



AUSTRALIAN
GARDEN
HISTORY
SOCIETY

Digging into the past – above and below the Limestone Hills

Ipswich 2023

43rd Annual
Australian Garden History Society Conference



29 September to 1 October 2023

with optional days **28 September** and **2 October**

Conference Information



Lecture Venue

Dandiiri Room, 1st Floor, Ipswich City Council Office Building, 1 Union Place, Nicholas Street Precinct, Ipswich. Qld 4305

The new Ipswich City Council building, designed by Buchan Group, was opened in 2021. **IMAGE: Buchan Group**

Name Badges

Delegates are requested to wear their name badges at all times for identification and to aid fellowship.

Coach travel

Delegates to make own choice of coach. Coach captains will advise the departure times from each venue/garden. Please assist by returning promptly to bus.

Private Cars

Private cars must not be used for garden visits.

Conference Dinner

Full conference delegates will be transported to the dinner venue directly from Queens Park.

Dinner only guests to make their own way to North Ipswich Railway Workshops, The Workshops Rail Museum, North St, North Ipswich. Event commences at 4pm.

Buses return via selected hotels.

Water

Water will be provided throughout the Conference proceedings. We are trying to limit use of single use water bottles for environmental reasons in line with AGHS beliefs, and as a condition of Ipswich City Council as follows: "use of single use water bottles is prohibited unless appropriate on-site collection facilities are provided for recycling (e.g., yellow lid recycling bins)". Bringing your own water bottles will assist us in achieving our requirement. Refills for your own bottles will be available.

COVID-19

In an attempt to keep the event Covid-safe, please practice good hygiene. If you are unwell or exhibit any Covid symptoms, please stay away from the conference venue. Participants may wish to wear a mask.

Emergency Contact

Dial Triple Zero (000) for Police, Fire and Ambulance in an emergency. Ipswich Hospital Emergency Department, Chelmsford Avenue, Ipswich. Qld

Conference Contacts

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QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Lois Closter
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CONFERENCE SPEAKER PROGRAM

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From the Patron

Professor Tim Entwisle



To state the obvious, Australia is a big place. As gardeners – and students of garden history – we all know how important it is to be aware of where we are in this vast and diverse land.

This year, the Australian Garden History Society is meeting 1700 or so kilometres north of our last gathering place. Ipswich is as far from Hobart as Algiers is from London and in both examples, the two cities have very different climates and (past and present) cultures.

Now, I'm no expert in south-eastern Queensland culture, but I'm aware that the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul people are part of a First Nation quite distinct from that of the Muwinina people in lutruwita (Tasmania). When AGHS eventually meet on Cape York, on the land of the Barungguan people – as I'm sure we will – that will be as far from lutruwita as London is from any city in Mali.

You can play this game forever, but living in a big country means we need to treat each place as something very special and different to another. The soil is different, the plants are different, the seasons are different, and the history – whether the last few centuries or tens-of-thousands of years – is different.

That's why I'm delighted, yet again, that AGHS has curated a national conference with such a strong sense of place. In what was originally named by Europeans as Limestone Hills, we will not only 'dig into the past' – with tales of rocks, river and railways – but we'll learn about the gardens and plants that favour this subtropical climate – think jacarandas, bougainvillea and, apparently, carnations.

The conference – as always – also provides time and space for thinking globally, as it should, with hot topics such as weeds, seed banking and the care of historic properties. That's alongside perennial favourites, such as art and heroes from our plant-enthusiast pantheon – in this case, the intriguing botanist, explorer and disgruntled botanic garden director, Allan Cunningham.

What a feast. Plenty of local ingredients, classic dishes, and no doubt seasoned with that heady mix of good humour and lively conversation we expect at an AGHS conference.

Welcome to, and enjoy, the AGHS Annual National Conference 2023!

From the AGHS National Chair

Lynne Walker

On behalf of the National Management Committee, I have much pleasure in welcoming you to our 43rd National Conference in Ipswich.

Ipswich is similar to the venue of the last Queensland conference, Maryborough, as both towns have had their basis as ports on significant rivers and both have a history of wool; the latter in Ipswich is somewhat shorter but nevertheless significant, but there the similarities end. Ipswich was established much earlier as a limestone mining settlement as the limestone and other mineral deposits were found by Captain Patrick Logan, Commandant of the Moreton Bay penal colony, in 1826.

Ipswich then became a major coal mining area in the early 19th century and the wealth it brought in the 19th and 20th centuries can clearly be seen in the city today, now renowned for its architectural, natural and cultural history. Ipswich preserves and operates from many of its historical buildings, with more than 6000 heritage-listed sites and over 500 parks, some of which we will see over the next few days.

Just a few months ago I visited Ipswich after an absence of over 20 years and was astounded by the growth of the city, including the many new suburbs which are opening up and where I was particularly impressed by the vibrant and sympathetic landscaping.

The NMC and I look forward to exploring the area with you based on the vibrant program the Queensland committee have put together for our enjoyment. Our congratulations to you, the committee. The historic houses and gardens we will be visiting on Sunday reflect the early history and wealth of the early families in the district. We are going to see something very special.

Again, a warm welcome to the conference from the National Management Committee, who invite you to come dig with us.



Friday 29 September

The geology, history and cultural landscapes of Ipswich

8.00am–9.00am	Registration
9.10am–9.20am	Acknowledgment of Country Susan Booth
9.20am–9.30am	Convenor's Welcome Ann Wegener
9.20am–9.30am	Master of Ceremonies John Taylor
9.30am–10.00am	Ipswich Geology Reflected in the Modern Landscape Professor Nick Cook
10.00am–10.30am	KEYNOTE LECTURE The Bremer – A River with a City Problem Dr Margaret Cook
10.30am–11.00am	MORNING TEA
11.00am–11.30am	Why Ipswich has kept its identity? Danny Keenan
11.30am–12.00pm	Bougainvillea – An Ipswich Icon Arno King
12.00pm–12.30pm	Questions and discussion
12.30pm–1.30pm	LUNCH
1.30pm–2.00pm	Historic railway station gardens in Queensland Greg Hallam
2.00pm–2.30pm	Jacarandas and Queenslanders: d'Arcy Doyle reimagines an Ipswich childhood Glenn Cooke
2.30pm–3.00pm	Desolie collects carnations Jennie O'Brien-Lutton
3.00pm–3.30pm	Ipswich Art Gallery collection: Establishing a regional identity – how the collection shapes the regional identity and why it is different to anywhere else in Australia Claire Sourgnès – Director, Ipswich Art Gallery
3.30pm–4.00pm	Review and Entertainment
5.30pm – 7.00pm	Reception and Welcome Drinks Ipswich Art Gallery reception and viewing Ipswich Art Gallery, D'Arcy Doyle Place, Ipswich

