



AUSTRALIAN
**GARDEN
HISTORY**
SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021

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

Annual Report of the Australian Garden History Society Inc. for the year ending 30th June 2021

Patron Professor Tim Entwisle

Office Bearers

Co Chairs Bronwyn Blake and Stuart Read

Treasurer Elizabeth Teed

Secretary Lynne Walker

Public Officer John Maurer

National Management Elected Committee

Steven Halliday, Lynne Paul

Elected Member – Sydney 2020 Convenor

Christine Hay

Branch Representatives

Australian Capital Territory Anne Claoue-Long

SH/New South Wales Lyn Barrett

Queensland Ann Wegener

South Australia Dr Jeff Jenkinson

Tasmania Prue Slatyer [Hobart Conference Convenor]

Victoria Wendy Dwyer

Western Australia Patsy Vizents

Journal Editor Francesca Beddie

National Executive Officer Lisa Tuck

Membership Secretary Lindy Neylan

AGHS Annual Report National Co-Chairs' Report 2020–21

Whilst 2020-2021 has been an unsettling time for many, we thank you for your ongoing support for and engagement in the work of the Society. We especially thank all those who donated all or some of their 2021 conference registrations. We're buoyed by your generosity and it has helped us to carry on.

This year has thrown the simple things we take for granted into sharp focus. Not being able to meet for talks, visits, working bees and tours has meant AGHS, like so many groups, has had a tough year.

We are thankful the Society, through Branch and member goodwill, has adapted to this strange new world with such speed and poise. Who would have thought twelve months ago that 'Zoom' or 'Skype' would become part of our tool kit for events, meetings and advocacy? Whilst gathering in person will always be our preference, our online activity has broadened members' ability to attend events and meetings locally and nationally. Ones that they may have otherwise missed, due to distance, transport or health. The development of this 'digital' as well as 'physical' realm has been a positive for AGHS and many have expressed hope it will remain an active part of our operations.

MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Patron

Tim Entwisle has continued in his role this year, mentioning and leading the Society in various fora. We're lucky to have such a skilled and media-savvy Patron, whose subjects are as much about the future, in getting gardens better-prepared for ongoing climate change, as they are the past. We thank Tim for sharing his energy, time and expertise, and now, also a working group on climate change.

National Management Committee (NMC)

We have called on the NMC more than ever this year. We have held seven scheduled Zoom meetings and discussed issues at length via email, phone calls and additional Zoom meetings. We were sorry not to meet in person in Melbourne for two days, as has been our custom each February, for a longer-term planning meeting. And likewise, for a day in Sydney, in July. Not to be, in 2021.

As many NMC members also fill roles within Branch committees we are particularly grateful to them for their time, thought and efforts. They have been exceptionally generous and committed members who have served the Society in a selfless way and we thank them all for it.

Anne Claoue-Long, Prue Slatyer, Patsy Vizents and Ann Wegener will be continuing on the NMC as Branch reps and Bronwyn Blake, Stephen Halliday, John Maurer and Stuart Read will continue on as elected NMC members.

Lynne Paul, Wendy Dwyer and Jeff Jenkinson are retiring as NMC members, and as the Tasmanian, Victorian and South Australian Branch chairs, respectively. All have been very active, inspiring leaders, contributing generously at national and at Branch levels through events, talks, advice to the NMC in various ways. We are most grateful for their service and shall miss them.

Lynne Walker and Christine Hay have served a 3-year term and are eligible for NMC re-election at this AGM.

Branches

Branches are the lifeblood of the Society, regionally and locally. Their advocacy for local issues, organising and running events, interactions with other groups are essential outreach and are the 'face' of the Society, in the community.

We acknowledge and shout cheers of thanks to our tireless Branch committees who give so generously of their time, expertise and passion. This really is appreciated.

Following this report are individual Branch reports detailing the breadth and scope of these activities.

National Executive Officer

In the most difficult of circumstances our NEO Lisa Tuck has been just extraordinary this year. In constant touch with members, we thank her for calm dedication, good humour, flexibility and generosity with her time. She is a major asset to AGHS!

We also acknowledge member Lindy Neylon's generosity of spirit and time in assisting Lisa in a voluntary capacity with ongoing membership enquiries and follow-up, and at the Society's stall at the Australian Landscape Conference in March: thank you, Lindy!

A New Constitution

The Society's Constitution was written in 1979 and adopted in 1980. While it has had modest tweaks since, the NMC were increasingly aware that it needed considerable updating. This now brings it in line with current state and national legislation and requirements to allow us to operate in all states and territories. It also includes changes to reflect how we have grown and multiplied, in Branch structure and actions, plus things that did not exist in 1980, like the internet, our website, email, digital publications and events – huge technological changes we have adopted since AGHS began.

We are most grateful for the patience and expert minds of both past AGHS Chair, John Dwyer QC and current NMC member, Mark Dwyer (no relation). They applied themselves to help us have a now compliant, up-to-date document, adopting standard wording where required, but tailoring sections to the AGHS, to reflect who we are, what we do and how we do it. Many thanks to you both.

This amended draft was circulated to members for comment in April–May and after further consultation, again in July. It is hoped members will adopt it at the Annual General Meeting in November.

Strategic Plan

In response to the results of the 2020 members' survey we now have our first draft strategic plan, thanks to fine work by Lynne Walker and John Maurer and comment from the NMC. This sets out the following four goals for priority action for the next four years:

- **Raise awareness of the Australian Garden History Society's work.**
- **Develop tools to assist with advocacy.**
- **Find new funding opportunities to support our work in identifying, researching and recording significant gardens and cultural landscapes.**
- **Develop a response to climate change.**

An initial draft was circulated to Branch Committees for comment in June–July and a second draft in July–August.

Insurance and Risk Management

As always, the NMC needs to ensure we have adequate policies to cover and manage risk in all AGHS activities and provide adequate public liability and voluntary workers' insurance. These policies are in place and were altered slightly this year to include the necessary QR Code.

Investments

We acknowledge and thank The Kindred Spirits Fund Chair Colleen Morris and committee members Peter Watts, Christina Dyson and Malcolm Faul for their work in managing this fund, their sage counsel and generosity in supporting several Branch 40th anniversary projects this year.

Sponsorship

An outline of categories and levels of sponsorship for conferences, the website and the journal are available from Head Office and on the Society's website. We welcome any suggestions members may have about potential sponsors for AGHS events, including the conferences

Finance

The Society has been extraordinarily fortunate to have the services of Elizabeth Teed as our national treasurer this year. We are sure Elizabeth did not realise what she was in for, with various crises. She has been remarkable, giving calm, clear and balanced advice, in testing circumstances. A big thank you to Elizabeth.

ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Sydney, October 2020 then ... 10–13 September 2021

It was with heavy hearts but pragmatic minds that the 10/2020 Sydney conference was rescheduled to 09/2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We all thought, not even the cruellest author would make their characters face such a devastating plot twist again ... and yet, an outbreak of the Delta strain in Greater Sydney in July 2021 meant the committee were faced with the same decision.

Convenor Christine Hay and the conference committee all deserve our admiration and high praise for organising, postponing, reviving the national conference twice and then electing to switch formats from face-to-face to virtual. Such was the quality and appeal of the program they devised many delegates booked to attend the face-to-face conference elected to participate in the conference virtually. Many have said what we agree: it was exceptional in content and presentation.

We look forward to attending the garden visits and tours in 2022 when it is safe to do so. We understand Christine's decision to stand down from the NMC after the huge effort involved in chairing and convening the Sydney conference. Thank you so much, Christine!

Hobart, 11–13 November 2022

Prue Slatyer and the Tasmanian Branch Committee have been busy preparing our 2022 annual conference in Tasmania's southern capital in late spring. Its theme of *Landscape on the Edge: opportunity and challenge* will look at how that state and its gardens, already on the edge of the world, adjust to climate change, something very timely to focus on.

2023

We are excited to confirm that our 2023 annual conference will be hosted by the Queensland Branch in Ipswich and thank the Branch for offering to host our special annual event.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH MEMBERS

Website

The website has had further expansion and fine-tuning this year. Bill Nixon of Tadah Data and volunteer Lachlan Garland have, with Lisa Tuck's help, done wonders to adjust it to present the Society's range of activities and interests so it is easier to navigate and find content. Additions included digitised past journal issues under their own tab, with an introduction written by member Nancy Clarke, describing the history of our newsletters and journal. Also added were interactive project pages on the Society's *Photographic Competition*, the National Library *Dig in! with Trove* project and the *Remarkable Gardens* list.

The papers of the Society's 2013 W.A. Urban Tree Forum are now online. These are all ways members can engage with the Society, flag interests, meet like-minded members and learn more about archives and resources useful in garden history.

