

Australian Garden History Society

Western Australian Branch

Winter Newsletter 2020

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



WA's 40th Anniversary Project Update

Members would be aware that after submitting a proposal to the NMC in 2019 a grant was awarded to enable the branch to prepare a publication based on the 2011 and 2018 historic gardens of Perth exhibitions.

A subcommittee comprising Patsy Vizents, Lisa Williams, the Secretary Lynette Petersen and myself was formed and have contracted Morgan Design, who were responsible for our two exhibitions, to design the layout and format for publication. A timeline has been set with the book to be launched in the first quarter of 2021 to coincide with the Museum of Perth's exhibition on gardening. The committee was meeting monthly before the pandemic and now with Zoom, Paul Morgan who lives in Toodyay can participate without the need to travel to Perth.

John Viska, AGHS WA Branch Chair

Western Australian Branch

Contact: Sue Monger
susanmonger@yahoo.com.au

WA Branch Committee

Chair: John Viska (johnviska@gmail.com)

Secretary: Lynette Petersen

Treasurer: Max Stewart

NMC Representative: Patsy Vizents

Membership: Sue Monger

Website & Newsletter: Lyn Oliver

General Committee: Ros Stewart, Boris Roglich

Australian Garden History Society Inc.
ABN 97 291 212 843



40th Anniversary Theme People, Plants and Places

Welcome to the Western Australia Branch. Our Branch has approximately 75 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, emails and the AGHS website for all events.

<https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au>
info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au

Vale Ann Carr

Australian Garden History Society member Ann Carr passed away in April. Ann had the rare distinction of being involved in the recovery of a plant thought to be extinct. As a resident of Yandanooka near Mingenew, Ann was involved in the original marketing of that area as a place to see wildflowers. With other local women, she wrote the area's first tourist brochure, Mingenew Three Springs Wild Flower Drives.

This endeavour was supported by the then Department of Conservation and Land Management and also led to the setting up of a regional herbarium. Ann collected many plants over the years and one specimen forwarded to Kings Park was presumed to be extinct not having been seen for 60 years since being collected by C.A. Gardner in 1931. *Grevillea phanerophlebia* was then declared critically endangered and the plant fenced. After moving to Perth in 2010, Ann achieved another goal by becoming a Kings Park Guide. During her training Ann was stunned to see a healthy *Grevillea phanerophlebia* growing in Roe Gardens. Sure enough, it had grown from one of the cuttings taken by Luke Sweedman, curator of the WA Seed Technology Centre at Kings Park when he had travelled to Mingenew all those years before.



The late Ann Carr with a copy of the Mingenew Three Springs Wild Flower Drives brochure. Photo: Chris Olney

With thanks to Chris Olney, Kings Park Guide Newsletter Editor and Theresa Putland for the information.

Landscapes at Risk – AGHS Advocacy Issue

Kings Park Cable Car

A recent opinion piece in The West Australian newspaper on 1st June 2020 by John McGrath, Liberal MP for South Perth, promoting the building of the cable car to Kings Park was given prominence. The image chosen was one that does not fully show the impact that the large pylons and gondola station will have on the historic site.

As you are aware, AGHS WA Branch supports Kings Park Botanical Gardens and their volunteer agencies in opposing it.

The issue of Kings Park being a Landscape at Risk is not going away and AGHS WA Branch is formulating some support strategies for opposing it.

NZ Conference Presentations on YouTube, Patsy Vizents

The presentations from the AGHS National Conference held in Wellington, New Zealand in October 2019 are now available online via YouTube. You can approach each one separately or together. If you were not able to attend the conference please follow the links below and enjoy the fantastic talks that were presented.

The quality is great and it was a chilling reminder of the shaky isles and their fragile existence, when watching Hamish Campbell's presentation. Of note is that he lists the most volatile of the volcanoes in the north island and at the end mentions White Island. Just over a month later, White Island erupted.



Image from the AGHS National Conference showing the first speaker, Dr Hamish Campbell.

Link to all talks:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=australian+garden+history+society

Link to individual talks:

Housekeeping <https://youtu.be/nDjIJKYugUk>

Chair <https://youtu.be/0UujAec2H4Y>

Dr Hamish Campbell 38.49 <https://youtu.be/SvNnl6n99U8>

Louise Fury 45.02 <https://youtu.be/B6N12nCVR0o>

Professor Tim Enwisle 38.15 https://youtu.be/PRCm2_ttnoY

Assoc. Professor James Beattie 40.38 <https://youtu.be/OeAVnbYJmEU>

Claire Shearman 33.24 <https://youtu.be/zjPlxsS1Ugo>

Fiona Eadie 40.41 <https://youtu.be/hCoREkDKMTQ>

Lady Gillian Deane 31.47 <https://youtu.be/G3yxEe0pI-0>

Bee Dawson 41.44 <https://youtu.be/gOmy6cBifuQ>

Day 2 Opening and housekeeping 10.09 <https://youtu.be/OMh2ApUZjYI>

John Adam 35.12 <https://youtu.be/zTWzozl5nmA>

Stuart Read 40.16 <https://youtu.be/-oVJ42Qwz2Y>

Final housekeeping 4.33 <https://youtu.be/26Eb5KCKYuA>

Final comments – Lady Gillian Dean 6.14 <https://youtu.be/u5UmZnF4luk>

Sydney conference 10.29 <https://youtu.be/pwB5QN6uREM>

Wardian Case, Ros Stewart

A special treat awaits attendees who attend the *WA Branch: Waroona – A Day in the Country* event on 3 October 2020 when they will be able to view an original Wardian Case.



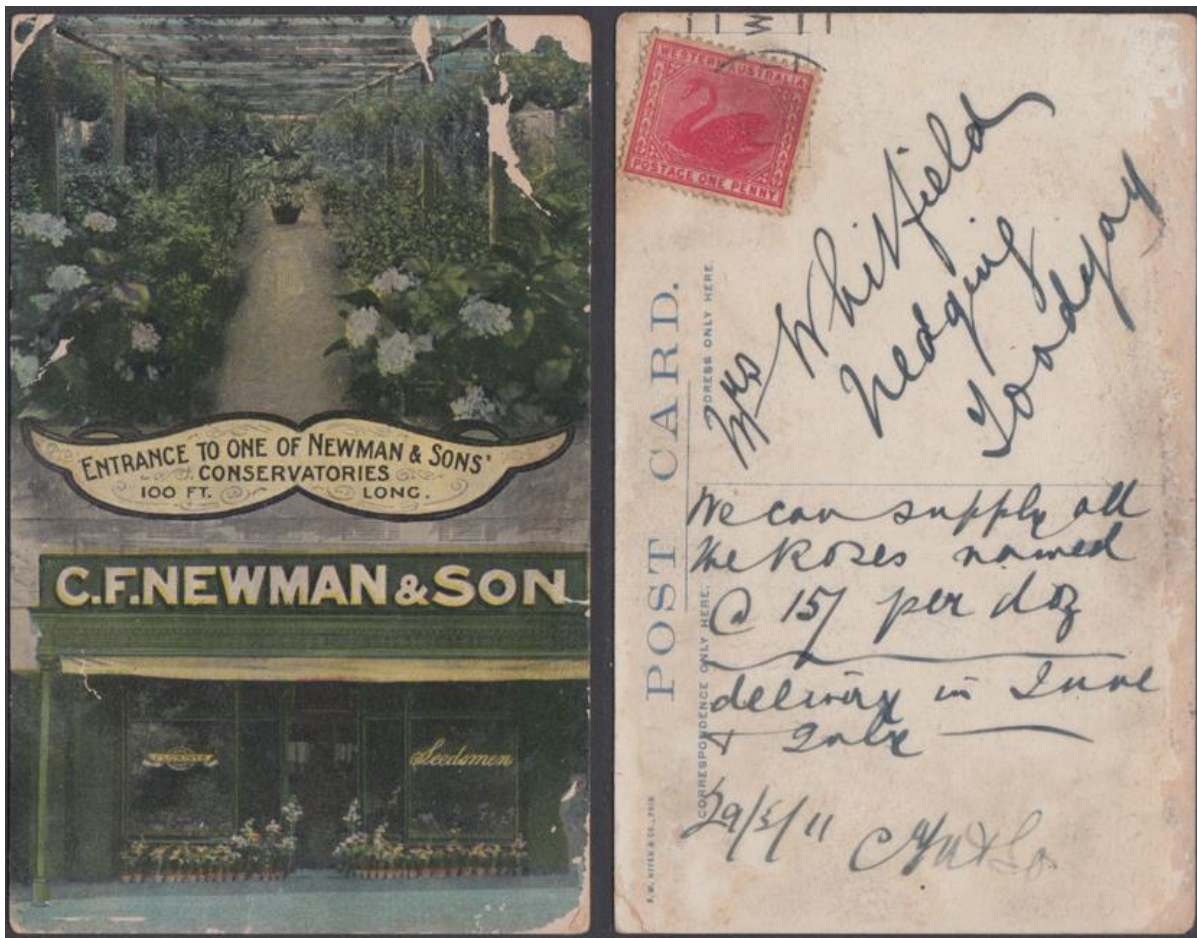
“A Wardian Case was a type of sealed glass terrarium created by London doctor Nathaniel Ward that allowed the safe, long-distance transportation of live plants. A London-to-Sydney return trip in 1833 successfully swapped British ferns and grasses with Australian plants previously uncultivated in Britain. Perhaps the most significant use of Ward’s invention involved Scottish botanist Robert Fortune. He made several plant hunting expeditions to China where he amassed many fine plants including magnificent peonies. His biggest success came when he used Wardian cases to transport 20,000 live tea (*Camellia sinensis*) plants from China to Darjeeling, ultimately the English tea trade.”