Saturday 30 September

Landscapes and gardening in the subtropics

8.30am–9.00am	AGM – Australian Garden History Society
9.00am–9.30am	Sovereignty and climate justice: caring for Country and cities Lynda Maybanks
9.30am–10.00am	Allan Cunningham: explorer and botanist John Taylor
10.00am–10.30am	The Age of Seeds: how plants hacked time and why our future depends on it Dr Fiona McMillan-Webster
10.30am–11.00am	Weeds: History, folklore and the desperate struggle to eradicate these unwanted plants Kate Wall
11.00am–11.30am	MORNING TEA
11.30am–12.00pm	Gardens, cottages and fences: the extended landscapes of the North Ipswich Railway Workshops Dr Geraldine Mate
12.00pm–12.15pm	Queens Park (Ipswich) history including recent survey Catherine Brouwer
12.15pm–12.30pm	Wrap-up of themes of the conference Dr Jane Lennon
12.30pm–12.45pm	Outline of next conference in Western Australia
12.50pm–1.00pm	Housekeeping
1.00pm – 1.30pm	Pick up lunch/ board buses
1.45pm–2.15pm	LUNCH
2.15pm – 3.30pm	Queens Park Gardens visit
3.30pm – 3.45pm	Walk through Park to Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator
4.15pm – 5.15pm	The Workshops Rail Museum
5.15pm – 6.00pm	Drinks
6.00pm – 9.00pm	Conference Dinner

QUEENS PARK GARDENS

Built 1864–1960, with its subtropical Fern House and stone walls constructed from limestone as part of a Depression Relief scheme for Ipswich during the 1930s. Nearby, the Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator constructed in the 1930s is just one of six remaining in Australia.

CONFERENCE DINNER

To be held in the original Ipswich Railway Workshops Dining Room (constructed 1911).



PROFESSOR NICK COOK

A Research Professor at the Sustainable Minerals Institute, Nick has a wide geological experience covering all of the continents. His career includes periods of university research and teaching, and mineral exploration. Formerly the Chief Geologist for Mawson Gold and Technical Advisor for Southern Cross Gold, global roles that included responsibility for international collaborative industry-government-university research projects and as an industry supervisor for PhD, Masters and Honours projects (Finland,

UK and Australia). This was in addition to providing on-the-job training for internal geological and technical staff.

Professor Nick Cook will speak on Ipswich geology as reflected in the modern landscape and set the scene for Dr Margaret Cook's keynote presentation.

Over 350 million years of earth history is preserved in the rocks of the Ipswich region. The recent processes of weathering and erosion combined with contrasting mineral and chemical compositions of the rocks form variably nutrient-rich soil types. In turn, the Bremer and Brisbane Rivers erode and deposit materials to form the landscape we see today. An understanding of earth processes combined with knowledge of the conditions of formation of each key Ipswich rock type allows us to be predictive gardeners in terms of soil and moisture availability.



DR MARGARET COOK

Margaret Cook is an environmental historian and Research Fellow in the Australian Rivers Institute at Griffith University and La Trobe University. She holds a PhD in history from the University of Queensland and her current research interests include disasters, and water and river histories. Margaret's recent books are *A River with a City Problem*, *Disasters in Australia and New Zealand* and *Cities in a Sunburnt Country*. She was the recipient of the John and Ruth Kerr Medal of Distinction for excellence in history

in 2020 and the Australian New Zealand Environmental History Network Public History Prize in 2022.

Dr Margaret Cook will provide the keynote presentation entitled *The Bremer: A River with a City Problem*

Sub-tropical rivers are prone to flooding as part of their natural hydrological cycles. Despite Aboriginal knowledge, in the 1840s British colonists built Ipswich beside the Bremer River, creating a permanent and spiralling flood hazard. The region was devastated by floods in 1893, 1974, 2011 and 2022, causing loss of lives and property destruction. Ipswich has been slow to adopt town planning and development constraints on the floodplain to reduce the hazard, thinking dams would prevent inundation. Rather than repeat the mistakes of the past we must devise new strategies to adapt to the climate and live with floods.



DANIEL (DANNY) KEENAN

Danny is a fourth-generation Ipswichian. The Keenans have lived in the hills of Woodend for over 120 years. He left Ipswich in the mid 1970s to study Architecture at the University of Queensland and returned over 30 years later. During that time he worked in both private and public spheres. The majority of his career has been spent championing heritage and design in local government planning departments. Danny lived in Phoenix USA for a number of years in the early 2000s, which gave him

an appreciation of the harsh beauty of the desert and the impact of large-scale urban sprawl in a sensitive environment. He returned to Ipswich almost 14 years ago and finds a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction in aiding to preserve the buildings that inspired his love of architecture.

Why has Ipswich kept its identity?

Mr Danny Keenan provides us with a very personal view from a fourth generation Ipswichian. He notes as follows. My family have lived in the hills of Woodend for over 120 years. I grew up in a house which was our family home for six generations. Almost all of those generations were baptised, educated, married and buried at St. Marys Catholic Church. Four generations worked at the Ipswich Railway Workshops. This is not an uncommon story in Ipswich where heritage is a lived experience – the places we live, learn, worship, work and play. Perhaps these strong family roots, multi-generational experiences in the city and its institutions have helped Ipswich retain its strong identity both physically and as community.



ARNO KING

Arno is a Brisbane-based landscape architect, horticultural consultant and keen gardener, familiar to many people from his weekly Garden Talkback show on radio 4BC and his many articles in a variety of magazines and journals. Acknowledged for his appreciation of tropical and subtropical garden design, practices and plants, Arno enjoys sharing his passion for all things gardening with fellow gardeners. Inspired by landscapes in Singapore and South East Asia, Arno began trialling dwarf bougainvilleas

for their suitability on landscape projects in the early 2000s. The collection soon grew to some 300 cultivars and is now the National Collection of Bougainvilleas, registered with the Australian Plants Trust.

Bougainvillea: an Ipswich Icon

Bougainvillea is arguably the most popular climber and shrub grown in Australia, and one of the few plants seen in gardens from Hobart to Darwin, Brisbane to Perth and flowering prolifically right through the red centre. However, it is in Ipswich where the early collections, hybridisation and popularity were centred, and where the plant was voted by residents as their floral emblem. The Bougainvillea became part of the culture, the lingo and was celebrated with its own festival, encouraging tourists to travel from across the country and from around the world each winter to see this floral spectacle.



