



AUSTRALIAN
**GARDEN
HISTORY**
SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022

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 2022

Patron Professor Tim Entwistle

Office Bearers

Co-Chairs Bronwyn Blake and Stuart Read

Treasurer Stephen Hathway

Secretary Lynne Walker

Public Officer John Maurer

Elected Members

Lynne Paul

Annabel Murray

Branch Representatives

ACT Anne Claoue-Long

Queensland Ann Wegener

Northern NSW Helen Oates

Southern Highlands NSW Lyn Barrett

South Australia Dr Patricia Michell

Sydney Steven Halliday

Tasmania & Hobart Convenor Prue Slatyer

Victoria Anna Long

Western Australia Patsy Vizents

Journal Editor Francesca Beddie

National Executive Officer Lisa Nutting

Sub Committees and Working Groups

Advocacy Subcommittee

S Read, C. O'Halloran

Editorial Advisory Committee (EAC)

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

Finance Advisory Committee

S Hathway, T Hogg, M Dwyer

Kindred Spirits

C Morris, M Faul, P Watts, C Dyson

Oral History Committee

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

Website and Marketing Committee

B Blake, NEO, L Barrett, A Murray,
L Walker

AGHS MOU with Tour Companies

L Walker, S Read, B Blake

Webinar

A Claoue-Long, A Murray, F Beddie,
S Halliday, NEO, S Read

Partnerships

A Murray, P Slatyer, F Beddie, S Read

Climate Change Advisory Group

Tim Entwistle (Patron), Carly Gartner (RBG), S Read, F Beddie, A Murray, S Halliday, P Slatyer, Michelle Glynn (DELWP), Andy Leigh (UTS)

AGHS Annual Report

National Co-Chairs' Report 2021–22

Whilst 2021–2022 has been less challenging than the previous year we acknowledge that it has still been tricky for many, with COVID outbreaks and flooding just two examples of troubles. We are so thankful to you for your ongoing support for and engagement in the work of the Society.

We especially thank you for embracing our digital events – talks, seminars, webinars. A silver lining of COVID has been upping our IT skills, getting used to 'zooming' into branch and national events which has helped us stay in touch and continue to enjoy the wide range of expertise, and interesting events organised by each branch. Many of these have been recorded and uploaded to the Society's website and YouTube channel which has enabled even greater access to all.

Whilst gathering in person will always be our preference, online activity has certainly broadened members' ability to attend events locally and nationally which they might have otherwise missed, due to distance, transport or health. This has been a positive experience, 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 this role, mentioning and leading AGHS in various fora. We're so 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 him for sharing his energy, time and expertise, and in particular for leading a working group on developing our policy position on adapting to climate change and an online 'tool kit'. We look forward to Tim launching this at our national conference in Hobart and watching its application grow over time as we take this up and engage.

National Management Committee (NMC)

The NMC has held seven scheduled Zoom meetings and discussed issues via email and phone calls. Whilst we were sorry not to meet in person in Melbourne for two days, as has been our custom each February, choosing Zoom for a longer-term planning meeting, we were excited that some members were able to meet in person for a day in Sydney in July while others joined in via Zoom. We thank Stephen Hathway and Michael Chin for providing a venue to meet and welcome support.

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

Anna Long (VIC), Anne Claoue-Long (ACT/Monaro/Riverina), Dr Patricia Michell (SA), Steven Halliday (SYD), Patsy Vizents (WA) and Ann Wegener (QLD) will be continuing on the NMC as Branch Representatives. In addition, following the Northern NSW Branch inaugural AGM earlier this year, we were delighted to welcome Helen Oates as the Branch Representative at our July meeting.

We look forward to welcoming the new Tasmanian Branch Representative replacing Prue Slatyer who has been invited to become an Elected Representative on the NMC.

Stephen Hathway, Annabel Murray and Lynne Walker will continue on as Elected NMC members.

We would like to acknowledge Lynne Paul who sadly had to stand down as an Elected Representative on the NMC and Chair of the Editorial Advisory Committee (EAC) mid-2022 for personal reasons. We thank her for her years of service on the NMC and leadership of the EAC, who do so much behind the scenes to ensure the Journal maintains its high standard and so much interest. We thank Anne Claoue-Long for taking

on the role of Chair of the EAC and note that Glenn Cooke is also now on the EAC particularly assisting in the lead up to our conference in Ipswich.

Bronwyn Blake, John Maurer and Stuart Read stand down from NMC at this year's AGM. We offer sincere thanks to all for six years of being responsive, active, inspiring leaders, contributing generously at national and Branch levels through events, talks, advice. We are most grateful for their service and shall miss them.

Branches

Branches are the lifeblood of the Society, locally and regionally. 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 give thanks to our tireless Branch committees who give generously of their time, expertise and passion. This enables AGHS to do so much and we're most grateful. Following this report are individual Branch reports detailing the breadth and scope of these activities which we encourage you to read.

National Executive Officer

In continuing difficult circumstances our NEO Lisa Nutting has been simply extraordinary again this year. Difficulties getting reliable AGHS postal delivery, lockdowns and balancing working-from-home and retaining an office presence allowing for visitors has become the norm. 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 and does so much behind the scenes, quietly and diligently!

Further minor amendments to the Constitution

An updated AGHS Constitution was adopted at the 2021 AGM, better reflecting how we have grown and multiplied since 1980, in Branches and actions and operationally including 'new' things like the internet, our website, email, digital publications and events.

This year, our Treasurer Stephen Hathway has patiently been pursuing tax deductible gift status from the Australian Taxation Office for the Society. This would allow us to accept donations directly, expediting our capacity to do conservation projects, publications and the like. Achieving such status is very involved and we thank him for the countless hours he has already given to this process. Our current expectation is to take further proposed changes to members either at a special general meeting in 2023 or to the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Strategic Plan

In response to our 2020 members' survey results we developed our first draft strategic plan which sets out four goals for priority action and was adopted last year. One of its four strands is to develop a Society response to climate change which has been completed and we are excited will be launched at the conference in Hobart.

Another is to find new funding opportunities to support our work. Digital events and products and fostering partnerships have been one way forward on this front. A third strand is to develop tools to assist AGHS in doing advocacy – the NMC often shares branch 'tips' and seeks feedback to share ideas on advocacy: what works, what hasn't, other approaches and partners. All these support the fourth strand: to raise awareness of the Society's work. This is key to our future.

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 not altered this year.

Investments

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

Finance

The Society has been extraordinarily fortunate to have Stephen Hathway as our National Treasurer this year. Stephen brings extensive expertise and experience to the role and has been remarkable, giving calm, clear and balanced advice, in difficult circumstances. In particular, we would like to thank Stephen and Michael Chin from his office for working so patiently on the process. .

ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Sydney, 10–11 September 2021...

follow up March and May 2022 visits and tours

The 10/2020 Sydney conference was rescheduled to 09/2021 due to COVID-19. An outbreak in Sydney in July 2021 meant the Convenor Christine Hay and committee decided to re-organise, postpone, revive it twice then switch from face to face to virtual. Such was the quality of the program 165 delegates attended virtually and agreed it was exceptional in content and presentation and lively, with 'chat' participation, questions-and-answers allowing interaction.

We were so pleased that the planned conference garden visits and tours were also able to eventually go ahead on 18 - 20 March 2022 when it was deemed safe enough to do so. One day explored the lower North Shore: Lavender Bay including Wendy Whiteley's 'Secret Garden', Badangi, Carradah Park and Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability. A second explored parts of the Eastern Suburbs: Rose Bay, Vaucluse, Watsons Bay and South Head, including Vaucluse House estate and Rose Bay cottage. A third day was spent gloriously on Sydney Harbour in the 'James Craig' sailing ship, including sailing out through the harbour heads: a major highlight.

On 22 May 2022 a guided walk in Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney and guided tour of the '8 Days at Kamay Botany Bay' botanical art exhibition with artist Beverly Allen and Colleen Morris was held.

Unfortunately, the Blue Mountains pre and post conference tours had to be cancelled.

Hobart, 11–13 November 2022

Prue Slatyer and the Tasmanian Branch Committee have prepared our 2022 annual conference in Tasmania's southern capital. Its theme, 'Landscape on the Edge: opportunity and challenge' looks at how Tasmania and its gardens, already on the edge of the world, adjust to climate change. Perhaps due to prior COVID restrictions, this conference and tours booked out very quickly. We're so thankful to the committee for their hard work and to Trisha Dixon Burkitt for running both the pre and post conference tours.

Garden and road size restrictions unfortunately meant limits on bus numbers for the tours, however, the conference venue is capacious, so we hope more members take advantage of 'papers only' attendance. Following the success of the online Sydney conference it is anticipated that the option to 'attend' virtually will become the norm and as with some previous conferences, the lectures will be recorded and eventually available on our website.

Ipswich, Queensland, 29 September – 1 October 2023

Our 2023 annual conference will be hosted by the Queensland Branch in the state's south-east in Ipswich with the Scenic Rim a possible conference theme. We thank the Branch for offering to host this, our special annual event and bringing this lesser-known city and region into focus.

Bunbury, Western Australia, 2024

Early planning is in place by the Western Australian branch to host our conference in the south west port of Bunbury, south of Perth. While past WA conferences have been held in Perth, Freemantle and Albany, Bunbury is a first and we welcome this opportunity.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH MEMBERS

Website

The website has continued to grow and had further fine-tuning this year. Bill Nixon of Tadah Data and volunteer Lachlan Garland have, with Lisa Nutting's and Francesca Beddie's help, done wonders to adjust and expand it to present AGHS's range of activities and interests and make it easier to find content. Additions included an expanded 'Advocacy' tab under 'News', including book reviews, event summaries. Others include progressive additions to the Society's national Oral History Collection of interviews, recordings and transcripts (with particular thanks to Patsy Vizents), the wonderful *Garden History Select Bibliography* prepared by Anne Claoue-Long and Stuart Read.

Regular updates of *Landscapes at Risk* and the *Honour and Memorial Avenues* lists are made. The AGHS *Climate Change Adaptation Policy and Tool Kit* now have their own tab. 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 and gardening.

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.

AGHS's YouTube account is growing with video presentations from conferences, some Branch events such as talks and webinars, at www.youtube.com – open it and google 'garden history' ...