The above text has been sourced from the ‘Four Seasons’ Winter June 2020 Newsletter and reproduced with permission. The author is Fiona Ogilvie who is the garden writer for the “The Land” newspaper.

Oral History, Patsy Vizents

The AGHS Oral History National Collection is expanding and two more interviews will be up-loaded onto the AGHS website from the ACT/Monaro/Riverina Branch; Max Bourke and Cedric Bryant. Both are extremely interesting in their own right. Members will probably be familiar with Max Bourke, as he has been an active writer for our journal and participant at all the AGHS Conferences since the 1990s. His interview allows us access to his commitment to conservation and protection of the National Estate through his professional and personal contact with pioneers in the heritage profession and the development of heritage-based societies like the Australian Garden History Society. Cedric Bryant is a horticulturalist who came from a farming and nursery background. He established a fuchsia garden in his backyard in Canberra which took over not only his yard but his life, resulting in him moving the family to Yass and establishing Bryant's Nursery. Along the way he ran a horticulture consultancy and designed public and private gardens in the Canberra area.

Rare Postcard, John Viska



A rare 1911 nursery postcard for Newman's Nursery, courtesy Mike Kouen

C.F. Newman & Son, a South Australian nursery, was established in WA in the late 1890s. Their commercial outlet was located in Barrack Street and it was renowned for the horticultural displays in the shop's windows. This view is of hydrangeas in one of the shade houses at their nursery which was originally located on Riversdale Road, Burswood, but later shifted to Guildford Road, Bayswater.

NMC, Patsy Vizents

The NMC has been working hard, addressing discussion points from the Melbourne two-day planning meeting on topics such as the top 10 public and private gardens from each state. How can there only be 10? It is a really interesting exercise trying to narrow down a list such as this but it allows discussion and sharing of information to do with historic gardens, which is enlightening for all on the committee. There will be a two-day working meeting in Sydney in July, and with borders still closed it will probably result in a Zoom meeting.

Kuraree – The Heart of Perth or Koorari – Boorloo Koort-ak

The City of Perth is showcasing 150 years of the Perth Town Hall through an online exhibition entitled Kuraree – The Heart of Perth or Koorari – Boorloo Koort-ak.

Please follow the links below to find out more:

<https://www.perth.wa.gov.au/news-and-updates/all-news/celebrating-150-years-of-the-perth-town-hall>

<https://kuraree.heritageperth.com.au/>

Perth Town Hall Horticultural History

From the 1870 onwards the Horticultural Society used the Perth Town Hall as the venue for their annual autumn and spring horticultural shows.



The potted Chrysanthemums suggest the photo is of an autumn flower show. The items on the left-hand side on the tables show the display boxes that were standard in exhibiting blooms. They were usually of a regulation size set by the horticultural society and made from wood painted green with a set number of specimens displayed in moss lined boxes. The multi flowered chrysanthemum specimens would have been in hand thrown terracotta pots. The plants in the centre may have been a display provided by the COP from the shade houses at their Victoria Park Nursery, Trafalgar Road, East Perth. Photo Courtesy of The State Library.

Historical Women in Garden Design Business, John Viska

Did you know that in the early decades of the 20th century three Western Australian women established their own businesses in garden design. Two, namely Edith Cole and Helena King are detailed in *The Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens* pages 147 and 345 respectively. The third, Nancy Grasby was not listed but also had an interesting life that needs recording. Nancy was the daughter of Catton Grasby, the agricultural editor of the *Western Mail* the newspaper owned by Charles Harper and John Winthrop Hackett. After her early years in Perth she went to America and studied landscape design setting herself up in business and publishing at least one book on garden design while there. This would be a worthwhile research topic for a branch member as the AGHS co-editors want WA related articles for publishing in the Journal.

Event Diary

Now that our state is slowly opening up, the AGHS WA Branch is working toward delivering the events planned for the remainder of the year. However, as you are aware we are still subject to COVID-19 government regulations so we will update members on any changes to our proposed events presented below.

WA Branch: Annual General Meeting

9 August 2020

WA Branch: Waroona – A Day in the Country

3 October 2020

2020 Annual National Conference

23 October - 25 October

Venue: Luna Park, Milsons Point, Sydney. Bookings for this year's conference are now open.

WA Branch: Christmas Function

6 December 2020 at 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Venue: Azelia Ley Homestead, Hamilton Hill

2021 Annual National Conference

5 November 2021 – 7 November

Venue: Wrest Point Casino, Hobart



Winter Sunrise in Cottesloe.

Photo: Sue Monger