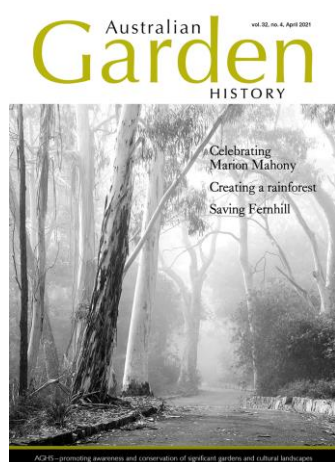




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Australian Garden History April issue: dare to dream



As vaccinations are rolled out across the country, garden lovers are venturing beyond their own backyards. For those interested in garden history, the Australian Garden History Society is excited to be bringing landscape history to life at its [2021 conference](#) in Sydney between 10 and 12 September. The conference theme is *Many Dreams, One Landscape*. It will consider the land, water and multi-layered cultural history of Sydney Harbour. Registrations open on 1 April.

One person who came to love and admire that landscape and Australia's native flora was Marion Mahony, the wife of Walter Burley Griffin. She deserves to be better known in her own right, as award-winning journalist Glenda Korporaal demonstrates in her article about Mahony.

Scenes like those of women demanding to be heard outside new Parliament House in March 2021 were envisaged in the landscape design of Canberra's parliamentary triangle. Anna Howe suggests the shimmering reflections of green and purple tiles in the fountain outside Old Parliament House that marks the 2002 Centenary of the Women's Franchise say: 'never stop agitating'!

In 1664, the Royal Society published its first book, *Sylva. A Discourse of Forest Trees, and the Propagation of Timber in his Majesty's Dominions*. Its author John Evelyn was an early advocate for the environmental and economic value of trees. A publication on his legacy and contemporary relevance is reviewed in the April issue.

The Australian National Botanic Garden was officially opened by Prime Minister John Gorton in 1970. To commemorate its 50th anniversary, historian Don Beer has written the first full-scale history of the garden, *Miracle on Black Mountain*. This issue includes an extract about building its rainforest (pictured on the cover).

When Edward Cox built his mansion, Fernhills, in the Mulgoa Valley near Penrith, NSW in the 1830s, he sited the house on a hill, out of danger from floods. Fernhill estate, bought in 2018 by the NSW government, to protect it from proposed rezoning, remains on the Society's [Landscape at Risk](#) register. James Broadbent explains its cultural significance in his essay in the April issue of the journal.

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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. You can contact the conference organiser, Christine Hay, on 0410 342413.

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