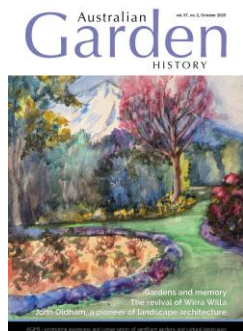




Media Release, September 2025

Gardens and memory



A rare example of the Paradise garden style in Western Australia has been resuscitated. Wirra Willa, a Perth garden once at risk, has been brought back to life by the City of Armadale and thanks to the efforts of the WA Branch of the Australian Garden History Society.

‘Paths once buried are now able to be walked again, herbaceous borders have reawakened and shrubs pruned back into form all remind visitors of Wirra Willa’s heyday’, said Ursula Sharman, current Chair of the WA Branch. ‘Beyond horticulture, the project has also safeguarded memory.’

The story of Wirra Willa features in the October issue of *Australian Garden History*, which explores the theme of memory and remembrance.

Highlights include:

- **Anne Claoue-Long** on the memories created in gardens, how they linger and what they tell us about past land use, gardening fashions, other gardeners, family and friends.
- **John Dwyer** on rosemary, the plant of remembrance.
- **Emma Sheppard-Simms** on creating a living memorial garden at Abbotsford Monastery in Melbourne for women and children who lived in Good Shepherd institutions.
- **Greg and Bronwen Keighery** on the overlooked role of landscape architect John Oldham in designing the landscape at the Wellington Dam Precinct in Western Australia.
- **Stuart Read** on how heritage experts assess the ‘significance’ of gardens.
- **Clare Gleeson** on paintings that have come to light to convey emotional connections to Molly’s garden in the Canterbury area of New Zealand. One of those watercolours features on the cover.

‘Gardens are places that can connect generations,’ said Francesca Beddie, editor of *Australian Garden History*. ‘By telling and retelling their stories, we help ensure that important legacies are not forgotten.’

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Australian Garden History is the quarterly journal of the Australian Garden History Society. It is available at <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/shop/>

To arrange an interview with any of the journal’s authors, contact Francesca Beddie, editor@gardenhistorysociety.org.au or 0418 645 181.