GREG HALLAM

Greg Hallam has been with Queensland Rail as the historian for the organisation, since 2000. Greg's professional employment in the public sphere in the cultural heritage and community history space extends back for nearly 30 years, including the Office of the Crown Solicitor, Department of Environment and Heritage as the Queensland Heritage Registrar, and heritage researcher, and he has contributed articles and chapters for various publications related to the connection of the railway

story in Queensland. Greg is also a third-generation employee of the Queensland Railways.

Greg will be speaking on the historic railway station gardens in Queensland. In 1905 the Queensland Railways were criticised for the poor appearance of their stations. The Commissioner's response was to start a beautifying stations competition and station staff were encouraged to plant

trees and gardens. Cash prizes were offered for the best stations, and many stations became well known for their beautiful gardens. Kuranda near Cairns and Spring Bluff near Toowoomba are still famous for their gardens.



GLENN COOKE

Art and social historian, Glenn R. Cooke has been a keen gardener from his early years growing up 'on the banks of the Barcoo' in Western Queensland. Education and job opportunities meant he could not follow up his interest until he returned to Brisbane and worked at the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art for 32 years, specialising in decorative and Queensland art. He has curated many exhibitions and published extensively in both areas. He has also established a database on Queensland artists: Vida Lahey, Jon Molvig and Margaret

Olley. He is also a committed collector. A selection from his collection of Queensland souvenir textiles, 'Queensland to a T', was extremely popular when exhibited at the State Library of Queensland 2022-2023 (<https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/teatowels>). He has been a member of AGHS since 1996, serving on the Queensland and National Committees. His West End Garden, which is focused on the idea of reuse and recycling, featured on Gardening Australia in 2015 but is best seen in Kim Wood-Rabbidge's website <https://ouraustraliangardens.com/2015/03/02/west-end-creative-a-garden-pocket/>. He wishes it still looked as well: time and scrub turkeys have had their effect.

When the Ipswich born artist d'Arcy Doyle died in 2001, he was the most popular artist in Australia having sold over 300, 000 prints in a little over a decade. It was estimated that one in 40 homes had one of his prints hanging. His scenes evoke a golden age from an ordinary life that had not existed for fifty years. Doyle's paintings depict a world where skies are always blue, a mauve haze of a jacarandas softens the lattice on old Queensland weatherboard houses, and children play games in the streets. It is a bygone world when life was unhurried and predictable, neighbours helped each other, and time had dimmed the ordeal of the 1930s depression.

Doyle recast his memory of growing up in inner city Ipswich where the baker and the butcher called in their horse-drawn carts to the rural fringes of 'everytown' Australia and nostalgia existed to soften the edges of a rapidly changing society.



JENNIE O'BRIEN-LUTTON

Jennie was born a gardener. She can still describe in some detail what was in flower in her grandfather's garden the month before he died when she was about to turn four. Old-fashioned garden plants, especially their scents, transport her straight back to decades long gone. Just before she turned thirty, she left an administration and computing position with the Commonwealth Government to study Horticulture at the Victorian College of Agriculture and Horticulture at Burnley (now part of Melbourne

University) and discovered that a huge decrease in earnings was inversely proportional to job satisfaction and quality of life. Although she has maintained several private gardens in both Victoria and Queensland and worked for three years at Araluen Botanic Park in the Perth Hills, she prefers the Australian bush to the manmade landscape and goes hiking at every available opportunity. Her own garden is somewhat neglected, but she loves herbs, veggies, house plants and heritage roses.

Desolie King amassed a large collection of carnations from the 1960s onwards. Her niece, Jennie O'Brien-Lutton will speak about Desolie: both the collector and her collection.

One of Desolie's first plants, Faithful, threw a sport which she successfully struck and she was hooked for life. Although she loves lots of plants, carnations have always been her passion and she went to great lengths to get them, to propagate them and to share them. A garden or nursery visit was never complete until carnations had been searched for, assessed and almost always some were purchased.

At the peak her collection contained approximately 360 plants. There were multiple plants of each variety as she always took cuttings to ensure nothing was lost. Spare plants were always available to share with anyone who showed the slightest interest and of course to be placed on the sales table of the many garden clubs she belonged to.



CLAIRE SOURIGNES

Claire is the Director of the Ipswich Art Gallery and has over twenty years' experience working across regional, state and independent art organisations. Claire has a deep commitment to providing opportunities for all people to experience diverse artistic practices, and creating life-long relationships with art.

Art collections serve as repositories of cultural heritage, sources of education and inspiration, catalysts for creativity, and contributors to societal development and enrichment. They have both intrinsic and practical value, and their existence contributes to the vibrant cultural tapestry of humanity. Whilst care, consideration and scholarship often drive acquisitions, it's important to note that the specific ways in which a collection establishes or shapes a regional identity depends on its curatorial choices, exhibitions, and engagement with the local community. So, it's not just about the collecting. But very much also about the sharing. In my talk, I will address how Ipswich Art Gallery has and continues to reflect, honour and enhance our regional identity through its Collection.

Saturday Speakers



LYNDA MAYBANKS

Proud Yugara woman Lynda Maybanks is from Ipswich. Lynda is passionate about improving social outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through reviving Yugara culture and restoring Yugara country with her business Wurrinyah Conservation Services.

"Wurrinyah" means coming back in Yugara language. It represents the ongoing revival of Yugara ways of caring for country. Wurrinyah focuses on working with businesses, government and landowners in Southeast Queensland to

restore our natural areas, conserve our native species and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage sites for the enjoyment of all Australians.

Lynda believes that current conservation efforts can benefit from traditional knowledge by having people with connection to country involved in projects. "I believe that business ownership can enable self-determination and improve social and economic outcomes for our people". Her business Wurrinyah Pty Ltd brings all these beliefs together.

Lynda will speak about sovereignty and climate justice: caring for Country and cities.



JOHN TAYLOR

John is a forester who has worked on managing natural resources in Victoria and Queensland. He managed the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and was Director of Parks and Gardens for the Brisbane City Council. He also managed the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and was national Chair of the Australian Garden History Society. John is interested in plants, gardens and heritage. He spends a lot of time on his garden in suburban Brisbane and on a hardwood plantation in northern NSW.

John will speak about Allan Cunningham (1791 – 1839) who came to New South Wales in 1816 as a plant collector for the Kew Gardens, appointed by Joseph Banks. Cunningham joined exploration parties travelling to inland areas, and went on several voyages to the north and north west coast with Phillip Parker King. Despite having poor health Cunningham worked tirelessly and collected large numbers of plant specimens, seeds and plants and sent them to Kew. For a short time, he was Government Botanist of the colony and responsible for the Sydney Botanic Gardens. He led two important explorations to the north and found the Darling Downs, before his untimely death in Sydney.