Monthly E-News

We've sustained a regular national E-Newsletter to all members, with reminders of upcoming events, examples of projects including advocacy issues for branches and nationally, interesting web-links and more. We hope members find these useful, along with Facebook and Instagram posts.

Quarterly Journal

Francesca Beddie continues to do an outstanding job as our journal editor and we pay tribute to her hard work, inclusive and flexible approach in yet another 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 important support the Editorial Advisory Committee provides Francesca. Until June, it has been chaired by Lynne Paul and since, by Anne Claoue-Long. Members include Jennifer Stackhouse, Dot Evans, Meg Probyn, Lynne Walker and Glenn Cooke. Thank you to you all.

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

2020 – 2021 AGHS Photo Competition

The results of our first photo competition, held as part of the Society's 40th Anniversary celebrations, were announced at last year's AGM on 14 November 2021. The January 2022 journal issue featured several of the category winners and their images. The overall winner was Maggie McCredie of Jindabyne, NSW. Our hearty thanks to organisers Helen Page and Greg Johnson and judges Dr Victoria Cooper, Lucy Culliton, Trisha Dixon Burkitt and Dr Doug Spowart. A great range of entries whimsical and thoughtful commentary with each photos is available online at <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/publications/aghs-2020-photo-competition/>

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 to the Museum of Australian Gardening, at Carrick Hill in South Australia. It has travelled over the last year to the New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM), in Armidale. Negotiations continue regarding future locations. We thank former AGHS Chair and dynamo behind the exhibition, Richard Heathcote, who has generously regaled members in two states and at our 2013 Armidale Conference with talks complementing the exhibition, and diverse media publicity. Unfortunately the exhibition was only open for a fortnight before the museum was forced to close for the duration of the exhibition's stay because of COVID.

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 on the history of gardens, landscapes, 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.

The fund has supported writing for the journal by Deborah Wace and Stuart Macpherson in the last year. With the original funds now depleted, the NMC decided to continue this initiative and has actively been seeking tax deductible donations. Please consider contributing to this specific fund.

An initiative in the last year to raise funds for the Nina Crone Writing Fund was Francesca Beddie hosting a webinar '*Is the Pen Mightier than the Trowel?*', held virtually on 10 July 2022. Speakers were Diggers Club founder Clive Blazey, gardening writer and editor, Jennifer Stackhouse and University of Canberra academic, author and horticulturist Julian Raxworthy. A lively event ensued! Huge thanks to Francesca and Anne Claoue-Long for organising and hosting this event. We hope it may set a precedent for similar fundraiser events, allowing us to subsidise more garden writers.

The Kindred Spirits Fund

This fund fosters the scholarly, scientific, educational literary and artistic aspects of the Society. On her death, then patron 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 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 this year has not prevented Branches from continuing to build the Society's National Oral History Collection. We look forward to seeing those who have given permission, published loaded on the website in the coming months.

Six new entries have been uploaded onto AGHS's website in the last year: Catherine MacLean (from NSW), Robyn Mayo Hawkins, Gwenda Sheridan, Tara Edmonson and Bob Magnus (all from Tasmania), Kingsley Dixon (from Western Australia).

At present there are 29 interviews on AGHS's website and 65 interviews in the Society's national collection.

We thank former NMC member Roslyn Burge for her ground-breaking work establishing and regularising the collection and NMC member Patsy Vizents for her considerable work overseeing this valued ongoing project, editing and uploading new entries to grow it. We look forward to more interviews being added to the collection in the future.

[National Oral History Collection](#)

National and State Library collections on garden history

AGHS publications have in the past been lodged with state and some with the National Library of Australia. AGHS's journal has progressively been digitised and copies added to the Biodiversity Heritage Library, where it is searchable to researchers.

The NMC and branches have been active in the last year in auditing collections and 'topping up' such donations and records, so that interested researchers can find and use material of interest, from publicly-accessible archives. While cataloguing and thus digital availability can take time in some cases, we encourage branches to consider further 'topping up' of information in such archives. And we encourage members with records of possible interest to garden historians, now and in the future, to do likewise.

TOURS

Gardens of the New England & Hunter Valley: 28 March–9 April 2022

While COVID-19 has complicated AGHS tours over the last two years, Lynne Walker successfully liaised and negotiated with ASA Tours to run a 'test' joint tour and based on it, potentially others into the future. This initiative was in response to the acknowledgment of the imposition on those experienced and committed members running past tours.

While COVID meant re-scheduling the first tour twice, leader Lynne Walker did a splendid job, and a fine time was had by all. Feedback confirmed that the range of gardens, hospitality of their creators and hosts and art wonders of the New England certainly impressed!

Many AGHS members are regular users of ASA Tours, and we feel ASA understands our organisation's interests, with potential to share publicity between like-minded people. We look forward to future tours with ASA and strengthening this relationship.

MOU with Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA)

We are grateful to Annabel Murray, new to the NMC this year, for reviving earlier liaison with AILA about agreeing a Memorandum of Understanding with AGHS. The two bodies have synergies to be explored.

AGHS will appeal to a younger, more design-focussed AILA membership particularly if talks, seminars and publications contribute continuing professional development points to their knowledge and skill development. AILA will work with AGHS to develop accreditation goals for garden history events. Conversely, AGHS members may choose to participate in AILA events.

AGHS offers AILA members the opportunity to regularly converse with a diverse range of experts, with experience on a wide range of subjects of gardens and landscape, enriching their understanding of landscape conservation and a sense of place. Strengthening ties between the two organisations builds a network, and positions history as a foundation for all design thinking, as well as a specialisation for a career path.

MEMBERSHIP

Current membership is 1,504, a 6% increase on last year and the NMC continue to look for ways to widen AGHS's appeal, bring in new faces and event types to recruit new members. We welcome your ideas.

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.

National & World Heritage listing of Central Canberra

The previous federal government rejected national listing, just before the 2022 election, despite Australian Heritage Council support, and experts' support for it. Whether a change of government may inject life into heritage, and any reconsideration remains to be seen. Commonwealth Heritage Listing of Lake Burley Griffin and some adjoining parkland has been achieved. But ACT government owned lands are excluded, and that government remains pro-development, unfortunately. Kingston Foreshore has multi-storey apartments intruding on the lake. West Basin follows, with more, bringing the city up to the lake's edge, and removing public parkland in the process.

Saumarez Homestead, Armidale – Recreational Vehicle area proposal

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) is pursuing a proposal to allow parking and accommodation pods and overnight parking on site for RVs – not where originally proposed, but hard-up against the Heritage Rose Garden created by AGHS volunteers over years. This risks detracting from the site's major tourist attraction to visitors. AGHS is seeking reconsideration and relocation of RVs.

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 new works. These include replacing several trees and plantings, some made by dignitaries and guests, and rebuilding a dilapidated 'Buddleja' arbour. This is a great conservation project AGHS is leading 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 points up how working with other groups can multiply AGHS's impact and foster better management and understanding.

Station Street Bypass, Bowral, Southern Highlands

Active AGHS and community lobbying for years led to Wingecarribee Shire Council withdrawing its support and funding for a proposed bypass – in fact, street widening, removing 159 mature street 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* cultivars, outside the railway station. Sense prevailed and Council has committed \$300k to restore stone retaining walls and historic street lamps. AGHS is seeking local heritage listing of the avenue and camellias, further funding and good ongoing management action and long-term care. So far, very good.

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. Both the Sydney and the Southern Highlands Branches made submissions to the review. The committee's report has been published, recommending changes including a 'category' approach to listing landscapes, which appears to be diluting their protection. Draft legislation is under preparation in late 2022.

Cambria Green, Swansea, Tasmania

AGHS objected to massive \$100m over-development of rural land north of Swansea. This affects a 3000ha historic estate, *Cambria*. Its 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 2019 public forum in Swansea with talks on its rich history and heritage. The first TPC appeal in late 2019 was quashed and a new application is undergoing hearings in 2022 by a new TPC. The process has been protracted, appears to be in favour of the applicant rather than heritage or the community. The omens are not hopeful, at this stage. This sets a dangerous precedent.

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 marked in late 2020 and the sale abandoned in early 2021. An auction was held in December 2021 and the property has since sold. COVID has prevented Heritage Victoria visiting the garden (to progress state listing), and the branch is encouraging remote assessment, given detailed documentation it has provided. Hopefully the garden will gain both state listing and its new owners will be sympathetic.

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.

New WA Heritage Act

A Western Australian branch submission was made on a proposed new law, objecting to its bias to the built environment and lack of attention to garden history and the settings of listed buildings.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you once again, for your vigilance, support and commitment to the mission of the Society.

Our Patron Tim Entwisle, all NMC members and all Branch Committee members give their time voluntarily to make sure our events and doings run smoothly. We're more than grateful. So much is unseen by members, but goes on, quietly.

Our National Executive Officer, Lisa Nutting, Journal Editor Francesca Beddie and designer Mariana Rollgejser all do so much to support AGHS and its many doings. Our committees such as the Editorial Advisory committee.

It has been a privilege and pleasure being the Society's first Co-Chairs. We wish ongoing and new NMC and Branch committee members and all AGHS members well and look forward to a more normal 'in person' year ahead.



Stuart Read and Bronwyn Blake National Co-Chairs

Branch Reports

ACT MONARO RIVERINA BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Margie Bourke
Secretary	Nancy Clarke
Treasurer	Sue Cassidy
State NMC Representative	Anne Claoue-Long
Committee	Bronwyn Blake, Lynne Curran, Fleur Flanery, Greg Johnson, Susan Phillips
Newsletter Editor	Judy Pearce

Functions

2021

- **AUGUST AGM:** ZOOM Lecture by Greg Johnson on 'Gardening in the year of Covid'
- **SEPTEMBER:** National Conference hosted by Sydney: *Many Dreams/One Landscape*, presented as virtual lectures
- **DECEMBER:** End of Year Celebration in York Park with a talk on the Park's history by Heritage Consultant Duncan Marshall

2022

- **FEBRUARY:** Talk by Glenda Korporaal on *Marion Mahoney Griffin*. A joint event with Friends of the National Library
- **MARCH:** *Telling the Time by the Sun* talk and demonstration of Sundials by Marg Folkard, joint event with the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens
- **JUNE**
16 June Zoom lecture by Jason Chongue
29 June Lunch and film: *A Little Chaos*, preceded by a talk on Le Notre and the garden at the Palace of Versailles
- **JULY:** Visit to Callum Brae

Advocacy

- Submission on major re-development of the Australian War Memorial and the removal of 150 mature and healthy trees
- Comments on the up-dated Heritage Management Report for York Park
- Comments on the ACT Government Action Plan to Prevent the Loss of Mature Native Trees
- Support for Lake Burley Griffin Guardians on lobbying for Heritage Listing for Lake Burley Griffin

Chair's Report

We are very grateful to Anne Claoue-Long for her expertise in preparing the Branch's submissions to the ACT Government and the National Capital Authority.