The ability to make electronic payments has also been incorporated into the website which has streamlined administration and made it a more effective outreach tool to non-members.

The AGHS now has a YouTube account, and video presentations from conferences, along with some Branch events are there, at www.youtube.com – open it and search for 'garden history' to explore...

Journal

Francesca Beddie has done an outstanding job as our journal editor and we pay tribute to her hard work, inclusive and flexible approach in a challenging year. We are particularly grateful for her efforts in promoting and broadening its appeal, reaching out to new authors, youth and students. She has contributed ideas about interplay between the journal's articles and the website, allowing non-members viewing the latter glimpses of what they're missing.

We acknowledge the support the Editorial Advisory Committee provides Francesca. It is chaired by Lynne Paul and its members are Anne Claoue-Long, Jennifer Stackhouse, Dot Evans, Meg Probyn and Lynne Walker. Past chair Roslyn Burge and past members Felicity Watson and Patsy Vizents are also thanked for their considerable input. We hope you agree, the journal is a delight to read and to recommend.

We're also grateful for the ongoing contributions to the layout and look of the journal and aspects of the website by designer, Mariana Rollgeiser, who works closely with Francesca and Lisa. Thank you!

EXHIBITIONS

'The Blade' is a wonderful exhibition on the history and paraphernalia of lawn worship and how ubiquitous grass has been in Australian gardens over time. It highlights machinery and tools from the 'Old Mole' collection, donated by Richard Bird to the Museum of Australian Gardening, at Carrick Hill in South Australia. It has, over the last year, toured to Canberra from November 2020-February 2021, Carrick Hill from April 2021-May 2021 and on to the New England, in Armidale. With negotiations regarding future locations underway, we thank former Chair and dynamo behind the exhibition, Richard Heathcote, who has generously regaled members in two states with talks complementing the exhibition, and diverse media publicity.

While not an exhibition, AGHS had a stall attracting steady interest at the Australian Landscape Conference in Melbourne in March 2021, an event attended by more than 500 people. This is always an excellent forum to promote the Society to a broad range of industry professionals.

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Nina Crone Writing Fund

The Nina Crone Writing Fund supports emerging garden writers and those wishing to offer a fresh perspective on issues related to the history of gardens, landscapes and the challenges of environment and heritage. Nina Crone OAM (1934-2007) was an Australian gardening writer, broadcaster, teacher and school principal. From 1982 to 1997, under the nom de plume Alison Dalrymple, Nina wrote garden and plant history articles for *The Age*. She edited *Australian Garden History* from 2001 to 2006. Following her death, a fundraiser was held to establish a writing award in her memory.

With the original funds now depleted, the NMC has decided to continue this initiative and has actively been seeking tax deductible donations. Please consider making a contribution to it.

The Kindred Spirits Fund

This fund fosters the scholarly, scientific, educational literary and artistic aspects of the AGHS. On her death Lady Law-Smith bequeathed to the Society the publication rights to the book, *Kindred Spirits: A Botanical Correspondence*, researched and written by Anne Latreille and published by AGHS in 1999. It tells the life stories of Law-Smith and the fine botanist and naturalist Jean Galbraith, their friendship and highly productive working relationship. As a tribute to Lady Law-Smith the money from book sales is placed in a special fund named The Kindred Spirits Fund. In recent years this has been strengthened by generous donations from our members.

New donations are always welcome and the NMC and The Kindred Spirits Fund Committee have been actively promoting the fact that donations can be tax deductible as the Society is affiliated with the Australian Council of National Trusts. The Australian Taxation Office permits the Trust to extend tax-deductibility to heritage-related appeals operated by other organisations, such as the AGHS.

National Oral History Collection

The restricted activity of Branches this year has not prevented them from continuing to build the Society's National Oral History Collection with Victoria contributing five interviews, the Southern Highlands seven, Tasmania one and working on another and the West Australian Branch two and working on another. We look forward to seeing those who have given permission, published on the website in the coming months.

At present there are 63 interviews in the National Oral History Collection. Members who were delegates at our Sydney digital conference would have enjoyed Roslyn Burge's paper presenting a selection of interviewees via video clips: bringing history to life, in people's own voices.

We thank NMC member Patsy Vizents for her considerable work overseeing this valued ongoing project and look forward to more interviews being added to the collection in the future.

TOURS

While COVID-19 has prevented AGHS from running tours this year, we have been busy liaising and negotiating with ASA Tours over joint tours in future. While we are fortunate to have experienced and committed volunteers run tours, it is an imposition, and very time and resource intensive.

Many AGHS members are regular users of ASA Tours, and it was felt this company understands our organisation's interests, with the potential to share publicity between like-minded people. This has led to a memorandum of understanding being drafted between the two bodies which will be reviewed following the postponed April 2021 tour of northern NSW, rescheduled to run in 2022. We look forward to future tours with ASA and strengthening this relationship.

MEMBERSHIP

AGHS membership remains steady at 1,495 on 30 June 2021.

Having had many of our 40th Anniversary celebrations dampened by COVID-19 the NMC decided to use this milestone to reflect and survey our membership. Some 500 members responded in total, a welcome and high response rate. This has provided the NMC and Branch committees with valuable feedback to focus on as we assess our priorities in the future.

Membership numbers have dropped by 11% over the year and the NMC continue to look for ways to widen the Society's appeal, bring in new faces and event types to recruit new members. We welcome your ideas. The NMC reviewed our policy on Honorary and Life Memberships, looking at practice in the past and at other groups for how this can work. We decided in the end to retain both types.

Honorary memberships will be limited to a 5-year term, acknowledging an outstanding contribution to the Society's mission and widening its appeal. Life memberships will be for outstanding service to AGHS at a high level. The NMC consider that these need to be conferred sparingly.

In February 2021 the Society gave a life membership to John Viska of Western Australia, who has made an outstanding contribution to both that Branch and the Society's work, and appeal, through tours, talks, writings and exhibitions. Congratulations, and thank you, John!

ADVOCACY

The Society's online *Landscapes at Risk* and its *Avenues of Honour, Memorial Avenues and Lone Pines* lists have continued to generate interest, responses and information. These both reflect the whole country, and they try to capture major and other issues where AGHS has been active (e.g. writing objections or submissions, lobbying, protesting, influencing) or where we are aware of risks.

The Australian War Memorial redevelopment

The federal government are funding a \$500m expansion of the AWM, demolishing a prize-winning existing building extension and proposing to remove some 70 mature trees in its, and ANZAC Parade's setting, to allow for this. This place is listed on the National Heritage List as a landscape. AGHS objected along with some 599 submissions and we await the outcome with interest.

Greenmount homestead, Mackay garden revival

The Queensland branch is funding a \$10,000 restoration project in this state-listed garden around a 1915 house, gifted to the Regional Council. Member John Taylor is managing the project and member Catherine Brouwer prepared a 1997 conservation study and drawings for the new works. These include replacing several trees and plantings, some by dignitaries and guests, and rebuilding a dilapidated 'Buddleja' arbour. This is a great conservation project AGHS is taking a leading role on.

Mitcham Railway Station Garden, Adelaide

The South Australian Branch is having discussions with Council and a friends group about protecting significant trees in the station's grounds. This illustrates how working with other groups can multiply the Society's impact and foster better management and understanding.

Station Street Bypass, Bowral, Southern Highlands

Active AGHS and community lobbying over years has led to Wingecarribee Shire Council withdrawing its support and funding for a proposed bypass. This was in fact street widening, which would have removed a significant number of mature trees, an inter-war era avenue of pin oaks planted by the community at the town's entry, and a collection of rare, mature *Camellia japonica* cultivar bushes, outside the railway station. It seems sense has prevailed but securing good ongoing management and action, long-term care, heritage listing and funding is the next task.

Review of the NSW Heritage Act 1977

The *NSW Heritage Act 1977* is under review by that state's government. This brings opportunities as well as risks. The Sydney Branch has lodged a submission, seeking to strengthen the number and breadth of landscape heritage listings, their proper protection, funding and support. The outcome of the review should be clear by later in 2021.

Cambria Green, Swansea, Tasmania

AGHS has objected to massive \$100m over-development of rural land north of Swansea. This affects a 3000ha historic estate, Cambria. Cambria's homestead and garden are completely neglected, while owners navigate the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) and Supreme Court, seeking to up-zone, grab water rights, build resorts, aged persons facilities, an airport... The Tasmanian Branch ran a successful public forum with talks on its rich history and heritage. The first TPC appeal was quashed and a new application is due for hearing by a new TPC. We are not hopeful of the outcome.

