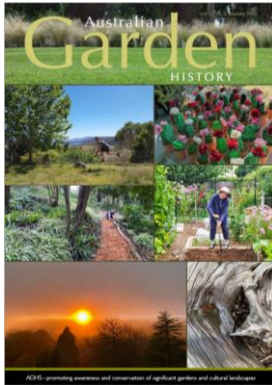


Australian Garden History January 2022: against the odds



The first issue of *Australian Garden History* for 2022 reveals how much gardeners – and the Society – have achieved despite the pandemic. The cover shows winning entries in the [inaugural AGHS photo competition](#). The images convey the exuberance, serenity and endurance of garden life.

It is an honour to bring readers an edited version of the keynote address at the AGHS's 41st conference, *Many Dreams, One Landscape*, delivered by Professor Grace Karskens. Her paper drew on her book, *People of the River: Lost Worlds of Early Australia*, which received a 2021 NSW Premier's History Award. Karskens invites us to think about Indigenous approaches to nourishing the land.

Janine Kitson's article is also based on her conference paper. She presents a snapshot of Sydney's cosmopolitan conservationists who, through their networks and activism, advocated for environmental conservation and creating green urban spaces. The AGHS strives to continue their important work.

Reflecting on her job as convenor of AGHS's first virtual conference, necessitated by continuing COVID disruptions, Christine Hay concludes that the Society has shown 'it can succeed under difficult circumstances and has a strong future'.

Rosemary Purdie surveys the major plant collectors in the Simpson Desert from the 1930s to 1970s, who met the challenges of the outback to collect more than 2,300 botanical specimens. David Bedford offers practical advice about how to cultivate xanthorrhoeas in the garden.

Flowers are often the subject of art but in the case of Henrietta Gulliver, the combination of painting and horticulture became a powerful force in her contribution to the public life of Melbourne in the first half of the 20th century. Beverly Ronalds explains.

Retired landscape architect, Jeannie Sim, sets out seven reasons why design students should study history.

The [AGHS's national oral collection](#) has many new additions. This issue of the journal brings an extract from an interview in 2019 with Cedric Bryant, who died in October 2021. Bryant overcame many setbacks to consolidate himself as a prominent figure in gardening circles in Canberra and beyond.

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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 Francesca Beddie, editor@gardenhistorysociety.org.au or 0418 645 181.

The mission of the Australian Garden History Society is to promote awareness and conservation of significant gardens and cultural landscapes