In addition, Anne participated in the 2022 ACT Region Heritage Symposium: **Heritage and Healing. How Heritage Helps**. In her paper Anne argued for the place of gardening and plants in mental health.

Many thanks to the Committee for their energy in providing these events, and to our members for your support. Sadly Greg Johnson has reached the end of his term on the Committee and I would like to thank him for his contribution in giving talks on the history of gardening in Australia, his glimpse of his garden in his lecture at last year's AGM, and his culinary contributions to our events, especially the 40th Anniversary cake. Thanks also to Fleur Flanery who will also be stepping down. This is my fourth time in a period stretching over twenty years that I have served on the Committee and it is time for me to finish as well. This is a very active Branch and it needs other members to volunteer to help the Branch flourish.

Margie Bourke

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

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

Chair's Report

Our Branch membership remains small but events attract a core group of supporters. Being Covid wary the Branch undertook to mostly restrict Branch activities over the past year to public venues. That way if an event had to be cancelled, we figured we would not cause disruption to a private owner who had used precious time to prepare for an event that didn't happen.

For our Christmas gathering, we met at the Bougainvillea Gardens at Indooroopilly. Now under the custodianship of the Brisbane City Council, a local resident keeps the Society informed of any threats he feels the gardens are under. Currently, he's noticed that any species type of Bougainvillea that falters is likely replaced with a hybridized and smaller variety. Our member, John Taylor has reported this to Brisbane City Council.

Our branch usually takes a recess from Christmas to beginning of April but this year Covid and the weather extended well into the year and finally when an event was arranged, the owner passed away. We were grateful to hear that we can reschedule the event later this year.

The Branch Committee is well into the planning stages of arranging the 2023 AGHS Conference to be held in Ipswich.

Our AGM was held in September and Dr John Pearn was the guest speaker.

Many of our branch members are looking forward to the Tasmania Conference.

Ann Wegener

SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Patricia Michell
Deputy-Chair	Richard Heathcote
Honorary Treasurer	Di Wilkins
Committee	Jeff Jenkinson, Janie Smylie
Co-opted to Committee	MaryLou Bishop

Functions and garden visits

The 2021-22 year began with much optimism last spring, with many events and projects planned for the coming year and beyond. However, with such a small group of active volunteers, a small executive committee, who all have day jobs and other commitments, no local executive officer, no social media presence, and no regular meeting place, we have found it difficult to organise garden visits and events for our largely retired membership. However, we have continued sending out the quarterly SA Branch Newsletter with information about local and national garden history events.

Once South Australia began lifting the State-wide Pandemic restrictions after Christmas 2021, the Omicron variant of Covid-19 began spreading throughout the community and many of our members or their families, including the committee, had to take time out to isolate, rest and recover. We found it difficult to compete with other better resourced garden groups with paid executive officers, so instead of planning member-only events, we chose to promote other historic garden events and advocate for causes organised by like-minded groups, with similar memberships, which often overlapped our own.

The 2021 AGM was held on Sunday 29th August at Stangate House, Aldgate, a National Trust Covid-safe venue. It was attended by 20 people and guest speaker, Marilyn Kuchel, gave a talk about the house, followed by afternoon tea and a tour of the heritage-listed camellia gardens in full bloom.

A proposed visit to Old Government House and State Flora at Belair on Sunday 26th September 2021 for a private tour and afternoon tea hosted by their Friends group was cancelled due to a lack of bookings. By contrast, 'Secret Gardens of Stirling' held on a weekday, Thursday 14th October, and organised by the Carrick Hill Foundation, was quickly booked out and some of our members were lucky enough to secure tickets.

'Private Gardens of Medindie' organised by the Women of Walkerville as a White Ribbon charity event on Saturday 6th November 2021 was also very well attended by our members and others. We enjoyed a talk and tour by the owners of 3 gardens of different eras within close walking distance, once again followed by afternoon tea provided by WoW. Two of the 3 private gardens belong to members of our committee.

The Annual AGHS SA Branch Christmas Party on Sunday 28th November was hosted by Ed and Patricia Michell with a picnic and wine tasting at the 'Marble Hill Stables'. About 30 members enjoyed 'Sunset Drinks' with magnificent views from the terrace after a talk and tour of the grounds.

2022 began with good intentions. Although several events were planned, all were cancelled, either because our committee members or our prospective garden hosts were isolating with Covid or were close contacts.

Adelaide and our rural regions host multiple festivals throughout the year. Although we were not able to organise any events specifically for AGHS Members in 2022, the Branch Newsletters sent out in Spring, Autumn and Winter listed multiple garden events in SA run by like-minded organisations such as Open Gardens SA, History SA, Friends of the Botanic Gardens, Mediterranean Garden Society, Carrick Hill, Urrbrae House, Ayers House, the Waite Arboretum, and the many properties run by local Historical Societies and the National Trust.

Advocacy

The SA Branch Executive and many of our members have been very active in supporting local history and heritage groups in trying to save our natural and built heritage from destruction under the State's new planning and infrastructure laws, which appear to prioritise truck routes and property developers over the local community. Spearheaded by the National Trust and the Adelaide Park Lands Association and supported by grass-roots social media groups such as "Protect Our Heritage SA – 2022", "Community Alliance SA", "Help save South Australia's history from demolition" and "20 Metre Trees" we attended meetings and protests, lobbied politicians and local councillors, wrote letters to the papers, phoned into talk-back radio, signed petitions and collected signatures to present to Parliament.

Have we been successful in saving our heritage places?

The battle is not yet over, but many say it was not Covid, but a protest vote from the people who live in the sandstone cottages and leafy-green suburbs that tossed out a first term premier. The change of government saved the Ayers House Museum from becoming an office block, but it was too late for the Waite Gatehouse, which will be demolished to make way for a turn left traffic lane.

So far, the new State government is treading carefully, and people are watching.

Projects

An ongoing Project for AGHS SA remains the Museum of Gardening at Carrick Hill. AGHS SA was a co-sponsor of the travelling exhibition curated by Richard Heathcote, "The Blade: Australia's love affair with lawn", which has been seen around Australia and is currently back at Carrick Hill in the Stables.

Different AGHS members continue working as volunteers, helping to establish Captain Sturt's cottage garden at The Grange and to recreate the Heysen rose garden at The Cedars. Both of these projects have received our support in the past. Our Oral History project was interrupted by Covid and needs to be re-started. Another proposal has been to work with the Friends of the State Library on collating the historic collection of gardening books, paintings, pamphlets, and memorabilia relating to early horticulture in South Australia.

A future project is supporting the Heritage Rose Trail, whereby the dispersed collection of Heritage Roses from the garden of the late David Ruston of Renmark SA, will be re-planted in a series of publicly accessible gardens along the Mt Lofty Ranges. It was proposed that the AGHS SA Branch would work with the SA Branch of HRIH (Heritage Roses in Australia), to help look after part of the China & Tea Rose collection proposed for Marble Hill, in particular the rambling group of unidentified old roses known as "the Mystery Teas".

Chair's Report

As a new Chairman with a small committee and no alternative help during Covid, I took on the extra role of Acting Secretary and Newsletter Editor. This took up more time than I had anticipated, and it is more time than I can spare at present, so at the upcoming AGM, I intend to step down from these positions. I plan to re-nominate for the committee and focus on advocacy. Some of the other committee members also work part time and lead very busy lives, but we all remain passionate about our gardens and our heritage, so we hope others will nominate to join us and contribute their time to this worthy cause too.

The 38th AGM of the AGHS SA Branch was held on Sunday 16 October at Carrick Hill.

Dr Patricia A Michell

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair and Secretary	Dr Ruth Bailey
Treasurer	Lynda Cowley
Event Coordinator	Dr Ruth Bailey
Committee	Jenny Woodwell, Ray Bradley, Bud Townsing
Off Committee	Lyn Barrett, NMC representative Laurel Cheetham, Wingecarribee Heritage Committee representative

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 on 22 August 2021 by Zoom due to the Covid 19 pandemic with AGHS-SHB speaker Stuart Macpherson "Head Gardener: Frensham"

Virtual National Convention Sydney

Attended the 2 day zoom presentation on 10–11 September 2021.

Christmas Party

Drinks for December 2 at historic property Quindalup were rescheduled due to Covid for Jan 2 which was then cancelled due to excessive rain.

Long Lunch

Cancelled long lunch for 11 February due to covid and converted to Zoom with a presentation by Roslyn Burge on "*Voices of the National Oral History Collection*"

Berrima Museum Exhibition

Opening of the Berrima Museum Exhibition 27 March "*Gardens and Landscapes of the Southern Highlands - Then and Now*" curated by Bud Townsing and attended by 50 AGHS and Berrima & District Historical and Family History Society members and friends.

Coach Tour to National Arboretum and a Private Garden

The tour scheduled for 5 April to the arboretum and private garden was cancelled due to covid 19 pandemic and rescheduled for October, 2022.

Southern Highlands Botanic Garden Autumn Fair

A stall was held on 23–24 April to showcase the Berrima & District Historical and Family History Society, and encourage new members to sign up for the AGHS.

Winter Solstice Seminar

Was held on 5 June with speakers Chris Betteridge "*Landscape Character Study of Bowral Public Spaces*" and Edwina and John Macarthur-Stanham speaking on the "*200 year History of Camden Park*".

Upcoming Events

EG Waterhouse National Camellia Garden and Bare Island Fort

A coach tour on 19 July will be attended by 34 members and friends. The National Camellia Garden turned 50 in 2020 and is located in Caringbah. Bare Island is located in La Perouse and is an 1885 fort constructed to protect Botany Bay from imminent invasion by the Russians.

