



Pre-Conference Tour: Monday 6 to Wednesday 8 September 2021
Post-Conference Tour: Tuesday 14 to Thursday 16 September 2021

Stuart Read will lead these tours, departing from and arriving back to Luna Park, Milsons Point, Sydney. Both will be a three day, two night tour staying at the Mountain Heritage Hotel in Katoomba west of Sydney. We will visit a range of private and public gardens, old and less-so. Some were on the very first AGHS tour out of Sydney in 1981, including Paul Sorensen's *Everglades* at Leura, a rare modernist showpiece and some gardens including *Wynstay* at Mount Wilson. They aim to give an idea of the diversity and challenges of establishing and maintaining mountain gardens. Each tour is limited to 48 people.

As you know, the Blue Mountains and much of South-Eastern Australia, suffered shocking wildfires over the summer of 2019-2020. What is remarkable is the erratic footprint of impacts and rapidity of bounce-back: with charred trunks sprouting buds within a month and whole ecosystems coming back to life, with rains and time.

These tours are an opportunity to see these landscapes 17 months afterwards, to better understand the resilience of nature and determined gardeners. It is fascinating to see: what were blackened surrounds above Bilpin, around Mount Tomah and towards Mount Wilson are rapidly now greening up again, limiting 'through-vision'.

Towns such as Blackheath were close, with parts hit by fire, others lucky with changes of wind or determined fire response crews. These spring tours are well-timed to grasp something of fire-centred ecology, with eucalypts depending on it for a clear ash bed to germinate seed - and the Blue Mountains are World-Heritage-listed for their eucalypt diversity as a core heritage value.

Phone Head office on 0419 977 703 or email info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au for more information. Visit the website for conference updates.

Online bookings will reopen 1 April 2021. Numbers are limited

[2021 Annual National Conference - Australian Garden History Society](#)

Those who booked last year and have held their booking will receive confirmation for this year's tours.

The Australian Garden History Society's priority is the health and welfare of our staff, members and members of the public who participate in our activities. All our activities operate in line with our [COVID-19 Safety Plan](#) and Australian and State government indoor and outdoor gathering guidelines. Please do not hesitate to contact our national office to discuss any concerns you may have regarding how the tour will be managed in a COVID-19 safe way.