



AUSTRALIAN
**GARDEN
HISTORY**
SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT **2022/2023**

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 2023

Patron Professor Tim Entwisle

Office Bearers

Chair Lynne Walker
Deputy Chair Prue Slayter
Treasurer Stephen Hathway
Secretary Helen Oates
Public Officer Lyn Barrett

Elected Members

Lynne Walker
Dot Evans
Caroline Grant
Stephen Hathway
Anna Long
Annabel Murray
Prue Slayter

Branch Representatives

ACT

Anne Claoue-Long

Queensland & Ipswich Convenor

Ann Wegener

Northern NSW

Helen Oates

Southern Highlands NSW

Lyn Barrett

South Australia

Dr Patricia Michell

Sydney

Steven Halliday

Tasmania

Rosie McKinnon (resigned 2023) now vacant

Victoria

Michaela Hill

Western Australia

Vacant

Journal Editor

Francesca Beddie

National Executive Officer

Lisa Nutting

Sub Committees and Working Groups

AGHS MOU with Tour Companies

L Walker, J Maurer

Webinars

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

Partnerships

A Murray, P Slatyer, F Beddie

Advocacy

A Claoue-Long, S Read

Editorial Advisory (EAC)

A Claoue-Long, J Stackhouse,
M Probyn, D Evans

Finance Advisory

S Hathway, T Hogg, M Dwyer

Kindred Spirits

C Morris, P Watts, C Dyson

Oral History Committee

P Vizents (resigned 2023), B Blake,
J Maurer, H Page, Dr M Probyn

Website and Marketing

L Barrett, NEO, A Murray, L Walker

National Chair Report 2022–23

It is our good fortune that Tim Entwisle has continued to do a marvellous job as our Patron representing us and spreading the word about our organisation. Recently he and Lynda have had a change in lifestyle as Tim stepped down from his role as Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and I wish them well in the future.

Thanks to Lynda for supporting him while he has worked away on our behalf and we are delighted he has agreed to continue as our Patron.

Last year, as you know, Tim's book "*Evergreen, The Botanical Life of A Plant Punk*" was published offering a fascinating history of and commentary on botanic gardens around the world and his experiences in many of them. Thank you, Tim for increasing awareness of the importance of botanical gardens and history, as well as providing a very entertaining read.

National Management Committee (NMC)

The NMC has continued the Covid-induced method of meeting by Zoom along with two Zoom/Face to Face meetings in Melbourne in February and Sydney in July. Thanks to the CWA in Melbourne and to Stephen Hathway and Michael Chin in Sydney for providing venues in those cities.

Anne Claoue – Long (ACT), Dr Patricia Michell (SA), Steven Halliday (SYD), Michaela Hill (VIC), Lyn Barrett (SH) Helen Oates (NNSW) will be continuing as Branch representatives.

Rosie McKinnon (TAS) has stepped down for personal reasons as has Patsy Vizents (WA) and I thank them very much and wish them well.

Prue Slatyer, Stephen Hathway, Annabel Murray, Anna Long, Dot Evans, Caroline Grant and I will continue as Elected NMC members.

Ann Wegener (QLD) is stepping down and I thank her most sincerely for representing QLD for the last six years including all her work on chairing and planning this, our 45th conference, in Ipswich.

Branches

As some Branches will attest there has been a decline in membership in many branches and while this can be attributed in part to our demographic, it is important that we continue to engage those members we have while also appealing to new members. Thanks to our various Branch Chairs and their committees for rising to the challenge and you can see their responses in the vibrant Branch reports which follow. There is much more to be done.

National Executive Officer/Staffing

It is with great sadness that I acknowledge Lisa Nutting's resignation after six years working tirelessly for the society. It wasn't until we did the recent staffing review (see below) that I realised just how much Lisa does, both officially and unofficially and I thank her most sincerely for going the extra mile so frequently. Her contact with members has been constant and she has displayed great warmth, good humour and calm and practical dedication.

In the last six months the NMC Executive have been busy looking at the three contractors who work for the Society. This came about in part because our invaluable Editor, Francesca's contract came up for renewal which we undertook to do with alacrity as she does such a great job and our journal is looking so vibrant and interesting. Francesca does much more than that as we discovered which also led us to review our other contractors, designer Mariana Rollgejser and IT specialist Bill Nixon, drawing up revised job descriptions and adjusting rates and hours accordingly. It then became clear just how much and how well those contributors to our Society work together, along with volunteer AGHS member Lachlan Garland and of course, Lisa. My sincere thanks to you all!

Annual National Conferences

Ipswich, Queensland, 29 September – 1 October, 2023

Thanks to the Qld committee, led by Ann Wegener for hosting this year's annual conference and I'm sure we will be delighted by the diverse range of speakers and landscapes not to mention the attractions of Ipswich itself, a revitalised and booming city.

Bunbury, Western Australia 18–20 October 2024

Planning is well underway for this conference in Bunbury thanks to the team led ably by John Viska. The theme is *Hesperia: New Horizons*. Many of us remember the vibrant conference in Albany several years ago and I am sure Bunbury's will delight us as well.

Alice Springs, 2025

At this stage we are investigating holding the 2025 conference in Alice Springs. Dot and Mike Evans are heading the investigation and the response from the Alice community has been very positive. On a recent visit I was most impressed by what the region has to offer. A decision will be made before the end of the year.

Membership

Current membership is 1590, a 5.5% increase on last year and both the NMC committee and the Branch committee continue to work not only on expanding the membership but also keeping the current members involved with active calendars full of interesting events.

We lost two very significant members of our society this year, one of the early society founders Peter Valder and also Chris Betteridge, Heritage landscape and environmental specialist, both of whom worked tirelessly protecting historic gardens and cultural landscapes generally. I am sure their influence will live on both figuratively and literally as they were both interviewed as part of our National Oral History programme and their interviews can be accessed through that site on our website.

It is to be hoped that Branches are continuing to record interviews with significant garden historians in their region as a vital part of our garden history.

Advocacy

Anne Claoue-Long is in the final stages of completing the eagerly anticipated Advocacy Tool Kit which she has been working on for over a year with valued input from working group members, Stuart Read and Juliet Ramsay. Sadly our services are required more and more in our advocacy role as the modern world continues to expand and threaten our historic and cultural landscapes and this kit will provide a hands-on guide enabling us to contribute towards saving those which should be saved. Anne's fellow members of the NMC look forward to endorsing the kit. In the meantime please read about the different advocacy projects undertaken across the country in the Branch reports.