Wombat Park, Daylesford

The Victorian Branch nominated this major historic garden (visited by AGHS) to the Victorian State Heritage Register in 2019. It was placed on the real estate market in late 2020 and the sale abandoned in early 2021. An auction is planned for November. COVID has prevented Heritage Victoria visiting it, and the branch is encouraging remote assessment, given detailed documentation it has provided. Hopefully the garden will gain both state listing and sympathetic new owners.

Kings Park Cable Car proposal

The Western Australian Branch and community objected to a thought bubble to put in a tourist cable-car from Elizabeth Quay, on the city's shore across the Mitchell Freeway interchange and up to Kings Park, cutting through historic park layout, plantings and making a major visual blight on that, beautiful, open, green side of the city. So far this has been averted, with the Chair of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority noting it would threaten the aesthetics and values of the park.

Thank you once again, for your support and commitment to the mission of the Society.
We look forward to a more straight forward year ahead.



Stuart Read and Bronwyn Blake
National Co-Chairs

Sub Committees and Working Groups

Advocacy Subcommittee

S Read (Convenor) C. O'Halloran

Editorial Advisory Committee (EAC)

L Paul (Convenor), J Stackhouse, L Walker, A Claoue-Long, M Probyn, D Evans

Finance Advisory Committee

E Teed, T Hogg, M Dwyer

Kindred Spirits Fund Committee

C Morris, M Faul, P Watts, C Dyson

Oral History Working Group

P Vizents (Convenor), B Blake, J Maurer, H Page, Dr M Probyn, S Read

Website and Marketing Committee

L Garland, B Blake and NEO

Branch Reports

ACT MONARO RIVERINA BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Margie Bourke
Treasurer	Sue Cassidy
State NMC Representative	Anne Claoue-Long
Secretary	Nancy Clarke
Committee	Bronwyn Blake (NMC Co-Chair), Lynne Curran, Fleur Flanery, Greg Johnson

Functions

- Visit to Marshall Farm at Reidsdale
- Guided tour with Curator of Contour 556 Sculpture Exhibition
- Deferred 40th Anniversary Garden Party and Xmas Celebration in the English Garden
- Twilight ramble Old Forestry School Yarralumla
- The Blade Exhibition and Talk by Richard Heathcote
- *Griffin's Three Green Hills* Talk, Trevor Lipscombe in National Arboretum
- Heritage Festival event, *A garden for a Modernist House*
- Beside the Queanbeyan River Walking Tour, joint event with National Trust for Heritage Fest
- Film show *The Gardener* + Book Sale at Gundaroo
- First Winter Lecture Trisha Dixon on *The Spirit of the Garden* joint with Friends of NLA
- Second winter lecture by Dr Rosemary Purdie on plant collecting in the Simpson Desert

Advocacy

- Submissions were made to the ACT Government on the Draft Urban Forestry Strategy 2025, and on a development bordering Haig Park.
- Submission with NCA expressing dismay at the planned removal of 150 trees in redevelopment of the Australian War Memorial.

Projects

- Photographic competition initiated by Greg Johnson has now closed and entries being judged
- Further digitisation of items held by the NLA are planned, but are waiting on NLA staff for final approval.

Chair's Report

2020–21 will be recorded as the only period in AGHS 40 year history where our best laid plans have either been cancelled or deferred. Our Committee has been wonderfully flexible in putting plans on hold, and then re-instating them at a new time or in a new mode. We have been fortunate that local members have been very loyal and supportive and we have had pleasing attendance at events. We have continued to partner with other like-minded groups such as the National Trust, Friends of the National Library, Friends of the National Arboretum, to increase the awareness of joint interests and attract new members. My sincere thanks to the members of the Committee who are so energetic and enthusiastic in making planned events happen in such a professional manner.

Margie Bourke

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Ann Wegener
Secretary	Lois Closter
Treasurer	Elizabeth Teed
Editor	Roberta Blake
Committee Members	John Taylor, Helen Mackay

Functions

Mother's Day Garden Visit and address by President of Camellia Society, Day Visit to rural property

Advocacy

Protecting a pair of Bunya pine trees in Toowoomba. Assisting student with listings project at Imbil.

Projects

Culmination of 40th Anniversary project of reconstruction of Gateway Arbour and replanting significant trees at Greenmount Homestead, near Mackay. Plan and run 8 day tour for members to Mackay and Airlie Beach.

Chair's Report

The past year saw activities scaled back due to effects of Covid.

We were able to gather at Tamborine Mountains Regional Botanic Gardens for a pre-Christmas Function. A well supported event, it encouraged the Committee to continue with providing outings for members.

A highlight in April was our visit to Nindooabah Station near Beaudesert. The owners made us feel most welcome and we thank Don and Helen Mackay for making the visit possible.

Members Kathy Marchant and Jim Butler invited us to visit their garden for Mother's Day. Once again, good to gather and a great talk by the president of the Camellia Society.

Thinking members wanted to travel, if possible, we proceeded with our planned Tour to the Mackay region to view our project at Greenmount Homestead. It was touch and go whether we'd all make it due to lockdowns in Brisbane. One couple managed to travel from Canberra. Whilst not a high number of participants joined the tour, those who went really enjoyed themselves, learnt much about the region and we were welcomed everywhere we went.

The National Management committee and the Sydney Conference organisers have had disappointment with the physical cancelling of their conference 2 years in a row and a decision taken to hold the event online.

Queensland is scheduled to hold a conference in 2023. At the last committee meeting we discussed the location of the conference and we took the decision that unless the NMC was prepared to subsidise travel for conference organisers as they did for the New Zealand conference, the current committee have proposed Ipswich and the Scenic Rim as achievable.

In conclusion, I wish to thank my committee for their support. Lois, the secretary, Elizabeth, our Treasurer and the (retiring) National Treasurer and Roberta, our Editor and Helen and John for their supporting roles.

Thank you for joining us today and to Miegunyah House for providing the venue.

Ann Wegener

SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair, NMC representative	Dr Jeff Jenkinson
Vice-Chair	Richard Heathcote
Treasurer	Di Wilkins
Newsletter Co-editors	Elizabeth Dobson, Pam Mayer, Pamela Tonkin
Committee	Elizabeth Ganguly, Jeffrey Jenkinson, Patricia Michell, Julie Tolley

Chair's Report

Another year has passed as we adjust our lives to try and stay safe under the rule of Covid 19. We all want normality and freedom to pursue our lives. The Australian Garden History Society may not have been able to undertake as many activities as we would have liked at the national and state levels, but we are surviving.

I would like to remind members of what has been achieved over the last twelve months. You will recall that 2020 marked the fortieth anniversary of the foundation of our organisation. Over the last twelve months we have had several events related to our anniversary projects.

On November 10th 2020 our committee had a small Covid 19 safe ceremony at the *Adelaide Botanic Gardens* to hand over to the Director of the *Adelaide Botanic Gardens* a replica Wardian Case which was paid for by both our National and State branches of the Australian Garden History Societies as part of the anniversary celebrations. This project was conceived in SA and the Wardian Case made in SA by Chris Block.

On 30th March 2021 we finally managed to have an occasion where our members could join with members of the Friends of the *Adelaide Botanic Gardens* to hear four speakers, Chris Block, Trevor Nottle, John Sandham and Jeff Jenkinson discuss aspects of the history, construction and use of Wardian Cases in the early days of the Colony of SA and Australia. Our replica Wardian Case will be used for educational purposes at the Museum of Economic Botany situated in the gardens.

In April 2021 members had the opportunity to hear Richard Heathcote give a presentation entitled *Hallowed Turf* which is related to the ongoing travelling exhibition *The Blade—Australia's love affair with the lawnmower*. This joint project has been a major success for our society.

Other events over the last twelve months included:

- In November 2021 Christine McCabe, the travel writer and author gave us the opportunity to learn more about her recent book *Adelaide Hills Gardens* when she gave a lecture at The Coventry Library in Stirling SA.
- We had the opportunity to have Christmas drinks at Ursula's Gin Bar at *Carrick Hill* in December
- In February 2021 Dr Lyn Edwards took us on a tour of the gardens of *Carrick Hill* Springfield.
- In June 2021 Professor Barbara Santich gave a lecture on the influence of French winemakers in the nineteenth century in SA at the Naval and Military Club in Adelaide.
- Our Society lost a valued committee member, Dr Julie Tolley, when she died during the year. Julie was a social historian who published a number of articles on garden history.

On the national level, our national committee of the AGHS of which I am a delegate member, has had to deal with planning the annual conferences, coping with deferral, then cancelling a physical conference to become a virtual conference. I applaud the Sydney Conference Committee for their hard work.