DR FIONA MCMILLAN-WEBSTER

Dr Fiona McMillan-Webster is a science writer with a BSc in physics and a PhD in biophysics. She has written for National Geographic, Forbes, COSMOS magazine, Australian Geographic and other publications. Her writing was also selected for inclusion in the Best Australian Science Writing anthologies for 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2021. She was awarded runner-up for the UNSW Bragg Press Prize for Science Writing in 2016 and was shortlisted for the prize in 2021. Fiona has also worked behind the scenes to help produce scientific content for a number of organisations and

productions, including the World Science Festival Brisbane, ABC's Ask the Doctor, and Blackfella Film's First Weapons.

When a 2000-year-old extinct date palm seed was discovered, no one expected it to be alive. But it sprouted a healthy young plant. That seeds produced millennia ago could be viable today suggests some seeds are capable of extreme lifespans. Yet many other seeds don't live very long at all.

In her book *The Age of Seeds: How Plants Hacked Time and Why Our Future Depends on It*, Fiona embarks on a mission to find out why. She will be

speaking about the astonishing story of seeds, from their remarkable diversity to the mysteries of seed longevity, and why it has never been more important to understand how to make seeds last.



KATE WALL

Kate is a gardening consultant based in Brisbane, who specialises in teaching people to garden in harmony with nature. By working with nature, she focuses on a very sustainable approach to gardening which makes gardening so much easier and more rewarding. Kate's career changed from environmental science to professional gardening after the 2011 floods when she worked full time as a volunteer restoring flooded gardens. Kate is the author of three popular gardening books: *Working With Weeds: A Practical Guide to Understanding, Using and Managing Weeds*; *Earth Repair Gardening: The Lazy Gardener's Guide to Saving the Earth*; and *Gardening After a Flood*.

When it comes to garden weeds, it is surprising to see gardeners the world over battling many of the same plants. Are these plants such earth invading monsters that centuries of digging out and poisoning have not dented their progress? Or is there more to the story? Many of these weeds are found all over the world because humankind have deliberately taken them all over the world. Kate will address how these plants have history and were once considered valuable. Why are they now so hated? Perhaps winning the war on weeds should start with getting to know and understand them. She hopes that we may even value some of them once again.



DR GERALDINE MATE

Geraldine Mate is the Principal Curator – History, Industry and Technology in the Cultures and Histories Program, Queensland Museum. With degrees in Metallurgical Engineering and Archaeology, her research interests encapsulate reflections on cultural landscapes in archaeology, the interpretation of industrial cultural heritage and the relationship between people and technology. Geraldine's current research focuses on cultural landscapes of nineteenth and early twentieth century industrial complexes in Queensland. These include

investigations of the cultural heritage of the Ipswich Railway Workshops, and participation in the Australian South Sea Islander lived identities project, working with communities in Queensland to tell stories that are meaningful for Australian South Sea Islanders.

Saturday Evening speaker

Industrial landscapes of nineteenth and twentieth century Queensland invariably conjure images of smoke stacks, industrial machinery, and utilitarian buildings. However that image conceals both the complexity of industrial places that held social intricacies, and the way landscapes of industry extend beyond the place of labour to the surrounding camps, settlement, towns and cities.

In this talk, the landscape of the North Ipswich Railway Workshops is explored. An extensive and busy place dedicated to industry is revealed to be part of a multi-faceted landscape that encapsulates decorative gardens, fruit trees, places of sporting endeavour and performance. Further, the landscape extended "beyond the tin fence" to take in dwellings, shops, and transport networks extending via roads and river, to constitute the lived landscape of the workers.



CATHERINE BROUWER

Catherine began practising landscape architecture under the renowned Barbara van den Broek. After graduation and travels through Europe and the UK, Catherine joined the landscape team for the new Parliament House Canberra. She designed and documented the forecourt, the green roof, the drive and the four peripheral landscape areas. Practising as Catherine Brouwer Landscape Architects in 1989, her projects have encompassed the wide range of landscape architecture and landscape planning, with additional expertise in heritage landscapes. She was

awarded the AILA Sole Practitioner award. Catherine has been a member of the Australia ICOMOS executive committee, Queensland Development Tribunals and the Brisbane City Council Heritage Advisory Committee.

Queens Park – a 19th century park adapted for 21st century Ipswich – and the future?

Catherine will explore aspects of Queens Park, Ipswich, through its historical development, and some of the various design styles and focal places which have arisen through its history and changes in use and appreciation. The management challenges of future-proofing this 19th century heritage park through contemporary pressures and climate change are introduced.



HELEN GREGORY

Helen Gregory is an historian specialising in Queensland's history and cultural heritage. She has published many commissioned histories including a history of the Brisbane River, a history of Brisbane's Mater Hospitals, Building Brisbane's history and Brisbane Then and Now. She has written historical backgrounds for major museum exhibitions, including Women of the West at the Queensland Museum and Brisbane floods at the State Library of Queensland. Helen taught at the University of Queensland and was an Adjunct Professor in the Department of History. She was the inaugural Chair of the Queensland Heritage Council and Director, Cultural Heritage, in the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency. For some years, Helen has

broadcast on Queensland history topics for ABC Queensland-wide radio.

From convolvulus to camellias, from bunya pines to camphor laurels: opportunities lost and found.

South-eastern Queensland, sitting reasonably comfortably in the sub-tropics, should be a wonderful place to create gardens, large or small. It should be an even better place to appreciate indigenous plants and the landscapes in which they sit. But there have been some muddled messages. Wonder at the sights the first Europeans experienced conflicted with joy at identifying indigenous plants which could be exploited economically. The glory of native orchids competed with the desire to create gardens familiar from 'home'. There is much to contemplate in this convoluted story and commentaries upon it.

House and garden visits

9.30 am	Board coaches
12.30 pm–1.30 pm	Lunch @ University of Southern Queensland campus former Ipswich Mental Hospital
4.30 pm	Return

Delegates travelling around and through the City of Ipswich on this day will gain understanding of the large number of loved (and unloved) early houses that remain in Ipswich.

Among those we visit are houses once occupied by members of the Cribb and Foote families and we will travel past Rockton, once home to Jani Haenke, a generous benefactor of AGHS Qld.