Lynne Walker
National AGHS Chair

Branch Reports

ACT MONARO RIVERINA BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Bronwyn Blake
Secretary	Nancy Clarke
Treasurer	Sue Cassidy
State NMC Representative	Anne Claoue-Long
Committee	Lynne Curran, Louise Gaudry, Susan Phillips
Newsletter Editor	Judy Pearce

Functions

2022

- **25 AUGUST AGM:** Annual Lecture by Dr Stephen Utick: *The Enduring Camellia Tree*
- **17 SEPTEMBER:** Guided 4WD and walking tour of Nil Desperandum Camellia Grove in Tidbinbilla
- **15 OCTOBER:** Joint event with National Trust ACT of Lambrigg, Tharwa
- **20 OCTOBER:** Visit to Two Before Ten sustainable Urban Farm, Café and Bar in Aranda

2023

- **1 FEBRUARY:** Guided tour of National Gallery of Australia's *Cressida Campbell Exhibition*
- **24 MARCH:** Guided walk led by Anna Howe: *Is that a Cordyline among the Callistemons? A walk in the streets of Hackett*
- **12 APRIL:** Opening of exhibition Hackett – a Mid Century Modern Suburb by the ACT Minister for Heritage, Rebecca Vassarotti. Joint with National Trust ACT
- **15 APRIL:** Hosted stall at National Trust ACT Open Day at Duntroon Dairy. A Canberra and Region Heritage Festival event
- **21 APRIL:** Self-drive tour to four Gardens of the Monaro: *Anne and Howard Charles garden in Cooma, Blairgowrie, Mia Mia, Erindale*
- **22 APRIL:** Joint guided walk with National Trust ACT led by Anna Howe: *Hackett Heritage: A Mid-Century Modern Hub. A Canberra and Region Heritage Festival event*
- **21 JUNE:** Lunch and film *The Rose Maker*, preceded by a talk by AGHS Member and branch committee member Louise Gaudry
- **5 JULY:** Talk by Max Bourke AM: *French Botanising in Australia in the 18th and 19th Centuries*

Advocacy

Advocacy this year has included submissions for conservation of trees in Haig Park, Lombardy poplars in the National Library of Australia forecourt, feedback to Duncan Marshall on the update of the Parkes Place CMP and comment on the new York Park North Oak Plantation CMP. Particular thanks to Anne Claoue-Long who is not only our National Management Committee Branch representative, National Management Editorial Advisory Committee Chair she is also our Branch Advocacy Officer.

Chair's Report

Our branch has had a busy and productive year.

I am incredibly grateful to our committee for their commitment, generosity and energy and Judy Pearce who provides invaluable support as our wonderful newsletter editor. Whilst small in number, we have worked hard to organise a diverse program, including joint events with the National Trust, as well as advocate for issues in our region.

I would like to thank Lynne Curran who has finished her term on the Committee. Lynne coordinated our newsletter content and liaised with our newsletter editor Judy Pearce. Her considered approach to all committee matters and skills in organising events will be missed.

Early this year our branch and members made a significant contribution to the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival through our involvement in two events including an exhibition and a walk and I would particularly like to acknowledge the efforts of Anna Howe and Anne Claoue-Long in bringing these to fruition. Anna led a wonderful guided walk through the streets of Hackett highlighting how its Mid-Century Modern domestic architecture, gardens and urban development have withstood the test of time and developed an excellent supporting exhibition with the help of Anne and Mariana Rollgejser which was opened at the Hackett shops by the ACT Minister for Heritage Rebecca Vassarotti. Unfortunately, Anne's planned guided walk through some of Canberra's oldest and recently established parks and gardens of Kingston Foreshores had to be deferred due to cold, windy and wet weather.

Whilst not part of our formal branch program, we were also thrilled two of our members were asked to speak at special heritage events this year. In August, on behalf of the AGHS, Anne Claoue-Long gave a presentation on the health giving properties of gardens and landscapes to the ACT Heritage Symposium which was very well received. And Max Bourke AM, who many will know from listening to his recently recorded oral history has a long and distinguished career in heritage and conservation, was invited to be the inaugural presenter of the National Trust (ACT) Heritage Oration on World Heritage Day in April. In making the announcement, the National Trust (ACT) said that the Heritage Oration provided an opportunity for a prominent heritage leader and thinker to deliver an address on the current state and future directions of heritage nationally and in the ACT. Max spoke about *Australian heritage at the cross-roads – looking back and forward without breaking my neck*.

Finally, I would like to thank our members, both locally and further afield, who have supported our events.

Bronwyn Blake

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Ann Wegener
Secretary	Lois Closter
Treasurer	Elizabeth Teed
	Susan Booth Roberta Blake (resigned 26 July 2023), Helen McKay
	John Taylor. Co opted for Conference Planning Jane Lennon, Peter Bridgman

Functions

Visit to Sculpture Gardens, Mt Glorious.

Qld events were delayed by wet weather, death of Sculptor and Covid

Projects

The QLD Branch has been very busy organising the 2023 Ipswich National Conference

Chair's Report

This year the Qld branch devoted its year to organising the National Conference.

Some discussion occurred about the smaller number of registrations and were factors like location, timing, ageing members, pent up post Covid overseas travel demands, cost contributors? Speaker program organisers Susan Booth and John Taylor have assembled what I think is an impressive line-up of speakers and topics and as we approach the pointy end of our organizing, I thank all the committee for their contributions in planning the Conference.

The committee has delayed holding its AGM until after the Ipswich Conference. A majority of the current committee will not be seeking re appointment and as I have served my 6-year term as the NMC representative a new representative is required.

Finally, goodbye Lisa. It's been a pleasure to work with Lisa. She has been available to give advice, direction and wise counsel particularly for conference planning. All for a modest remuneration and for which our branch requested review prior to her resignation.

Our branch wishes Lisa well in her future endeavours.

Ann Wegener

SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Richard Heathcote
Vice-Chair, NMC representative	Dr Patricia Michell
Treasurer/Secretary	Di Wilkins
Committee	Jane Smylie, Christine McCabe, Dot Evans, Mike Evans

Functions

Post the pandemic it took a while to build momentum amongst the members for the program of Branch activities. The 2022 AGM was held in the new Board room at Carrick Hill and the guest speaker was the new Director, Susan McCormac. She expressed her support and commitment for creating a physical home for the Gardening Museum. The meeting was well attended and followed by a viewing of the travelling exhibition *'The Blade – Australia's love affair with lawn'* that is installed in the stables accessible to all visitors.

Members of the AGHS were invited to the spring launch of *'Lady of the House'* a new rose commissioned by Carrick Hill to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Sir Edward and Lady Hayward's gift of their historic house and garden to the people of South Australia. The event was in the program of the conference of the World Federation of Roses Societies held in Adelaide in November 2022.

SA Branch annual Garden Party (December) was hosted by Christine McCabe (a member and author of *Gardens of the Adelaide Hills*) at her Littlehampton home 'Blakiston'. In February the Branch visited the newly opened museum dedicated to the life of explorer Captain Charles Sturt at his home 'The Grange' (1840). Of particular note in the display was the specimen sheet of Sturt's Desert Pea (*Swainsona formosa*) and plant collecting equipment such as his vasculum. Other Branch visits included Glen Ewin Estate, Houghton, an example of the early agrarian development on Adelaide and the Hills. The original stone homestead was toured and the estate explored that is now a commercial fig growing orchard, we sampled Fig Gin and other products. It is historically renowned for its pioneering initiative as a commercial producer and supplier of jam and sauces using local produce.