I would like to thank all our committee members for their enthusiasm and especially thank our retiring Secretary Dr Pamela Tonkin, for her attention to detail and attempts to keep the rest of the committee to the agenda. On a personal note I would like to thank our members for giving me the opportunity to be chair for the last two years and, in retiring from that role, offer my support to the incoming chair.

Jeff Jenkinson

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Lyn Barrett
Secretary	Ruth Bailey
Treasurer	John Biffin
Committee	Meg Probyn, Jenny Woodwell
Off Committee	Wingecarribee Heritage Committee rep Laurel Cheetham, and tour organiser , Ray Bradley

Functions

All events and functions have been subject to any Government or health department regulations in place at the time of the function or event.

- Annual General Meeting was held via Zoom with Guest speaker Dr John Pickard presentation title *Lines across the Landscape*
- Webinar host (Stuart Read) and special guests Chris Betteridge, Keva North, Colleen Morris and Bronwyn Blake presented *Fabulous at 40* a look at AGHS over the last 40 years and where to in the next 40.
- Christmas party cancelled. A zoom presentation *Christmas trees and their history round the world* presented with a Christmas tree photo competition
- Self drive visit to *The Blade* in Canberra.
- Twilight picnic at Lake Alexandra Mittagong to enjoy the redevelopment of the area. A flyer with the history of the site made available to attendees.
- *A Jaunt around the Highlands*, self drive car trail with questions and history information prepared and organised by Jane Clifford and Jenny Carroll concluding at the home of Dr Simon Grant and Dr Mariese Grant with a tour of their five acre collection of rare and endangered maples from around the world.
- Self-drive to Goulburn to visit and have guided tours of Riversdale, The Goulburn Pump House, John and Jan Weatherstones Goulburn garden and heritage Kippalaw.
- Cowra 3-day tour organised by Ray Bradley including stops at Jugiong, landra Station Mt Oriel Homestead, in Cowra the Australian World Peace Bell, Cowra Rose Garden, prisoner of war site and Kaiyushiki Garden, Old Graham, St Patricks Catholic Church Boorowa, Cooma Cottage and Rocky Hill Memorial Goulburn.
- Winter seminar session 1 at The Hermitage Mittagong a heritage listed property in the Wingecarribee Shire Council register. Brother Bill gave a presentation on the history and use today of the site. John Weatherstone AM gave a presentation titled *Looking back moving forward* sustainable farming practices which turned his property around, and Bud Townsing gave a presentation on the legacy of builders *Alf Stephens and Sons* Bud has written a book on the impact the Stephens had on the streetscapes of the Highlands and some areas of Canberra.

Advocacy

- **Interim administrator Mr Viv May appointed to Wingecarribee Shire Council.** Branch wrote to Mr May expressing concerns regarding a number of issues requesting a meeting. Request granted and Laurel Cheetham and I meet with Mr May at a number of the sites we were concerned about, Station Street north and sound entrances, Station Street Camellia collection, Corbett Gardens, Bowral library gardens and the heritage precinct of Bowral, we also discussed the general condition of the streetscapes across the shire, removal of trees and no obvious replacements.

- **Station Street Bowral** – In March 2021 Wingecarribee Shire Council announced that the western side of the northern entrance to Bowral was to have all eight Pin Oakes removed along with six of the historic camellias destroying the collection. The Southern end of Station Street was subjected to the destructive removal of a large number of trees. In June Mr May stated that the eight Pin Oakes will have restoration work carried out on them and the heritage camellia collection will remain intact and allocated \$300,000 to the restoration of the trachyte stone retaining walls built during the depression and the four 1935 electric street lamps.
- We supported an application have Yarrabin move into the conservation zone of Bowral. Book compiled by Bud Townsing titled *Garden Cuttings Revisited*. A brief history of Yarrabin and the gardening world of Tim and Keva North, completed. Launch is 25th September 2021 to coincide with the open garden weekend of both Yarrabin and Beatrice Park the adjoining property both owned by Justin Hutchinson and John Bowers.
- Aiken Road – Four properties in the conservation area of Bowral owned by the Catholic Church wished to redevelop the sites into seniors living. Attended and made submission to Land and Environment hearings. The church has withdrawn has withdrawn proposal and accepted the conservation listing of the area and all four properties have been sold separately to individuals.
- I attended the Maltings in Mittagong development proposal on site hearing. No action on site to date.
- Wingecarribee Shire Council Heritage committee has been reinstated, and Laurel Cheetham is our representative. A back log of some 160 gardens with heritage sensitivity have been reviewed. Thank you Laurel.
- Hume Coal and Berrima Rail Projects- Independent Planning Commission submission prepared by the Branch again this year still awaiting an out come.
- Boral Cement Works- This Paul Sorensen landscape is definitely a landscape at risk.
- Goulburn Mulwaree Council Heritage Officer sought support from AGHS to have Wingello Park placed on there Heritage list, submission sent and listing successful.
- Request from Berry residents to place the old township and immediate surrounds on the Landscapes at Risk register.
- Support to the Camden Residents Action Group with the draft Camden Local Housing Strategy.

Projects

- **Bowral Library garden restoration and replanting.** Communications with Greg Bray Wingecarribee Shire Council Manager Parks, Gardens and Open Spaces on going. A meeting with Mr May in May 2020 was encouraging
- **Harpers Mansion Heritage Camellia walk** unveiled by Dr Stephen Utick with 20 guests from the team who prepared the area, and planted trees and representatives from Camellia Ark Australia who donated some of the plants. The Story boards and walk has been well received and used by visitors to the property.
- **Chris Thompson has written and compiled the story of the Harpers Mansion Garden** during the year, it is being edited by Meg Probyn and the branch looks forward to helping publish the book.
- **40th Anniversary Tree Planting and plaque unveiling at the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens.** 20 invited guests, made up of the original committee members and past presidents of AGHS Southern Highlands branch attended under Covid restrictions.
- **The Berrima District Museum exhibition of heritage gardens and garden history** in the Highlands is still a work in progress. National funds have been returned to the National treasury, the branch will continue to support this event in the future.
- **Character Study of Bowral Open Spaces** being undertaken by Chris Betteridge to be presented via zoom to Wingecarribee Shire Council and the membership own the 3 September 2021
- **Liaised with Keva North and ACT Branch** to seek permission to Digitise Garden Cuttings and The Australian Garden Journal in the Biodiversity Heritage Library.

- **Oral history interview with Ian Carroll Head Gardener at Oldbury.** Ian held previous positions at Milton Park and Kennerton Green all iconic heritage gardens.
- **Oral History with Stephen Utick** on the Apoliu Declaration and Camellia Ark Australia
- **NSW Heritage Act review submission** in support of the excellent Sydney document sent.

Student Support

Invitations to local high school senior students to the John Weatherstone's presentation on *Looking back and moving forward* and sustainable farming practices which turned his property around. None accepted which was disappointing.

Public Relations

- *Inflorescence* continues to come out bimonthly edited by Meg Probyn
- We have a branch Facebook page managed by Jenny Woodwell
- *Save Southern Highlands Heritage* group has been formed and is supported by our branch and the local National Trust Branch.
- The branch responded to *Have your Say at Wingecarribee Shire Council* regarding naming and renaming of places and memorial sites. Recommendations to the draft paper were included in the final publication.
- Magnetic name badges available to order from the branch.
- Working with the Local Garden Clubs to assist with numbers to events where speakers have a fee.
- Plants of Friendship is a project to donate plants to Balmoral Village which was hard hit in the 2020 bush fires.
- Bowral library has a Local History Section open on a Tuesday and Thursday 2-4pm. We had archived all our documents, papers, tapes and discs into Australian Garden History archive boxes.
- A number of publications have also been donated to these boxes for people to have access at the library.
- Local members have generously donated their books for inclusion in the archives, Robert and Janet Constable of *Greenbrier Park* have written a book regarding their property, Bud Townsing has written a book about Yarrabin and Tim and Keva North, and Min Merrick donated a copy of Louise Atkins book *Nature Notes*.
- Tertini Wines are sponsoring the branch with a donation of wines to use as gifts.

Chair's Report

2020-2021 has been a challenging year as the branch explored opportunities in how to deliver our program and interact with our membership. We have held a number of self drive events to meet State health regulations.

Congratulations to Hazel King a long time member AGHS Southern Highlands branch on her Queen's Birthday Honour of an OAM for services to the horticultural industry.

The current committee while small in number has been active in advocacy, education, conservation and activities. I thank the many guest speakers and garden owners for their time, hard work and preparation to deliver entertaining and educational sessions and places.

I would especially like to thank John Biffin our treasurer for the last 6 years and Meg Probyn our *Inflorescence* editor for her bimonthly publications, and as minute secretary. John and Meg retire from the committee with me this year.

