 per annum to a potential travelling exhibition to increase awareness of garden history and the branch has \$500 set aside for a plaque to commemorate Charles Fraser at St John's cemetery Parramatta.

The committee and I encourage you to get in touch: we are stronger and better with your feedback and ideas! Ways of involving potential new members or suggestions for possible speakers, are welcome.

James Quoyale. Tel: (02) 9519 5250 or email: james@qanda.com.au

AGHS ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

Mary Elizabeth Dougan (nee Coles)¹

a joiner ... that's how I learnt about everything and met so many interesting people

Mary Dougan was a sprightly 104 when interviewed in September 2006 for the AGHS Oral History Collection.²



Well known in garden circles, Mary described herself as 'a joiner. *That's how I learnt about everything and met so many interesting people*'. Indeed she was an early member of the Society for Growing Australian Plants and the Australian Garden History Society, joined the Garden Club of Australia and the Beecroft Garden Club in 1956, and was a foundation member of the Ikebana and Bonsai Society. Mary and her husband moved to Beecroft after WW2 and by the 1990s her garden was crowded with tall

eucalypts over 22 m high, Spotted Gum, Black Tupelo and Ginkgo biloba, as well as small alpenes and bulbs; which were her favourites *because you had to get down on hands and knees to appreciate them*.³

Bulbs were the things that I loved best of all. I grew all sorts of bulbs. ... I don't know how I first became involved in bulbs. But I did! Mary belonged to a number of international seed clubs: *I had to be most particular about that and I'd get them with great excitement ... then I had to submit them to be checked – to see if I could grow them and ... some of them I had to destroy.*

The plan was to record Mary's recollections of her Beecroft garden (at 15 Kirkham Street, later renamed 6 Parker Close) and these societies, but Mary left her garden for retirement at Mowll Village at



Castle Hill in 1988, almost two decades earlier when she was 84. Bright and engaged when discussing her early life, growing up on the Clarence River or coming to Sydney, Mary's memories about developing her Beecroft garden over four decades were not as keen. And because of her diminished hearing it was necessary to speak very loudly, so close to her ears that the puff of my consonants blew her hair as I repeated questions.

Mary's daughter, Mrs Jennifer Lord, was also present during the interviews and generously donated copies of her mother's photos of her Beecroft garden and other documentation to the Collection, including a four page document which Mary typed in 1993, her own

¹ The Australian Garden History Society's Oral History Collection may be accessed via the National Officer, Lisa Tuck, info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au

² Mary Elizabeth Dougan interviewed 6 September 2006 by Roslyn Burge. An article about Mary appeared in the Society's *Garden Journal* titled *The Bulb Lady*, by Mary Davis, c.1985.

³ 'How Mary's Garden Grew', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 September 1994.

reflections at age 91 on her gardening life, *The Garden Side of my Life: The Making of a Gardener*. True to her “joining” approach, Mary lists a variety of international garden clubs to which she belonged; the Royal Horticultural Society, the Scottish Rock Garden Club, the Alpine Garden Club and the American Rock Garden Club – all of which had seed lists, *joy oh joy*. After the death of her husband she studied at Ryde Horticultural College and later took a Bonsai course.

The oral history interview is a primary resource, yet these different primary resource materials allow a broader appreciation of attitudes and emotion, the excitement Mary Dougan brought to her *main desire ... to grow plants*. She exchanged seeds with people around the world, including Mr T. Sakata, President of the eponymous Japanese flower and seed breeding company, who wrote to her in 1967 within a month of her notice appearing in the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society offering *Clivia kewensis* seeds. Mary loved cyclamen, with *little flowers so much like butterflies*, and her collection included *cyclamen hederifolium* grown from seeds sent to her by Dr Nathan Mutch of Pitt White.⁴

Oftentimes in oral history it's the side stories beyond the central focus which provide rewarding glimpses of an interviewee's life and times. Mary described snippets of a world now gone: observing fishermen on the Clarence River returning repeatedly with abundant catches; and the beginnings of her love of gardening learnt from her grandfather, who had *worked in some of the very notable gardens in England* but was crippled after being gored by a bull. Consequently he spent much time sitting on the verandah and *taught me all I knew about gardening – about grafting and all the rest of it*. When it came time for Mary to travel to Sydney for high schooling, she boarded one of the coastal passenger boats that came up the Clarence River, a mode of intrastate travel long gone, and journeyed under the charge of the Captain. One of her more intriguing (and fleeting) recollections was her association with Lord Kitchener who visited Australia in 1910, when Mary was seven and a half. Mary recalled staying with Lord Kitchener and his wife at Seven Mile Beach where they *had a holiday home ... and ... became more like friends to me and ... took me with them ... wonderful stretch of beach that was*.

