



AUSTRALIAN
**GARDEN
HISTORY**
SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT **2024/2025**

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 30 June 2025

Patron Professor Tim Entwisle

Office Bearers

Chair Prue Slatyer
Deputy Chair Lisa Nutting
Treasurer Stephen Hathway
Secretary Anna Long
Public Officer Brian Thomas

Elected Members

Prue Slatyer
Lisa Nutting
Stephen Hathway
Helen Oates
Anna Long
Dot Evans
Caroline Grant
Jane Lennon

Branch Representatives

ACT

Robyn Oates

Queensland

Susan Booth

Northern NSW

Helen Oates

Southern Highlands NSW

Eleanor Dartnall

South Australia

Jeffrey Jenkinson

Sydney

Steven Halliday

Tasmania

Andrew Robert-Tissot

Victoria

Michaela Hill

Western Australia

Felicity Farrelly

Journal Editor

Francesca Beddie

National Executive Officer

Sarah Edwards

Sub Committees and Working Groups

Advocacy

J Lennon, S Read, P Slatyer,
A Claoué-Long

Editorial Advisory (EAC)

A Claoué-Long, F Beddie, C Grant,
J Stackhouse, M Probyn, D Evans

Finance Advisory

P Slatyer, S Hathway, M Faul, M Dwyer

Finance Working Group

F Farrelly, P Slatyer, S Hathway

Kindred Spirits Fund

C Morris, P Watts, C Dyson, S Hathway

Marketing and Membership

H Oates, B Thomas, E Dartnall

Oral History

P Vizents, R Burge, L Chappell, A Claoué-Long,
R Hamilton, H McIntyre, S Woodburn, M Hill,
S Read

Strategic Planning Working Group

J Lennon, P Slatyer, J Jenkinson, L Nutting

Website Refresh

L Nutting, C Grant, S Halliday, A Long, P Slatyer

National Chair Report 2024–25

Management administration and corporate governance

The past year has been an interesting one, with both a number of challenges and some excellent progress and achievements..

National Management Committee (NMC)

With 8 elected members and 9 branch representatives, the National Management Committee comprised 17 members during the 2024-2025 year. This is the maximum number allowable under our Constitution. However, there will be some significant changes after this AGM with 3 elected members and two branch representatives leaving. We are looking to replace 2 of the elected members.

- Anna Long and Lisa Nutting are retiring as elected members and nominations have been called to fill one of these positions.
- Helen Oates, who was elected Chair in 2024 but was unable to take up the position then, will become Chair.
- Caroline Grant has completed her first term as an elected member and is nominating for re-election.
- Having completed my maximum two terms on NMC, I will be leaving.
- Steven Halliday, also having completed two terms, will be replaced as the Sydney Branch representative.
- Susan Booth, the Queensland Branch representative, is resigning and the Queensland Branch will choose her replacement.

NMC has 9 sub-committees and working groups with members of these groups working on agreed actions between NMC meetings, ensuring consistent progress across a range of initiatives.

It has been a productive and purposeful year and I extend my sincere thanks to all NMC members for their commitment, diligence and collegiality.

Patron

We are grateful that Tim Entwistle is continuing as our patron. Tim's description of AGHS as 'a knowledge society' aptly captures the spirit of our organisation and we value his generous and knowledgeable input.

AGHS staff

Our EO, Sarah Edwards, continues to provide efficient management of the AGHS office 3 days per week. Now in her second year with AGHS, Sarah's professionalism, dedication and warmth are greatly appreciated by NMC and members across the country.

We are also indebted to volunteers Anna Long, Caroline Radisich and former EO Lisa Nutting, who have provided voluntary support throughout the year.

In 2024 Georgina Ponce de Leon Huerta was engaged to provide bookkeeping assistance to Sarah and the treasurer for up to one day per week. Following her resignation, Sarah Watson has ably taken on this role.

Our journal editor, Francesca Beddie does a fabulous job producing the Australian Garden History journal and has been involved with a number of other initiatives. Graphic designer Mariana Rollgejer continues to provide consistent and elegant graphic design for the journal and other AGHS material.

Bill Nixon of Tadah Data has continued in a contract position managing the website and membership database, assisted by volunteer Lachlan Garland.

Constitution

NMC has attempted to ensure that our procedures align closely with the Constitution. The Constitution, written by Mark Dwyer in 2021, is intended to balance structure with flexibility. There are however a couple of areas where we would appreciate more clarification, and a Constitution Working Group has been established to look at these.

Membership

Membership remains an area of concern, with a continuing gradual decline nationally. As membership subscriptions constitute our principal source of income, this trend has significant implications. The decline reflects, in part, the ageing profile of our membership and the challenges some members experience with online renewals or participation in branch events.

Much of the current work of the NMC sub-committees and working groups is focused on strengthening recruitment and retention of members, and on fostering a broader awareness of the role and relevance of AGHS.

However, it is important to note that not all branches experience this membership decline. Some of the branches (e.g. Southern Highlands and Tasmania) are flourishing, with increasing membership and fully booked events.

Strategic Plan

Jane Lennon, chair of the Strategic Planning Sub-committee, has drafted a strategic plan for 2025–2030 with input from NMC members. This plan provides clear goals and achievable actions to guide AGHS activities for the next 5 years.

Conferences

The 2024 national conference in Bunbury was an excellent conference with a strong theme, engaging speakers, an interesting range of site visits, and terrific pre and post conference tours. Thank you to John Viska, Lynnette Petersen and the conference committee.

However, the most recent three conferences, including Mt Gambier, have not attracted a full complement of delegates. I think location is the main reason for this and recommend that future conferences are located in cities and major towns which are easily accessible from around the nation. Well-attended conferences are essential, not only for exchange of knowledge, but to also increase our income. Conferences are the second most significant income source for AGHS.

I'm delighted that planning for the next two conferences, in Orange in 2026 and in Canberra in 2027, is progressing very well. We thank Dot Evans and the Mt Gambier conference committee for their work in organising this Mt Gambier conference.

We are also grateful to the anonymous donors whose generosity has enabled student participation in recent conferences.

Marketing and Membership

Chaired by Helen Oates, the Marketing and Membership Sub-Committee has identified early retirees as our target market for new members. Eleanor Dartnell has developed a marketing brochure template that branches can adapt for local promotion.

The same anonymous donors supporting student attendance at conferences have also contributed to student membership of AGHS helping to introduce a younger demographic to garden and landscape history.

Partnerships

By increasing partnerships with like-minded organisations, the Partnerships Sub-Committee aims to increase awareness of AGHS and its work, to market AGHS to potential members, increase support for advocacy projects and provide an additional source of income for AGHS (e.g. through tours). Our partnerships are either formal with an MoU, or more informal with verbal arrangements. Chaired by Felicity Farrelly, the sub-committee is improving management of existing partnerships, and looking for new opportunities, especially with tour companies.

Advocacy

Advocacy remains a central pillar of the mission of AGHS. It is primarily a branch activity, but NMC's Advocacy Sub-committee and Chair are available to lend their voice for nationally significant issues. It is planned to encourage branch involvement to better document 'Landscapes at Risk' and celebrate advocacy wins on the refreshed website.

Anne Claoué-Long's excellent *Advocacy Toolkit* has been enhanced with graphic design input, making it easier to use. NMC plans to run advocacy training for the branches using the toolkit.

Website and membership software

It is disappointing that implementation of the new membership software, TidyHQ, has taken longer than anticipated. Ultimately it will provide a simpler system for joining and renewing membership as well as real time membership records, essential for the branches to keep in touch with members. We're hoping this software will assist with retention of our members.

Once the membership software is implemented, the website will be restructured to provide easier and more intuitive user experience, strengthening communication and engagement.

Nina Crone Fund

The Nina Crone Fund continues to support the commissioning of articles and illustrations for the *Australian Garden History* journal, with an emphasis on emerging writers and illustrators.

Kindred Spirits Fund

The Kindred Spirits Fund is financially healthy and it's fantastic to see this fund being used for its intended purpose. Interest generated from term deposits is used to provide grants of around \$20,000 per year. Two recently published books have been supported by grants from the fund: *The Man who Planted Canberra* by Robert Macklin and *Palawa Tunapri* by Trish Hodge. Both are available from the AGHS on-line shop.

Oral history

It's great to have Patsy Vizents back as Chair of the Oral History Sub-committee. NMC has provided a grant of \$20,000 to support the production of nationally significant oral histories which are being conducted over the next few years.

Recognition of the AGHS Oral History Collection continues to grow. Roslyn Burge and Francesca Beddie presented on the collection at the November 2024 Biennial Conference of the Oral History Association of Australia, underscoring the importance and reach of this work.

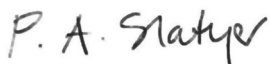
A particularly engaging initiative arising from the collection is the podcast *Ticket to Ryde*, developed by Francesca Beddie and Jennifer Stackhouse using voices in the collection of former students at Ryde TAFE's Horticulture School.

Future Directions

The December 2023 paper by Peter Watts and Colleen Morris titled *Future Directions* makes several suggestions for revitalising AGHS to ensure it stays relevant and appealing in today's world, so that we continue to attract new members and serve the needs of our current ones. The suggestions include a name change to better reflect what we do, and amalgamation or association with another like-minded organisation. These ideas merit ongoing discussion as we address membership issues and future sustainability.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to our Patron, NMC members, our staff and volunteers, and branch committees for their generous commitment throughout the year. The success of AGHS depends on your passion, expertise and goodwill.