AGM/Winter Seminar

On 21 August the AGM/Winter Seminar will be held. Speakers are John Siemon *200 year History of the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney* and Chris Thompson *A Struggle for Relevance: the Garden at Harper's Mansion*.

Car Trail

On 25 September a self drive car trail with questions and history information has been prepared and organised by Jane Clifford and Jenny Carroll around the southern area of the Southern Highlands.

Coach Tour to Canberra

The tour scheduled for 5 April was held on 13 October.

Coach tour (3 days) to Millthorpe and Orange

The coach tour will be held on 4–6 November.

Christmas Drinks

To be held on Friday 2 December. Location TBD.

Advocacy

Chris Betteridge presented the “Landscape Character Study of Bowral Public Spaces” information via Zoom to the Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC) in September 2021. We have since published it in book form to help get the message to the General Manager, Council Planners, and Parks departments. Council has many layers and we need to reach into these layers - books are still a powerful medium. It is a good model for similar reports on each of the towns of the Southern Highlands.

Wrote a letter to the WSC in October concerning the subdivision of 5 Earl St, Bowral. This area is zoned in the highest category for bushfire risk. In the event of a fire our firefighters and local residents would be at risk of serious harm. If this subdivision were to be approved it will result in a large visual scar on the eastern flank of Mt. Gibraltar thus disrupting an important element in Bowral's historic landscape. Due to all of our concerns outlined above, the AGHS requested that Council purchase the property, rezone it to E2 and add it to the Mount Gibraltar Reserve.

Wrote a letter in October to Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC) re Garbage collection at Bowral Swimming Pool. The parking area is adjacent to the Vietnam War Memorial and Cherry Tree Walk and parkland. This letter supported many letters of objection by the community and the project was cancelled.

Wrote a letter to WSC in October re rejection of developer DA on Myrtle St, Bowral. On 16 March 2022 Council resolved to proceed with a Planning Proposal that seeks to include 2, 4 & 6 Myrtle Street, Bowral, within the Bowral Conservation Area. and create a new heritage item at 'Karingal', 26 Elizabeth Street, Moss Vale. The NSW Department of Planning and Environment has now issued Council with a Gateway Determination allowing the Planning Proposal to go on public exhibition.

Wrote a letter to WSC in October requesting that 'Karingal' Elizabeth St, Moss Vale in October be listed as a heritage item. On 16 March 2022 Council resolved to proceed with a Planning Proposal that seeks to create a new heritage item for 'Karingal' and the NSW Department of Planning and Environment has now issued Council with a Gateway Determination allowing the Planning Proposal to go on public exhibition.

Wrote a letter in October to WSC stating that the AGHS has some serious concerns about the creation of a subdivision on Lot 5, Earl St Mittagong as it would appear to have a considerable impact on the surrounding pristine woodland which is critical to the survival of wildlife, including koalas, glossy cockatoos and greater gliders that presently move freely throughout this proposed subdivision area. A Wingecarribee Wildlife Corridor cuts through this area so the subdivision also could have a serious impact on the movement of wildlife through this area. The current DA was refused by the WSC.

Wrote to WSC in October asking for Frensham DA to be modified as the proposed DA is going to create wanton destruction of a fragile and protected habitat. We strongly objected to this DA being approved in its current form. Still pending.

Wrote several letters of support for the Southern Highlands Botanic Garden to help with additional fund raising for the new Education building.

Projects

Communications Assistance to Balmoral Village Association

Jenny Woodwell organised a garden book auction online in September, 2021. All 99 books were sold and we raised \$1200.00. These funds were donated to the Balmoral Village Association to purchase trees and native plants to help restore their village hall garden after the January 2021 bush fire ravaged the town of Balmoral.

Berrima Museum Exhibition Garden History Exhibition

Bud Townsing led a 15 person cross functional team of people over a period of 5 months from the Berrima District Historical & Family History Society, the Bundanoon Historical Society, Highlife magazine and the AGHS-SHB to create an exhibition entitled "*Gardens and Landscapes of the Southern Highlands - Then and Now*". As a committee member of the Berrima Museum Bud also was able to significantly modify the museum space to accommodate many historical photos and posters over the decades. He also created two of the 10 slide presentations featured in the exhibition. After several attempts to open the exhibition which were thwarted by Covid outbreaks, the final opening took place on 2 March, 2022. Over 50 people were in attendance to celebrate this achievement and all people who helped with the exhibition were acknowledged.

Heritage Library and Station Street Camellias

Met with Mr. Greg Bray, Wingecarribee Shire Council Manager of Parks, Roads and Drains in February to move the Library Heritage Camellia project forward and obtain final approval for the Bendooley Place Camellia garden near the Bowral library. The 8 heritage camellias were planted near the Bowral library in November 2021. A storyboard was created with the assistance of Linda Emery, Senior Vice President of the Berrima District Historical and Family History Society, Lyn Barrett, NMC representative and former AGHS-SHB Chair and Dr. Stephen Utick, Secretary and co-founder Camellia Ark Australia. Mr Bray approved the final storyboard wording and obtained internal WSC approval from the heritage department. Dr. Utick obtained permission from the International Camellia Society to use QR codes on signs to be placed in front of each camellia which link to the International Camellia Register (<https://camellia.iflora.cn>). An unveiling ceremony followed by morning tea was held on 12 August, 2022 and Mr. Viv May (Interim Wingecarribee Shire Council Administrator) or Ms Lisa Miscamble, General Manager of the WSC will perform the unveiling. All key stakeholders as well as interested AGHS-SHB members have been invited to attend.

Viv May, Interim WSC Council Administrator approved the restoration of the Bowral Station Street in early 2022 which includes the trachyte terraces created in the 1930s and the 18 camellias which are adjacent to the parking area which can be seen as one disembarks from the train. Mr Bill Parker of Camellias-R-Us and his team undertook significant renovation pruning of these camellias in April and started the extensive undergrowth clean up of the terraces. Significant negotiations with the NSW Transport department are taking place by the WSC so that an agreed upon restoration of the area meets with their approval as the terraces and gardens are on NSW Transport land. Laurel Cheetham has liaised with the heritage horticulturist retained by the WSC to ensure that the history of the camellias is appropriately acknowledged.

Publications

Bud Townsing and Ruth Bailey wrote an article for the AGHS Journal July 2022 Advocacy Section entitled "*Gardens and Landscapes of the Southern Highlands – Then and Now*". This article highlights the current exhibition at the Berrima Museum featuring the history of landscapes and gardens in the Southern Highlands and poses the question of how can the population growth in the Southern Highlands be accommodated at the same time as maintaining the cultural landscapes and garden heritage of the Southern Highlands.

Harper's Mansion Book

Supported the printing of a book written by Chris Thompson entitled "A Struggle for Relevance: the Garden at Harper's Mansion". Chris is the lead volunteer in the Harper's Mansion gardens and has documented the history of the creation of the garden since 1985. While the garden is not a restoration of the original garden (as nothing of the original garden remained by 1900) many heritage consultants and horticulturists were consulted and a design created and implemented.

The Walden Estate

Bud Townsing undertook an extensive research initiative for the current owner of the house and garden called "The Walden Estate" located at 91 Bendooley Street, Bowral. The original Walden was constructed in 1915 for Arthur Bruce Smith on 5.5 ha of land. The *Sunday Times* of 1922 described it as "as one of the show places of the State approached with a long drive edged with roses". Barbara Bruce Smith (Arthur's daughter) did a remarkable rebuild of Walden in about 1950, replacing the two story 1915 mansion with a single story 1950 style house, using many of the original lead light windows and doors. The garden is still a significant 1.3 ha. and is an important historic Bowral garden and a house with a fascinating history.

The 2021 Heritage Review

Laurel Cheetham is the AGHS-SHB representative on Heritage Advisory Committee of Wingecarribee Shire Council. The Committee has recommended the heritage listing of some 463 items and 13 new or extended heritage conservation areas. Council is currently working on the Review to the Planning Panel.

Public Relations

Inflorescence is published every 2 months with Bud Townsing as the new editor this year.

Presentations have been made to the Bowral Garden Club on 14 March, the VIEW Club Mittagong on 9 May and the Mittagong Garden Club on 3 June to increase the awareness of the Berrima Museum Exhibition which has resulted in large groups visiting the museum.

Tertini Wines has continued to provide generous discounts for wine for our events and gifts to speakers. We encourage everyone to support them in recognition of this generosity.

Chair's Report

Assuming the role of Chair of our branch has been a learning curve this past year but an enjoyable one. Lyn Barrett has provided excellent guidance for which I'm most appreciative. We commenced the year with a small committee and with me holding 3 positions (Chair, secretary and event coordinator). One of the committee's goals was to increase our committee numbers to assist with the creation and development of ideas and implementation of events during the year and thereafter. In April Penny McKenna volunteered and in June two new AGHS-SHB members, SoSum and Chris O'Brien, were interested to join the committee as general members. Eleanor Dartnell rejoined AGHS in June and has expressed interest in coordinating events as of September 2022. All of these people will be proposed as permanent committee members at the AGM.

As with all branches Covid 19 has challenged us all to stay actively engaged with our membership, when personal interactions were limited, and in creating branch activities and events for current members as well as new members. This was especially challenging with a new committee as the majority were new to AGHS as well as their roles – Bud Townsing as editor of *Inflorescence* and Lynda Cowley as treasurer. I was proud of the new Committee working as a team to ensure that all events and activities were implemented flawlessly.

The most outstanding achievement for 2021/2022 was the Exhibition at the Berrima Museum. Bud Townsing worked tirelessly for 5 months leading a cross functional team from the Berrima Historical & Family History Society, the AGHS-SHB, and the Bundanoon Historical Society.

I would like to thank Ray Bradley for rejoining the committee for this past year until we could increase our committee membership. He stepped down in August but continue as an off committee member responsible for tours.