Trevor Nottle researched and wrote an illustrated lecture for the annual SA History Festival in May. It was a jointly held event between AGHS and the Friends of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens which sold out. The topic was *'A Wonderful plant connection – Japan and the Adelaide Hills'* which traced the links between the Yokohama Nursery Company and Hills gardens that received exotic Japanese plants from this internationally regarded nursery.

Advocacy

Advocacy has taken up much of the Branch's energy as members joined the campaign and petitioned the SA Government against the use of a large block of South Park Lands (Mirna Wirra) for the SA Police to build barracks, stables and a command centre for the mounted police section. AGHS supported the activities coordinated by the Park Lands Association to oppose the selection of this site and lobby to be located on one of the other 14 places that were considered. The Premier wrote to Branch Chair Richard Heathcote on 8, June, 2023 informing him another site would be used other than in the Park Lands.

The Branch committee agreed to developing a plan for a future AGHS Conference in Alice Springs.

Richard Heathcote

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair and Secretary	Ruth Bailey PhD
Treasurer	Lynda Cowley
Event Coordinator	Eleanor Dartnall
Committee	Jenny Woodwell, Bud Townsing, Chris O'Brien
Off Committee	Lyn Barrett, NMC representative Laurel Cheetham, Wingecarribee Heritage Committee representative Ray Bradley, Tours

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

Held on 21 August 2022 with speakers Chris Thompson from Harper's Mansion - "A Struggle for Relevance" and John Siemon from Mt Annan Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust - "Past, Present and Future".

Coach Tour

The National Arboretum, a Griffith town garden and the Old Parliament House rose garden were visited on 13 October, 2022.

Coach Tour

Heritage homes and gardens in Bathurst, Millthorpe and Carcoar were visited on a coach tour on 4-7 November, 2022.

Convention Hobart

Attended the 2 day National Conference in Hobart 11-14 November as well as post conference tour 15-17 November, 2022.

Christmas Party

Drinks were held at the historic property *Hopewood*, Bowral on 1 December, 2022

Self Drive

Self drive to *Berry gardens* and *Coolangatta Estate Homestead* was held on 22 February, 2023.

Private Garden Visit

Members visited *Tavistock* in Exeter, a new garden showing resilient strategies as a result of flooding and drought, which was held on 29 March, 2023.

Southern Highlands Botanic Garden Autumn Fair

A stall was held on 22-23 April to showcase the Isobel and Claude Crowe exhibition at the Berrima Museum and encourage new members to sign up for the AGHS.

Winter Solstice Seminar

Was held on 25 June 2023 with speakers Dr Stephen Utick "*The Bicentennial of Camellia Collections in NSW: Reflective Lessons for Garden History, both Local and Global*" and Nick Corbett of the NSW National Trust "*Threats and Opportunities of the The Gardens of the Southern Highlands*".

Upcoming Events

Book Auction

Garden books being auctioned to members and friends during July 2023.

AGM and Second Winter Seminar

To be held on 27 August 2023 with speakers Ben Heyman speaking about Gardening at Great Dixter, UK” and Geoff Duggan, Master Craftsman Dry Stone Wall Association of Great Britain speaking on “Stonewalling in the Southern Highlands”.

Self Drive Garden Visit

Camden Park and environs visit is planned for 25 October to view the house and gardens and see recent renovations to the heritage gardens.

Private Garden Visit

A visit to the property “Southdown” in Bowral, is planned for 5 November 2023

Coach Tour

A one day tour is planned for 21 November. Braidwood and surrounding areas will be visited.

Christmas Drinks

Will be held at the Berrima Museum to view the new Thrushwood Garden slide series as part of the *Gardens and Landscapes of the Southern Highlands - Then and Now* exhibition. It is hoped the new statue of Charlotte Atkinson, the first children author in Australia will be installed also by this time in the park opposite the museum.

Advocacy

Wrote to the Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC) to decline the DA application (DA 23/1255) for dual occupancy and subdivision for 2 Edward St (also known as 33 Boolwey St) Bowral. This property is within the current LEP Bowral Heritage Conservation Area. More importantly it is one of the houses in the Glebe Estate which is being recommended for future heritage listing. In the Glebe Estate the lot sizes are typically 1,490 to 2,200 m². Gardens are filled with established old trees and significant gardens which contribute to the beauty and appeal of the heritage area. Of note in the development plan, 5 very large trees will be removed as well as a section of a well established hedge. The loss of these trees would have considerable impact on the site. A new driveway also is proposed to enter from Edward St with consequent loss of the established streetscape. The resulting dwelling density is inconsistent with the Glebe Estate so would have a significant impact on the aesthetic of Edward St. If this DA is approved and subdivision occurs, this new dwelling will be attached to the original house with no allowance for green space.

Wrote to the Wingecarribee Shire Council to object to the DA application (DA 23/1247) for dual occupancy and subdivision for 4 Myrtle St, Bowral. Alf Stephens and Son builders constructed this home and many business and individual homes in the Southern Highlands. These buildings have created a look in Bowral which makes it most attractive to people to live and work here. In addition, the landscapes surrounding these buildings are helping to create an environment which would most likely help keep the town cooler as our climate increases in temperature. Green space is clearly associated with keeping urban areas cooler. However, when developers construct multiple homes on these blocks considerable landscaping and trees in particular are lost. The lot size of 4 Myrtle Street is currently 1,624 m². If subdivision is approved the existing house will be on a lot of 1,024 m² and the attached new dwelling will be on a lot of 600 m² with less room for green space. Of concern to the AGHS is the significant loss of land for the growth of trees and gardens which would contribute to the cooling of the property. This property and several other properties in Myrtle Street are under consideration for inclusion in the Heritage Conservation Area in Bowral. A development such as is proposed would be an overdevelopment on this site when this property is included in the Bowral Conservation Area.

Projects

Berrima Museum Exhibition

The exhibition “*Gardens and Landscapes of the Southern Highlands - Then and Now*” has been a great success this past year. Many visitors requested information to be included on Isobel and Claude Crowe as these were highly regarded previous owners of the Berrima Bridge Nursery which had an impressive impact on the gardens and streetscapes of the Southern Highlands. Bud Townsing (on the AGHS-SHB Committee) took this to heart and created a new slide presentation for the museum. In addition, he created a book outlining the the history of the Berrima Bridge Nursery and which also featured 60 homes and gardens which were hand drawn by Claude Crowe recommending particular trees and plants. He drew many more garden plans for free but these did not include addresses so couldn't be located. Current day streetscape photos were taken as well as Nearmap images. These were vertical photographs taken at 30,000 feet but still show exquisite detail of the houses and gardens.

A Garden Recording

A garden recording of Thrushwood on 28A Cliff St Bowral has been in process since September, 2022. It has been a family residence for 47 years before being sold in February 2023. The owners have been avid plant collectors for the past 8 years so the garden is unique in the Southern Highlands. It has never been shown to the general public due to lack of parking in the street. About 85% of all plants were identified in the 2782 m2 garden and plans drawn to locate all plants in 15 separate gardens on the property. A slide presentation has been prepared to include in the Berrima Museum Exhibition (see above). A book is currently in draft form and will be finished in the future.