Prue Slatyer

National AGHS Chair

Branch Reports

ACT MONARO RIVERINA

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Robyn Oates
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Sue Cassidy
Committee	Louise Gaudry, Rosanna Horn, Mary Johnston

Activities

- **Gardening with Ancestors 22 August.** After the AGM Dr Greg Johnson spoke about his life in gardening and his professional life as a plant pathologist and how he discovered ancestors who were professional horticulturalists.
- **Cootamundra Garden Tour 9–10 November.** A weekend visit to three historical pastoral gardens and tour of Cootamundra with the local Historical Society.
- **At the Foot of the Mountain – a 60-year legacy 6 December.** Suellen Fitzgerald, Executive Director of Western Sydney Parklands Trust prior to her tenure as inaugural Chief Executive of Greater Sydney Parklands invited us to the family garden with all original mid-century Canberra plantings.
- **Tour of the National Gallery of Australia Sculpture Garden and Fiona Hall Fern Garden** with Ben Taylor.
- **A Visit to Duntroon House and Gardens 15 March.** A tour of Duntroon House and gardens by Duntroon historical guides.
- **ACT Heritage Festival – May.** AGHS held a stall at the festival.
- **Rock Valley Homestead and Gardens 7 May.** A tour by guides from the Historical Society and various bush demonstrations. Joint event with ACT National Trust.
- **A Pepper Tree Grows in the Old School Yard** a talk by Dr Anna Howe on the pepper tree which was part of all rural properties and school yards.

Advocacy

- A response was submitted to **NCA Commonwealth Park Concept Vision 2025**. The response sent in June 2025 noted that the Concept Vision did not adequately consider the historic and aesthetic heritage values of the Park which has not had a comprehensive heritage assessment. The proposals also promoted privatisation of public space, building of a permanent aquatic centre, commercial kiosks and pavilions, and indicated tree loss, all aspects which AGHS questioned as undesirable, especially without adequate investigation of existing values. The Branch awaits notification of further developments.
- Our February 2025 response to the **National Rose Gardens Heritage Management Plan** and the National Capital Authority (NCA) call for comments on the proposed rejuvenation works was quoted at length in the NCA report published on their website.
- In November 2024 and then in December Robyn Oates participated in discussions with the NCA and representatives from a variety of community groups about proposed **landscape plantings at the Albert Hall**. AGHS applauded the ACT Government for their planning of the project as being complementary to the identified heritage values of the place.
- **AGHS Advocacy Toolkit.** Anne Claoué-Long has worked with a graphic designer to transform the report format into a web-friendly presentation with clickable links, photos and graphics. The new look Advocacy Toolkit is available on the AGHS website under committee resources after member log in.

Projects

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

- Juliet Ramsay's recording and transcript has been received by the Branch and is uploaded to the AGHS website. The project along with other ACTMR Branch oral histories will be lodged with the ACT Heritage Library.
- The AGHS National Oral History Group is compiling a booklet of OH summaries for the Mt Gambier conference. Among the chosen interviews is that of Max Bourke, branch member.
- Interviews with Diane Firth and Paul Jansens have been approved for funding by the NMC using national budget monies. These interviews will occur within the coming year.

Chair's Report

A highlight in our event calendar was a Tour of the National Gallery of Australia Sculpture Garden and Fiona Hall Fern Garden with NGA Landscape Manager Ben Taylor, initiated by branch member Kaye Johnson.

Our Conference 2027 Committee are well advanced in their planning. The venue contract is ready to sign and the speakers' program draft has been completed.

Efforts to grow our committee have come to nought. The Secretary's position is vacant. All secretarial tasks have to be shared by the Committee. We therefore rely heavily on some Branch members who assist with particular tasks. I particularly wish to thank our Publicity and Communications and Newsletter editor and Membership Manager **Judy Pearce** and **Anne Claoué-Long** our Advocacy Manager and Branch representative on the National Oral History Working Group. **Nancy Clarke** has also assisted enormously with some event planning and as a consultant for the Committee. **Gini Hole** has assisted with catering and onsite organization at events. We would not have survived without them.

In conclusion, the ACTMR Branch is active and sustains a healthy number of members. Nevertheless, activities need to be re-considered according what is possible with a small committee.

Robyn Oates

QUEENSLAND

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Anne Wegener [until AGM 21 September 2024] then Jane Lennon appointed
Minutes Secretary	Lois Closter
Treasurer	John Taylor
	Susan Booth, Alison Curtis and Annie Woodgate

Functions

- **Tour of Robin Dodds gardens** in Brisbane **24 August 2024**
- **AGM 21 September 2024:** Branch discussion on proposed name change for AGHS – majority against.
- **End of year function 7 December 2024** – visit to two gardens developed on acreage over 30 years at Bunya followed by picnic lunch.
- **Celebration of the life of Glenn Cooke**, a foundation member of AGHS Qld branch, at State Library of Queensland on **6 February 2025** was attended by many AGHS members, some coming from interstate.
- **Autumn walking tour of Toowoomba Saturday 17 May 2025**

Advocacy

Our proposed advocacy campaign with concerned others about the impact of the Olympic Games stadium being built in Victoria Park/Barrambin was terminated by Parliament passing legislation to cancel 15 relevant laws relating to planning and heritage to enable construction to proceed.

Projects

Several members involved in the AGHS-Queensland University of Technology landscape architecture course essay competition – providing a workshop session and being on the judging panel; the winning essay was published in the January 2025 issue of the AGHS Journal.

Chair's Report

Our branch was depleted and exhausted after the Ipswich conference in late 2023 and second half of 2024 was spent on some rebuilding. A long hot and humid summer culminating in Cyclone Alfred in March 2025 caused havoc to plans and gardens. We try again.

Jane Lennon

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair and NMC Representative	Jeffrey Jenkinson
Vice-Chair	Currently vacant
Treasurer/Secretary	Di Wilkins
Newsletter Editor	Patricia Michel
Committee	Jane Smylie, Christine McCabe, Dot Evans, Mike Evans

The last twelve months have seen a lot of activity by a small number of our society who make up the planning committee for the national conference of our society to be held in Mt Gambier at the end of October 2025. There have been planning challenges for us as we needed to rethink the conference program after our initial plans to host the conference in Alice Springs were cancelled, in part due to security concerns. Our society has benefitted enormously by the enthusiasm and can-do attitude of our conference planning chair Dot Evans with the capable assistance of her husband Mike who have kept the program to schedule. We can be proud that Di Wilkins and Richard Heathcote have stepped forward to lead bus tours which make up part of the conference program. Everyone involved has and is contributing their particular talents to make the conference a success.

The profits made from each annual conference and annual membership subscriptions are the main sources of income for our national organisation which places a lot of pressure on the branches some of which have small membership numbers and even smaller active members.

I am aware that the national executive will be taking a more active role in next year's conference due to a lack of active conference organisers locally.

I am mindful that the SA branch has offered little in the way of activities or visits and lectures to our members over the last twelve months. Our members were given an overview of possible directions for The Australian Museum of Gardening by the Director of Carrick Hill, Ms Susan McCormack at Carrick Hill. Our branch has a Memorandum of Understanding with the museum, being keen supporters of the project to help in any way we can.

Our next branch activity is planned for 14/9/2025 at 10.15 am. We will be taken on a guided tour by Dr Mark Ellis around the Michael Perry Botanic Reserve along Second Creek, Stonyfell, SA.

This reserve was the subject of an article in the *Australian Garden History Journal* in April 2025.

The AGHS sees its role as promoting awareness and conservation of significant gardens and cultural landscapes. Advocacy should be ongoing. Members of our branch have contributed to the ongoing Adelaide Parklands usage debates.

Future directions

Our society is facing declining membership at a national and branch level. Recent analysis suggests that our best potential for new membership is found in the newly retired. I would like you all to think about how these people might be approached.

I would particularly like to thank our secretary Susan Woodburn for her attention to detail and enthusiasm.

Jeffrey Jenkinson

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair and Secretary	Ruth Bailey PhD
Secretary	Olga Birrell
Treasurer	Lynda Cowley
Event Coordinator/NMC Rep.	Eleanor Dartnall
Event Coordinator Assistant	Sue Trudeau
IT Coordinator/Research	Vacant
Inflorescence Editor/Research	Bud Townsing
Committee	Chris O'Brien, Pamela Jane

Off Committee

Laurel Cheetham	Wingecarribee Heritage Committee Representative
Ray Bradley	Tours
Heather McIntyre	Oral History

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.

Caroline Simpson Library (CSL) Visit

A free event on 25 July, 2024. The library was gifted by the children of Caroline Simpson OAM (1930–2003) to the Historic Houses Trust of NSW (now the Museums of History NSW). This included furniture, artworks, books and decorative arts from Caroline Simpson collection of colonial history, and heritage. Caroline was the sister of James Fairfax (of Retford Park in Bowral) and was one of Australia's great philanthropists. The CSL is a specialised research library open to anyone with an interest in the history of house and garden design, interior furnishings and domestic life in NSW.