Ruth Bailey and Jenny Woodwell will continue with a new treasurer Lynda Cowley and *Inflorescence* editor Bud Townsing, minute secretary Sue Whitehouse and tour coordinator Ray Bradley. Laurel Cheetham will continue as our Wingecarribee Shire Council representative. To the committee and membership a very sincere thank you for your time and support throughout the year.

A very sincere thank you to Stuart Read for his assistance and mentoring during my time as Chair.

Lyn Barrett

SYDNEY & NORTHERN NSW BRANCH

Sydney Branch: Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Christine Hay
Vice-Chair	Steven Halliday
Secretary	Susan Stratton
Treasurer	David Low
Minutes	Christina Kanellaki Lowe
Committee	Anne Smith, Christina Kanellaki Lowe, Helder Estavees, Alex Hawthorne. Note: John Maurer was nominated to join the committee in August but stepped down in October citing other AGHS commitments

Functions

- **July 2020 – Webinar:** *Avenues of Honour*, an illustrated talk by Stuart Read. A fascinating talk and the Branch's first webinar!
- **August 19th (AGM) Webinar:** *Might I have a bit of earth*, illustrated talk by Ian Innes, Director of Heritage and Collections with Sydney Living Museums - a review of career highlights as a landscape heritage professional offering valuable insights into management of significant landscapes in Australia and abroad.
- **September 23rd Webinar:** *Marion's Garden*, an illustrated talk presented by Glenda Korporaal, journalist and writer, about Marion Mahony Griffin who was a talented woman in her own right – an architect, an artist and a passionate environmentalist who fell in love with the Australian bushland and native Australian flowers.
- **October 21st Webinar:** *French Gardens*, a talk by Angela Low, a fluent French speaker and retired member of the Committee, who took us on a tour of some of her favourite gardens, including the grand, formal gardens of Versailles. The presentation explored a variety of garden designs while highlighting the characteristics that define a distinct Gallic style.
- **November 18th Webinar:** *Botanic Endeavour*, was presented by Colleen Morris. Colleen's richly illustrated talk focused on the Florilegium Society's *Botanic Endeavour* project, publication and exhibition, celebrating the Banks and Solander collection.
- **December 6th Event:** *Christmas Party at Eryldene – 40th Anniversary Celebration of the AGHS – Farewell to Retiring Members*. A special afternoon high-tea event was held for members in this significant garden. While adhering to COVID19 safety rules, our 60 guests enjoyed a glass of sparkling wine and delicious morsels while listening to speakers' – who included three present and past AGHS chairs (Peter Watts, Colleen Morris and Stuart Read) and a long-term Sydney Branch Committee member, Tempe Beaven – recollections of the Society and farewell acknowledgements. Good company, blue skies and gentle breezes – what a delightful chrissey party!
- **February 24th 2021 Webinar:** The National Trust's *75 Years of Landscape Heritage Conservation*, a presentation by Graham Quint, retired Director of Conservation for the Trust, managing National Trust Register and the preparation of the Trust's submissions, spoke of some of the hundreds of bushland, landscapes, parks and gardens which the National Trust has helped to protect with their listing and advocacy.
- **March 28th Guided walk:** *Badangi – a pre-1778 landscape*, led by James Quoye and Phil Hunt, members enjoyed this Sunday afternoon walk, catching up face-to-face, while immersed in the remnant bushland and landscape at Badangi/Berry Island. The character of the place, which can still be experienced, is remarkably unchanged since 1788. The event promoted the award winning study: The AILA (NSW) Landscape Heritage Conservation Listing Project, which nominated ten sites for listing on the State Heritage Register and advocated for the listing of Badangi (an amalgamation of two of the ten sites).

- **April 14th Webinar:** *The Gardens of Garden Island*, an illustrated talk by Colin Randall (in lieu of a cancelled guided tour due to pandemic), a volunteer researcher and Archivist with the Naval Historical Society of Australia. Colin shared a detailed landscape history of the place and his lifetime of experience having grown up on the Island.
- **June 16th Webinar:** *BEYOND THE LAWN: Lawns in New England Gardens and the tools used*. Bill Oates presented an illustrated talk inspired by Richard Heathcote's 'The Blade' exhibition about Australian lawns.

Advocacy

Car Parking impacts on Moore Park: The Committee is assisting with advocacy requests from the Paddington Society (PS) about overflow car parking on fields adjacent to SCG. Currently has advised (the PS) to encourage the Centennial Park and Moore Plan Trust to adhere to the Masterplan.

Support for adaptive reuse of Sorensen glasshouse as a cafe: In response to a call for support, Susan Stratton (Secretary), in October 2020, lodged a letter of support to Blue Mountains Council for a DA at 8 Herbert Street, Leura, for a café/nursery use of the Sorensen glasshouses.

The Branch considered the new use would align with the cultural values on an item of heritage significance to New South Wales. Particularly for its horticultural and landscape values, as the headquarters and public interface of one of the state's finest landscape designers (Paul Sorensen) of the 20th century.

It was also considered that the proposed café use of the arboretum and glasshouse is consistent with the updated 2012 CMP. On that basis, it could support significant conservation incentives, and thus for Blue Mountains City Council to permit a use otherwise prohibited for this site.

Response: *The DA for the Sorensen's Glasshouse Leura Café approved.*

Digitisation of Camden Park Reports: Request from Gina Plate for the AGHS to facilitate the digitisation and inclusion of Camden Park Heritage reports on Heritage NSW web site (digital library).

Response: *Request for Digitisation of multi-volume Report on Camden Park (1996) held by Heritage NSW was successful and copies can be accessed by the public in the NSW Heritage Library*

Support for listing of Haberfield Heritage Conservation Area: Susan Stratton (Secretary), lodged a letter of support which endorsed the inclusion of the Haberfield Heritage Conservation Area on the NSW State Heritage Register. The listing would recognise, protect and celebrate one of the best intact examples of an early twentieth century Garden Suburb. And would identify its distinctive designed character, achieved through town planning, of streetscapes, landscapes, amenity and lifestyle. Haberfield has an outstanding collection of properties from the Federation period and features many Californian Bungalows.

Response: *awaiting outcome*

Heritage Act Review submission: For the review of NSW Heritage Legislation and discussion paper (April 2021), the committee set up a focus group (Susan Stratton, Christina Kanelleki Lowe, Colleen Morris, Stuart Read, Christine Hay) to address the focus questions proposed by the review. A National Trust forum on the topic was attended by members of the group. A submission on behalf of the branch, which addressed the Act and main issues relating to natural and cultural landscapes, was sent in June.

Response: *awaiting outcome*

Yasmar 'working bees': Gina Plate, retired committee member, continues her invaluable volunteer work at Yasmar as manager of a regular 'working bee' group, now running for several years. Gina coordinates the maintenance activities with the property owner Corrective Services NSW, educating the state body and her band of volunteers on how to manage a historic garden.

The volunteer group is a great success and continues to attract new, enthusiastic members.

Projects

- **Sydney 2021 National Conference:** Perhaps the most powerful advocacy gesture a branch can make to raise awareness about landscape conservation is to host a conference. At the upcoming conference Sydney Branch aims to highlight themes and share ideas with delegates about the protection of significant natural and cultural landscapes, cultural routes, and elements such as gardens, parks, cemeteries, streetscapes and trees.

Sydney's 2021 Conference theme *Many Dreams // One landscape*, draws attention to the layers of the landscape, its foundational geology and soils, invaluable Aboriginal cultural heritage, and periods of change since European invasion and colonisation leading up to Federation. Thinking about the landscape and its stories through this lense, assists in recognising, protecting and celebrating significant landscapes. Advocacy actions generated in the lead up to the conference have included:

- Discussions with AGHS and Sydney Living Museums (SLM) about forging greater connections between the groups,
- Greater connection with garden owners of significant places (to be visited during the conference).
- Working bees at significant gardens such as Horsley.
- Promotion of AGHS through marketing and sponsorship
- AGHS connection with Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and North Sydney Council.

The Branch's sub-committee has almost completed the plans for the 2021 AGHS Conference to be held in Sydney. Overcoming numerous obstacles, they have worked effectively and tirelessly to design the best conference possible. This effort continues as we all push towards the finishing line, being kind and supportive of each other as we press on.

- **Yasmar:** Regular working bees at Yasmar coordinated by Gina Plate
- **Travelling exhibition:**the branch continues to allot \$500 per annum to a potential travelling exhibition to increase awareness of garden history.
- **Eryldene donation:** donation of \$3000 was made to Eryldene for aboricultural work within their garden.
- **E-news:** the branch has embraced a new style of digital communication with its members when notifying them of branch events and updates. Championed by Vice chair, Steve Halliday, this exciting change has been well received by our members.
- **Branch Cuttings:** 3 high quality editions of the newsletter were produced by the committee. Edited by committee member Anne Smith, *Branch Cuttings* and its past editions are now available through the e-news. Our newsletter has proved a popular resource for members.