Station Street Camellias

Mr. 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 1930's and the 18 heritage 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 2023 and completed the extensive undergrowth clean up of the terraces several months later. The trachyte walls have been renovated and new camellias have been planted in the terraces. The official opening of Station Street was held on 19 July, 2023.

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 466 items and 13 new or extended heritage conservation areas. Council has now approved the Review and after several actions within the WSC it will go on public exhibition in the near future.

Public relations

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

In term 3 of U3A Eleanor Dartnall will be presenting to potentially 80 people on Downsizing from a Large Garden to a Smaller Garden. She will mention AGHS-SHB in her presentation and will make the pamphlet on our list of events over the past 4.5 years available to all attendees.

Tertini Wines provided generous discounts for wine for our events and gifts to speakers until December 2022. The winery was then sold.

Chair's Report

Despite the desire for many people to minimise attending group functions, as a result of Covid potential transmission, we had good attendance at our events this past year. We have been able to provide events on an almost monthly basis. Due to the variety of events, some free, some not and offering both large and small events and one and multiple day trips we've been able to grow our membership to 188 people. This is an 8% growth over the previous two years. We have lost only a handful of members in the past few years during Covid but attendance at events has been steadily increasing.

We have had three outstanding achievements in 2022/2023. These were the additional Claude Crowe slide presentation for the Berrima Museum Exhibition as well as the history book on the same subject.

The Christmas party at the heritage home of Hopewood, Bowral where 75+ people enjoyed not only the extensive and beautiful garden but were able to view of the downstairs of the house where many of Tim Storrier's paintings were able to be seen.

The visit to private garden called Tavistock in Exeter was also a great success. We welcomed over 75 people to this garden where they were enthralled not only at the newly garden created from a derelict property but also the efforts which had to be undertaken by the owners to rectify damage created by drought and floods. It was a story of resilience and creativity by the owners and a lesson learned for many visitors as our climate is undergoing change.

I would like to thank Ray Bradley for continuing to provide single day and multiple day tours for the branch now as an off committee member.

Ruth Bailey, PhD

SYDNEY

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Anne Smith
Vice-Chair	Steven Halliday
Secretary	Susan Stratton,
Treasurer	David Low
Committee	Stephen Hathway, Ba An Le, Jan Churcher, Wendy Robinson, Judie Rawling

Functions

- **July:** *Lisgar Gardens – From the Dream of Max Cotton to an International Camellia Gardens of Excellence* – talk and guided walk led by international camellia expert Dr Stephen Utick at Lisgar Gardens at Hornsby. This beautiful bushland garden's history was outlined and significant camellias were identified. The Friends of Lisgar Gardens along with the AGHS Committee provided afternoon tea.
- **August:** AGM followed by *Fernhill – An Historic Cultural Landscape and/or a Recreational Greater Sydney Parkland?* – an illustrated talk by Dr James Broadbent on Fernhill, Mulgoa, an early colonial house and landscape of the highest heritage significance purchased in 2018 by the NSW Government. Dr Broadbent spoke of its history, cultural landscape and the ongoing advocacy for its conservation.
- **September:** *Haberfield to Horsley, A Self-Drive Tour* – a self-drive tour of historic gardens in Western Sydney - starting at Yasmar in Haberfield, then proceeding to The Appian Way at Burwood, Elizabeth Farm in Parramatta for lunch, Wistaria Gardens at Parramatta Park and finally Horsley at Horsley Park for afternoon tea. This continued the garden tours originally planned as part of our 2020 National Conference 'Many Dreams, One Landscape'.
- **November:** *The AGHS National Conference in Hobart - Landscape on the Edge - Challenge and Opportunity* – The Conference speakers inspired us with their scholarship, creativity and thoughts especially about the future of threatened species and gardens in the world of climate change. The gardens visits were varied and informative, full of impressive trees and plants..
- **December:** *Branch Christmas Party* – a gathering held in the lovely secluded garden at Rothwell Lodge, a restored 1847 property in Glebe, the home of two of our members, Robert Hannan and Peter Crawshaw where it was great to catch up with members.
- **February:** *Ferdinand Bauer and the Hapsburgs* – an illustrated talk by David Stuart at the National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill. The presentation showed some of the detailed illustrations produced by Bauer, the talented natural history artist and botanist who accompanied Captain Mathew Flinders on the first circumnavigation of Australia from 1801-03
- **April:** *Garden and Plant Images in Ancient Egypt* – an Illustrated talk by Wendy Robinson at the National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill. Structures, furniture and art from Ancient Egypt showing details of some gardens and plants grown and used in that era were presented.
- **May:** *Glebe, its History and Gardens* – a walking tour of Glebe led by Robert Hannan assisted by Peter Crawshaw. The tour included many historic sites as well as entry to Lyndhurst and Margaretta Cottage and finishing with afternoon tea at Rothwell Lodge, Robert and Peter's home.
- **June:** *Paul Sorensen, landscape designer (life and Career)* – Stuart Read presented an on-line talk on the great landscape designer and nurseryman Paul Sorensen revealing his huge breadth of work including gardens and plans across NSW and the ACT.

Advocacy

Gregory Place Build-to-Rent proposal at Parramatta – a couple of members wrote quick individual private objections. We found out about this proposal too late to do any more than this as the cut-off time at the end of August was imminent.

The proposed concept development is for an affordable housing and build-to-rent development comprising approximately 483 dwellings within three freestanding four to eight storey buildings. This development is close to Hambledon Cottage and within the Harris Park area of National Significance.

Berry Petrol Station – The AGHS Sydney Branch have submitted a letter objecting to the modifications to the DA for a service station in Queen Street, Berry due to heritage concerns about the height, mass and style of the development in this historic landscape.

Trove – AGHS Sydney Branch submitted a letter to the Hon. Tony Burke MP in support of the continued funding of TROVE. Wendy Robinson on the Sydney Committee not only wrote the letter for the branch but also successfully encouraged many PhD students to also write letters in support of Trove.

Callan Park TPG tower – a submission was sent to Inner West Council's Legal Team highlighting the visual impact of the TPG tower on Callan Park and the outstanding cultural heritage of the area.

Pymont Bridge Road, Blackwattle Bay -AGHS Sydney Branch wrote a letter to Infrastructure NSW objecting to the proposed raising of the level of Pymont Bridge Road in front of the renovated Sydney Fish Markets in Blackwattle Bay. In response to the many objections, Multiplex have submitted a re-design to the DPE, where the road level is not raised, thus saving the heritage listed figs in Wentworth Park from a severe pruning. AGHS is pleased with this outcome.

Projects

- Publication of triannual *Branch Cuttings* – a detailed newsletter including illustrated reports on events, advocacy and an article on a topic of interest to members.
- Publication of monthly high quality E-news alerting members of events.
- Setting in train the Oral History recording of Stuart Read, to be interviewed by Roslyn Burge later in 2023.

Chair's Report

The Sydney Branch undertook a wide range of successful events over the past year, covering a variety topics and places, all very thought-provoking, interesting and enjoyable. Lisgar Gardens, the Glebe walk and the Western Sydney tour were outstanding days out visiting glorious historic gardens while the Christmas Party at Rothwell Lodge at Glebe was a delightful gathering in a lovely space. We learnt a great deal from the many talks including the breadth of work and talent of Ferdinand Bauer and Paul Sorensen; the conservation challenges facing Fernhill and the fascinating society and plant use of Ancient Egypt. We are extremely grateful that so many knowledgeable people are willing to share their expertise at these events.