Mary was in Sydney during WW1 and remembered vividly the impact of heightened emotions as women farewelled loved ones. *I was sent to Sydney to stay with a friend (whose) brother went into the army and they were setting off the next day ... to go to the front. And I can remember being on the wharf and all the women – I was ashamed of them really – they were yelling and screaming, you know, with the distress. I know how they felt, I did too, but I'd never do that*. Asked if she had always been so self-controlled, Mary replied sanguinely *... well life has made me that, I've had to be, it was either that or not survive ... So there we are*. After Mary left her Beecroft garden most of her glorious eucalypts were felled to stumps about 8 metres high, with the approval of Hornsby Council.⁵



Mary's interview highlights the value of capturing memories before the age of 104. Yet it demonstrates too the enduring infectious enthusiasm which gardening held for Mary, and the graciousness of a very elderly lady whose renown generosity was undimmed with age and she was still happy to share her recollections!

Roslyn Burge

⁴ 'The Garden Side of my Life, the Making of a Gardener', Mary Dougan, typed notes 1993.

⁵ Hornsby Shire Heritage Study, 1993, updated 2012, E45

PLAQUE UNVEILING AT BISHOPSCOURT



On Wednesday 9th. May several AGHS members attended the unveiling of a plaque set in the pavement outside 'Bishopscourt' in Greenoaks Ave, Darling Point. This is to commemorate Thomas Sutcliffe Mort who lived and gardened there from 1846 to 1878. The plaque was organised by Woollahra Council, on the suggestion of Stuart Read. The occasion was well attended by various Mort relatives and descendants as well as Stuart Read, Gina Plate and Angela Low from NSW AGHS. After an address by David Mort outlining his forbear's illustrious life, he pulled off the red curtain, assisted by Councillor Peter Cavanagh, Mayor of Woollahra, and Councillor Anthony Marano. Glasses were

raised in a toast and then all repaired to the grounds of St. Mark's Church for refreshments.

Thomas Sutcliffe Mort arrived in Australia in 1838, from Bolton, Lancashire, England where his father's business could not support 3 sons. He started an auctioneering firm dealing in general sales and wool. He prospered, eventually making great wealth with, amongst other things, speculation in pastoral properties, and was one of the co-founders of the AMP Society. He built Mort's Dock in Balmain for repairing ships, and pioneered refrigerated ships with a view to sending frozen Australian meat to London. In 1846 he bought the property built as 'Percyville' in 1841. With the architect J.F.Hilly he developed a very grand home, a gentleman's residence, with gothic picturesque flourishes, to be called 'Greenoaks'. In 1859 Edmund Blacket was commissioned to enlarge it and Michael Guilfoyle established a complementary romantic garden on the steep, sloping site. Many plants would have come from Guilfoyle's 'Exotic Nursery' on an adjacent block. One Norfolk Island Pine and several Moreton Bay figs still stand. Mort was a keen gardener and won many prizes at flower shows in the 1840's and 50's. Among many public offices he was President of the Horticultural Society of NSW in 1870. He collected and imported many works of art and his Gallery and garden were open to the public. He died in 1878, leaving 5 sons and 2 daughters by his first wife, and 2 more sons by his second wife. His estate was valued at some 600,000 pounds.



The house and property was for many years the official residence of The Anglican Archbishop of Sydney. It was sold in 2015 for \$18 million to a Chinese business man who does not yet live there. He was not available to attend the plaque unveiling.

(The Woollahra Council Plaque Scheme was launched in 2012 to honour famous people or events associated with the Woollahra Local Government area that have made a significant impact on life in the area or Australia as a nation. The scheme is driven by community suggestion and relies upon the public making interesting and viable proposals. The Woollahra Plaques Advisory Committee meets twice per year to assess nominations for plaques and make recommendations to Council.)