AGM/Winter Seminar

Held on 24 August, 2024. Speakers were Michael Bligh *Designing Gardens to Retain Existing Important Plantings* and Linda Emery *History of Early Commercial Gardens in Exeter*. Michael demonstrated how to retain the character of an old garden but refresh it to make it current for a new family. Linda reminded us of the history of market gardens in Exeter due to the extremely fertile soil, cool climate and accessibility to the Sydney market (via rail) dating from the 1890s. Seed and bulb farms were widely established by Arthur Yates and Company and Searl & Sons amongst others.

Tour of Heritage Station Street Camellias

Dr Stephen Utick provided the history of the 18 heritage camellias on 3rd August, 2024 which form the hedge along Station Street in Bowral. Some cultivars were descended from early Australian cultivars dating back to 1848.

Private Garden Visit

A free event was held at the private garden, Park Hill in Moss Vale on 13 September, 2025. Park Hill was built circa 1836 and Claude Crowe (1914-1999) planted many of the trees and shrubs in the garden. The house and garden are heritage listed as is the old hayshed which pre-dates the house.

Coach Tour in Sydney

On 13 October, 2024 we took a coach to Sydney to visit Elizabeth Bay House, the grand heritage-listed Colonial Regency style house with magnificent views of Sydney Harbour and beyond. This was followed by a visit to the Paddington Reservoir Gardens formerly the Paddington water reservoir which was constructed in ~1865. It is now a heritage-listed public park which is comprised of a sunken garden and park. Vaucluse House was visited next which is a heritage-listed residence, colonial farm and country estate. The house is one of the few 19th century houses near Sydney Harbour retaining a significant part of its original setting.

Coach Tour to Hunter Valley

We toured the Hunter Valley from 19–21 November, 2024. This included visits to the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens, Kurri Kurri to see the many murals throughout the town and Wallis Creek Watergarden where beautiful waterlilies and lotus flowers were grown for the public. In the evening we visited the Hunter Valley Gardens to enjoy the wonderful display of Christmas lights. Historic Maitland, the location of Grossman House a rare historic restored Victorian property built 1870–71 by Isaac and Caroline Beckett, and the beautifully preserved historic town of Morpeth were also visited.

Christmas Celebration – Tavistock in Exeter

On 6 December, 2024 we celebrated Christmas and remembered the many events we held throughout 2024 at Tavistock the gorgeous home and garden of Eleanor and John Dartnall in Exeter.

Film Day

The film *A Little Chaos* was shown at the Empire Theatre in Bowral on 19 February, 2025 to raise funds for our advocacy activities. We held this event alone and several garden related businesses in the Southern Highlands advertised their services which helped bring in additional funds.

Bundanon Bus Trip

On 27 March, 2025 we headed to Bundanon, the former family home of the artist Arthur Boyd, and which was gifted to the Commonwealth Government in 1993 by the Boyd family. Bundanon is a space that emphasises the integration and connectedness of nature, culture and art in the landscape. The space also reflects Indigenous perspective of country, with being everything connected.

Blue Mountains Tour

A 3-day tour between 8–10 April was held to visit the historic village of Mt Wilson to view the properties of Windyridge (a 5-acre stunning garden, 30 years in the making) and Nooroo (house and garden built in 1880 and well known as the family home of Peter Calder between 1917–1992). We also visited the Gory'u Japanese Gardens, Everglades House and Garden in Leura (a beautiful Sorenson garden and 1930's Van De Velde designed Art Deco house) and Mayfield Garden in Oberon which is one of the world's largest privately owned cool climate gardens, lying within a 2,000-hectare (5,000 acre) working farm.

Self-Drive Visit to Brownlow Hill and Denbigh

The self-drive was held on 1 May, 2025. Both of these properties are located in the Camden area. Brownlow Hill was designed and established by Alexander Macleay and built in 1827 by George Macleay, his son). In 1875 the property was sold to Jeremiah Downes and today is run by a fifth generation Downes family. Denbigh is one of the oldest English style colonial farm complexes in Australia. The bungalow was built in 1817. The property is privately owned. It was added to the NSW State Heritage Register in 2006.

Winter Solstice Seminar

On 22 June 2025 Stuart Read gave a presentation titled *Garden Design Using Australian Plants – A History* which highlighted the long-term use of native plants in historic gardens. As early as 1799–1800 Norfolk Island Pines were used to line the carriageway to the house at the farm called Annandale, a property 6km from Sydney. Ruth Bailey described the process of recording a significant garden, with

a team of collaborators, in Bowral called Thrushwood and self-publishing two beautiful books titled *Thrushwood Garden Evolution – The Creation of a Plant Collector's Garden 1975-2023* and *Thrushwood Garden and Collections*.

Planned events for remainder of 2025

Webinar with John Blay

On 16 July John Blay, naturalist and writer will present *Wild Country Plant Mosaics and Garden Design* to help raise funds for the Nina Crone Writing Fund.

AGM and Second Winter Seminar

To be held 3 August 2025 with speakers Flavia Scardamaglia on *A Reintroduction to Leslie Wilkinson, a discussion about his ideas and role as a garden maker and designer* and Trisha Dixon on *The Ongoing Influence of Edna Walling*.

Canberra Bus Trip

On Thursday 18 September a bus trip to Canberra: Tulip Tops and the National Arboretum Canberra to focus on the value of retaining trees and planting more trees in our community.

Self-Drive to Australian Botanic Garden Mt Annan

A self-drive to the Australian Botanic Garden at Mt Annan on 2 October, 2025 will also include a tour of the Plant Bank.

Exeter Garden Ramble

On November 8 there will be a garden ramble in Exeter.

Christmas Celebration

On 5 December our Christmas celebration will be held at a private garden called Quindalup, Glenquarry.

Advocacy

Berry Hotel DA Blocked by Land and Environment Court (LEC)

(Excerpt from Land and Environment Court New South Wales before C. O'Neill 30 January, 2025)

On 12 November, 2023 Bud Townsing prepared a response on behalf of the Australian Garden History Society–Southern Highlands Branch (AGHS-SHB) to the proposed DA to significantly modify the old Berry Hotel and surrounding land on and near Queen Street Berry, which is a Heritage Conservation Area. This together with many objections from the community of Berry helped lead to the above decision.

The Feros Hotel Group Pty Limited submitted a DA to the Shoalhaven City Council. The company declared a deemed refusal and took the decision to the Land and Environment Court (LEC). A final decision was made by the LEC dismissing the appeal as the DA involved alterations and additions to the Berry Hotel at 120–122 Queen Street and 79–83 Princess Street, Berry, including expansion onto 122 Queen Street Berry, construction of new hotel accommodation, consolidation of 4 lots, associated parking and landscaping and formalisation of access and parking on 77 Princess Street, Berry.

The conclusion of the LEC was as follows:

- The proposed alterations and additions to the hotel building would result in an adverse heritage impact on the fabric and on the legibility of the hotel, as the proposal involves the removal of an excessive amount of existing fabric of the hotel, contrary to the heritage clause to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservations areas, including associated fabric, settings and view, at Clause 5.10(1)(b) of LEP 2014.

- The proposed hotel accommodation building is not compatible with the historic residential character of Princess Street; and contrary to the objective for the Berry Town Centre at Chapter N2 of DCP 2014, to ensure the new development is complementary, and respect, the heritage characteristics of the town.

Working with other Community Groups

AGHS-SHB works closely with other community groups such as Friends of Bowral (FOB), the Berrima Residents Association and the Berrima District Historical & Family History Society.

Nearmap images, historic photographs and census data are some of the tools we use to assist them. The Nearmap images have proved a particularly valuable tool for advocacy and Land and Environment Court Hearings.

In November, 2024 FOB wanted to brief each of the ten new Wingecarribee Shire Councillors so Bud Townsing undertook to prepare a 46 page, large format hardcover book called *Friends of Bowral* as briefing material for a meeting with the new Councillors. This was published by Bud Townsing who had printed copies available in just three weeks. It has, as the introduction, the October 2024 *Australian Garden History Journal* Good News article which describes the formation of FOB and the key role FOB played in saving the Bowral Station Street precinct. A key objective of the book was to correct the widespread misconception that only 9% of the dwellings in Bowral are medium density. Using Nearmap images to count medium density dwellings and census data Bud was able to demonstrate that 40% of the dwelling stock of Bowral (not including East Bowral) is actually medium density, a huge difference to the normally quoted 9%.

Lot 5 Earl St, Bowral DA refused by the Wingecarribee Local Planning Panel (WLPP)

On 28 September, 2022 the Chair wrote a letter to the Wingecarribee Shire Council objecting to the DA cited below. In total there were 83 letters of objection to this DA, and our letter was included in this list.

At the 30 April 2025 at the WLPP Meeting the resubmitted DA for the Proposed Building Envelope and Vegetation Removal - Lot 5, Earl Street, Bowral was discussed. The DA was refused on 30 April 2025 due to many conditions not being met by the applicant.

The objections were extensive and related to vegetation removal, bushfire hazard protection, utility and service provision, heritage, earthworks, effect on water quality, envelope placement and visual impact, stormwater runoff and management, incomplete and inconsistent information on site suitability and the public interest.

52 Kangaloon Rd, Bowral DA refused by the Wingecarribee Local Planning Panel (WLLP)

On 30 July, 2024 the Chair wrote to the Wingecarribee Shire Council on behalf of the AGHSSHB objecting to the DA described below. Our letter was one of many letters of objection which were considered by the WLPP which was held on 28 May, 2025.