There has been much input and assistance from our very capable Branch Committee members in running events, writing advocacy letters and producing communications. Our hard-working secretary, Susan Stratton, a much-valued committee member is standing down from the Sydney committee. We thank her for her exceptional work both as secretary and committee member over the years. She will be greatly missed on the committee.

Christine Hay

Northern NSW

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

- First weekend of each month – working bee in the Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez Homestead, supported by Armidale Lions Club members.
- Last weekend of each month - NNSW branch meeting and/or presentation, followed by dinner.
- Working bees on the Rosey Roundabout and in the Pocket Park at the Airport Business Park.
- **25 September 2022** – presentation by Maria Hitchcock, *King Island and Bruny Island*, following branch meeting.
- **26 September 2022** – Backstories of Innovation at UNE Smart Incubator (NOVA) – *New England Garden* – Historical introduction by Bill Oates, Introduction to AGHS by Helen Oates
- **25 October 2022** – Tour of HRGS by Ross Tours, hosted by Lynne Walker and Liz Chappell.
- **6 November 2022** – Tour of HRGS by visiting garden group, hosted by Cath Gordon
- **3 & 4 December 2022** – Open Garden fund raising event for Heritage Rose Garden Saumarez, held at *Kamarra*, Kelly's Plains Road, Armidale. Profit of over \$2,700 used to purchase gravel mulch for the HRGS.
- Better Homes and Gardens national television program filming onsite in Heritage Rose Garden, guided by Dar Brookes.
- Presentation to Armidale Family History Group, highlighting the AGHS national Oral History project.
- **25 February 2023** – Welcome to 2023 branch dinner at Armidale City Bowling Club.
- **27 February 2023** – Guyra Garden Club visit to Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez Homestead.
- **21 April 2023** – Soiree in the Heritage Rose Garden, including commemorative seat dedications to Mareah Rhodes-White and Jillian Oppenheimer, and tree plantings for Jillian Oppenheimer and Sally Croft.
- **25 May 2023** – Following branch meeting, presentation by Lou Forsythe, coordinator of the New England Garden Festival to be held on 18 & 19 November at Armidale Racecourse.
- **24 & 25 June 2023** – Weekend visit to Roto House in Port Macquarie, tour of Mrs Yorke's Garden, Sea Acres boardwalk, visit to historic cemetery.

Advocacy

- 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 *Boooloominbah*, the institution's historic home and administration centre.
- Submissions to Armidale Regional Council in response to ongoing concerns of adverse impacts of the Sustainable Saumarez Homestead Tourism Project Development Application (revised plans), on the heritage precinct at Saumarez Homestead. Advised by ARC on 3 August 2023 of granting of conditional approval for project. Further information is to be sought from ARC Mayor and Town Planning department relating to details of changes to original plans and any conditions to be met.
- Successful update of Memorandum of Understanding between AGHS Northern NSW branch and National Trust NSW in relation to the ongoing operation of the Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez Homestead.
- Ongoing discussion with the National Parks and Wildlife Service NSW in Port Macquarie who sought AGHS advice relating to the re-establishment of period gardens and parklands attached to Roto House. Further site visits are planned.

Projects

- Successful Transgrid Community Partnerships Grant application. \$2,000 received for *Sustainability of water usage in the Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez Homestead*. The grant will fund the purchase and spreading of additional gravel mulch to replace the vegetation mulch previously used. Use of gravel mulch has evolved as we respond to the need to reduce heavy manual labour such as regular mulching and weeding. There is also an important outcome of reducing the use of water in the garden and improving sustainability through drought.
- The Fitzhardinge Rose Project – With only 4 (*R Warrawee*, *R Prudence*, *R Lady Edgeworth David* and *R Lubra*) of the original 12 Olive Fitzhardinge hybrid tea roses available in nurseries, and then only rarely, the Fitzhardinge bred roses are at risk of being lost. With the additional connection of Fitzhardinge to the New England, it is important that the Heritage Rose Garden is able to act as a repository for her remaining roses. An amount of \$5,000 was received from the Heritage Roses in Australia Inc (HRiA) David Ruston Heritage Rose Conservation Grant. The funds are being used to obtain budwood, source rootstock, and to work with Green E Roses at Dural to grow out 40 plants. Budwood was located at the Victoria State Rose Garden in Werribee, Victoria. It is expected that the first of the roses will be mature in 2025, some for planting in the Heritage Rose Garden, some for returning to the Victoria State Rose Garden, and some for sale to AGHS and garden club members.

Chair's Report

Our first full year as a stand-alone branch has been one of consolidation and of planning for the future. We are so fortunate to have a band of willing workers in our executive team, and our broader membership, who undertake the tasks required with enthusiasm, skill, and dedication. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of our branch, and for sharing their skills and time with us. I know our members appreciate and enjoy every event, newsletter, fundraiser, and social occasion. A number of our executive members are standing down at the AGM in August. It will be time for others to come to the fore and replace them, so our branch continues to thrive. We have always been fortunate to have enthusiastic members who step up when needed.

More broadly, the next year will bring some challenges as we attempt to take our branch from our traditional New England base to the wider northern NSW region. Our recent visit to Port Macquarie and the ongoing Roto House project in that area is a fine start. A planned weekend visit to Coffs Harbour in March 2024 will continue our spread into coastal areas. Strategies for engaging with western NSW areas will also be developed, through initial contact with existing garden clubs and visits to a number of towns.

Our ongoing commitment to the operation of the Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez Homestead will require significant fundraising efforts, as we replace manual labour previously provided by our aging group of members, with purchased labour. We are fortunate to have developed a positive relationship with the BackTrack organisation in Armidale, where a reliable and skilled work force can be sourced. We are grateful for the ongoing support of this group, and many other community and business groups in our region.

Helen Oates

TASMANIA BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Rosie Mackinnon
Secretary	Antonia Dunne
Treasurer	Ian Kilgour
Blue Gum editor	Jennifer Stackhouse
Events Co-ordinator	Wyn Manners, Leslie Kilgour
Membership officer	Ann Stark
Special Projects officer	Andrew Robert-Tissot
Advocacy officer	Sue Small

Functions

- Garden Landscapes d'Entrecasteaux Channel September 2022
- Three Garden Landscapes: Christine & Lindsay Campbell's native garden, Sue and David Jenkins' tightly designed vistas, and historic Klok garden Kibbenjelok in restoration and expansion.
- Christmas Garden Party. Sunnyside and original Sunnyside stables. Swanston St New Town, Hobart December 2022
- Government House Gardens and Significant Trees with afternoon tea in tennis pavilion. February 2023
- The "Convict Road" between Buckland and Orford an unprotected heritage landscape guided walk and self-catered lunch. February 2023
- Two day tour Rural Landscapes of Northern Tasmania with Winter Lecture 1 and Lunch May 2023. Visited Douglas Park, Kirklands church, Connorville and Mount Ireh. Lecture by author and photographer, Richard Allen and Kimbal Baker, "Great Properties of Tasmania"
- Winter Lecture 2, Using Convict Records to Explore Garden History with Professor Hamish Maxwell Stewart. Richmond Town Hall July 2023.
- AGM and Lecture 3. Anne D McConnell - Cultural Heritage Management, Archaeology & Quaternary Geoscience. The cultural landscape values of *Cambria* and the ramifications for protection through heritage listing and statutory planning mechanisms. September 2023.