Chair's Report

When I think of the past year, I reflect on its many challenges but soon marvel at all that has been achieved by the Sydney Branch Committee. More than ever I've come to appreciate our adaptability and to expect the unexpected!

Back in September 2020 a new Executive took the helm, and the committee with much enthusiasm planned a year of exciting activities. The health crisis however continued to hamper our plans. Face-to-face events, our usual mode, were knocked over one by one and replaced by webinars. We were soon maestros of the mute button with this new and exciting way to present talks and engage members.

Within the financial year, we held 10 events. Webinar highlights included, in **October**, our most attended Webinar, *French Gardens*, a talk by Angela Low. In **November**, *Botanic Endeavour*, by Colleen Morris, and in **February**, a presentation by Graham Quint on *The National Trust's 75 Years of Landscape Heritage Conservation*. In **April** an illustrated talk by Colin Randall on *The Gardens of Garden Island* was held. Our final webinar for the year was *BEYOND THE LAWN: Lawns in New England Gardens and the tools used*, held in June and presented by the Northern NSW Chair Bill Oates.

For the Sydney Branch, its committee and membership, we are now veterans of many successful Zoom webinars from the comfort of our own home or office. An added benefit for members has been the access, via cross promotion on the AGHS website, to other state branches' online events.

In those rare moments, when restrictions allowed, we did have two face-to-face events. In **December** our *Christmas Party*, a special afternoon high-tea event was held at the significant garden of *Eryldene*, it was also a *40th Anniversary Celebration of the AGHS and a Farewell to Retiring Members*. In **March** a Guided walk, *Badangi*—a pre-1778 landscape, was led by James Quoyale and Phil Hunt. Members enjoyed a sunny Sunday afternoon harbourside walk, while immersed in the remnant bushland and landscape of Berry Island.

Being on the committee, we look for ways to engage our members. Our new committee decided that an updated communication style was needed. Our first e-news appeared in November 2020 and we have not looked back! A big thanks to Steve Halliday, our vice-chair for leading the charge on that.

Our *Branch Cuttings* newsletter edited by Anne Smith remains popular. It too has moved across to an e-news format. Earlier publications are now found in our e-news with many members enjoying access to the online library.

The branch has continued with its advocacy. Most notable was the Heritage Act review submission and the focus group who worked to prepare it. We continually urge members to join us in advocacy letter writing, and this was an example of what can be achieved when we come together.

Finally there is the Sydney 2021 Conference. What can I say – the show must go on! Hard enough as it was to postpone the face-to-face event from 2020 to 2021, we had moved ever so close to completing plans for the conference when the COVID-19 crisis foiled our plans yet again. However, we are not deterred. We have pivoted yet again and are now offering an exciting online program of presentations. The garden visits to be held at a later point. The extraordinary Conference committee has embraced the change and we are heartened to see many delegates have made the switch to the online format. We remain buoyant in our intent to deliver a successful virtual event.

To finish, a heartfelt thank you to the Sydney committee and its sub-committees. This includes the *Yasmar* working bee group and the irrepressible Conference committee. Thank you all for your great efforts on behalf of the society and particularly for our branch. I hear in all your actions and conversations much joy in working together and dedication in working towards the protection and celebration of our landscape heritage. Thank you to the NMC, to the Co-chairs Bronwyn and Stuart, and to Lisa our NEO, all of whom have been great supporters in what can only be described as trying time.

Without doubt none of what we do on the committee would make much sense without the support and dedication of our members. We thank you for attending events and for being flexible and adapting to our new formats of webinars and e-news, and now an online conference. We thank you for your continued and unwavering support.

Christine Hay

Northern NSW sub Branch: Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Bill Oates
Vice Chairs	Liz Chappell and Graham Wilson
Secretary	Helen Wilson
Treasurer	Elton Squires
Committee	Will Todd

Saumarez Heritage Rose Garden Committee

Co-Chairs	Helen Oates and John Maurer
Secretary	Lynne Walker

Chair's Report

It is hard to report on Garden History activity in Northern New South Wales when so much of the past year has been one of reduced activity. The Northern NSW group thrives on bountiful weather and gatherings. Thankfully the drought that compromised so many gardens has been replaced by an extended period of wet, cool weather. This is very good news. Other good news was the arrival of the travelling exhibition *The Blade* in Armidale. This was an opportunity to gather and celebrate the development of the Australian Museum of Gardening to a point where it can travel. It felt good to get one good garden visit in – to *Thalgarrah*. This was one of the childhood gardens enjoyed by author Judith Wright. One can only hope that we can recommence an active programme of garden visits in the next year.

Bill Oates

TASMANIA BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Lynne Paul
Deputy Chair and Treasurer	Prue Slatyer
Treasurer	Bruce Chetwynd
Secretary	Antonia Dunne
Committee Members	Jean Elder, Jane Long, Rosie MacKinnon, Mary Ramsay, Jennifer Stackhouse

Functions

How fortunate has our Tasmania Branch of The Australian Garden History Society to have been able to participate in so many and varied events in the last year with minimal restrictions. In November 2020 and April 2021 we held weekend events in the north centring on the Evandale area and in the north-west around Sheffield, allowing members to visit a number of locations over two days and to have more opportunities for socialisation – something sorely missed in the current climate elsewhere in Australia. Our postponed 40th Birthday celebration was combined with visits to two gardens in the Derwent Valley and what a cake we had to enjoy along with the bubbles! A tour of three gardens in Hobart on a sunny February day was a chance to see both old and relatively new gardens. Sometimes I am asked why new gardens are featured in some of our events. These are sometimes built on much older gardens which, like all gardens grow and change over time. Sometimes a brand new garden is included since this may well be the historic garden of the future and allows us to see the evolution of a garden's design and use from the beginning. (Remember to leave study notes for your grandchildren!)

Again we have learned during our winter lecture series with topics as varied as, the *Premaydena Heritage Garden* that Angus Stewart is working on with the local community, the design of the Glover garden and the significance of Commemorative Gardens. To all of our generous speakers we give our grateful thanks.

We now invite members of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects to attend our meetings and events and expect that a formal Memorandum of Understanding between AGHS and AILA will be signed in the near future and will apply right across Australia.

Advocacy

We continue to stay abreast of the developments at *Cambria*. The Tasmanian Planning Commission has constituted a new panel to hear matters arising from the application for rezoning. I attended a directions hearing earlier this year. At present submissions from interested parties including responses to further questions addressed to the developers are being assessed by the TPC and we do not yet have dates for further hearings but expect that they will occur in 2022. Gwenda Sheridan, one of our more feisty members, continues to advocate for *Cambria* to great effect!

The Executive of the Tasmanian Branch made a submission to Hobart City Council regarding the proposal to build a cable car on Kunanyi (Mount Wellington). We considered the proposal posed a risk to the landscape and the precious ecology of the area. Ours was one of almost 17,000 submissions of which two-thirds were opposed to the proposal. Council has rejected the proposal. Among the reasons for refusal were “that the use was not appropriate; that impacts on residential and visual amenity and natural and geo-heritage values would be unacceptable; that the stormwater solution for the pinnacle centre was inadequate; and that geotechnical risks to life and property triggered by the development had not been adequately addressed”. The developers have lodged an appeal to that decision.

Projects

Participation in *Blooming Tasmania* and in the Longford Garden weekend has raised our profile in the community. These are opportunities for AGHS to recruit new members and to share with other like-minded people.

Our Oral History project continues and you will have an opportunity to hear one of the interviews today. Other interviews are available on the AGHS website and I encourage you to listen to them there and to also read the extracts which appear from time to time on the AGHS journal. Jean Elder had done a sterling job in coordinating the project as have Sally Dakis in interviewing some of the people and Rhonda Hamilton in managing the project. The National Oral History project coordinator has commented on the high quality of the interviews that we have done so far. This is an important way of preserving our garden history.

The Devonport City Council has made a commitment to undertake restoration work at *Home Hill* and has set aside some funds for the project. You will recall that Sue Small and Prue Slatyer prepared a Landscape Management Plan for *Home Hill* with funding from our Branch. We anticipate that we will continue to have some involvement in this work but, at present, are unsure what that will entail.

Chair’s Report

If you think that AGHS Tasmania has been busy in the last year, you are not wrong. But none of these events, submissions, attendances at meetings happens by chance. Ensuring seamless conduct of an event or careful preparation of a submission only happens because of the tireless work of your committee members. Our current committee has been particularly hardworking and I extend my grateful thanks to each member. My thanks to Bruce Chetwynd for his time as treasurer of the branch and thank him for his time on our committee.