The Gardens and Landscape of The Chestnuts



"The Chestnuts"¹ sits on the corner of Nicholas St and Court St in Ipswich. The house was built in 1885 as an investment property by Ipswich's early watchmaker and jeweller, T. B. Lyons. He had previously built "Mona Lodge" next door in Nicholas St but by 1885 had sold it to Mrs Mary Darnley Morrison who ran a successful finishing school from "Mona Lodge" for the young daughters of Ipswich's wealthy. In December 1885 she purchased "The Chestnuts" to expand her "Academy for Young Ladies" and as a residence for herself and daughter Mary.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ipswich_Mental_Hospital

The good thing about the gardens and landscape of "The Chestnuts" is that there is sufficient historical record to piece together just how it appeared and all stages in its history. The name of the property, "The Chestnuts" comes from the initial landscaping by Mary Darnley Morrison. She planted four equally spaced native black bean trees along the Court St fence line which at the time were colloquially named "Moreton Bay Chestnuts" due to the nut's similarity to the English horse chestnut [Ed: *Castanospermum australe* colloq. Moreton Bay chestnut or blackbean]. The name of the property, "The Chestnuts", derives from these trees. She also planted a Moreton Bay fig which stood near the current Court St gate posts. The other significant landscape feature built with the house is the still-standing brick terrace effectively separating front and back yards. It seems that the front yard was grassed while the back yard was gravelled and contained a "well-built bathroom" and a brick outdoor toilet. Three of the original Moreton Bay Chestnuts still survive along the Court St fence line. The Moreton Bay fig grew stupendously large, supposedly due to an underground spring that flows down this part of Denmark Hill. By the mid-1940's, it had to be removed due its size with its proximity to the house allowing snakes to enter through the windows.

After Miss Mary sold the house in 1936, it became a rental property until the late 1960's. At this point the property had been purchased by Elizabeth and Ashley Clarke who decided to rescue the now much dilapidated old cottage that was colloquially called the "Darnley Morrison house" by older Ipswich residents. They undertook the second stage of its landscaping from 1970 through to the early 1990's. During this period, much of old Ipswich was slated for demolition and remodelling. Elizabeth had a keen eye for interesting demolition materials that she could integrate into the house and gardens. By the 1980's she had acquired the stone that formed the grand fence that once surrounded the old Lands Office building in East St and much of the stone from the back steps of the old demolished original Ipswich hospital. These were re-purposed into the garden beds and steps that appear in the front yard today. Elizabeth also planted the poinciana in 1979 after the removal of two huge wayward bunya nut trees that had sprouted after the removal of the Moreton Bay fig. The current fence and landscaping were done by Allen Cooper in the late 1980's with him subsequently buying the house in 1993. He undertook the pink extension to the house the paving, terracing and walling that now forms the back-yard landscape with the front yard still reflecting the re-purposed stonework.

TEXT AND NOTES **John Lyon** ■ IMAGE **Picture Ipswich**

1 All of the knowledge I have of the gardens, landscape and history of the "The Chestnuts" comes from correspondence with its occupier from the late 1960's to 1993. Elizabeth Clarke. During her time living in the house, she and her husband were avid social historians. She has since passed on all of her research to me.

2 The local Ipswich newspaper on March 12th, 1885 provides extensive details and a review of the interior and exterior of the new house built by T. B. Lyons.

Karragaroo



Karragaroo is noted for its connections to two early Ipswich families – the Foote and Whitehead families.

First owners, the recently married Ambrose and Ada Maria Foote, moved into Karragaroo in 1884. Newly constructed in brick and timber, Karragaroo featured some 20 rooms, verandahs with cast iron balustrading and corbelled chimneys. Open spaces then surrounded the house and its extensive garden. Water came from a well and the lighting was gas powered. At Karragaroo, the couple raised and educated their six boys.

Ambrose Foote had followed the footsteps of his father, John Clarke Foote, becoming in 1891 a partner in the Ipswich mercantile firm of Cribb and Foote. There he controlled the grocery department. Their eldest son, Wilfred Arnold Foote, again followed tradition and remained with the family firm. Of the others, three trained as dentists and two as doctors. Two served in the First World War and one became a Rhodes scholar.

Following the death of Ambrose Foote in October 1920, the Karragaroo estate was subdivided for sale. Plans dated 1921 show the main house surrounded by 27 house allotments.

Family friend Francis Arnold Whitehead, the Ipswich photographer who had served as the first treasurer of the Ipswich Chamber of Commerce and Industry, next purchased Karragaroo. The families also were connected because Minnie Whitehead had married Lieutenant Herbert Douglas Foote, second son of Ambrose Foote, in June of 1919.

Born in Ipswich in 1863, Francis Whitehead had entered the developing field of commercial photography following studies at Ipswich Grammar School. By 1901, he was successful enough to commission Ipswich architect George Brockwell Gill to design a new, two-storey premises for his photography business in Brisbane Street. The Whitehead family occupied Karragaroo for over two decades. During these years they converted the original horse stable to a garage and tennis practice room. The Whitehead family's connection with Karragaroo was lost after the death of Francis Whitehead in 1943.

Karragaroo subsequently passed through a number of owners, one of whom converted it into eight flats. The current owners have undertaken considerable structural work, including the reopening of verandahs, the return of its cast iron balustrading and interior renovation work.

TEXT **National Trust of Australia (Queensland)** ■ IMAGE **Great Houses of Ipswich**
OWNERS **Allison and Terry**



Karragaroo means Place of Grass Trees. The property boasts a magnificent stand of the extremely slow growing *Xanthorrhoea* spp. that probably pre-dates the house, as well as two large Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*) planted by previous owners.

IMAGE **Graham Hesse**

Gooloowan

Gooloowan is steeped in a rich history that extends back to the purchasing of the land in 1862 by the famous Ipswichian Benjamin Cribb.

After immigrating to Ipswich in 1849 with his first wife Elizabeth and their three children, Benjamin quickly established his London Stores business on Bell St where they resided in the residential area above the store.

After the death of Elizabeth in 1852 Benjamin decided to move to Brisbane. It was not until 1856, however that he finally returned to his stores after he was offered a partnership with John Clarke Foote, and they set about establishing the large department store, Cribb & Foote, which became famous in Queensland.

After re-marrying to Clarissa Foote, Benjamin Cribb soon had a large family



of children to cater for and while living in a small house next to his stores he realised it was no longer big enough. He therefore made the decision to purchase his first block of land in 1862, a block that would play host to the wonderful dream home that was to be called Gooloowan.

Between 1862 and 1864 Mr Cribb managed to purchase approximately 11.5 acres on Denmark Hill where he and his wife intended to build. They had a grand dream and in 1864 construction commenced on

the house that would remain in the family for more than 124 years.

The magnificent structure that was erected was a sight to behold and an excellent fit for the large family of Cribbs, who called it Gooloowan – an aboriginal word meaning house on the hill.

The house has many distinguishing features that add to its charm including a wide circular driveway that today plays host to a variety of bamboos, poincianas, camphor-laurels and palms.