The WLPP refused the DA for subdivision of three (3) existing lots into three (3) new lots to facilitate the retention of an existing dwelling and construction of thirteen (13) infill seniors or self care 3 dwellings and one (1) single dwelling house at 52 Kangaloon Road, Bowral and 18 Aitken Road, Bowral for the following reasons.

The WLLP was not satisfied that the design of the development adequately took into consideration the design principles for seniors housing as set out in Schedule 8 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021.

In particular, the application did not:

- recognise the desirable elements of the location's current character and neighbourhood amenity, which includes large canopy trees.
- complement the significance of the heritage conservation area, of buildings in landscaped settings, including large canopy trees.

- complement the heritage items located within the vicinity of the site.
- make a reasonable attempt to retain the significant trees located on the site.
- have obvious and safe pedestrian links from the site that provide access to transport services or local facilities, and to
- provide a safe environment for pedestrians.

The WLLP did not endorse the recommendation in the Council officer's report principally on the basis that the proposal did not adequately respond to the desirable elements of the location's current character and the significance of the heritage conservation area, which included dwellings in landscaped settings, with large canopy trees. The development also did not demonstrate that adequate and safe pedestrian access had been provided within the site as pedestrian access is by the long driveway off Aitken Road with no separate footpath.

Projects

Thrushwood Garden Recording

Two years ago, we reported that a garden recording of Thrushwood on 28A Cliff Street, Bowral had been in process since September, 2022. It was a single-family residence for 47 years before being sold in February 2023. The owners had been avid plant collectors for the previous 8 years so the garden is unique in the Southern Highlands. The garden had never been shown to the general public due to lack of parking in the street. About 85% of all plants were identified in the 2,782 m² garden and plans drawn to locate all plants in 15 separate gardens on the property. In August 2024 two large format books were published by Ruth Bailey. This two-year project would not have been possible without the collaboration of Bud Townsing, So Sum and Chris O'Brien, Leonie and James Furber (the former owners of Thrushwood) and Leonie's sister Jan Ritchie. The books are intended to be placed in the AGHS-SHB archives at the Bowral Library as well as multiple other libraries in NSW.

Station Street Heritage Camellia Signs

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 Heritage Camellia Signs

Since September 2023, Laurel Cheetham has been coordinating with the Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC) and the Department of NSW Transport as well as Dr Stephen Utick (the Secretary of Camellia Ark Australia) and Linda Emery (a notable local historian) to create two information signs about the restoration of the trachyte terraces and the heritage camellias planted in the terraces. Two signs for installation, one near the Bowral Railway Station and the other near the entrance path to the Railway Station now have been designed by AGHSSHB and created by ArmSign. The signs will be erected by the WSC in July, 2025. This concludes the 8-year effort to preserve the heritage camellias on Station Street, Bowral as well as the pin oaks which herald the northern entry to Bowral. We appreciate the efforts of the Interim Administrator of the WSC Mr Viv May from March 2021 until August 2024, who supported the preservation of the trachyte terraces and the heritage camellias. The new WSC was elected in September 2024 and they have been very supportive of the signs' development after gaining approval from NSW Transport.

Quindalup Garden Recording

A garden recording of the property Quindalup, in Glenquarry, owned by Deidre Hill, is in progress. Deidre started this garden over 50 years ago on her own and it is now one of the most outstanding gardens showcasing rare conifers and exotic trees in the Southern Highlands. Deidre has published two books previously on general gardening and floral art, so she is an accomplished author. She is writing the garden's history and Ruth Bailey, Lynda Cowley and John Swainston are assisting by photographing the garden.

Tree Preservation in the Southern Highlands

Several members of the AGHS-SHB Committee, as well as some members of the branch are working with the WSC to determine if we can provide assistance in the implementation of the Council's Tree Management Strategy. We are especially interested to preserve significant trees in the Shire. This will be a long-term project but is essential to help increase the tree coverage in the Shire and to preserve significant trees.

Book on Saving Heritage Camellias in the Southern Highlands

Many AGHS-SHB members, as well as other groups such as the Friends of Bowral (FOB) and the National Trust, have worked tirelessly over many years to preserve the heritage camellias in the Southern Highlands. Ruth Bailey and Bud Townsing intend to publish a book documenting this history. Ruth has started to photograph the heritage camellias at Station Street to add to those taken in 2024. More photographs of the heritage camellias at Station Street, Harper's Mansion and Bendooley Place will be taken over the next two months of their flowering season to obtain the best photographs possible. More photographs of Retford Park camellias are needed due to the poor weather in August 2024 which hampered good photography. Heritage camellias at Camden Park have also been rescued due to the work of AGH-SHB members and Claude Crowe (1914-1999) a well-known nurseryman in Berrima. The book may include camellias on private properties if permission is given.

Berrima Museum New Exhibition

A new exhibition has been developed at the Berrima Museum by Bud Townsing. In 2021 he acquired a box of 50 glass magic lantern slides from the UK. The glass slides are shown on a Magic Lantern Projector. Research showed the slides were of an 1891 lecture called *A Tour Through New South Wales and Queensland* by R. Lean of Sunny Corner NSW. The slides were made by the Riley Brothers. The quality is amazing considering these slides were created 130+ years ago! Searching for further information about the slides with enquiries with the Magic Lantern Society in the UK revealed that they had the list of the same slides in their archives in the Riley catalogue. Once learning of the title of the slides the original lecture notes were found in the NSW State Library. Quite an amazing find as the Library does not have the actual slides! These photographs provide exciting information about the landscapes in Sydney and many smaller towns throughout NSW as well as Brisbane in QLD in 1891.

Public relations

Inflorescence was published every 2 months with Bud Townsing as the editor and Ruth Bailey as sub-editor on two occasions.

Chair's Report

Our Committee has worked together exceptionally well this past year. All members have made significant contributions to the success of our many activities, especially Lynda Cowley our treasurer who has always endeavoured to ensure that we price our events carefully to only make a small profit on each event. These profits will be used to support notable projects in our branch next year.

We again held 12 events this past year and have maintained our policy of providing some free events, some single day and multiple day events to appeal to our wide-ranging members and friends' preferences. Eleanor Dartnall and Sue Trudeau have worked very diligently to ensure that all of the local events were a great success. Bud Townsing has again been a stellar performer this past year writing and creating several different historical articles and exhibitions.

This past year multiple branch members have contributed trip reports for our one- and three-day tours, which have been a valuable support to Bud Townsing (the editor of our bimonthly newsletter *Inflorescence*). I especially want to acknowledge the contribution by Merryleigh Brindley as she has volunteered on multiple occasions to write event reports and these have been well received by our members. I also want to thank Bud Townsing, Margie Stuart, Susan Hand, Jenny Woodwell, Chris O'Brien, Eleanor Dartnall, Olga Birrell and Pamela Jane for their single event reporting during the year. Without multiple people assisting in these efforts our *Inflorescence* newsletter would not have been so widely read.

Ray Bradley has again been an excellent tour organiser this past year with two successful tours, one to the Hunter Valley and the other to the Blue Mountains and Mayfield Gardens. The Blue Mountains tour in April 2025 was Ray's last three-day tour as he has decided to step down from organising multi-day tours after volunteering to provide this service for nine years. We hope to tap into his knowledge as we arrange day tours in 2025/2026. We are very appreciative of his efforts over the years and everyone will certainly miss his detailed planning and organisation of these tours. Great memories have been created for our members and guests and they will be treasured forever.

Despite the financial challenges being experienced by many people and their families we currently have 150 members in our branch and many friends who elect not to become members but attend some events as guests. Some of these people will ultimately become members as we have seen in past years.

Bud Townsing and Chris O'Brien will be joining me as we step down from our roles. Bud and Chris have provided excellent contributions to the branch and we thank them for their four-year tenure on the committee.