I end my term as Chair of our AGHS branch knowing that the new executive is well prepared to continue the task of keeping AGHS Tasmania strong. My thanks to all of our members for continuing to support AGHS and for your willingness to foster the preservation and protection of landscapes in this corner of the world.

Lynne Paul

VICTORIA BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Wendy Dwyer
Vice Chair	Lynda Entwisle
Secretary	Anna Long
Treasurer	Ann Aston
Newsletter	Lynda Entwisle
Working Bees	Diana Ellerton
Advocacy	Trevor Pitkin
Garden Histories	Tim Gatehouse
NT Landscape Reference Group	Anthony Menhennitt
Catering	Annie Woodside
Rep Landscape Reference	Anthony Menhenitt
NMC Representative	Wendy Dwyer

Functions

- Zoom lecture: *The History of Garden Design Using Native Plants 1788 to Now* by Stuart Read
- Zoom lecture: *Governor La Trobe: His Melbourne House and Garden* by Helen Botham
- Zoom lecture: *Out of the Woods – Trees on Trial and the Evolution of Arboreta* by Max Bourke
- Zoom lecture: *Charles Moore and Joseph Maiden – Outreach and Impact* by Colleen Morris
- Special Zoom lecture *Impressionists in their Gardens – Living Light and Colour* by renowned UK Garden Historian Caroline Holmes which sold out with 100 participants.
- Zoom and face-to-face lecture: *The Garden State – Inside Victoria's Private Gardens* by author Richard Allen

We were also pleased to present the following events, albeit with Covid-restricted numbers:

- **Christmas Walk and talk** - Picnic with the Patron in the new Arid Garden in the Royal Botanic Gardens in December 2020
- **Two sold out groups visiting historic Bishopscourt in East Melbourne** where the Friends group led guided walks in the house and garden
- **May Bus trip – Walking the Wonders of the West** - a wonderful day with visits to three diverse sites starting with the HV McKay Memorial Gardens in Sunshine, Newport Lakes and Williamstown Botanic Gardens. Extremely knowledgeable Friends Groups and local experts guided us and gave the historic background at each site.

Advocacy

Submissions were made to the following:

- Objection to Heritage Victoria and City of Melbourne re: application to install 25 LED screens and lighting outside the National Gallery impacting the St Kilda Road Boulevard, Domain Parklands, and Arts Precinct. Permit was granted with modifications.
- Draft Conservation Management Plan documents for Emerald Lake Park and Nobeliuss Heritage Park as part of an overall master planning stage for the overall site.
- Support for the City of Maribyrnong's Planning Scheme amendments re permanent tree protection controls for their Significant Tree Register.
- Support for City of Glen Eira's new Classified Tree local law defining protection and permit requirements for classified trees.

- Objection to Heritage Council following City of Melbourne's request for a review of Heritage Victoria's refusal of a permit application to remove and install a new sports court in Fawkner Park with associated landscaping, tree removal and path realignment. Vic Branch had made earlier detailed objections to HV from the outset. The permit was eventually granted with some amendments.
- Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens World Heritage Management Review with members encouraged to participate in the community consultation process.
- Several enquiries to Heritage Victoria requesting a progress report on the Branch's mid 2019 nomination of Wombat Park to the Victorian Heritage Register. Covid restrictions have constantly delayed a site inspection. The property has been withdrawn from sale with a possible auction in the future.

Projects

As part of the AGHS 40th Anniversary Grants, committee member Tim Gatehouse researched and published three new garden histories: Umina, Longacres and Titanga. These are now available to all members on the website.

Committee member Trevor Pitkin is developing new Pictorials, which are photographic studies, for inclusion on our website. Wombat Park is in progress with plans for Mont Park also being developed.

A grant from the Branch, to be matched by the National Management Committee, was finally paid to the Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum Trust for restoration work to two borders with plantings informed by Guilfoyle's 1910 planting plan as a guide. Obtaining approval to proceed from Corangamite Shire Council was a long and complicated process.

When Covid restrictions allowed, the Branch continued its long tradition of working bees to assist owners of heritage gardens at Longacres and Medlow. Many other scheduled working bees had to be cancelled.

Other projects included ongoing membership of the National Trust's Landscape Reference Group, and the HV McKay Memorial Gardens Strategic Management Group.

Chair's Report

The lengthy Covid lockdown in 2020 and subsequent restrictions in Victoria played havoc with the Committee's ability to hold many of the planned face-to-face events.

Extra Branch newsletters were produced with extended content to try to engage members and complement the program of zoom lectures. We appreciate members' support for the events we could hold.

Robyn Robins, former Chair and general committee member retired in January 2021 and is thanked for her contribution. All other committee members are also sincerely thanked for their enthusiasm and on-going hard work to ensure the Victorian Branch continues to be able to offer members an extensive range of activities as restrictions allow.

Wendy Dwyer

WEST AUSTRALIA BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	John Viska
Secretary	Lynette Petersen
Treasurer	Sue Davis, Max Stewart 2020
NMC Representative	Patsy Vizents
Membership	Sue Monger
Newsletter and Website	Lyn Oliver
Committee	Boris Roglich, Ros Stewart 2020, Sue Medalia 2021

Functions

2020

- **Sunday August 19th, 31st AGM at Wilkinson Homestead Gosnells.** The twenty two members and five guests braved the inclement weather to attend the 31st AGM held in the recreated packing shed of the historic Wilkinson Homestead in Gosnells. Following the formal proceedings Stephen O'Brien, the Local History Librarian with the City of Gosnells, presented an informative talk on Oscar Lauterbach, an early resident who specialised in growing carnations for the cut flower industry.
- On **Sunday 27th September the Annual Day in the Country** took place. It began at Fairbridge Farm near Pinjarra where 25 members and 12 guests meet and then preceded to Waroona. There the Historical Society participants viewed an informative display on the State Nursery that had been established at Hamel nearby. The highlight being a rare, surviving, Warden case used for shipping plants from the east coast.

The group then moved in convoy to Cypress Farm, an extensive plant person's garden in the jarrah forest. The abundance of water, fertile soil and the protected location has enabled the owners to specialise in cool climate plants rarely seen in WA, with the red and white Waratahs *Telopea speciosissima* drawing much admiration.

- **The Xmas windup was held in the grounds of Azelia Ley Homestead, Hamilton Hill on Sunday December 6th.** Eighteen members and three guests attended and before visiting the house they heard Andy Jarman, Landscape Architect with the City of Cockburn, give a brief history of the site. Following the annual quiz and afternoon tea, a tree walk and viewing of the remains of the original Davilak Homestead was undertaken.

2021

- **Due to excessively wet weather the first programmed event for the year in the City was postponed and held a fortnight later on 17th March.** This entailed a visit to the grounds of Government House, where the 13 people who attended the midweek event saw where the first Government Garden established by Drummond in 1830 was located. The changing use of use of the site from a productive one to a pleasure garden in the 1890s was explained. Century old trees including an olive tree *Olea europaea*, cork oak *Quercus suber* and a surviving flooded gum *Eucalyptus rudis* from pre settlement were also viewed.
- **The second function on April 22nd was a Day in the Hills.** Twenty-seven members and guests met at the Mundaring Historical Society's Museum and then preceded to Angus and Leslie Richardson's Sawyers Valley garden to enjoy the autumn colour. The owners had in 16 years developed in the lateritic soil of an old orchard an extensive garden which included 300 deciduous trees. From the funds raised a donation was made to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

- **The third function on Sunday 17th May at the Grove Community Centre was an illustrated talk by the John Viska from his article *Handle with care: Collectable Glass for the Garden*** from the Society's Collector's edition journal, It was originally timetabled to be part of the National Heritage festival of 2020 but was cancelled because of Covid. The attendance number was further affected due to Covid restrictions with only 13 people attending. It took the form of a Power point presentation supplemented with examples of glass objects from the Chairman's collection.
- **The final function was a Saturday morning excursion on 12th June held in the heritage listed Hyde Park.** The event was publicly advertised with 20 attending comprising 8 members and 13 non members. Rodney O'Brien a local resident, related the story of a three tiered fountain that stood in the park from 1900 to 1920. With the help of photographs and plans he showed where it was sited and described its form. At the conclusion, a walk pointing out historic plantings and issues relating to the park took place.

Advocacy

Kings Park. The issue of a cable car from Elizabeth Quay up the escarpment and over Kings Park is still being promoted in the media. Members have been urged to register their opposition to the proposal through surveys that are being conducted.