Angela Low



PARRAMATTA PARK WALK AND TALK

On Sunday 25th March curator and public historian, Verena Mauldon explained the world heritage significance of the landscape of Old Government House and the Domain at Parramatta Park to a fascinated AGHS group while walking around the many historic sites of this important area.



Photos: Anne and Graham Smith

SWAIN GARDENS WALK AND TALK

On Sunday 15th April, led by **Joy Bryan**, the daughter of Arthur (Mick) Newling Swain who created Swain Gardens and bequeathed it to the public, our AGHS group enjoyed a very interesting tour through the lovely garden where Joy grew up and near where she still lives.



Photos: Anne Smith

Olive Fitzhardinge Roses

An appeal for information

Heritage Rose Journal readers will be familiar with the development of the Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez Homestead, near Armidale in Northern NSW. This has been a project developed and executed by the NNSW sub-branch of the Australian Garden History Society with input from various sources, including a grant from HRIA for bed signage and involvement of all HRIA members in the Armidale region .

The garden was set out in the winter of 2013 when the first roses were transferred from the garden of Miss Catherine MacLean. Stage 1 of the garden was formally opened in November 2015. In May 2016 the garden won the National Trust NSW Conservation Collection Award for preserving Miss MacLean's wide collection of heritage roses.

In March 2017 we were notified of the success of an application for funding under the NSW Government's Stronger Communities Grant. This grant, for \$43,000, has enabled Stage 11 of the Heritage Rose Garden to be developed. Stage 11 consists of significant Australian rose breeders, including Alister Clark, Frank Reithmüller and Olive Fitzhardinge as well as examples of the best roses from international breeders.

Our research indicates that only four Fitzhardinge roses still exist. These are: *Prudence*, *Lubra*, *Lady Edgeworth David* and *Warrawee*. Olive Fitzhardinge (1881–1956) (pictured right) came from the Wialda district north west of Armidale and did much of her rose breeding in Sydney where she lived in the northern suburb of Warrawee. Apparently, she was the first Australian breeder to patent her work. She is said to have favoured colours in roses that looked good in candlelight—at a time when formal dining was a feature of entertaining at home.

Our search for Fitzhardinge roses is proving elusive—hence this call for assistance. We believed we had found a source plant of **Lady Edgeworth David** however the plant did not survive the extreme dryness and heat of last summer. This means that we are seeking **Lady Edgeworth David**, **Prudence**, **Lubra** and **Warrawee**. We would welcome any information on where we might purchase these four Fitzhardinge roses. Should commercial purchase not be possible, any information on where these roses can be found growing in Australia would be valuable. This, at least, might open the way for samples to be budded and eventually find their way to beds waiting to receive them in the Heritage Rose Garden at the National Trust property Saumarez. This garden will become yet another important repository of heritage roses and add to the effort to preserve them for the future.



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Co-Chair, Heritage Rose Garden Sub-committee
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Sec., Heritage Rose Garden Sub-committee
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OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney

Check the RBG website for costs and details: <https://www.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/whatson>

- - **Free guided walks with a volunteer guide:** Weekdays 10:30 and 1pm
- - **Aboriginal Tour** Every Wed, Fri, Sat 10am -11 am
- - **Plants for sale at the Growing friends Nursery** Growing Friends Nursery Mon-Fri 11am-2pm & Sat 10am-2pm
- - **Pollination at the Calyx - Explore the World of Pollination:** 10am-4pm daily. Free
- **Botanical Museum:** old and new science Weekdays till 1 July 9.30am – 4.30pm
An exhibition in the Red Box Gallery of the National Herbarium of NSW highlighting the collections of the original Ethno-botanical Museum that have been stored away for 50 years. The exhibit brings historical collections together with those of today and showcases the staff who work behind the scenes to expand our knowledge of our botanical world.
- **Plan Bee:** create a happy insect hotel. Learn about our native bees and make a bee hotel to take home: Sunday 12 August 10am, 11.30am, 1.15pm, 2.45pm at The Calyx. Bookings essential: programs.info@bgcp.nsw.gov.au \$20 per person. For adults and children 12 or over