Ruth Bailey, PhD

SYDNEY

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Stuart Read
Vice-Chair	Steven Halliday
Secretary	Jan Churcher
Treasurer	David Low
Committee	Wendy Hamilton, Stephen Hathway, Christina Kanellaki-Lowe, Gina Plate
Newsletter Editor(s)	Anne Smith (no longer a committee member), Christina Kanellaki-Low (July edition of Branch Cuttings)

Activities

- **Talk on Elusive traces of Migrants' gardens, by Prof. Helen Armstrong AM, 28 August 2024**
Highlight of 2024's AGM was this richly illustrated talk by Helen, Professor Emeritus of Landscape Architecture, Queensland University of Technology, on creating gardens by Australia's migrants, their various cultures-of-origin and influences on styles of gardens they've made here.
- **Christmas Party, 1st December, Brownlow Hill, Orangeville via Camden**
A delightful visit to, garden tour of and welcome and talk by host Edgar Downes in the gardens of this early colonial estate established by George Macleay and long held by the Downes family.
- **Visit and viewing of William Hardy Wilson exhibition, Sydney University, 15 February 2025**
Co-curators Hector Abrahams and Cameron Logan were our expert guides around this Sydney University, Fisher Library, Special Collections exhibition of WHW drawings of old colonial houses, gardens and urban buildings of note. We also saw a few garden history treasures such as Jane Loudon's *Ladies' Gardening Calendar*. Photo of co-curators by Jan Churcher.
- **Talk, 'Threading the jewels: the 'Green Necklace', Christine Hay, 5 March 2025**
Christine outlined the study undertaken by herself, Colleen Morris and James Quoyale for the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (NSW) on Sydney's harbourside parklands. Amazing. Followed up by an article in the Society's national journal, Australian Garden History.
- **Wallama - Ballast Point Park, Birchgrove tour, 6 April 2025**
Christine Hay, Colleen Morris and James Quoyale guided us around this 'Green Necklace' park on the harbour, covered with big oil tanks for much of the last century: now with clever design & story telling. A great day out and much of interest.
- **Yurulbin Park and Birchgrove Oval & Park walk, 10 May 2025**
Christine, Colleen and James guided us around two parks: new (1970s) 'Green Necklace' one made from rock & boat-building sheds; older (1890s) reclaimed wetland & foreshore: fascinating contrasts.
- **Talk on Goulburn Jewish Cemetery, by Dr Siobhan Lavelle OAM, 11 June 2025**
A most interesting evening hearing about a rare, early Jewish cemetery on the edge of an inland town, its ritual use of water, surviving features, heritage listing and better understanding of such rich places. Photos by Siobhan Lavelle OAM.
- **Talk on Managing Historic Gardens, by Stuart Read, 23 July 2025**
A 'what, who, how, where?' introduction and overview to gardens, by era and type; 'heritage' statutory listings and management; issues arising and a few pointers for more information. The evening drew a large crowd, with some new faces.
- **Talk on Apiculture (beekeeping), honey & gardens, by Liane Colwell, 3 September 2025**
A gourmet chef and expert on honey: its production, quality and uses and how it is really gardens' most valuable product – attracting pollinators, thus ripe fruit, other foods, and more. An eye opener.

Advocacy

The Branch sent 2024 letters supporting *Berrys Bay Precinct (Carradah Park)*, Waverton's *Ballast Point Park* and *Yurulbin Park and Foreshore*, both in Birchgrove and Balls Head Park, Waverton's listings on the NSW state heritage register. The former two would be listed in late 2024 and early 2025: *Balls Head Park* and *Yurulbin Park and Foreshore* were listed in July 2025. Letters were sent supporting an expanded listing curtilage of early farm *Lansdowne*, east Goulburn and objecting to a proposed cycle path through *Prince Edward Park*, in Newcastle East. Both remain pending, the former being subject to owner objection and proposal of a rezoning and residential subdivision of its farmland.

In early 2025 we sent a letter objecting to proposed removal of 2 cypresses at the *WW1 memorial* at Mosman, blocking views of its flag pole, arguing that the trees were an equal part of the memorial. This matter remains still pending and 'with the Minister' for decision. We objected to the widening of Inalls Lane, Richmond, and likely impact on the front garden of *Durham Bowes* (aka *Mountainview*), an early colonial garden we've had the pleasure of visiting.

We also objected to the 'one size fits all' approach of 'Transport Oriented Development' where state government is lifting density and heights around railway stations to boost housing supply. While this may be wise generically, it will potentially be damaging to some sensitive heritage precincts and areas. A more 'horses for courses' tailored approach is needed.

The branch wrote supporting trilingual oral historian Dr Christopher Cheng's proposal for Parramatta History, Culture & Stories funding, noting his *Australian Garden History* journal article on Chinese market gardening in Sydney, and that this field is under-documented. We also wrote to Ryde City Council suggesting a new master plan for its *Brush Farm Park* and *Lambert Park* takes into consideration the earlier rural estate and vineyard terracing of Brush Farm estate, among other park plans.

We made a submission to a NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the *Greater Sydney Parklands Trust's Act* and operations, suggesting ways it can better address heritage landscapes and major parks in its care, like *Callan Park*, *Centennial & Moore Parks*, *Fernhill* Mulgoa and *Parramatta Park*. We also made a submission on the draft NSW Heritage Strategy in July, promoting landscape and garden heritage as needing much more specific inclusion and resourcing. The outcome of this strategy remains pending.

Projects

The Branch made a donation of \$1000 to *Eryldene*, Gordon for repairs to some of its garden seats.

Yasmar, Haberfield: committee member and horticulturist, Gina Plate continues to lead a team of volunteers who work on Thursday mornings to remove weeds, prune and keep its historic garden on Parramatta Road tidy. *Yasmar's* ownership transferred to the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Council (MLALC) during the year and it appears they propose to use the place initially as a Ranger training centre. The MLALC are keen for the garden volunteers to continue their work in its grounds, so we're hopeful a license has been approved allowing this to continue.

We continued publication of our tri-annual newsletter, *Branch Cuttings* edited by redoubtable Anne Smith (with the July 2025 issue by Christina Kanellaki-Low) detailing our events and doings. Steve Halliday managed the publication of a monthly high-quality *E-news* alerting members to upcoming events and other matters of interest.

Chair's Report

A most enjoyable, busy year, marked by wonderful talks and great visits, not least the two 'Green Necklace' ones to new harbour-side parks in Birchgrove. Special thanks to Steven Halliday who has wrangled branch committee Zoom meetings, encouraged us to adopt AI-generated minute-taking, created monthly *E-news* and been branch representative on the Society's National Management Committee for the last six years. He is passing that last (NMC) baton on – thanks, Steve! Thanks too to Anne Smith for being our resourceful editor of '*Branch Cuttings*' over such a long time – great work. Christina Kanellaki-Low will be its new editor, no doubt with a bit of handover help from Anne.

My thanks to all the committee, who contribute and help in so many ways, perhaps not seen by members but appreciated by me! I hope some members are planning on going to the AGHS conference in Mount Gambier, South Australia – I think our last one there (early 1990s) was one of the best I've attended – such an interesting area, with limestone, dormant volcanoes and sinkholes, wine and forestry. See you there? We're planning another visit to Darling Harbour's Chinese Garden of Friendship, this time in summer/autumn, for contrast. Stay tuned...

Stuart Read

NORTHERN NSW

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Helen Oates
Vice Chair	Graham Wilson
Treasurer	Tom O'Connor
Minutes Secretary	Helen Wilson
Events Coordination	Sandra Welsman
Fundraising Coordination	Lexia Nielsen and Robyn Jackson
Publicity	Lynne Walker
Newsletter/Reports	Maria Hitchcock
Advocacy	Bill Oates
Oral History Coordination	Liz Chappell

Activities

- **1 July High Tea** at NERAM - Annual fundraiser for the New England Regional Art Museum in the spectacular Hinton Gallery.
- **17 & 21 August** Rose pruning workshops were conducted in the Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez Homestead.
- **25 August** Kim Woods Rabbidge presented our Winter Speakers event at the Armidale Playhouse, delighting us with *Mid-Atlantic USA: The Art of Gardens*, including galleries, museums and gardens from Washington DC, Philadelphia, Connecticut, and Long Island to Manhattan. Our AGM followed Kim's presentation.
- **14 September** Local Stories around Armidale – A wonderful opportunity to visit some lovely local gardens and historic venues.
- **18–20 October Bunbury** AGHS Annual Conference 'Hesperia: Looking West' – Our branch members enjoyed learning about the colonial history of the South of Western Australia and visiting gardens and landscapes so different from our home locations.
- **2 & 3 November** New England Garden Festival – Our members manned a marquee with a rolling photographic display of branch activities, and information aimed at attracting new members.
- **24 November** Christmas lunch at Petersen's Winery – Great company and delicious food and wine enjoyed under the canopy of the sprawling old trees. Helen Wilson does a fabulous job of organising this event, and us, each year.
- **14–16 February** On the Road to Tenterfield and Glen Innes – Sandra Welsman organised a great weekend of activities and garden visits, well attended by our local members and welcoming some of our northern neighbours from the Queensland branch.
- **30 March** Committee then Branch meeting, including a presentation by Liz Chappell and Marilyn Pidgeon on the AGHS Oral History project.
- **11–13 April** On the Road to Moree – A long weekend of great activities and garden visits organised by Fran Webb, with the assistance of the Moree Garden Club.
- **29 June** Committee meeting, then Branch meeting 'Bring a Friend' event with a photographic presentation of Branch events and activities, then an overview of 'AGHS – Our whys and ways'.

Advocacy

Tenterfield Shire Council Draft Street Tree Management Plan – The community was alerted to the possible removal of significant avenues of pin oaks and other street trees, as they were deemed to be interfering with electrical lines. Up to 200 trees were under threat, according to reports. The issue was escalated to the AGHS National Advocacy committee who made a submission on behalf of the Society. The outcome is not yet known, with Council reporting that responses will be delayed because of the large number of submissions and other feedback received.

Projects

Old Armidale Teachers' College gardens – Continuing work with the NSW Department of Education regarding the restoration of the gardens at the Old Teachers College in Armidale.

Preservation and restoration of the Old Court House precinct in Armidale – Collaboration with Armidale Regional Council and provision of advice in relation to future planning for this area of central Armidale.

Chair's Report

We enjoyed several weekends 'On the Road', viewing beautiful gardens and historic properties across northern NSW, as well as local activities. Our branch is fortunate to have so many dedicated members who step forward to organise these interesting and varied events. Our members also take pleasure in each other's company and in the social aspects of these visits.