Hyde Park. Concerns have been expressed to the City of Vincent Council of the branch to a proposal allowing a permanent commercial venture in the heritage listed Hyde Park. The Vincent Mayor, The Heritage Council of WA and local M P were also contacted. An article on the society's opposition to the proposal was printed in the local press.

Projects

- The publication *Historic Gardens of Perth* celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of the society has been formatted and John Viska and Lisa Williams are editing the draft document with the publication due in the latter part of the year.
- Seven talks to gardening and community groups were presented during the year. The one based on the branch's exhibition *Historic Gardens of Perth* has been requested many times. Public talks provide the opportunity to disseminate information about the society to a wider public and make them aware of the society's website.
- Two founding committee members, Carol Mansfield and Anne Willox have had their oral histories recorded by Patsy Vizents.
- A data base produced in the past by branch members for the *West Australian Gardener 1932 to 1953* and published by the WA Horticultural Council has been reformatted by Lyn Oliver to be digitally accessible. A meeting has taken place with a representative of the Horticultural Council to explore how the data base can be accessed on line.
- Due to much request, the papers delivered at the successful Tree Forum organised by the previous branch chair Caroline Grant are now available on the AGHS website.
- Branch members continue to regularly participate in gardening activities at Woodbridge House, the National Trust's premier property at Guildford.

Chair's Report

In early 2021 Max and Ros Stewart tendered their resignations. In their tenure they contributed greatly as committee members, Max with his accounting skills in the role of Treasurer and Ros in her fund raising efforts through organising excursions.

Sue Davis offered to take on the position of Treasurer and Sue Medalia was co-opted onto the committee.

It was pleasing, to note that Heritage Council of WA contacted the branch to endorse listing Wirra Willa, an important large garden from the 1930s, on the Permanent Register of State Heritage Places.

Following the Xmas windup the chairman and Greg Keighery met with Andy Jarman to discuss further ideas of interpreting the grounds of Azelia Ley Homestead

The A framed noticeboards, purchased last year, have been successfully deployed to indicate meeting points at outdoor functions.

It was sad to note the death of Peta Townsing a founding member and for a time the committee's country representative. She was a staunch supporter of the Society and always promoted its aims.

Finally thanks to the small, but hard working committee for their expertise and help in planning the yearly events and assistance at branch functions.

John Viska

AGHS Treasurer's Report 2020–2021

The 2020–2021 financial year was difficult for the Australian Garden History Society. The covid pandemic caused the postponement of the 2020 Sydney Conference until September 2021 and the cancellation or reorganisation of many of branches' planned activities. The Society appreciated the support of its members who maintained their membership subscriptions and made donations.

The accounts of the Society, national body, and branches have been consolidated in one audit for the 2020–2021 financial year. A loss of \$85,000 is reported. The financial position shows equity of \$520,400.

Income was raised through Subscriptions \$83,800. While the 2020 Sydney Conference was postponed, the Sydney Committee under the guidance of Christine Hay, continued to work to ensure a successful event in 2021.

The annual operational costs of the Society were \$174,444, \$103,700 of this related to the National body. Functions organised by the branches earned \$62,200 and these are outlined in the Branch reports.

In this report, the Kindred Spirits Fund has been reported separately (page 9). This is the result of unintentionally, incorrect use of Kindred Spirit Funds to finance the activities to mark the 40th anniversary of the society. As stated in the Financial Report, expenditure that was not true to the intention of the fund, is being repaid to the KSF accounts. Some branches have been able to reimburse the fund, and this is welcomed. The value of the Kindred Spirits Fund is \$218,196.

The Nina Crone fund has bestowed grants of \$4,000 on writers for articles in the Journal.

The resources of the Society are used to fulfil its objectives and National Management Committee values the work done by members.

During this period as Treasurer, I have been appreciative of the support and assistance received from the Executive of AGHS and the National Executive Officer.

For a copy of the Society's audited financial records for this period, please contact the National Office.



Elizabeth Teed
TREASURER

Australian Garden History Society Inc

ABN 97 291 212 843

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

11 Statement of Income and Expenditure by Branch

	National	Southern Highlands Branch	Sydney & Northern NSW Branch	Victorian Branch	Tasmanian Branch	South Australia Branch	ACT Monaro Riverina Branch	West Australian Branch	Queensland Branch	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Income										
Member subscriptions	83,825	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83,825
Functions and tours	-	12,080	4,759	8,761	25,585	1,775	5,749	2,543	1,981	63,233
Donations and grants	11,612	35	1,105	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,752
Interest income	2,809	81	342	267	428	133	-	6	-	4,066
Sale of publications	1,060	-	55	60	1,793	-	806	-	-	3,774
Other revenue	4,441	140	-	582	725	-	211	695	-	6,794
Total Income	103,747	12,336	6,261	9,670	28,531	1,908	6,766	3,244	1,981	174,444
Expenses										
Audit fees	6,800	-	1,045	1,045	-	211	-	715	550	10,366
Bank charges	1,043	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,043
Equipment purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,706	-	3,706
Function expenses	-	14,255	4,120	4,435	26,027	1,398	5,365	-	425	56,025
Journal expenses	54,565	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54,565
Postage and stationery	2,078	-	196	1,506	1,839	-	206	-	-	5,825
Publications	-	-	-	9,745	2,961	-	-	4,125	-	16,831
Restoration projects and grants	4,000	175	6,218	5,000	1,390	10,000	3,157	-	5,000	34,940
Employee benefits	63,371	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63,371
Sundry expenses	6,620	2,158	209	364	21	-	710	467	-	10,549
Telephone and internet	2,245	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,245
Travel expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	140,722	16,588	11,788	22,095	32,238	11,609	9,438	9,013	5,975	259,466
Operating Results	(36,975)	(4,252)	(5,527)	(12,425)	(3,707)	(9,701)	(2,672)	(5,769)	(3,994)	(85,022)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

12 Statement of Financial Position by Branch

	National	Southern Highlands Branch	Sydney & Northern NSW Branch	Victorian Branch	Tasmanian Branch	South Australia Branch	ACT Monaro Riverina Branch	West Australian Branch	Queensland Branch	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Assets										
Cash and cash equivalents	544,882	48,226	38,205	33,212	46,208	16,776	23,994	22,045	3,422	776,970
Prepayments	67,393	6,894	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74,287
Total Assets	612,275	55,120	38,205	33,212	46,208	16,776	23,994	22,045	3,422	851,257
Liabilities										
Trade and other payables	53,215	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53,215
Deferred income	236,323	9,150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	245,473
Loan from KSF	32,133	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,133
Total Liabilities	321,671	9,150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	330,821
Net Assets	290,604	45,970	38,205	33,212	46,208	16,776	23,994	22,045	3,422	520,436
Retained earnings										
Opening balance	327,579	50,222	43,732	45,637	49,915	26,477	26,666	27,814	7,416	605,458
Operating result	(36,975)	(4,252)	(5,527)	(12,425)	(3,707)	(9,701)	(2,672)	(5,769)	(3,994)	(85,022)
Closing balance	290,604	45,970	38,205	33,212	46,208	16,776	23,994	22,045	3,422	520,436



AUSTRALIAN
GARDEN
HISTORY
SOCIETY

AGHS Annual General Meeting

Sunday 14 November 2021

10am, Sunday 14th November 2021 AEDT

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held online via Zoom.

The Zoom meeting link will open at 9:30am and the meeting proper will start at 10am.

Please note that all are most welcome to attend the AGM but only members of the Australian Garden History Society may vote.

The AGM will be followed by guest speaker

Richard Heathcote

THE BLADE – AUSTRALIA'S LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE LAWN

AGENDA

- To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held Sunday 15 November 2020 online via ZOOM.
- To receive the Co Chairs' Report for the year ended June 2021.
- To receive and consider the financial statement for the year ended June 2021.
- To appoint an auditor for the 2021/2022 financial year.
- To consider, and if thought fit, to pass the following special resolution proposed by the Australian Garden History Society National Management Committee:

Constitution

The current Australian Garden History Society's Constitution was written in 1980. Since then a great deal has changed in the way the Society functions and the environment in which we operate. The National Management Committee and its sub committees therefore deem it timely our governing document be updated.

Special Resolution

"That the Constitution of the Australian Garden History Society, in the form presented at the 2021 Annual General Meeting by the National Management Committee, be adopted as the Australian Garden History Society Constitution in substitution for and to the exclusion of the existing Constitution."

A copy of the proposed updated Constitution is available on the Society's website:

<https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/events-conference/aghs-annual-general-meeting-3/>

or please contact our national office on **0419 977 703** or by email on info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au

- To elect members of the National Management Committee for the 2021/2022 year.
- General Business
 - National Photography Competition winners and runners up announced.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAufuusqTgjGNfSYuR9KS0sE6adNwu04PRc>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.