Dr Ruth Bailey

SYDNEY & NORTHERN NSW BRANCH

Sydney Branch: Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Christine Hay
Vice-Chair	Steven Halliday
Secretary	Susan Stratton
Treasurer	David Low
Committee	Anne Smith, Jan Churcher, Stephen Hathway, Ba An Le Note: Christina Kanellaki Lowe, Helder Estavees and Alex Hawthorne stepped down from the committee at various points throughout the year

Functions

2022

- **July:** preceding the National AGHS Annual Conference, Sydney 2021, no event this month
- **August 04:** (AGM) Webinar: *Varro Ville*, illustrated talk by Geoffrey Britton
- **September 10–13:** The National AGHS Annual Conference, Sydney 2021, *Many Dreams // One Landscape*. Presented as a virtual conference, the Sydney Conference Committee designed a rich program over two days around the theme of cultural landscapes. Centred on Sydney Harbour and the Sydney region, 10 speakers presented each addressed a chronological layer through a landscape heritage themed lens.
- **October:** following the conference, no event held this month.
- **November 10:** Webinar, *Spanish Gardens – shade and a sense of mystery (evolution: 600AD-now)*, presented by Stuart Read, National Co-chair. A tour of significant gardens and landscapes of Spain, the presentation explored conservation, interpretation and climatic adaptations of gardens, highlighting the distinct Spanish style.
- **December 05:** Event, *Christmas Party at Turramurra* – Anne and Graham Smith hosted this special evening. While adhering to COVID19 safety rules, 40 guests enjoyed a garden tour by Anne and a delicious dinner provided by the committee. It was a welcome event, especially greeting in person the many friends of the branch, and new members, who had come out to show support of the Society following the long periods of COVID restrictions.

2022

- **February 23:** Webinar, *Callan Park cultural landscape*: Roslyn Burge
- **March 18:** Guided walks, Lavender Bay and Waverton Peninsula (organised by Susan Stratton and Alex Hawthorne). Guided walk by Christine Hay starting at Luna Park on Sydney Harbour with guided sculpture walk by Anne Smith along Lavender Bay; at Wendy's Secret Garden, a talk by Wendy Whiteley and a guided garden walk by Ian Curdie. Bus tour led by Stuart Read to Waverton Peninsula. Christine Hay led the illustrated guided walk through Carradah Park assisted by Stuart Read; frog talk by Angela Low in lower parkland. Christine led a guided walk through Balls Head Reserve. Quarantine Station guided walk and tour of the Coal Loader led by David Banbury of North Sydney Council; and sunset drinks and canapes organised by Angela Low and David Low at the Coal Loader Platform overlooking the western harbour.

- **March 19:** Tour, Eastern Suburbs tour (organised by Steve Halliday assisted by Christine Hay), starting from Rose Bay, a scenic bus tour, guided by Stuart Read in Bus 1, driven by David Low; and in Bus 2, driven by John Pagan, guided by Anne Smith and Gina Plate, along the ridgeline and through Watsons Bay village with a talk by Stuart Read at Green Point Reserve provided an appreciation of dramatic coastline views and historic landmarks. We visited the harbourside colonial estate of the Wentworth's, Vacluse House and grounds led by Steve Halliday, followed by a guided walk with owner Peter Bracher around the historic garden of Rose Bay Cottage.
- **March 20:** Cruise (run by Sydney Heritage Fleet and facilitated by David Low on behalf of the AGHS), Sydney Harbour, cruise and under sail outside the Heads aboard the Tall Ship 'James Craig'.
- **May 22:** Guided walk and exhibition talk, *Botanic Endeavour Exhibition* and RBG Guided Walks. Royal Botanic Gardens optional guided walk *8 Days at Kamay Botany Bay*, guided tour of the exhibition by Colleen Morris and Beverly Allen, and refreshments at Lion Gate Lodge courtyard.
- **June 23:** Webinar, *The Wardian Case: How a Simple Box Moved Plants and Changed the World*, presentation by Luke Keogh
- **July 24:** Guided walk, Lisgar Gardens (repository of over 300 camellias, many rare) Walk and Talk led by Dr Stephen Utick.

Advocacy

- **August 2021**, together with the Haberfield Associations Inc. and Ashfield & District Historical Society Inc, the Sydney Branch contributed to a submission outlining concerns in response to the public exhibition of the Ashfield Park draft Plan of Management and draft Master Plan.
- **In October**, a submission was lodged on the Draft Exposure Bill for Greater Sydney Parklands Trust outlining landscape heritage concerns.
- **In February 2022**, a letter was lodged to support the intention to list Badangi (Berry Island Reserve and Wollstonecraft Foreshore Reserve) on the State Heritage Register (SHR).
- **In March** a submission by the branch raised concerns about Bradfield Park North noting issues about cycle ramp proposals and potential impact on the parkland within the SHR curtilage of Sydney Harbour Bridge, approaches and viaducts (road and rail). Cycle ramp is proceeding despite submission.
- **In May**, a submission to Shellharbour Council raised concerns about potential development impacts on locally listed trees at Barrack Point; and advice provided on broader conservation management of local landscape character. Branch notified that the development will proceed and however there was response to suggestions regarding conservation management.
- **In May**, a submission was made on 'Wingello Park', an historic homestead and garden in Marulan, to support the intention to list on the State Heritage Register (SHR).
- **Yasmar 'working bees'**: Yasmar is a State Heritage Register listed colonial property with a significant garden. Gina Plate, retired committee member, continues her invaluable volunteer work at Yasmar as team leader of a group of volunteer gardeners, working on Thursday mornings, as they've done now for several years. Gina coordinates the maintenance activities with the property owner NSW Crown Lands, educating the state body and her band of volunteers on how to manage a historic garden. The two thirds of the property containing the garden have recently been given to The Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council.

The volunteer group is a great success and continues to attract new, enthusiastic members via the Facebook page [haberfield.asn.au](https://www.facebook.com/haberfield.asn.au). AGHS members are encouraged to join..

Projects

- **September 10–11, The National AGHS Annual Conference, Sydney 2021:** in August 2018, with the support of the NMC, the Sydney Branch created a sub-committee to host the AGHS National Annual Conference in Sydney 2020 for an October event. Government restrictions to control the COVID-19 pandemic forced the face to face conference to be postponed in July 2020, rescheduling it to 10-12 September 2021. Fully booked with 200 participants, five weeks out from the 2021 conference, new restrictions forced the decision to convert the 'live' forum to an online platform, the first online AGHS national conference.

With 165 delegates, the online conference was a success. The aims, to highlight themes and share ideas about Sydney's significant cultural landscapes, were achieved. The 2021 Conference theme *Many Dreams // One landscape* drew attention to Sydney's Aboriginal cultural heritage and consecutive landscape phases following European colonisation, up to the 1970s. Speakers addressed Sydney's stories through this lens, to present an overall recognition and celebration of our region's significant landscapes. The 40 year anniversary of the AGHS was acknowledged as were vital issues surrounding landscape climate adaptation and design. Advocacy actions from the conference included:

- Greater connections between the AGHS and Sydney Living Museums (SLM),
- Greater connection with garden owners of significant places visited during the lead up to the planned face to face conference.
- Working bees at significant gardens such as Horsley.
- Promotion of AGHS through marketing and sponsorship to a wider audience including through social media.
- AGHS connection with Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and North Sydney Council.

The Conference sub-committee, with support from each other and the NMC, overcame numerous obstacles to achieve the success of the conference. It is a testament to their effort and determination, having worked effectively and tirelessly for the society to have designed and produced the first and best online conference possible.

- E-news: monthly digital communication to members about events and updates are prepared by Vice-chair, Steve Halliday on behalf of the committee.
- *Branch Cuttings*: three quality editions of the newsletter were produced by our Editor, Anne Smith on behalf of the committee. Past editions are available through the e-news and remain a popular resource for members.
- Working bees at Yasmar coordinated by Gina Plate, now in fourth year, continue to interpret the early garden setting. The branch has provided financial support for the labelling of plants at Yasmar. The labels, like those used in botanic gardens, will be installed in the garden later this year.

Chair's Report

For the Sydney Branch, the 2022 financial period was a year of achievements and a time to be celebrated. Looking back to July last year, within a COVID pandemic, we pressed the go button on an online conference. Instead of face to face at Luna Park, 3 years in the planning, the committee took yet another roller coaster ride, up a steep learning curve, to deliver the 10 –11 September conference. It was a superb balancing act by the committee, its conference sub-committee, the National Management Committee together with much support from our AGHS membership. We achieved what seemed impossible, a successful first ever virtual Annual AGHS National Conference.

While we delivered the lectures portion of the event, the conference had been designed around guided landscape walks, garden visits and two Blue Mountains tours.

I gratefully acknowledge the committee who, after the strain of the virtual conference, embraced, somewhat reluctantly, to commit to a program to roll out these outdoor staged events over the year. The committee with a limited crew, and a few precious remaining members of the conference committee, kept the ball rolling and even now continue to organise these much anticipated experiences.

Within the financial year, we held 10 events. The most notable of course was the September National Annual Conference, Sydney 2021, *Many Dreams // One Landscape*. Other branch highlights included, in November a webinar, *Spanish Gardens – shade and a sense of mystery (evolution: 600AD-now)*, presented by Stuart Read, breaking our online attendance record with over 100 bookings! In December our branch Christmas Party was held at Turramurra, hosted by Anne and Graham Smith. In February 2022 a webinar, *Callan Park cultural landscape*, presented by Roslyn Burge. Mid March we hosted a 3-day event reshaped from the conference program: On Friday 18, Guided walks of Lavender Bay and Waverton Peninsula. On Saturday 19, an Eastern Suburbs scenic bus tour plus colonial garden guided walks and on Sunday 20 a Cruise of Sydney Harbour, under sail outside the Heads aboard the Tall Ship 'James Craig.'

In May, we held the Botanic Endeavour Exhibition and Royal Botanic Gardens Guided Walks event, another follow-on from the conference. This event aligned with the closing of the exhibition, we arranged for members to enjoy a RBG Guided Walk '8 Days at Kamay Botany Bay' and a guided tour of the exhibition by Colleen Morris and Beverly Allen. In June, a webinar, *The Wardian Case: How a Simple Box Moved Plants and Changed the World* presented by Dr Luke Keogh. Our last event for the year was held in July, a visit to *Lisgar Gardens* in Hornsby led by Dr Stephen Utick, a splendid morning amid hundreds of camellia blooms. I'd been reminded several times by members about the importance of returning to face-to-face Branch activities. The outdoor events held throughout the year were without doubt pleasurable highlights in the Branch calendar.

No events were held in the months July 21 and October, pre and post the conference. The April and May Blue Mountains Tours sadly were cancelled due to prohibitive costs.