As well as this the building itself, a two-storey plastered brick house, is supported by two large columns on the front verandah which extends around the perimeter of the bottom storey. Within the house there is a stately drawing room, and dining room on the lower level and nine bedrooms on the top floor with a magnificent wrought iron lace verandah that continues around the top level.

The top floor also has another distinguishing with two bathrooms for both the male and females of the house, which was said to be common in English family houses where money was of no consequence.

Gooloowan was also built with style in mind with a white marble mantelpiece brought over from Italy holding pride of place in the Cribb Family drawing room, and finely carved cedar fittings and joints forming an integral part of the interior of the house.

IMAGE **Graham Hesse** ■ TEXT ADAPTED FROM

<https://www.discoveripswich.com.au/take-a-tour-through-a-great-house/>

OWNER **Graham Isbell and the late Genevieve Isbell**

Thursday 28 September

Optional Day Tour – Toowoomba

8.30 am	Depart Ipswich
10.00 am	Arrive Spring Bluff Railway Station
10.45 am	Depart Spring Bluff
11.15 am	Arrive Boyce Gardens Toowoomba
12 noon	Depart Boyce Gardens
12.15 pm	Arrive Laurel Bank Park
Lunch	
1.45 pm	Depart Laurel Bank Park
2.00 pm	Private Gardens Leslie St, Rangeville
3.30 pm	Depart Private Gardens
3.40 pm	Arrive Picnic Point, Toowoomba
4.00 pm	Depart Toowoomba
5.30 pm	Arrive Ipswich

Tour to travels via heritage listed **Spring Bluff Railway Station**, significant because of its beautifully landscaped gardens.

The Boyce Gardens were established by Leslie and Margaret Boyce and in 1969 the Boyce family gave the estate to the University of Queensland in trust.

Laurel Bank Park is listed on the Queensland Heritage Register. One of Toowoomba's premier public parks it has further significance. The hall was constructed by the US military during World War Two for the US Navy Enlisted Men's Rest Camp.

The optimum time for **floral displays in Toowoomba** is throughout the month-long carnival of flowers. The tour visits 2 gardens in one of Toowoomba best known gardening streets.

The final stop is at heritage listed **Picnic Point** perched on the crest of the Great Dividing Range overlooking main range and the Lockyer Valley.

Spring Bluff Railway Station



The Spring Bluff Railway Station was built in the 1860s to allow trains a place to stop during the steep climb from Brisbane to Toowoomba. It was named Spring Bluff after the spring water and the sandstone bluff in the area. Its significance stems from 150 years of railway history and the attraction of its beautiful, landscaped gardens. The railway station closed in August 1992.

The station and its gardens are heritage listed.

TEXT Toowoomba Regional Council

IMAGE <https://www.railexpress.com.au/queenslands-prettiest-train-station/>

Boyce Gardens



This magnificent garden, forest and park, covering six hectares, was established as a private garden by leading Toowoomba citizens Leslie and Margaret Boyce over almost sixty years, and was given by them, in trust to The University of Queensland, for the enjoyment and education of the people of Australia.

The Garden was envisaged and developed by Leslie and Margaret over most of their lifetime. This involved not only research and design, but also tremendous amounts of sheer physical labour on their part.

The land comprised a spur of eucalyptus woodland running south from Mt Lofty on its northern border, a scrap of natural rainforest and a run-down dairy farm, including one cultivated paddock. On this area Margaret designed a house site, drive and surrounding terraces, and the couple then set about remoulding the spur. In developing the garden, the Boyces were well ahead of their time, applying new ideas which are admired today.

The Boyce Gardens were heritage listed in 2001.

TEXT ADAPTED FROM [University of Queensland website](#)

Laurel Bank Park



Laurel Bank Park is a beautiful 4.5 hectare parkland close to Toowoomba's city centre, featuring spectacular manicured gardens, a scented garden, a collection of exotic trees, a playground, picnic area, gazebo and croquet greens. Beautiful year-round, but known for its sublime spring displays and avenues of cherry blossoms, it is most magnificent during Carnival of Flowers each September.

The Scented Gardens, are a 'garden within a garden' created from ideas presented by the Downs Association of the Blind, and feature fragrant blooms, herbs and shrubs in raised beds.

The park came into being in 1932 when Darling Downs Building Society Managing Director, Mr Samuel George Stephens, donated the land to the people of Toowoomba, with the City Council official custodian.

Prior to gifting the land, Mr Stephens improved it with shrubs and flowers, and was known to many as 'the man of flowers'. He asked that flowers be supplied to Toowoomba Hospital and that the land be retained as a park and not used as a sporting facility, with the exception of the Croquet Greens along Herries Street. Laurel Bank Hall was built during World War II and used as a mess hall for United States naval troops.

TEXT **Tourism and Events Queensland**
IMAGE **Wikipedia (commons)**

Rangeville - Picnic Point Parklands



A stunning, must-see location for visitors. Just a short drive from the city's CBD, the State heritage-listed Picnic Point Parklands provide breathtaking panoramic views eastward to Table Top Mountain and the Lockyer Valley. At night, the glow of Brisbane city lights can be seen from the iconic Picnic Point Lookout, perched high on the crest of the Great Dividing Range.

When entering the parklands, visitors are greeted by an avenue of mature hoop pine (*Araucuria cunninghamii*) and South Queensland kauri pine (*Agathis robusta*) that leads to the manicured lawns and gardens of Picnic Point Square (also known as Flagpole Island). A short distance away, the sights and sounds of a magnificent waterfall, constructed using the natural fall of the land, captures attention. Surrounded by lush foliage and a feature gazebo, the waterfall area is a popular wedding ceremony destination.

For adventurous visitors, there is a series of walking trails along the escarpment that offer a variety of interesting places and lookout points to explore.

TEXT AND IMAGE **Toowoomba Regional Council**

Optional Day Tour – Scenic Rim

8.45 am	Board coach
9.00 am	Depart Ipswich
10.30 am	Arrive Coochin Coochin Homestead, Coochin
11.45 am	Board coach
1.00 pm	Arrive Scenic Rim Farm Shop and Elderflower Farm
LUNCH Walking tours of Elderflower Farm and Windley Carrot Farm	
3.00 pm	Board coach
3.15 pm	Arrive Kalbar Township for Walking Tour, view shops and houses
5.00 pm	Depart Kalbar
6.00 pm	Arrive Ipswich

Historic Coochin Coochin Homestead

"Coochin Coochin" Homestead was built in 1843, ten kilometers from where it stands today. It was relocated to the present site in 1871 by bullock and dray. The original homestead is constructed of red cedar throughout, but as additions were made, they were done using pine interiors and hardwood structures. When the Bells purchased the homestead it consisted of the homestead connected to the kitchen via the gangway. The Bells then added rooms in the 1890's and then more additions in early 1900 to give a final floor area of 100 squares, all of which stands today. The present garden has 37 trees planted by distinguished guests over the years – including the Prince of Wales in 1920 and the Queen Mother in 1958.