Advocacy

1. A draft *City of Launceston Urban Greening Strategy* was presented for public comment earlier in 2023. AGHS (TAS) is following up with the City of Launceston to understand what mechanisms will enable one of the nominated guiding principles: **Design for heritage sensitivity**.

Within the nominated themes there appeared to be no mention of how the design for heritage sensitivity would be incorporated and implemented.

It is critical that existing native and exotic trees are valued as much as new plantings.

The strategy aims to 'shift focus from managing trees on an individual basis towards delivering a whole-of-forest approach'. It was unclear how existing trees,

- were to be maintained and protected as pressure to increase the density of the city and inner suburbs increases, and
 - what adaptations to the existing urban forests including our aging street trees will be implemented to ensure they survive for as long as possible.
2. Preliminary enquiries have begun to determine whether the **Buckland–Orford convict road** could be better protected, managed and maintained if it was listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register. AGHS members walked along several kilometres of the road in March. Convict-built structures including stone bridges, several stone culverts, were seen along the beautiful white gum-lined Buckland section and a very long and high stone retaining wall running along much of the scenic track above the Prosser River between Orford and the Paradise Probation Station.

Our guide, Malcolm Ward, expressed interest in the possibility of registering the road. On enquiry, Heritage Tasmania officers advise that the Buckland and Paradise Probation Stations are currently being assessed for the register. There is no previous record of a nomination for the road linking these probation stations, arguably the reason for many of the convicts being posted to this region. A nomination would be welcome.

3. AGHS (NMC) and AGHS (Tas) expressed opposition to the AFL stadium being proposed for Macquarie Point in Hobart as a 'Landscape at Risk' on the grounds that the structure will diminish the impact and reverential ambience overlooking the wharf and river's mouth from where the first contingent of troops sailed out to WW1. The height and bulk of the stadium contravene the principles in the planning scheme for new development adjacent to sites of cultural significance. That is they are to be considerably smaller than their culturally significant neighbour, and to avoid being individually prominent in the immediate historic urban landscape.

Projects

Oral History

Jean Elder and Rhonda Hamilton have had a successful year interviewing Catherine Shields, landscape architect, Will Fletcher founder of Plants of Tasmania and cultivator of Tasmanian indigenous plants as Bonsai and Mark Geeves a horticulturist and lecturer. Future interviews include Bob Cherry, plant breeder and nurseryman and stories from early AGHS members and gardeners. We are delighted that Rhonda Hamilton has joined the national Oral History committee.

Special Projects

We are assisting the National Trust for grant applications to draw up a landscape plan, building repairs and landscape works for Penhanga Queenstown.

Existing landscape plans are being reviewed for Clarendon at Evandale.

Volunteers are keen to start work on restoring Enid Lyon's blue garden at Home Hill Devonport. We are waiting on the Devonport City Council's approval. Presently a new pavilion is being built.

Andrew Robert Tissot chairs the Significant Tree committee with the National Trust's "Trust Trees Project". Members are being encouraged to submit nominations that will be assessed and updated to the list.

Chair's Report

Advocacy work and developing our membership base have been our goals this year. Membership is growing and we have seen an increase in the north of the state. We have 29 new members in the last twelve months. With Zoom meetings being the norm we are encouraging northern and north western members to join the committee.

Our major advocacy focus has been the objecting by letter and in person to the proposed AFL Stadium Macquarie Point in Hobart. This controversial matter is yet to come before state parliament.

The decisions by the Tasmanian Planning Commission to review the proponent's altered applications of the Cambria Estate development, Swansea are ongoing. This includes future plans for the Cambria homestead and precinct.

Our Editor of *Bluegum*, Jennifer Stackhouse is retiring after fulfilling her 9 year tenure. Her contribution as a committee member and Editor has been invaluable. We are indebted to her vast horticultural network, editorial skills and the ability to bring national news to our members. Having been involved with the Society for many years she was able to bring a wide perspective to our decision making. We thank her for her advice and interest in the branch.

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 (resigned April 2023)
Bookings	Robyn Teed
Newsletter	Lynda Entwisle
Working Bees	Diana Ellerton
Advocacy	Ros Savio/Michaela Hill
Catering	Annie Woodside
NMC Representative	Michaela Hill

Functions

The branch committee was very pleased to be able to deliver the following functions to our members:

Lectures

- **18 August 2022** – AGM and lecture on “Edna Walling – an unusual life,” by author Sara Hardy
- **6 June 2023** – Zoom lecture by Sarah Kirby on “Love of a crowd, a band and “a gardens” – Music, Recreation and Gardens at Nineteenth-Century International Exhibitions”

Events and trips

- **14 August 2022** – Winter Walk and Talk at Wattle Park with Professor Tim Entwisle and Lynda Entwisle.
- **25 September 2022** – Visit to Nobelius Heritage Park and Emerald Museum plus a visit to Goronga to launch the latest garden history booklet about this property which was written by Tim Gatehouse.
- **8-9 October 2022** – Self-drive weekend to the Bellarine Peninsula to visit a diverse collection of gardens and landscapes.
- **14 October 2022** – Visit to the gardens and interiors of La Trobe’s cottage, home of the first Lieutenant Governor, and the current Government House.
- **1 December 2023** – Christmas Walk and talk at Kamesburgh Gardens, Brighton.
- **9 February 2023** – Walk and talk at Mont Park led by Trevor Pitkin.
- **1 March 2023** – Self-drive to Beleura and Peter Nicholson’s garden in Mornington.
- **1-2 April 2023** – Weekend bus trip to “Glorious Gippsland Gardens.”

Working Bees

A long-held tradition of the Victorian Branch are the working bees in heritage gardens to assist owners. This year the following took place:

- 30 July 2022 – Turkeith
- 20 August 2022 – Belmont
- 26 March 2023 – Longacres
- 23 April 2023 – Medlow
- 25 June 2023 – Belmont

Advocacy

Some examples of major advocacy submissions and comments made on behalf of the branch are:

- **Royal Exhibition Buildings and Carlton Gardens, World Heritage Environs Area draft World Heritage Strategy Plan:** The draft review of this plan was released in July 2021 and several submissions at the various stages have been made over the past year.
- **Buninyong Botanic Gardens Reserve:** Several letters and comments were submitted to the City of Ballarat in relation to plans to undertake works to strengthen the Gong Reservoir dam wall in the centre of the Reserve, which showed little regard for the significance of the plantings and impact on the gardens. A Master Plan has now been prepared and the branch is maintaining a watching brief.
- A submission was made to Heritage Victoria objecting to the proposed construction of the batter along the eastern side of the **HV McKay Gardens in Sunshine** as part of the Airport Rail Link project. The batter would impede the historic visual link with the former Sunshine Harvester Works site and impact significant existing trees. Heritage Victoria has not yet made a decision on this application. The proposed works associated with the new Airport Rail Link, have been deferred.
- A submission was made to Hepburn Shire Council to reinforce the Council meeting decision that the existing Avenues of Honour and other significant trees are not significantly impacted by the proposed applications for subdivision on land south of **Wombat Park**, Daylesford. Also, suggestions were made to lessen the visual impact of the proposed subdivision on the views to Wombat Park from adjacent roads.
- A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with **Trust for Nature** to recognise our common interest in significant landscapes and to advance awareness and develop opportunities to collaborate in areas of mutual benefit.