Advocacy continues to play an important part in the work of the branch. In August 2021, in association with The Haberfield Associations Inc. and Ashfield & District Historical Society Inc, the AGHS (Sydney and Northern NSW Branch), with Colleen Morris, contributed to a written submission outlining concerns in response to the public exhibition of Ashfield Park draft Plan of Management and draft Master Plan. In October, a submission was lodged on the Draft Exposure Bill for Greater Sydney Parklands Trust outlining concerns about the bill. In February 2022, a letter was lodged to support the intention to list Badangi on the State Heritage Register (SHR). In March a submission raised concerns about Bradfield Park North about cycle ramp proposals and potential impacts on the parkland within the heritage curtilage of Sydney Harbour Bridge. In May, concerns were raised to Shellharbour Council about potential development impacts on locally listed trees at Barrack Point; and advice provided on conservation management of the local landscape character. In May, a submission was made on Wingello Park, an historic homestead and garden in Marulan, to support the intention to list on the State Heritage Register (SHR). On behalf of the branch, I thank Susan Stratton, our Secretary, who has led this work.

The committee continues to finetune branch communications to members. These include the tri-yearly *Branch Cuttings* and the monthly e-news, which serve to promote branch advocacy interests, activities and events. Webinars have become a mainstay of our yearly program. Our events therefore have been embraced by members near and far, enjoying landscape heritage has never been so accessible. On behalf of the branch, thank you to our Editor Anne Smith and to Steve Halliday, our Communications Manager, for all your work to keep our members informed. A big thank you to David Low, our Treasurer who is our backstop for membership communications and for so much of what we do. He and Angela Low are an immense support for the Branch and the running of our events.

One major change to the Branch has been the transition of Northern NSW into their own Branch. Operating autonomously for many years, we congratulate the NNSW Branch and wish them well. We trust that our bonds of friendship will continue to support each other into the future.

As is typical following a conference, committee members step down. On behalf of the Society, I wish to thank committee members, Christina Kanellaki Low, Alex Hawthorne and Helder Estaves; for their valued contribution and assistance with the running of the branch over the past year and with the production of the conference. Thank you and well done. Christina particularly thank you for all your work on behalf of the society.

To the conference sub-committee members who remain, Gina Plate, Angela Low and Mary Jane Morgan, to assist with the final (reshaped) conference events, on behalf of the Branch a great big thank you for your enthusiasm, valued contribution and ongoing commitment to the branch. To sub-Committee members, Rosemary Potts who was conference Secretary and James Quoyale who managed the speakers, we are so very appreciative of your time and efforts to ensure the conference was a success.

The replenishment of the committee remains a focus of the Branch. New members re-energise and bring fresh ideas. The more the merrier. On behalf of the Branch, I extend a warm welcome to Jan Churcher and Ba An Le who recently joined the committee.

To finish, a heartfelt thank you to the Sydney committee. David Low, Treasurer, Susan Stratton, Secretary, Anne Smith, Editor, Steve Halliday, Communications, and Stephen Hathway who also happens to be the National AGHS Treasurer, and to the sub-committees including the Yasmar volunteer gardeners, thank you all for your great efforts on behalf of the society and particularly for our branch. Your dedication in working towards the protection and celebration of our landscape heritage is an inspiration. Thank you to the NMC, to the Co-chairs Bronwyn and Stuart, and to Lisa our NEO, all of whom are great supporters of the Sydney Branch.

To all members of the Branch, we couldn't do what we do without your support. Thank you for attending our events, rain or shine, for your conversations, advice, questions and deep interest in all things landscape and in the conservation of this important heritage long-term.

Finally, in the wrap of the report, I'm announcing that it is time for me, as chair of the Sydney branch, to step down. After a decade, a number of years as vice-chair, three years as conference producer and two as chair, it is time to stand aside. It has been a wonderful journey, and an honour to be involved. Thank you to the Sydney Branch, the NMC, and members for the privilege and for your support during some challenging and mostly joyful times.

Looking over the last ten years, I've developed some interesting skills. After being involved with about 100 events for the society, I can whip up an itinerary in a flash. I've made some special friendships and connections and I look forward to staying involved in supporting the society.

I wish the new committee well.

Christine Hay

Northern NSW sub Branch: Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Helen Oates
Vice Chair	Graham Wilson
Minutes Secretary	Robyn Jackson
Treasurer	Tom O'Connor
Reports/Newsletter	Maria Hitchcock
Publicity	Lynne Walker
Events Coordinators	Helen Wilson and Moira Lloyd
Fundraising Coordinators	Fran Webb and Lexia Nielsen
Heritage Rose Garden Coordinator	Lynne Walker
Advocacy Representative	Bill Oates

Functions

31 October 2021 – Excursion to *Balala Station* and *Invergowrie Station*

Our first post-COVID excursion to two historic New England properties. At *Balala Station*, we enjoyed meeting the current owners and hearing about their painstaking restoration of the homestead and property. We viewed the fabulous museum at *Invergowrie Station* and, as we have in the past, took pleasure in exploring the delightful gardens.

28 November 2021 – Christmas lunch at Petersons Winery (Palmerston)

Our long-awaited get-together where we enjoyed a wonderful lunch and the happy company of our AGHS branch members.

26 February 2022 – Lunch at Petersons winery (Palmerston)

First meeting of newly ratified Northern NSW branch and election of office bearers and committee

Illustrated talks on the history of *Palmerston* by Graham Wilson and Bill Oates

4 March 2022 – Opening of *Beyond the Lawn* at Glen Innes Art Gallery

A travelling photographic exhibition, first prepared to run in conjunction with *The Blade* exhibition by Richard Heathcote. The photographic exhibition was researched and compiled by Graham Wilson and Bill Oates, and was funded part of the AGHS 40th birthday celebrations. The exhibition ran from 7th – 25th March 2022.

27 March 2022 – Branch general meeting

Our first branch meeting, including a detailed discussion of the Development Application submitted by the National Trust NSW for a tourism project at Saumarez Homestead.

29 May 2022 – Branch general meeting followed by an illustrated talk by Sir Owen Croft

Sir Owen Croft and members of the Armidale and District Historical Society presented *Overlaying boundaries of early New England pastoral runs with current rural property maps*

26 June 2022 – Illustrated talk by Graham Wilson and Bill Oates

Curtis family influence on Jeffrey Street, Armidale, investigating the architecture and gardens of significant houses, and their streetscapes.

Advocacy

March 2022 – ongoing

Letter to National Trust NSW Board of Directors and submission to Armidale Regional Council in response to concerns of adverse impacts of the Sustainable Saumarez Homestead Tourism Project Development Application, both on the heritage precinct at Saumarez Homestead and the access to and amenity of the Heritage Rose Garden. The National Trust will be required to submit amended plans to Armidale Regional Council.

May 2022 – ongoing

Assistance is being provided to the Landscape Management Committee at the University of New England in relation to the preservation of their heritage gardens, and the promotion of the re-establishment of rose gardens at *Booloominbah*, the institute's historic home and administration centre.

Projects

Collection of photographic and garden history material from community sources, with a view to uncovering unknown information, preserving historical information and artefacts, and providing assistance and advice to owners of historically significant gardens and properties.

Working bees in the Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez Homestead continue on the first weekend of each month, and are attended by a dedicated, skilled and enthusiastic group of members. We are supported by members of Armidale Lions Club who volunteer their time to maintain and promote the rose garden. The ongoing maintenance and care of the rose garden is a significant undertaking for our members, and we look to fostering our positive relationship with the National Trust NSW and the staff members on site at Saumarez Homestead.

Investigation of funding sources for the purchase of gravel mulch for all beds in the rose garden continues, as we respond to the need to reduce heavy manual labour such as regular mulching and weeding. There is an added bonus of reducing the use of water in the garden, and improving sustainability through drought.

Chair's Report

While the Northern NSW sub-branch may have operated as a quasi-branch for some time, we are happy that we are now a fully ratified and functional branch in our own right. We have enjoyed the benefits that being part of Sydney branch has brought us, and are now ready to stand alone and display our own regional personality. It's time to expand to include parts of northern NSW we have not yet explored and to welcome new members from much further afield. Our branch loves an outing, so we're looking forward to visiting some great towns and properties.

Since the inception of our sub-branch all those years ago, our group has been well served by many dedicated and enthusiastic members, but especially by the Executive and committee members. Our final sub-branch Executive and committee members provided great leadership and showed determination and commitment through a tough couple of years. I would like to pay tribute to them, and to thank them for their time, effort, and forward thinking to lead us to becoming a new branch. Our members have enjoyed many great excursions and events, organised by Helen and Graham Wilson, Bill Oates, Liz Chappell and Elton Squires, to name just a few.

We continue to investigate funding opportunities to support the ongoing care and maintenance of our Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez Homestead. As our membership ages, we need to become smarter about how heavy physical tasks in the garden are undertaken, and this will require purchasing labour. We have identified some funding strategies which are currently in their infancy, but which we will nurture to maturity.

Helen Oates

TASMANIA BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Co-Chairs	Jean Elder and Rosie Mackinnon
Vice Chair and Conference Convenor	Prue Slatyer
Treasurer	Jane Long
Blue Gum editor	Jennifer Stackhouse
Secretary	Antonia Dunne
Committee Members	Wyn Manners; Mary Ramsay

Functions

- Garden Visits to Ferntree and Kingston, Hi Peak, Tassie-T, Sojourn October 2021
- Sales of second hand books, publicising AGHS and membership drive Longford Blooms Festival, November 2021
- *Adapting to the Landscape*, South Esk river region 2 day weekend, Scone, Glen Ireh, Perth township, Richmond Hill and Brickendon December 2021
- Derwent Valley Jaunt exploring Hollow Tree House, Prospect Villa, Leintwardine, Lawrenny February 2022
- A weekend of Exploration of Central East Coast gardens and lecture. Tasmanian Bushland Garden, Spring Bay Mill, Kelvedon, Glen Gala, Gala and Cambria. April 2022
- Winter lecture *We Speak for Trees* Clive Blazey, June 2022

- Winter Lecture, *Cemetery Landscapes*, Helen Page, July 2022
- Winter Lecture, Book Launch and AGM Ann Cripps, *The Early Nurserymen & Gardeners of Hobart Town* August 2022.