Coochin Coochin is the name given to the many black swans that lived in this beautiful valley many years ago, when the country was only inhabited by the wildlife and the Ugarapul Tribe.

David Hunter applied for the first grazing lease in September, 1842 and named the area Dulhunty Plains. This original lease was for 120,000 acres. John Kent then purchased Dulhunty Plains in 1844 and renamed the property 'Coochin Coochin'. There were nine leasees following John Kent

up until 1882, when James Thomas Marsh Bell (Tim's great grandfather) purchased 'Coochin Coochin' in partnership with Colville Hyde. By this time the property had been reduced in size to 22,000 acres and freehold; it was purchased for 30 shillings per acre (\$3 /acre).

James Bell was the grandson of Lieutenant Archibald Bell who landed in Australia in 1807 with his wife and ten children.

Lieutenant Archibald Bell was Commander of the Guard to Governor Bligh. On the 26th of February 1883, James, his wife Gertrude and their two sons, Archie and Ernest, moved to 'Coochin Coochin' from 'Camboon' to live. In 1901 James Bell bought Colville Hyde out and became sole owner.

James ran 'Coochin Coochin' as his fattening paddock for his Shorthorn/ Hereford bullocks which were brought down from his cattle breeding property 'Camboon' on the Dawson River in Central Queensland. 'Camboon', with an area of 450,000 acres ran up to 22,000 head of cattle. Stock were walked down from 'Camboon', taking up to six months in mobs of 1,000 to 1,500 head. Over the next one hundred years of ownership of both properties, 'Camboon' was reduced to 56,000 acres when sold in 1979. 'Coochin Coochin' was reduced to 850 acres.

Distinguished guests visited 'Coochin' as it was only a days' buggy ride from Brisbane, with a picnic lunch stop at Peak Crossing. Later they travelled by train to Boonah enabling the English to see some of the 'outback'!

The present owner Tim Bell, with his wife Jane and their three children, Louise, Thomas and Samuel, are the fourth and fifth generation of Bells to live at 'Coochin Coochin'. The property is now running a mix of Santa Gertrudis and Droughtmaster cattle and grows soya beans, lucerne and barley on the flats. With the return of their two sons, they are now diversifying into other areas such as tea tree and hardwood plantations.

We hope you enjoy your visit to 'Coochin Coochin Homestead', and thankyou for coming. **Tim and Jane Bell**

TEXT Jane Bell ■ IMAGE Graham Hesse



Scenic Rim Farm and Elderflower Farm



The Farm Shop Cafe is a delightful dining destination, just an hour's drive from Brisbane, nestled in the heart of the Scenic Rim.

The former rose farm has been transformed by Gen Windley into the Scenic Rim Farm Shop & Cafe offering a range of farm fresh produce and artisan gourmet goods, along with locally roasted coffee and delicious eats.

Visitors can dine on the veranda of the Farm Shop or on the sprawling lawn beneath 100-year-old jacaranda trees.

IMAGE www.mustdobrisbane.com/cafes/farm-shop-cafe-scenic-rim

IMAGE Graham Hesse

Elderflower Farm grows all the flowers available for purchase via our shop. All of our flowers are grown on site in Kents Lagoon, a very fertile area that produces many of the vegetables and fruits you see across the country in the supermarkets.

Farmed by Fred and Rachel Watkins, the flower field produces old fashioned heirloom blooms which Rachel uses in her garden style bouquets and arrangements. Fresh, farm products and boutique homewares are available for sale at the Elderflower Farm Shop.



Rachel is a fully qualified horticulturist and florist, and offers custom floristry design for any occasion using her own farm grown blooms.

Rach curates a selection of seasonal blooms that are grown from 'babies' all the way through to final harvest. We are very fortunate to produce enough flowers to sell our floristry arrangements, create varied store products, use them in our workshop classes and from time to time be able to open the fields for 'pick your own' days.

Elderflower Farm is a boutique working farm. The flower field is always changing with the seasons.

TEXT AND IMAGE www.elderflowerfarm.com.au

Windley Family Carrot Farm



ED WINDLEY – Farmer & bug expert

Ed Windley is our resident expert in all things crop health and soil science. He grew up on a cattle farm but has had an affinity for horticulture from a young age. He started growing air plants as a child, and graduated to larger crops after university, working as an agronomist around Queensland.

Ed now grows vegetables on his own farm at Kalbar and is a stickler for systems and science. He is something of a bug expert and leads the field in the areas of Integrated Pest Management and sustainable farming systems.

TEXT Ed and Gen Windley SOURCE www.justveg.com.au/meet-the-farmers

Kalbar Township

Kalbar, a rural town, is 70 km south-west of central Brisbane.

The area around Kalbar was part of the Fassifern pastoral run (1842), which was opened up for farm selections in 1871. Many of the settlers were German. In 1876-77 August Engels began trading from his home, and later from a small store. Initially known as Fassifern Scrub, the settlement around Engel's stores became known as Engelsburg. A change of name to Kalbar occurred in 1916, because of anti-German feeling. It is thought that the name was derived from an Aboriginal expression meaning 'bright' or 'star'; an earlier interpretation paradoxically put the meaning as 'dead' or 'forgotten'.

By 1900 there were a few stores and tradespeople, along with a primary school (1879) and four churches: Baptist (1877), Methodist (1888), Lutheran (c1883) and Anglican (1895-1976). The Lutheran church has a striking triple-tiered timber steeple. A school of arts was opened in 1906.

The principal farm crop at first was maize, followed by dairying. A dairy factory was opened in about 1900, and as dairying increased fodder crops replaced maize. Kalbar was an active farming township, unusually self-reliant in that it did not have a railway connection until 1916. The Kalbar and District Agricultural and Pastoral Association was formed in 1926.



The railway closed in 1960 and the dairy industry showed early signs of decline. Former dairy properties were turned over to irrigated agriculture, and potatoes became an important crop. A bulk grain storage facility at Kalbar is used for oil seeds.

Kalbar has a primary school, a school of arts (rebuilt after a fire in Kalbar in 1920), a showground, three churches, a general store, a supermarket and an engineering works [recently closed]. A heritage-listed timber house built in 1900 by a German merchant, George Wiss, has been restored for Bed and Breakfast accommodation. The former Wiss Brothers store also appears on the Queensland heritage register.