Projects

The following are some of the examples of the use of Branch funds raised by events:

- A garden history booklet about the property, Goronga, near Pakenham, was written by former committee member, Tim Gatehouse, and launched at an event held on the property on 25 September 2022.
- Committee member, Trevor Pitkin, has continued his work with Pictorials, which are photographic studies for inclusion on our website. During the year Goronga and Mont Park were uploaded. Work is progressing on Yantaringa.
- A journal article on Kamesburgh Gardens was researched and written by Trevor Pitkin.
- The feasibility of financially supporting the digitisation and databasing of some of the historic Nobelius Nursery records is being investigated by the Branch.
- The feasibility of supporting a memorial to Hugh Linaker at Mont Park is being researched and negotiated with the various stakeholders.
- A new program of oral histories is about to commence.

Chair's Report

This year the Victorian branch was very pleased to be able to gear up again to present a normal program.

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, trips, working bees and walk and talks. We have also been proactive in addressing relevant Victorian advocacy issues impacting heritage gardens and landscapes, and continued our program of researching and compiling garden histories, pictorials, and other projects.

During the year Michaela Hill joined the committee at the last AGM, followed later by long-time member Ros Savio. Both bring new ideas and valuable skills which are now being applied to advocacy. Wendy Nichol resigned from the committee in April, and we thank her for hard work and contributions in organising events.

Finally, I would like to thank the Victorian membership for their support and helping the branch to successfully re-emerge from 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

The 34rd AGM, was held on Sunday August 14th at the Royal Western Australian Historical Society's headquarters, Nedlands. This was well attended by twenty six members and two guests. Ailsa Allen, a member of the branch and Heritage Roses Australia, presented an informative talk on Public Rose Gardens in WA.

On the 18th September 25 members were privileged to tour the grounds of historic Lowlands in Serpentine. They met at Mundijong and travelled in convey to the property, established by Thomas Peel in 1840. On arrival, they were met by the owner who led a tour of the property describing the history of its buildings and plantings. In the original orchard were specimens from Peel's time that included an ancient mulberry, an almond, the sole survivor of an avenue leading to the farmhouse and a jacaranda planted in the 1880s.

Sunday morning the 30th October 22, members meet at Stirling Square Guildford for a tour of the public garden. This included the Anzac Rose Garden, commemorating soldiers from Guildford that enlisted in WWI, notable sugar gums Eucalyptus cladocalyx planted in 1897 for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and St Mathew's Church. Afterwards, they were invited to lunch in the garden of the 1867 King's Cottage owned by a branch member which was short walk from the square.

The Christmas function, the final event for the year, was well attended with 26 members and friends meeting on Sunday 4th December at the Bassendean Pensioner Guard Cottage. Prior to the traditional Annual Quiz, the pensioner guard history was presented by the Bassendean Historical Society's President Paul Bridges and the Museum of Perth's Reece Harley outlined a plan to implement an interpretive garden and how the WA branch can assist in the project.

2023

On 16th Feb 2023, the 23 people that met for the excursion to the Wanneroo Botanic Garden started with morning tea at its café. A guided tour of the grounds led by the Chairman followed in which interesting specimens of the plant person's garden, begun forty years ago by Dutch immigrants Theo and Hanneke Puick, were pointed out. The mature tree canopy created a cool pleasant understory that was appreciated on the warm summer's day.

The wet morning of the 10th May didn't deter 17 members meeting at the Bestry family's cottage in Balcatta to hear Peter and Alan, speak about their father and grandfather's market gardening experiences in the area. Members then viewed the interior of the heritage listed cottage before driving to the Mount Flora Regional Museum at Watermans Bay. The informative displays on market gardening of the area and historical items were inspected following morning tea.

Advocacy

"Wirra Willa", 12 Wangoola Terrace, Mount Nasura, has been saved by the City of Armadale purchasing the property in Dec 2022. The garden was laid out in the 1930s and developed over the years by successive owners. In 2017 the branch alarmed at the deterioration of the garden that was listed on the State's Register for Heritage Places, communicated its concern to the Heritage Council's Director and the

City of Armadale. The property with its many mature specimens of cool climate species will now be in the public domain as the aim of the City of Armadale's is to restore the garden.

At the 2023 City of Vincent's AGM and Electors meeting, the Chairman moved that the 2003 Conservation Management Plan for Hyde Park be revised and updated. As the park is on the State Register of Heritage Places and qualifies for funding through the Heritage Council's grants scheme, it was recommended that the council take advantage of this. Consequently the motion for funding to be sought in the 23/24 financial year was adopted.

Landscapes at Risk

Hyde Park. The polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) *Euwallaea fornicatus*, has been identified in the park and unfortunately many of the 120 year old trees are susceptible to this pest. It is imperative that a new Conservation Plan is prepared as the future management of the park's historic plantings is at risk.

Projects

The publication *Historic Gardens of Perth: European Settlement to Modernism* has been published with members being able to purchase it through the national website. Profits from book sales will be used for the branch's garden restoration project grants. Many thanks go to all those who contributed to the project, being either involved in preparing written material, editing or proof reading.

Data base

A data base for the West Australian Gardener magazine 1932 to 54, has been loaded onto the branch's website and will be a valuable resource for researchers seeking to find information on the state's garden history.

Pensioner Guard Cottage. The branch has been asked to provide advice for developing an interpretive garden for a joint project between the Museum of Perth and the Bassendean Historical Society. The cottage in Bassendean is the sole surviving dwelling from the 1850s.

Chair's Report

The conference subcommittee has been meeting regularly to organise the 2024 National Conference that will be held in Bunbury, a large regional coastal city approximately one and three quarter hour drive south of Perth. It will run from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th October with optional garden viewing day Monday 21st. The Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre (BREC) will be the venue for the morning programs and coaches will visit gardens and venues in the afternoons. A pre and post conference garden tour has also been organised.

Ten talks on subjects of WA's garden history were presented by the Chairman to community groups including *Unearthing the Bishop's Garden*, published in the AGHS October 2022 journal, vol.34, no. 2 and *Colonial Kitchen Gardens* for the York Heritage Festival. Each of these events provided the opportunity to display the branch's banner and promote AGHS by providing complimentary back copies of the Society's Journal, membership forms and website details. The topic of Conservation Plans was again presented to third year landscape design students studying at the University of Western Australia.