Our activities are recorded in text and photographs each month in our Branch Newsletter, compiled and edited by Maria Hitchcock. Maria also provides interesting botanical and horticultural information, giving us the benefit of her many years of involvement in national and international plant societies. My thanks go to Maria for a job very well done.

After prolonged discussions about our options, we made the difficult decision to gift the Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez Homestead to the National Trust NSW for their ongoing management of the site. After more than a decade of undertaking this labour of love and creating a nationally significant garden, this was a sad but necessary outcome.

Helen Oates

TASMANIA

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Ann Stark
Vice Chair	Andrew Robert-Tissot
Secretary	Antonia Dunne
Treasurer	Ian Kilgour
Advocacy	Janet Whelan and Sue Small
Membership	Kathleen Oakes
Northern liaison	Ian Sampson
Events Consultant	Wyn Manners, Leslie Kilgour (on leave)

Activities

- **Third Winter Lecture 3rd September 2024 Baha'i Centre Hobart**
Behind the Scenes, presented by Francesca Beddie, editor of the Australian Garden History Journal
- **Ross Gardens in Spring 26th October 2024**
Tours of four diverse gardens in and around Ross, with a presentation on the unique carvings of the Ross Bridge, and an opportunity to visit the bridge, the Tasmanian Wool Centre and the historic town centre.
- **Christmas Garden Party 3rd December 2024 Hobart**
Visits to two historic houses & gardens in the Hobart area: *Summerhome* built in the 1840s by prominent merchant Henry Hopkins as his summer retreat, a rare opportunity to visit a private historic home, and Runnymede built around 1840, a beautifully preserved Regency marine villa now owned by the National Trust. The Runnymede garden then hosted the Christmas party.
- **A Walk in Warrane 14th February & 7th March 2025 Hobart – small group guided walks**
An opportunity to explore and to learn about the changes that have taken place in the Warrane landscape over many years. Accompanied by Alan Townsend, Clarence Heritage Officer, a gentle walk revealed the way in which the landscape was used to respond to community needs, concerns and social conditions in post war Tasmania.
- **Luncheon and discussion of AGHS opportunities in the North of the State.**
A visit to the home and garden of Northern Committee member, Ian Sampson and his wife Janet was followed by lunch and a lively discussion regarding opportunities for AGHS activities in the North. From this consultation have arisen plans for supporting the second-hand book stall at Longford Blooms and the only weekend event for the year – visits around Chudleigh, Longford and Exton.
- ***Uninnocent Landscapes* 29th March 2025, a bus trip through the Tasmanian Central Highlands**
Members joined historian, photographer & author of *Uninnocent Landscapes*, Ian Terry, as he traced the 1831 journey of George Augustus Robinson's so-called Friendly Mission through parts of the Tasmanian Central Highlands investigating how colonisation has impacted the Tasmanian landscape.
- **The French Connection 24th May 2025 Ross – lecture, lunch & film**
A French themed day in the charming town of Ross. The day included a lecture by Prue Slatyer celebrating the transmission of botanical knowledge & plant materials between France & Tasmania & the film "A Little Chaos" which dramatises the creation of a garden at Versailles
- **Second winter lecture following the AGM 10 August 2025**
Highlighting the photographs taken by Ian Terry for his *Uninnocent Landscapes* research. Stunning black and white photos of areas not easily accessible but a vital part of the Palawa/ Robinson story.

Projected activities

- **Winter lecture 3** – another departure from traditional lecture format. Trish Hodge, a Tasmanian Aboriginal writer whose landmark work on Tasmanian indigenous foods AGHS is assisting in publishing, will lead a walk and talk from the Waterworks on 13 September
- **Northern weekend: 22/23 November** – A full weekend of garden, house and arboretum visits culminating in the annual Christmas party.

Advocacy

During the last 12 months, the committee has continued to consider how the concept of advocacy can be applied, fairly and practically, within the Branch. The AFL and State Government plan to build a multipurpose stadium at Macquarie Point have been a divisive issue across the State. Strongly held views demonstrate the intersection of public and private opinions and raise the question of where an organisation such as AGHS can find a voice. Many members have pursued their concerns through community groups such as *Our Place*, letter writing and submissions to Members of Parliament.

Partnerships in Advocacy

1. The Branch continues participation in *Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania* (PMAT), a community based group focussed on achieving a democratic, best practice approach to planning across Tasmania. At the annual meeting the Branch Advocacy Officer reported an interest amongst many members of learning more about AGHS. The Branch decided to identify opportunities for networking around common interests and values and has therefore accepted invitations to speak about AGHS at three garden clubs, welcoming opportunities to develop community connections. A PowerPoint presentation on the activities and advocacy of AGHS Tasmania has been developed by Advocacy Officer Janet Whelan to allow for a consistent message to be presented.
2. The Branch continued its support of *East Coast Alliance*, a major voice of concern about the future of Cambria Estate, Swansea (the home of George and Louisa Meredith). We were please to respond to a request to share in correspondence to Heritage Tasmania about the lack of care and maintenance at the property and heartened to receive a .positive response from the Chair of Heritage Tasmania. We have responded with further advocacy regarding the garden in particular.
3. A last minute request from the *National Trust* resulted in Branch members with specific expertise advocating for the protection of trees on the Runnymede boundary, threatened by a development application. The application was significantly modified by the Hobart City Council following this intervention.

Projects

- **Project funding:** It has been a concern of this Committee that part of the funds held by the Tasmanian Branch be used purposefully rather than being left to accumulate. A clear process for responding to requests for assistance, to enable transparency and equity in providing funding, has been established. The Committee unanimously decided to award the first formal grant to the Inala Jurassic Garden on Bruny Island for a project to develop and expand a collection of Tasmanian paleoendemic plants facing increased threats from drought and fire risk within their natural habitat. The aim of this project is to *substantially increase these insurance specimens in IJG by repurposing/enlarging/ creating 50x15m of garden beds and a 18mx5m walk-through shade-house adjoining the existing display to increase the display area of these ancient plants for public access and education.* The AGHS Tasmanian Branch is proud of our association with this very important project. Branch members have individually contributed to growing the Branch nest egg over many years through attendance at functions, assistance with committee work and other activities and so have a direct connection with this project. Construction is progressing well, and the Branch is engaged in discussions about appropriate signage.

- **MoU with National Trust** – significant tree register. An active subcommittee has furthered the work of the Significant Tree register, providing advice regarding criteria and then assistance and feedback for making an application. This has involved travel and consultancy around the state.
- **Oral History project:** The Branch has funded 5 Oral History interviews and transcriptions this year, including a joint project with the National Trust.

Chair's Report

It has been a very busy year for the Tasmanian Branch, and for the committee, who have been occupied planning and organizing events for members that are as varied as possible, reviewing opportunities for advocacy regarding threatened Tasmanian landscapes, promoting the work of AGHS to like-minded groups and furthering projects being funded by AGHS Tasmania with monies raised by countless AGHS volunteers over the 40 plus years of our existence. In short, we have been attempting to put into effect the elements of the vision statement of AGHS. More engaging and innovative events are in the pipeline and we look forward to an equally stimulating 2025/2026.

There have been three major themes foremost in Committee planning this year.

- As we explore the concept of cultural landscape and continue the discourse around Future Directions of the Society, it was decided to give increased emphasis to the contribution of the original custodians of the land and waterways of Tasmania – the Tasmanian Aboriginal people – in planning our events this year.
- As a Hobart based Committee, we are very conscious of the needs of members based outside the capital city and so a higher proportion of our activities have been specifically designed for ease of access for these members.
- We have tried to be innovative in our events planning, moving away from traditional winter lectures to full day events, walking on Country and using visual displays.

Membership has continued to grow this year, augmented by the decision to offer digital gift subscriptions to all our hosts. Some of these gift subscriptions are now being converted to general membership by the recipients. It is the Committee's concern to be as inclusive as possible for our members and we have recently been assisted by an analysis of attendance patterns by our Membership Officer, Kathleen Oakes, showing that in the past 18 months, 60% of members had attended at least one event. This analysis will be the subject of attention by the new Committee to attempt to increase this proportion.

Indeed, this is a busy Committee, and everyone has a role, the load being spread amongst all Committee members. Every Committee member has been involved in organizing at least one Branch activity and many are involved in multiple. Additionally, we have benefited from the continuing guidance and assistance of Wyn Manners, who has functioned this year as an Events consultant.

We have also appreciated the opportunity to consult regularly with Prue Slatyer as NMC Chair.

Our dedicated Secretary, Antonia Dunne leaves us at the AGM. The Committee is greatly indebted to Antonia for her consistently excellent performance in the role of secretary, including participating in meetings from various parts of Australia. Our deep appreciation and good wishes for the new projects she has in mind go with her. Leslie Kilgour has also reached the end of her term. Family demands have prevented Lesley from participating as much as she wished this year, but prior to that she has been a tireless worker at events and functions, and we are grateful for her contribution. Three other Committee members (Ian Kilgour, Treasurer, Andrew Robert-Tissot, Vice Chair and me, Ann Stark) have now completed a three year term. We have all renominated for Committee membership. Sue Small, Janet Whelan, Ian Sampson and Kathleen Oakes are, thankfully, continuing as Committee members. My gratitude goes to the entirety of this brilliant, hard-working bunch and to their spouses who very much make their partners' participation a "two for one" deal.