Bilby Blooms Australian Native Nursery Open Day

Sat 29 September 9am – 4pm. Guided tour of gardens & nursery 10am & 2pm. Large selection of plants for sale. Food & drinks provided by local community groups. 'Manna Springs', Mollyan Rd Binnaway. 6844 1044
www.bilbyblooms.com.au

National Arboretum

Stories in the Forest – School holiday program 11, 12 and 13 July 2018, 10:30am – 12:00pm daily

A story quest through our hundred year old Cork oak forest. As we walk through the forest, help discover what has happened to winter (Hint: Winter has been stolen) and why our forest needs winter to thrive. Rug up warm and wear sturdy, closed shoes. The program will still run in light rain. Please meet at the Cork oak car park. (Free parking). [Activity details.](#)

Endangered Trees Walk, Sunday 15 July, 9:30am – 11:30am, Free

This month we will focus on the endangered species grown at the Arboretum. Join an experienced guide to walk through several forests of endangered species, learning why they are classified as endangered and how the Arboretum is working to conserve the species. [Activity details.](#)

Walking with the Wollemi – School holiday program

16, 17 and 18 July 2018, 10:30am – 12:00pm daily

Some of the trees at the Arboretum have been growing on earth since the time of the dinosaurs. Rug up for a guided walk through some ancient trees and discover the fascinating story behind these survivors. Make your very own botanical fossil to take home with you. Please dress appropriately for the weather as we will be walking outside. Meet at the Terrace Room in the Village Centre. [Activity details.](#)

AILA CULTURAL LANDSCAPE STUDY

Christine Hay, Colleen Morris and James Quoye have completed a study which was an AILA NSW initiative to nominate landscape heritage places for the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR). It was sponsored by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage Council. The project makes an important contribution to our understanding of cultural landscapes and how contemporary thinking has evolved.

The study's original objective was:

to establish a project, and initiate an ongoing program, to support the heritage listing of significant cultural landscapes and landscape conservation areas. This program redresses the gap found in State Heritage Listings which has a bias towards architectural and built items and little recognition of landscape sites. Our purpose will be to recommend listings based on NSW State Heritage criteria. Additionally, our criteria will include an emphasis on natural and cultural landscape conservation values, particularly aesthetics, drawn from visual analysis. Community values will also provide an important base of the project,

The 10 landscapes nominated will be discussed in the next newsletter.

AGHS FORTHCOMING EVENTS -DETAILS

JULY

Date: Wednesday 18th July, 6-8:30pm

Venue: Annie Wyatt Room, National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill

Event: Chris Betteridge will speak on Jenolan Caves cultural landscape

Cost: AGHS Members \$20, Non-members \$30, Students \$5 includes light refreshments. Bookings essential

Online Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/WNTH>

AGHS foundation member Chris Betteridge specialises in the identification, assessment, management and interpretation of historic cultural landscapes. In mid-2014 Chris and his wife Margaret Betteridge were engaged to carry out a preliminary heritage assessment of movable heritage at Jenolan Caves within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. In 2016 Chris provided the landscape input to a conservation management plan (CMP) for the Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve. Since then Chris and Margaret have completed their assessment of movable heritage and a draft CMP for the building and its landscape setting of Caves House, the iconic tourist hotel at Jenolan. They are now working with the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust and other consultants to ensure that planned upgrades to Caves House respect its exceptional heritage values.

As part of his research on Caves House, Chris discovered that Joseph Maiden (1859-1925) had supervised landscape improvements around the building in the late 19th century while he was Director of Sydney's Botanic Gardens and that plant collector and botanist William Blakely (1875-1941) had worked as a gardener at Jenolan. Maiden and Blakely worked together on the revision of the genus *Eucalyptus* and in 1934 Blakely produced his seminal work *A Key to the Eucalypts*. Chris is now continuing his research on the evolution of the cultural landscape around Caves House with a view to guiding the possible reconstruction of some historic features and plantings. On Wednesday 18 July 2018 at the Annie Wyatt Room, National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill, Chris will give an illustrated talk on his Jenolan research so far.



