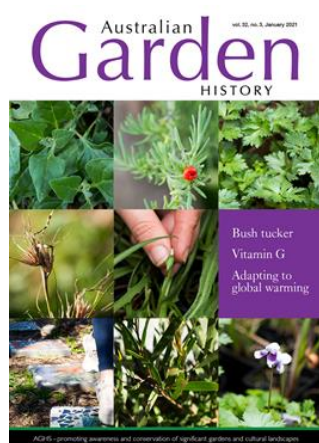




Date: 5 January 2021

Australian Garden History January issue: gardens are great



COVID-19 has made more and more of us aware of the therapeutic benefits of green spaces, whether these are a nook in an urban apartment, public parks or a backyard. The “Vitamin G” effect is not, however, new.

As the January issue of *Australian Garden History* shows gardens have long been recognised for their healing powers. Take Broughton Hall in the Sydney suburb of Lilyfield which incorporated its extensive gardens into treatment of psychiatric patients in the 1920s or Truby King’s garden on Mt Melrose overlooking Wellington in New Zealand. The founder of the Karitane movement created a beautiful place for people, including from the nearby hospital, to stroll.

Looking back over 2020, we cannot forget the devastation of last year’s bushfires and the effects of climate change on Australian landscapes. AGHS patron Tim Entwisle argues in the guest editorial that, while we must defend and conserve important garden landscapes, we must also accept that these are not static. Susan Marsden shows us how she has adapted her garden in Adelaide in response to global warming.

One positive development from the Black Summer is a heightened appreciation of the need to learn more from Indigenous land management practices. Sydney historian, Ian Hoskins, reviews Victor Steffensen’s book, *Fire Country: How Indigenous Fire Management Could Help Save Australia*, pointing also to other important environmental histories.

Poppy Fitzpatrick combines these two themes in her article about initiatives in South Australian primary schools, where First Nations children and the wider school community are developing a deeper cultural and historical understanding of Aboriginal knowledge.

Since early white settlement, Australia has imported plants and know-how. John Dwyer traces the history of the use of red valerian (*Centranthus ruber*), while Sandi Robb shows how Chinese market gardeners used water and manure to grow vegetables in the outback Queensland.

This issue also offers readers a special treat: evocative black and white photographs by the prominent architectural and landscape photographer, Richard Stringer.

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Australian Garden History is the quarterly journal of the Australian Garden History Society (AGHS). For a digital copy of the journal or to arrange an interview with any of the journal’s authors, contact the editor, Francesca Beddie, editor@gardenhistorysociety.org.au or 0418645181

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