Due to health reasons Patsy Vizents resigned from her positions of branch committee member and the State Representative on the NMC. During her time she had recorded the oral histories of Carol Mansfield, Anne Willox, Tessa Watson Sue Monger, Linda Green, John Viska and Kingsley Dixon and coordinated the National Oral History Program. We thank her for her involvement and wish her well.

John Viska

AGHS National Treasurer's Report for FY 2023

I have the pleasure to make my report as your AGHS Honorary Treasurer and member of the National Management committee for the 30th of June 2023 financial accounts.

As all members know the activities of the Australian Garden History Society here on called Society, are the activities of the individual state and district-based branches and the holding of an annual national conference.

The continued financial health of our Society rests with these activities. The largest contribution comes from the mass participation at the Annual Conference.

Overall, branches had increased their bank balances 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 cooperation and contribution to the National Report. I also welcome NNSW as a new branch member to the group. There are certainly more activities throughout many branches, and that certainly has kept me very busy from an accounts perspective.

I like to thank Lisa Nutting for her unwavering dedication of service during her time as Executive Officer and supporting the NMC in their work, including mine.

THE RESULTS AND FINANCIAL POSITION 23/24

With the branches and the Tasmania 2022 Conference, your society recorded a surplus of \$101,382 for the year ending 30th June 2023. This reverses previous at least last two years' deficits.

This showed that the effects of slowing down the membership's enthusiasm caused by Covid restrictions has truly passed.

Note that the accounts of 30th June 2023 also showed an increase of activity, with approximately 21.5% increase in overall expenditure compared to 2021/2022 EOFY. This report further disclosed an amount of \$80,013 as deferred income that relates to the Ipswich conference.

Also note that the Kindred Spirit fund is disclosed separately as having \$220,068. At time of my report there is no further outstanding balance to be repaid back to the fund.

Having a positive interest group in each region and a valued National Conference continues to drive our overall financial health. With continued conservative management, it places the Society in a stronger financial position for 23/24.

OUR OWN DGR STATUS PROJECT

Following from our Society's registration as a Charity and Not for Profit, your treasurer has been making attempts have our Society registered as a Deductible gift Recipient ("DGR").

On this topic I will keep members posted on any break throughs.

Note that one can presently make a tax deductible donation to our Society vis the National Trust. This is becoming more topical as the National Trust have now doubled their fees.

Overall, the strong financial year ending 30th June 2023 is a financial year that builds on decades of hard work and tireless contribution of members. This is certainly a solid platform for the years to come.

The NMC has a busy 23/24 planning future AGHS projects.

For and on behalf of the AGHS membership, respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black 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 2023

13 Statement of Income and Expenditure by Branch

	National	Southern Highlands Branch	Sydney Branch	Victorian Branch	Tasmanian Branch	South Australia Branch	ACT Monaro Riverina Branch	West Australian Branch	Queensland Branch	Northern NSW Branch	Internal Transfers	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Income												
Member subscriptions	130,676	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	130,676
Conference income	307,492	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	307,492
Functions and tours	-	44,965	6,345	23,162	36,363	1,025	6,781	2,017	536	5,568	-	126,762
Donations and grants	3,226	100	-	-	-	-	-	1,460	-	6,300	(1,000)	10,086
Interest income	2,249	9	212	263	128	16	-	3	-	133	-	3,013
Income from lectures	-	-	-	1,806	-	-	-	850	-	-	-	2,656
Sale of publications	15,313	-	-	932	397	-	-	2,300	-	85	-	19,027
Other revenue	4,212	475	219	168	200	-	25	-	-	174	-	5,473
Total Income	463,168	45,549	6,776	26,331	37,088	1,041	6,806	6,630	536	12,250	(1,000)	605,175
Expenses												
Audit fees	6,500	100	100	100	-	100	100	100	100	100	-	7,300
Bank charges	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
Conference expenses	215,047	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	215,047
Function expenses	-	37,863	2,644	16,199	18,059	-	4,368	250	335	3,428	-	83,146
Journal expenses	80,550	86	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80,636
Postage and stationery	2,900	224	208	243	-	-	-	-	-	59	-	3,634
Publications	-	-	-	3,883	579	-	-	13,140	-	473	-	18,075
Restoration projects and grants	-	-	500	-	3,880	-	-	-	-	5,263	-	9,643
Employee benefits	65,829	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65,829
Sundry expenses	5,755	3,445	640	784	2,570	300	670	-	-	-	(1,000)	13,164
Telephone and internet	1,037	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,037
Travel expenses	6,250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,250
Total Expenses	383,900	41,718	4,092	21,209	25,088	400	5,138	13,490	435	9,323	(1,000)	503,793
Operating Results	79,268	3,831	2,684	5,122	12,000	641	1,668	(6,860)	101	2,927	-	101,382

Australian Garden History Society Inc

ABN 97 291 212 843

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

14 Statement of Financial Position by Branch

	National	Southern Highlands Branch	Sydney Branch	Victorian Branch	Tasmanian Branch	South Australia Branch	ACT Monaro Riverina Branch	West Australian Branch	Queensland Branch	Northern NSW Branch	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Assets											
Cash and cash equivalents	481,968	36,775	13,534	41,726	57,714	17,757	27,074	17,179	4,164	28,196	726,087
Prepayments	909	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	909
Total Assets	482,877	36,775	13,534	41,726	57,714	17,757	27,074	17,179	4,164	28,196	726,996
Liabilities											
Trade and other payables	32,472	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,472
Loan from KSF	8,517	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,517
Employee benefits	1,037	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,037
Deferred income	80,013	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80,013
Total Liabilities	122,039	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	122,039
Net Assets	360,838	36,775	13,534	41,726	57,714	17,757	27,074	17,179	4,164	28,196	604,957
Retained earnings											
Opening balance	281,570	32,944	10,850	36,604	45,714	17,116	25,406	24,039	4,063	25,269	503,575
Operating result	79,268	3,831	2,684	5,122	12,000	641	1,668	(6,860)	101	2,927	101,382
Closing balance	360,838	36,775	13,534	41,726	57,714	17,757	27,074	17,179	4,164	28,196	604,957



AUSTRALIAN
GARDEN
HISTORY
SOCIETY

AGHS 44th Annual General Meeting

Saturday 30 September 2023 AEDT

@ 8:30 am

**Dandirri Room
Ipswich City Council Office Building
IPSWICH, QUEENSLAND**

The Australian Garden History Society invites you to attend the 44th Annual General Meeting to be held at Ipswich, Queensland on Saturday 30th September 2023.

The 2022/23 Annual report will be available on the website and limited printed copies of the report will be made available.

AGENDA

- 1** To confirm the minutes of the previous 43rd Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 13 November 2022 at Wrest Point Casino, Hobart.
- 2** To receive the Chair's Report for the year ended June 2023.
- 3** To receive and consider the financial statement for the year ended June 2023.
- 4** To appoint an auditor for the 2023/2024 financial year.
- 5** To elect members of the National Management Committee for the 2023/2024 year.
- 6** General Business

Please contact **Head Office** to register your apology or to obtain further information regarding attendance online.

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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