Advocacy

Cambria Green is one of the largest planning scheme amendments and tourism developments ever proposed for the east coast of Tasmania. It would significantly change the existing cultural landscapes, including that of the historic property of Cambria. AGHS National and Tasmania Branch made submissions against this development. The Glamorgan Spring Bay Council voted to support a planning scheme amendment to allow this development to proceed. This zoning amendment and a proposed masterplan are now being assessed by the Tasmanian Planning Commission. Tasmanian members attended the hearings held in July and the Tasmanian Planning Commission will make a decision in late August to either approve or reject the zoning amendment.

Submission to Northern Midlands Council to oppose the proposed siting and building of a toilet block in parkland opposite heritage -listed Kilgour House, Longford. **SUCCESSFUL**

Submission to Hobart City Council opposing clearing of a heritage garden in Sandy Bay Road Sandy Bay, Hobart. Unsuccessful

Submission opposing the development application for Mt Wellington Cable Car Project.
STILL PENDING

Projects

- Protection of significant trees listed on the National Trust Tree Register through local government planning schemes To commence ASAP.
- A memorandum of understanding has been established with the National Trust of Australia (Tasmania)
- Oral Histories have been recorded with more anticipated. Interviewees: Ken Gillanders plantsman; Tara Edmonson head gardener Government House; Bob Magnus, nurseryman; Gwenda Sheridan, historian.
- Planning for 2022 National Conference, *Landscape on the Edge, Challenge and Opportunity*.

Oral History Project

Over the last year 4 interviews have been recorded. interviewees: Robyn Mayo (Hawkins), Artist and gardener; Tara Edmonson, Head Gardener Government House; Bob Magnus, nurseryman; Lindsay Campbell, Landscape Architect. It has been invaluable to be able to employ Rhonda Hamilton who has undertaken all the administrative work associated with these interviews. It is anticipated that this project will continue in 2023.

Chair's Report

The past year has seen a steady increase of new members from diverse backgrounds.

Two weekends of visiting country estates highlighted the importance of protecting significant landscapes, respecting the habitats of the original Tasmanians and understanding the changes being made to those landscapes to create an ongoing lifestyle for the next generation.

Sadly our treasurer Jane Long is retiring. Her financial expertise in streamlining banking, data entry and bookings has made the committee's decision making more efficient. We will miss her clear thinking and practical advice.

Our Deputy Chair and Conference Convenor Prue Slatyer is also leaving us after 3 terms of 3 years in executive roles. Her experience in many committee positions, knowledge of past events, wise counsel and a wide network of academics, landscape architects, garden owners and historians has been invaluable. As our representative on the NMC her knowledge and concise interpretation of national matters has greatly streamlined our decision making.

Jean Elder and Rosie Mackinnon

VICTORIA BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Wendy Dwyer
Vice Chair	Lynda Entwisle
Secretary	Wendy Dwyer
Treasurer	Anna Long
Events Co-ordinator	Wendy Nichol
Newsletter	Lynda Entwisle
Working Bees	Diana Ellerton
Advocacy	Trevor Pitkin
Catering	Annie Woodside
NMC Representative	Anna Long
General Committee	Robyn Teed

Functions

Whilst many of the planned branch activities had to be postponed and rescheduled, we are proud to have delivered the following for our members:

Lectures

- **7 July 2021** – Zoom lecture by UK garden historian, Caroline Holmes, on *Bory Latour-Marliac – the source of waterlilies before and beyond Monet*.
- **30 September 2021** – AGM and zoom lecture by curator, Tim Uebergang, on *The History of the System Garden at the University of Melbourne*.
- **28 March 2022** – Zoom lecture by former Burnley lecturer, Michèle Adler, on *The History of Burnley Gardens and Hilda Kirkhope, an early female student and staff member who designed part of the gardens*.
- **19 May 2022** – Zoom lecture by horticulturist, Sandi Pullman, on *Ina Higgins and her contribution to women's horticultural education*.
- **30 June 2022** – Zoom lecture by UK garden historian, Caroline Holmes, on *Edwardian Gardens – golden and delicious*.

Events and trips

- **26 September 2021** – Self-drive to Titanga, Lismore, for launch of garden history booklet of this property and to Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum.
- **2 February 2022** – Walk and talk at the System Garden and Campus of the University of Melbourne led by Virginia McNally and Tim Uebergang
- **30 March 2022** – Bus trip to Mount Macedon gardens in their autumn glory led by Stephen Ryan.
- **29 April 2022** – Bus trip to visit the houses and gardens of Dame Nellie Melba and Sir Arthur Streeton.

Working Bees

A long-held tradition of the Victorian Branch, after many cancellations, the following working bees were able to proceed:

- 29 May 2022 – Yantaringa
- 19 June 2022 - Medlow

Advocacy

Submissions were made to the following:

- **Royal Park Conservation Management Plan:** Comments were submitted to the City of Melbourne on an early draft of the Background History section of this plan which was lacking the authentic Aboriginal narrative in the draft
- **Royal Exhibition Buildings (REB) and Carlton Gardens, World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA) draft World Heritage Strategy Plan:** The draft review of this plan was released in July 2021 and the branch made some comments acknowledging the high quality and practicality of the work.
- **Carlton Gardens Master Plan draft for review:** As part of the above review, comments were made around the treatment of the southern entry and style approach to amenities in the northern part of the gardens.
- **Wombat Park, Daylesford:** This property was sold in early December 2021. We have written to the new owners to introduce AGHS and our associated activities with the property over many years and to encourage them to interact with AGHS as they consider garden changes. Disappointingly, there is still no progress from Heritage Victoria in relation to assessing our nomination of this property to the Victorian Heritage Register in September 2019.
- **La Mode, Morwell:** Contact from a local resident concerned that the former La Mode plantings, believed to be an Edna Walling design, were not being respected. Research indicated that, despite newspaper references in the 1940s, no archival material could be founded to support this claim so it was concluded Walling may have had informal involvement.
- **Yantaringa Gardens, Ivanhoe:** An inquiry was made to the branch seeking to understand what assistance could be provided to renovate this residential garden associated with the original property of Sir Herbert and Annie Olney. Possible Edna Walling associations could not be substantiated. A working bee was held in May 2022.
- **Kamesburgh Gardens, Brighton:** An approach from a former gardener about the possibility of adding this six-acre garden to the National AGHS Remarkable Gardens list, has resulted in the branch researching its records and meeting on site with the responsible Parks Management Officer from Bayside Council. A branch event is scheduled for December 2022 and a journal article is likely.
- **Buningyong Botanic Gardens Reserve:** Comments were to the City of Ballarat in relation to plans to undertake works to strengthen the dam wall in the centre of the Reserve with little regard for the significance of the plantings. A new engineer has now been engaged for the project.

Projects

A garden history booklet about Titanga, located in the Western District near Lismore, was written by former committee member, Tim Gatehouse, and launched at an event held on the property on 26 September 2021.

Committee member, Trevor Pitkin, has continued his work with Pictorials, which are photographic studies, for inclusion on our website. Wombat Park has been uploaded and work is progressing on Goronga.

Chair's Report

With a cautious start to the new financial year due to some Covid restrictions continuing in the second half of 2021, the Victorian branch was very pleased to be able to gradually gear up again to hold a variety of events for our members. Whilst we are all now experts in zoom lectures, we all agree that face-to-face events are so much more enjoyable.

I would like to thank sincerely the Victorian Branch Committee who are a dedicated team with a variety of talents. They have worked extremely hard to present regular newsletters, a varied program of lectures, bus trips, working bees and walk and talks. We have been proactive in addressing relevant Victorian advocacy issues impacting heritage gardens and landscapes and continued our program of researching and compiling garden histories and pictorials.

During the year, Tim Gatehouse resigned from the committee but continues to work closely with us in relation to researching garden histories. New committee members, Robyn Teed and Wendy Nichol, joined us bringing fresh ideas and very useful skills.

Finally, I would like to thank the Victorian membership for their support and sticking with us through the difficult Covid era.

Wendy Dwyer

WEST AUSTRALIA BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	John Viska
Secretary	Lynette Petersen
Treasurer	Sue Davis
NMC Representative	Patsy Vizents
Membership, Newsletter and Website	Lyn Oliver
Committee	Boris Roglich, Felicity Farrelly, Sue Medalia

Functions

2021

- **The 32nd AGM, held on 19 August** at the Bayswater Historical Society's Headquarters Halliday House, was well attended by twenty two members and five guests. The meeting was held in the former dining room of the heritage listed property and following the formal business Glen Cookson, the secretary presented a short history of gardening activities in the Bayswater area. As the suburb is in close proximity to the river there were many swampy areas utilised for nurseries and market gardens. After the meeting the displays that told the story of the early history of the area were viewed by members.
- **On Wednesday 6 October**, an evening function was held in Guildford's original Mechanics' Institute, where Dr Kingsley Dixon presented an informative talk on the Wyemando Native Plant Nursery. As it operated in Guildford by granddaughters of Charles Harper, other societies in the area were notified of the function and of the 24 that attended 10 were local residents. The story of the establishment and running of the sisters' enterprise was told by Kingsley, who as a young teenager voluntarily worked at the nursery and how later he followed his passion for plants and began his career in botany and horticulture.
- **On Sunday 5 December**, 28 members spent a pleasant afternoon celebrating the final function for 2021 in Claremont Park. A shady area under the canopy of a large English elm *Ulmus procera* was selected and with the early sea breeze it was an ideal location. Following the welcome, members shared the Xmas fare and waited eagerly for the annual quiz. One group attained a perfect score thus obviating the need to have a tie breaker. A walk and talk tour was then conducted outlining the history of the area since the 1850s plus significant plantings. As well as the English elm, a notable specimen of a sugar gum *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* was admired as were the original tuarts *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* and tall specimens of Norfolk Island pines *Araucaria heterophylla* were noted.