Photo left: Looking west from the Grand Arch, Jenolan Caves towards the 1897 wing of Caves House in 1903, with the Engineer's House high on the slope above Caves House. The landscaping in this image, with ornamental plantings behind estate fencing is probably part of works directed by Maiden in the late 19th century (Source: SLNSW a 128715r 1903)



Photo right: Looking east in 1948 towards the Grand Arch from the entrance porch of the Third Wing (1914-16) of Caves House, showing Wisteria on the verandah and a landscape of mature trees and clipped shrubs. (Source: SLNSW d1 _ 43138r 2 1948)

AUGUST AGM

Speakers: Colleen Morris and Christine Hay will speak on the topic “**Is the protection of cultural landscapes a moral issue? The Berrima, Sutton Forest and Exeter Cultural Landscape Assessment.**”

Date: Wednesday, 15th August, 2018. 6-8:30pm

Venue: Annie Wyatt Room, National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill

Cost: AGHS Members \$20, Non-members \$30, Students \$5 includes light refreshments. Bookings essential

Bookings: TBA

Colleen Morris and Christine Hay were awarded the National Trust Heritage Award in the Landscape category at the 2018 Awards ceremony in Sydney on 5th May for their Berrima, Sutton Forest and Exeter Cultural Landscape Assessment.

The Berrima Residents Association commissioned the study in 2017, which was funded equally by *Battle for Berima* and the *Southern Highlands Foundation*, to assess the heritage values of the Berrima Sutton Forest areas threatened by the Hume Coal mine plan.



The study found that the Berrima, - Sutton Forest area is of such heritage significance that it deserves the utmost protection not only against threats by coal mining but for its own intrinsic worth to NSW and the Nation. Cultural landscapes across NSW are under threat from mining, infrastructure and urban development. Communities are faced with radical proposals to transform the landscapes they value.

The protection of cultural landscapes has become a moral issue in the face of powerful economic arguments by powerful corporations..

Photo: Christine Hay, Colleen Morris with Eric Savage from the Berrima Residents Association

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 23 September 2 - 4.30pm

Event: Self Drive Tour & guided talk of Auburn Botanic Garden (Japanese gardens) and the Old Lidcombe Hospital

Site – see an unusual new housing project in development

Cost: AGHS Members \$20, Non-members \$30, Students \$5 includes light refreshments. Bookings essential



Photo Christine Hay 2018

The Japanese Garden is the centre piece of the Auburn Botanic Garden that opened in 1977.

Within the 9.2 hectare gardens situated beside the Duck River are a range of different environments such as a naturalistic section of the Cumberland Plains forest, a rainforest and billabong, a native and rose gardens and a small fauna reserve.



Photo: Botannica website

The Lidcombe Hospital Precinct has had many different uses: it has been the Rookwood Asylum for the Aged and Infirm, Rookwood State Hospital and Asylum for Men, Lidcombe State Hospital and Home, Rookwood Boys Reformatory and Model Farm. In the 20th century Lidsombe Hospital became a leader in geriatric care and rehabilitation practices. The expansion, then the closure, of the hospital reflects the changes in State and Federal government health care policies in the last century.

The precinct contains an exceptional and rare collection of fine, intact architecture and landscapes of the Victorian, Edwardian, interwar and late-20th century styles

The precinct's latest iteration is the Botanica Estate. In this project, many of the built elements such as the Vernon-designed wards – hospital pavilion buildings in bungalow form – as seen in above photo - have been retained and beautifully restored for adaptive re-use as housing for the 21st Century, along with new, more conventional contemporary apartments and houses. Existing road alignments, parkland and open space areas – the central village green - have been retained and incorporated within the overall design ensuring a sense of the original settings for the buildings and giving the place an unusual (for a commercial development) and very appealing 'feel'.

Stuart Read will guide us on a tour of the estat

Enquiries for all events David Low 0407 464 876 or 02 9943 1456

Email aghssydney@gmail.com

Payments by internet bank transfer to:

Australian Garden History Society Sydney & Northern NSW Branch

ANZ Bank, Centrepont Branch BSB 012040 Account 101762565,

Please include your **name** and the **function**

Newsletter collated and edited by Anne Smith, Gina Plate and Angela Low. Contact Anne Smith on smith777@bigpond.net.au