Ann Stark

VICTORIA

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Wendy Dwyer
Vice Chair	Vacant
Secretary	Wendy Dwyer
Treasurer	Anna Long
Bookings	Robyn Teed
Newsletter	Carol Beaumont
Working Bees	Fran Faul (ex officio)
Advocacy	Ros Savio/Michaela Hill
Projects	Trevor Pitkin (ex officio)
Catering	Vacant
NMC Representative	Michaela Hill
General Committee	Sue Foran, Susan Reidy

Activities

The Branch committee was very pleased to be able to deliver the following activities to our members:

Lectures

- **9 July 2024** Zoom lecture on “James Lawson: Gardens and Aboriginal land management in Western Victoria” by Dr Raymond Madden.
- **15 August 2024** AGM and lecture “Rescuing our Botanical Heritage – Ten Years of Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum Trust” by Janet O’Hehir.
- **12 September 2024** Zoom lecture “Artist Eugene von Guerard in Camperdown Environs” by Dr Ruth Pullin.
- **3 June 2025** Zoom lecture “Medieval Gardens – fit for use or delight” by UK. Garden Historian, Caroline Holmes.
- **29 June 2025** Winter’s afternoon of two lectures: “Ecstatic about seaweed: C18th women tourists and scientific collecting”, and “Souvenir botany: Napoleon’s willows” by Dr Emma Gleadhill.

Events and trips

- **25 July 2024** Walk and talk at Uambi - Remnant cultural landscape with Trevor Pitkin and Trust for Nature.
- **15–17 November 2024** Bus Trip “In the Footsteps of Von Guerard’s Camperdown and District Cultural Landscapes and Gardens.
- **5 December 2024** Walk and Talk at Malvern Public Gardens with John Hawker.
- **27 February 2025** Walk and Talk “Gracious Gardens and Re-imagined Green Spaces in Albert Park area” with Robyn Ryan .
- **10 April 2025** Self Drive to Westgarthtown Museum and Heritage Garden, Thomastown.
- **15 May 2025** Walking tour with Beaumaris Modern group founder, Fiona Austin.

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:

- 1 September 2024 Medlow
- 29 September 2024 Turkeith
- 10 November 2024 Mooleric

- 30 March 2025 Longacres
- 18 May 2025 Turkeith
- 15 June 2025 Belmont

Note – Belmont has successfully applied for a garden grant from the branch to assist in rebuilding a bridge after the bushfires.

Advocacy

The main advocacy submissions and comments made on behalf of the branch have been:

- **Royal Park, Parkville:** Individual submissions on the Draft Master Plan for Royal Park, commenting on the proposed expansion of formal sports grounds and its potential detrimental impact on the natural landscape and biodiversity and need for landscape design input.
- **Carlton Gardens:** Submission to Heritage Victoria re implementation of the Tree Management and Replacement Strategy suggesting alternative tree species. Was unsuccessful in modifying tree selection.
- **HV McKay Memorial Gardens, Sunshine:** Brimbank City Council advised the Gardens' Strategic Management Group, of which AGHS is a member, that new contractors had been appointed for the Melbourne Airport Rail Link works and revised plans would likely require a new Heritage Victoria permit. Subsequently Melbourne Airport Rail (MAR) have advised the Friends of McKay Gardens that the proposed works for the Sunshine Station hub next year will not affect the Gardens, but future MAR works will, possibly in 5–7 years' time.
- **Ballarat Botanic Gardens Draft Master Plan:** The branch reviewed the draft plan and supported the extensive public consultation process and the generally appropriate appraisal and consideration of the heritage aspects of the Gardens.
- **Wombat Park, Daylesford:** The branch made a submission to Daylesford Shire re the draft Structure Plan which impacts the Wombat Park Estate.

The 2019 nomination of Wombat Park to the Victorian Heritage Register was followed up. Heritage Victoria previously advised that the assessment, delayed due the pandemic, would be made in the 2024-25 financial year, but later advice is that it is not high priority as Wombat Park has local government protection with a Heritage Overlay.

- **The Gong Reservoir, Buninyong Botanic Gardens:** A letter was drafted by the branch, with input of the Friends group, in support of their proposal to retain the existing dam wall and trees by creating wetlands, for the attention of the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Ballarat. This was prior to the Council meeting where a Notice of Motion was being put that the current proposed works of a concrete dam wall be removed from the Master Plan and costed plans for the alternative works be prepared. The Motion was defeated, and the current proposal will proceed when the contractor, who will be required to obtain a Heritage Victoria permit, is appointed.

Projects

The following are some of the projects funded by Branch events:

- **Yantaringa, Ivanhoe:** Pictorial finished and uploaded to website.
- **Relationship establishment with Trust for Nature/ (Memorandum of Understanding):** A visit to Uambi at Heathmont in July 2024 was successful and an article is being written about the history. Meetings with TFN executives occurred to strengthen the relationship. Other TFN properties are being considered for branch visits.
- **Garden Histories: Derriweit Heights Mount Macedon:** Garden history being written by Tim Gatehouse is progressing well with publication, funded by the branch, and a launch expected early 2026.
- **Eugene von Guerard tour booklet:** has been prepared as a publication for inclusion on website shortly.
- **Oral histories:** The five oral histories recorded in 2024 were finalised and added to the National Collection.

Chair's Report

This year the Victorian Branch was again very pleased to be able to present a wide-ranging program for members and friends.

This is thanks to the of the Victorian Branch Committee members who have worked extremely hard to present regular newsletters, a varied program of lectures, trips, working bees and walk and talks. Also, we have been proactive in addressing relevant Victorian advocacy issues impacting heritage gardens and landscapes and continued our program of researching and compiling garden histories and other projects.

At the start of the year Trevor Pitkin stepped back to 'ex officio' status, but still retains his projects focus. We were also joined by long term member and former committee member, Dr Susan Reidy, as a general committee member. Thanks again to Fran Faul, our ex-officio Working Bee coordinator for organising a comprehensive program, but participation numbers continued to be disappointingly low. In fact, for most events the numbers of members and friends attending seem to be lower than planned for.

We still have a few vacancies on the committee, so are looking for members to step up an assist, especially in the areas of catering coordination and general committee.

Also at the branch AGM, I am announcing that I am stepping down as Chair after five years in the role and twelve years on the committee, (for the second time), but will stay on until the end of 2025 to deliver the rest of the planned program and assist with the transition to new arrangements.

So, we are really in need of new committee members to ensure we can deliver the program at the very high standard that has been achieved. Is it your turn to put your hand up to help?

Finally, I would like to thank those Victorian members who for supported our events throughout the year.

Wendy Dwyer

WEST AUSTRALIA

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	John Viska
Secretary	Lynette Petersen
Treasurer	Sue Davis
NMC Representative	Felicity Farrelly
Membership, Newsletter and Website	Lyn Oliver
Media Liaison	Ursula Sharman
Committee	Sue Medalia

Activities

2023

1. The 35th AGM, was held on Sunday 11 August. This was well attended by twenty three members and 1 guest with 14 apologies received. Phil Palmer, from the National Trust of WA, was the guest speaker and presented an informative talk on Baddesley Clinton, an English manor house and his role there as a gardener.
2. The 44th National Conference, Bunbury from 18 Friday to 20 Sunday October with Monday 21 October the optional day and a pre and post-conference tour organised by Julie Kinney. The 145 delegates attending the three day event heard 11 presentations exploring the conference theme **Hesperia: Looking West** and each afternoon visited private gardens and heritage listed properties from Bunbury to Yallingup.
3. The Christmas function was held in the grounds of historic Sloan's Cottage, Leda and was well attended by 24 members on Sunday 1 December. Simon Halling presented the history of the Sloan family, that had occupied the site from 1889 and a tour of the grounds, the well cultivated productive garden and interior of the limestone cottage followed. The traditional Annual Quiz was held under the shade of a large carob tree *Ceratonia siliqua*.

2025

4. A revisit to Wirra Willa Gardens, Armadale occurred on Thursday 27 March when 13 members attended with 14 apologies received. At the site, they were met by Grant Nixon the garden coordinator and Elizabeth King a garden volunteer. Members were impressed with the progress in rehabilitating the grounds that had been made in the last 12 months. The rose garden had been reinstated, grass had grown back, and many derelict shrubs had responded to pruning and watering.
5. The branch again was invited to participate in Perth's Boorloo Heritage Festival on the weekend of 13 and 14 April. A small tent was set up in the grounds of Government House and committee members, Lynette Petersen, Felicity Farrelly and the Chairman were rostered and over the two-day event distributed information about the AGHS and journal back copies. A guided walk of the grounds, highlighting the historical plantings, were conducted at 11.30 and 1.30 each day by the Chairman, with approximately twenty members of the public in each session.
6. On Sunday 18 May the branch, in conjunction with the Town of Cambridge Local History Centre, organised an historic walk to celebrate the centenary of the laying out of the northern sector of Floreat Park on Garden Suburb principles. The 18 attendees heard about the design concept of The Boulevard and its official planting in 1929, explored one of the hidden recreational spaces and saw the first houses to be built and surviving elements of their original gardens.

Advocacy

A letter has been sent to the premier inquiring if celebrations are planned for 2029 and if so, to consider incorporating garden history related projects, as they were for the 150th.