TEXT www.queenslandplaces.com.au/kalbar

IMAGES Graham Hesse

Thanks to Suzy Baines for her assistance and generosity in organising Kalbar township visit.



Ipswich conference

Organising Committee

Convenor Ann Wegener

Speakers Program Coordinators Susan Booth and John Taylor

Secretary Lois Closter

Treasurer Elizabeth Teed

Committee Helen Mackay ■ Roberta Blake (to 26 July 2023)

Co opted Peter Bridgman ■ Jane Lennon

Special thanks Glenn Cooke, Graham Hesse, Susan Slaughter and Elizabeth Teeland and the many others who assisted.

Australian Garden History Society

Patron Prof. Tim Entwisle

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Southern Highlands NSW

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South Australia

Dr Patricia Michell

Tasmania Rosie MacKinnon

Victoria Michaela Hill

Western Australia Vacant

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Danny Kennan and Tanya Jen gave generously of their time and knowledge, ably supported by Sarah Pearson. The Ipswich City Council generously reduced fees for the conference room hire. We thank Mayor Teresa Harding and her team for their support.

Thanks to an anonymous benefactor who sponsored students to attend this Conference.

Protocols

for Garden Visits organised by the Australian Garden History Society

Members of the AGHS often enjoy the privilege of visiting private gardens on tours organised by the Society. Courtesy requires that the privacy of garden owners be respected and that there be some restrictions during and after such visits. The generosity of hosts in opening their gardens should not be abused by members peering into windows during garden tours.

Protocols dealing with photographs and other images were introduced in 2010 to protect the privacy of garden owners. The protocols provide in general terms that photographs and other images of private gardens should not be taken or published without the consent of the owner. Publication includes in branch newsletters, journals and the Internet (including websites, blog posts and all social media).

Our garden tours are often written up in branch newsletters and the Society's journal. In addition to the requirement that no photographs be published without consent, courtesy also requires that nothing be said about gardens visited that may cause offence to the owners. If these simple rules are not followed, we may not be permitted to repeat our visits, the reputation of the Society as a whole is impaired, and the number of owners willing to invite us is diminished.

The conference committee will be seeking permission for conference delegates to photograph the gardens/sites visited, as well as permission for the photographs to be published in AGHS publications and electronic media and at AGHS authorised presentations.

In general, when taking photographs during garden visits, please avoid taking images of the home and, when publishing, use the name of the property rather than identifying the owners by name. Coach Captains will have specific information regarding permission to photograph and publish for each garden to be visited. Please assist by following their advice.

If you wish to use any of your images in any print media or public presentation, we ask that you seek advice from the AGHS Office.

Email: info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au

Previous AGHS Conferences

- 1980 VIC, Melbourne
- 1981 NSW, Mount Victoria
- 1982 TAS, Hobart
- 1983 SA, Adelaide
- 1984 VIC, Gardens of the Gold Mining Era
- 1985 ACT, Canberra
- 1986 TAS, Launceston: Tasmania, the Garden – a Changing Landscape
- 1987 NSW, Southern Highlands: Planning for Change
- 1988 VIC, Melbourne: Open to View – Historic Gardens and the Public
- 1989 Cancelled due to pilots' strike
- 1990 VIC, Albury: Australian Plants in the Designed Landscape
- 1991 NSW, Goulburn: Today's New Gardens, Tomorrow's Heritage
- 1992 SA, Adelaide: Plants from the Past
- 1993 TAS, Hobart: Cottage Gardens and Villages
- 1994 VIC, Melbourne: A Changing Landscape. The Garden in the Landscape
- 1995 NSW, Sydney: From Wilderness to Garden. Early Colonial Gardens – Their Future?
- 1996 QLD, Toowoomba: Embracing Paradise – Temperate Conditions Meet the Tropics
- 1997 ACT, Canberra: The City as Garden
- 1998 WA, Fremantle: Gardening in a Mediterranean Climate
- 1999 SA, Mt Gambier: Gardens, Vineyards and Forests – the Changing Rural Landscape
- 2000 NSW, Bowral: Riches in Diversity from Grasslands to Forests, from Stonewalls to Potagers
- 2001 VIC, Melbourne: A Federation Odyssey – Australian Gardens and Landscapes 1840–1914
- 2002 TAS, Hobart: Gardens of the Imagination
- 2003 QLD, Brisbane: Tropical Pleasures
- 2004 NSW, Sydney: Browned Off – Old Gardens in a New World
- 2005 WA, Perth: From Sea to Scarp
- 2006 SA, Adelaide: Adelaide's Botanical Riches: Keeping History in Garden Design
- 2007 NSW, Albury: Meandering about the Murray – Interpreting the Landscape of the Murray Region
- 2008 NSW, Bowral: From Wilderness to Pleasure Ground. Discovering the Garden History of the Southern Highlands
- 2009 VIC, Geelong: Cultivating Australia Felix – the Pastoral Legacy
- 2010 TAS, Launceston: The Vision Splendid
- 2011 QLD, Maryborough: From Colonial River Port to the Hinterland – it's all about Mary
- 2012 VIC, Ballarat: Gardens of a Golden Era
- 2013 NSW, Armidale: Gardens with Altitude – the High Lean Country of New England
- 2014 WA, Albany: The Great Southern Region
- 2015 SA, Adelaide: Garden to Table – Productive Garden History
- 2016 ACT, Canberra: The Scientist in the Garden
- 2017 VIC, Melbourne: Marvellous Melbourne – the Challenge of Change
- 2018 NSW, Southern Highlands: Gardens in Times of Peace and Conflict
- 2019 New Zealand, Wellington: Expanding Horizons
- 2020 Cancelled due to COVID-19
- 2021 NSW, Sydney: Many Dreams, One Landscape (virtual conference due to COVID-19)
- 2022 TAS, Hobart: Landscape on the Edge: Challenge and Opportunity

Ipswich 2023



TEXT Glebe Garden Club Ipswich
IMAGE <https://bio.mq.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Eucalyptus-curtisii-flowers>

The Floral Emblem of Ipswich

Eucalyptus curtisii, Plunkett Mallee, is a small tree that is native to Queensland, Australia. It is a mallee eucalyptus that grows from 2 to 7 metres in height and has smooth, grey bark that peels in long strips. The adult leaves are 6 to 13 cm long and 10 to 25mm wide. It has prominent creamy-white flowers that appear in late spring. Its natural distribution is within a limited area in the south-east corner of Queensland. The common name refers to Plunkett, which is a locality to the north of Mount Tamborine. The species is named for Denis Curtis who came across the tree while obtaining botanical samples within its range in 1923. It was adopted by Ipswich City Council as a floral emblem in 1996.