2022

- **On the 31 March** sixteen people attended the first function for 2022. It was an illustrated talk titled *Loved to Death* by Richard McLellan, a research ecologist at the Institute for Land, Water & Society at Charles Sturt University. The subject was sandalwood and members heard how the state of Australian sandalwood *Santalum spicatum* is facing extinction in the wild due to it still being harvested for the perfumery industry.
In his presentation he described the ecological function of hemi-parasitic plants under a changing climate specifically in relation to Australian sandalwood and with the aid of contemporary photographs showed the extent of the early trade in WA. Many questions were asked at the end of the talk.
- **The sunny afternoon of 30 April** was ideal for the second event that was a field trip to Gascoyne Park, Woodvale. Eleven members met in the gazebo to hear George Sevastos from the Palm and Cycad Society of WA, outline the role they had in establishing the park using an album of photos to illustrate. He then led a walk explaining the design, identifying a selection of palms in the collection and how theft was a major problem of some of the rarer cycads. At the conclusion a shared afternoon tea was enjoyed by all back at the gazebo.
- **On Sunday 22 May** at the Grove Community Centre, eleven members attended the third event for the year which was a talk by Dr Carl Slusarczyk from the Western Australian Chrysanthemum Society. The first part of his presentation covered the story of chrysanthemum culture since its introduction from China to the West in the 18th century. With the aid of Chinese and western artworks he illustrated the development of the flower and its various forms. The second section was on the history of the society in WA since its formation in 1965 and an ephemera display and flowers grown by Dr Carl, was much admired specially the exhibition blooms of the variety Louisa Pockett.

Advocacy

Guildford. At the request of the Guildford Association the historic Town of Guildford has been placed on the branch's Landscape at Risk. Written communication has taken place with the City of Swan, endorsing their policy of reinstating missing sugar gums *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* in areas of the town where they were original street tree plantings.

Hyde Park. The City of Vincent has commenced converting a section of a toilet block to a commercial café /kiosk. Concerns that root zones of the 120 year old trees were being impacted by vehicular traffic have been brought to the attention of the council.

Heritage legislation. The branch made a submission to the Heritage Council of WA on the draft document for Guidelines for Development of Heritage Protected Places.

Projects

- The publication *Historic Gardens of Perth: European Settlement to Modernism* is in its final stages of editing and due to go to print in the coming months. An article informing members of on the forthcoming publication appeared in the January issue of the Journal.
- The branch NMC representative Patsy Vizents, has recorded oral histories for Tessa Watson, Linda Green and Kingsley Dixon and in her role as National Coordinator for the Oral History Program has been transcribing recordings completed by other branches.
- Application for a grant to the WA History Foundation for redesigning and reformatting the branch's publication *A Guide to Conserving and Interpreting Gardens in Western Australia* has been made.
- The potential of the State listed heritage listed property Sandilands in Busselton to be used for workshops by the branch, was outlined to the committee by Yolanda Cool from the newly formed Heritage Skills Association.
- For a second year, the chairman has been invited to talk on Conservation Plans to third year students studying landscape architecture at the University of Western Australia.

Chair's Report

The branch has accepted the NMC's invitation to host the 2024 National Conference in WA and it will be in Bunbury, a large regional city south of Perth.

An article on the chairman's garden in the *Sunday Times* advertised the society's website, and public talks to gardening and community groups provide the opportunity to disseminate information about the society to a wider public and make them aware of the society's website.

Ten presentations have been given to community groups with two to landscape design students and if a speaker's fee was provided it has been donated to the publication fund to offset the cost of the *Historic Gardens of Perth*.

It was sad to note the death a founding member Carol Mansfield who was on the first committee, wrote journal articles, contributed entries to *The Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens* and was a guest speaker at branch functions.

The revamped newsletter has been well received and an effective way of communicating information to members.

Back issues of the Journal from July 2007 have been donated to the State Reference Library to complete their run of the society's magazine.

The lingering effects of COVID has been felt this year by reduced attendances at branch functions in 2022 but the small hard working committee is looking forward to the challenges of the next year. Many thanks for their expertise and help in planning yearly events and assistance at branch functions.

John Viska

AGHS Treasurer's Report for FY 2022

This report is for the membership of the AGHS (hereafter the Society) following the preparation of the accounts for the financial year ended 30th June 2022.

Much of the activity of AGHS occurs at branch level and so each of the 10 branch treasurers has contributed to the financial health of the Society and this report. I thank them for their contribution to the National Audit report.

Registration Update

The Society's successfully obtained an Australian Business Name Registration (ABNR) and is nationally recognised. The Society has attained status as a charitable organization with not-for-profit status. The National Management Committee is developing a framework and process to attain registration as a cultural organization through the Australian Government's Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, Office for the Arts, Register of Cultural Organisations (ROCO) pathway. Approval to join ROCO is pre-requisite for application for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. DGR status will enable the Society to receive donations that are tax deductible for the donor. Currently, the Society receives any donations via the National Trust. This third-party pathway is not a suitable long-term arrangement, and thus, the Society continues to explore pathways to financial independence.

Accounts Review

The largest fund-raising event of the Society's calendar is via the Annual Conference. As this event has not been held in recent years, due to COVID19 restrictions on public meetings, there have been financial consequences - the Society has not been able to generate significant revenue in recent financial years. The Society is anticipated to deliver a hybrid event, with in-person attendance to the event in Tasmania from Friday 11th to 13th November 2022, and this is expected to contribute to normalising revenue.

Contributions to the Society from individual members and companies continue to be received and are utilized by funding the Society's general expenses. At this time, the annual conference provides the single largest source of membership funds. The Society's reliance on a sole annual event is risky, as can be seen from the recent pandemic side effects. It behoves the Society to develop alternative funding pathways to remain financially sustainable in the future.

Another event that raised funds was the Sydney Conference. This year, the conference was hosted on Zoom. Thanks to Christine Hay's expertise, the event generated healthy funds, despite it being an online event. Typically, the Sydney Conference would have included in-person tours. These had to be cancelled due to COVID19 restrictions.

Additional events are shown under "COVID" in the report and reflect nearly identical results as FY21 - there was no capacity to hold another conference event that generated income.

Because there were no expenses due to restrictions on in-person events, the deficit was reduced from \$85,022 in FY21 to \$16,861 FY22. This is a significant achievement and positions the Society in a much-improved state to deliver on its strategic objectives for FY23.

In summary, the Society has improved its position relative to FY21 and is anticipated to generating positive surpluses in the coming quarters as we all leave Covid restrictions behind us.

Forecasting FY 2022-2023

COVID19 restrictions on public events continue to improve, though not at a pace that is sufficiently promising for a return to pre-pandemic levels. Some mask-free garden tours are now possible. It is anticipated that the Society's financial position will improve as more in-person events across the portfolio are held with fewer interruptions from COVID19 restrictions.

It is recommended that the membership aims to increase in-person attendance at the 2023 Annual Conference including setting minimum target registrations (and in future years). Virtual events have been financially positive for the Society and so it is recommended that these events continue. Such events increase engagement with members whose mobility or time may be restricted for in-person events.

For and on behalf of the AGHS membership, respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Hathway', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Hathway
National Treasurer

Australian Garden History Society Inc

ABN 97 291 212 843

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

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	101,543	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	101,543
Conference income	46,117	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46,117
Functions and tours	-	2,091	6,691	11,909	35,208	440	4,286	1,086	3,114	64,825
Donations and grants	47,572	292	-	-	-	-	1,255	2,500	-	51,619
Interest income	802	11	307	8	6	-	-	2	-	1,136
Income from lectures	-	-	-	2,540	-	-	-	680	-	3,220
Sale of publications	2,506	1,135	-	750	1,917	-	-	150	-	6,458
Other revenue	2,909	395	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,304
Total Income	201,449	3,924	6,998	15,207	37,131	440	5,541	4,418	3,114	278,222
Expenses										
Audit fees	5,800	100	200	100	330	100	100	100	100	6,930
Bank charges	1,335	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,335
Conference expenses	51,308	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51,308
Equipment purchases	-	-	-	534	1,517	-	-	-	-	2,051
Function expenses	-	1,768	3,397	8,748	31,295	-	1,740	189	2,373	49,510
Journal expenses	62,823	340	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63,163
Postage and stationery	1,320	277	253	271	120	-	229	-	-	2,470
Publications	-	-	-	2,021	-	-	-	1,925	-	3,946
Restoration projects and grants	2,500	5,854	3,209	-	3,861	-	-	-	-	15,424
Employee benefits	68,520	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68,520
Sundry expenses	5,507	8,524	2,025	141	225	-	2,060	210	-	18,692
Telephone and internet	783	87	-	-	277	-	-	-	-	1,147
Travel expenses	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Website expenses	10,583	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,583
Total Expenses	210,483	16,950	9,084	11,815	37,625	100	4,129	2,424	2,473	295,083
Operating Results	(9,034)	(13,026)	(2,086)	3,392	(494)	340	1,412	1,994	641	(16,861)

Australian Garden History Society Inc

ABN 97 291 212 843

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

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	650,457	29,224	36,119	36,604	45,714	17,116	25,406	24,039	4,063	868,742
Prepayments	4,545	5,760	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,305
Total Assets	655,002	34,984	36,119	36,604	45,714	17,116	25,406	24,039	4,063	879,047
Liabilities										
Trade and other payables	35,553	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35,553
Loan from KSF	24,583	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,583
Employee benefits	2,648	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,648
Deferred income	310,648	2,040	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	312,688
Total Liabilities	373,432	2,040	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	375,472
Net Assets	281,570	32,944	36,119	36,604	45,714	17,116	25,406	24,039	4,063	503,575
Retained earnings										
Opening balance	290,604	45,970	38,205	33,212	46,208	16,776	23,994	22,045	3,422	520,436
Operating result	(9,034)	(13,026)	(2,086)	3,392	(494)	340	1,412	1,994	641	(16,861)
Closing balance	281,570	32,944	36,119	36,604	45,714	17,116	25,406	24,039	4,063	503,575



AGHS 43rd Annual General Meeting

Sunday 13 November 2022 AEDT

@ 7:45 am

**WREST POINT CASINO
HOBART, TASMANIA**

The Australian Garden History Society invites you to attend the 43rd Annual General Meeting to be held at Wrest Point Casino, Hobart, Tasmania.

AGENDA

- 1** To confirm the minutes of the previous 42nd Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 13 November 2021 via ZOOM online.
- 2** To receive the Co Chairs Report for the year ended June 2022.
- 3** To receive and consider the financial statement for the year ended June 2022.
- 4** To appoint an auditor for the 2022/2023 financial year.
- 5** To elect members of the National Management Committee for the 2022/2023 year.
- 6** General Business.

Please contact **Head Office** to send your apology or if you would like further information.

Lisa Nutting

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER

If you are unable to attend the AGM in person, you can attend online by registering [here](#). We will send you the appropriate link when it becomes available.

info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au ■ M 0419 977 703