On request, the heritage council of WA has provided a list of gardens that are the state's heritage registers.

Landscapes at Risk

Hyde Park. The western island has been totally cleared of the swamp paper barks *Melaleuca raphiophylla* planted about 30 years ago as they had been impacted by the polyphagus shot hole borer (PSHB). *The Perth Voice* ran an article in their May 4 edition on my suggestion that the City of Vincent should take the opportunity to reinstate the original planting scheme of the island.

Lake Monger. Inquiries are being made to the Town of Cambridge concerning their policy for the aged willows planted along the lakeside edge 90 years ago.

Projects

The branch's publication, *Historic Gardens of Perth: European Settlement to Modernism* has sold out. Costings are being investigated in case of a future demand. The money generated by book sales will go back into the community through grants for garden restoration projects. Meetings have taken place to discuss the format, criteria, and how it can be advertised.

The branch A5 Flyer now includes a QR code that links to the society's website and is distributed at community events.

E Newsletters are now lodged at the State library.

The branch records are being sorted following NMC guidelines and when completed will be lodged with the State Reference Library. Thanks go to Branch member Margie Lundy for her assistance and advice.

Pensioner Guard Cottage's Garden. The interpretive garden design, prepared by Kate Driver who is completing her master's in landscape architecture at UWA, has been accepted by Reece Harley of the Perth History Association and presented to the Bassendean Council.

Media Liaison, committee member, Ursula Sharman has set up a branch Facebook page.

Promoting AGHS. Eight public talks to community groups have been given providing information about the society as well as back copies of the journal.

Chair's Report

The topic of Conservation Management Plans, covered in the unit Landscape and Cultural Heritage, was again presented to third year landscape design students studying at the University of Western Australia.

The major event for 2024 was the 44th National Conference in October at Bunbury with the title **Hesperia: Looking West** providing the theme.

The Conference committee, consisted of John Viska, Lyn Petersen, Rachel Roe, Lyn Oliver, Sue Davis, Joan Low, Diane Pope, Catherine Lang and Helen Martin-Beck and was formed in 2022 and over the two years met regularly to organise the event. Each member took on a responsibility that helped to spread the workload and run a successful conference. The three-day, event ran from Friday 18 to Sunday 20 October. The optional garden viewing day on the Monday was well patronised and raised a profit of \$12,160 which the NMC donated to the branch in appreciation for organising the conference. Three students studying Horticulture at the South Regional TAFE were sponsored by an anonymous donor.

The selection of the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre (BREC) as the venue proved to be an excellent choice. The pre and post conference tours organised by Julie Kinney, branch member and professional garden tour operator, were well patronised and made a profit. The Mayoral Welcome to delegates on the eve of the Conference, sponsored by the City of Bunbury, provided an excellent lead into a successful three-day event.

Two thirds of the 147 delegates travelled from the east coast, and many expressions of thanks and congratulations were received from them following the conference. The profit made contributes to the cost of running AGHS and the four conferences held in WA since the forming of the branch in 1988, has raised over 100 thousand dollars.

We have currently a membership of 75 individual members and complimentary digital ones were given to the speakers and venue owners who participated in the conference.

Many thanks to the small hard-working committee for their expertise and help in planning yearly events and assistance at branch functions as well as members support by regularly attending functions.

In the future we aim to hold workshops on recording gardens, managing a heritage listed garden and reformatting our *Guide to Conserving and Interpreting Gardens in Western Australia*.

Finally, thanks to Sue Davis in her role as treasurer who resigned due to relocating to the country.

John Viska

AGHS National Treasurer's Report for FY 2025

One of the delights of being your honorary treasure is to report on the annual financial accounts. As all members know, the income of the Australian Garden History Society hereon called Society, are generated from activities of the individual state and district-based branches and the holding of an annual national conference.

What are the accounts reporting? Headwinds are hitting our society at Branch and Head Office on two fronts:

Membership numbers – slow decline

The accounts record a slow decline in our membership income:

2023 **\$130,676**

2024 **\$101,391**

2025 **\$84,109**

Your NMC had been tracking the monthly numbers and have implemented a few changes to staff and systems. Follow up phone calling to members and getting accounts have taken place to catch up on any potential lost membership income.

Your NMC have implemented a program that will hopefully update the effectiveness of the membership program and particularly the renewing of membership.

Branch activity also gets reported in our accounts. The collective statement is found on page 11 of the AGHS 2025 Financial Statements.

The Cost of Doing Business

I do not believe there is any area of business conducted in our country that has not experienced the effects of general inflation in the past two years. For business it cannot be avoided or watered down. It is the cost of compliance and meeting laws such as employment obligations.

Our general cost base for the head office has grown from **\$503,793** (2023) to the year under review **\$529,023** (2025).

The Trading results

Both of the above have contributed to the reported trading loss of **\$56,301** for this year. This follows last year's trading loss of **\$48,217**.

Your NMC are aware of the need to focus its energy, and a Strategy paper has been prepared and will be presented under a different cover. It focuses on increasing the membership base and future conference surpluses.

Why the conferences matter

A good proportion of our Society financial fortunes rely on the Annual Conference. Promoting and gathering numbers for all future conference is a call to all members. For 2025 in Mt Gambia, SA, 2026 in Orange, NSW and 2027, Canberra, ACT.

Present Financial position

Your Society has sufficient funds to meet its ongoing obligations for the coming years. It would better to have income meeting expected costs of services for members so that we operate within our means.

These challenges have been a focus of your NMC. I thank all the Branch Treasurers for contributing to these accounts and commend any accounting-oriented member to contribute on any level to get the AGHS back to fighting weight.

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 2025

14 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	84,109	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84,109
Conference income	205,177	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	205,177
Functions and tours	-	67,847	5,760	31,651	19,129	360	9,979	12,672	979	5,288	(12,160)	141,495
Donations and grants	9,700	1,282	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,231	-	12,213
Interest income	11,549	681	421	312	1,749	416	2	3	-	837	-	15,870
Income from lectures	27	-	-	1,470	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,497
Sale of publications	6,392	-	-	-	-	-	372	3,816	-	-	-	10,580
Other revenue	1,976	90	-	80	-	-	615	-	-	-	(980)	1,781
Total Income	318,930	69,800	6,171	33,513	20,878	776	10,968	16,491	979	7,356	(13,140)	472,722
Expenses												
Audit or review fees	5,250	110	100	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	(980)	5,250
Bank charges	1,460	120	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	160	-	1,730
Conference expenses	154,688	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(12,160)	142,528
Equipment purchases	2,860	-	-	-	-	-	-	497	-	-	-	3,357
Function expenses	-	56,949	2,563	23,083	16,161	100	5,097	-	100	4,613	-	108,656
Journal expenses	74,379	95	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74,474
Postage and stationery	1,895	240	511	-	-	-	37	274	-	-	-	2,957
Publications	2,877	-	-	626	-	-	-	-	-	188	-	3,691
Projects and grants	1,000	1,070	1,000	1,600	18,844	-	1,592	600	-	872	-	26,678
Employee benefits	110,696	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	110,696
Sundry expenses	32,662	2,555	308	386	3,871	-	828	383	144	186	-	41,322
Telephone and internet	1,547	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,547
Travel expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,834	414	-	-	-	2,248
Website expenses	3,989	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,989
Total Expenses	393,303	61,139	4,472	25,805	38,986	210	9,498	2,278	354	6,118	(13,140)	629,023
Operating Results	(74,373)	8,661	1,699	7,708	(18,108)	566	1,470	14,213	625	1,238	-	(56,301)

Australian Garden History Society Inc

ABN 97 291 212 843

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

15 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	451,780	54,338	17,549	41,212	44,502	18,428	29,285	47,535	11,422	14,844	730,895
Prepayments	6,675	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,675
Other assets	-	120	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120
Total Assets	458,455	54,458	17,549	41,212	44,502	18,428	29,285	47,535	11,422	14,844	737,690
Liabilities											
Trade and other payables	87,450	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	87,450
Employee benefits	4,774	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,774
Deferred income	142,734	2,293	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	145,027
Total Liabilities	234,958	2,293	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	237,251
Net Assets	223,497	52,165	17,549	41,212	44,502	18,428	29,285	47,535	11,422	14,844	500,439
Retained earnings											
Opening balance	297,870	43,504	15,850	33,504	62,610	17,862	27,815	33,322	10,797	13,606	556,740
Operating result	(74,373)	8,661	1,699	7,708	(18,108)	566	1,470	14,213	625	1,238	(56,301)
Closing balance	223,497	52,165	17,549	41,212	44,502	18,428	29,285	47,535	11,422	14,844	500,439



AGHS 46th Annual General Meeting

Saturday 1 November 2025

@ 8:00 am ACDT

The Barn Theatrette Mt Gambier, South Australia

The Australian Garden History Society invites you to attend the 46th Annual General Meeting to be held in Mt Gambier, South Australia, on Saturday 1 November 2025.

The 2025 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 45th Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 20 October 2024 at Bunbury, Western Australia (attached).
- 2** To deal with business arising from the minutes.
- 3** To receive the Chair's Report for the year ended June 2025.
- 4** To receive the Treasurer's Report for the year ended June 2025.
- 5** To appoint an auditor for the 2025/2026 financial year.
- 6** To elect members of the National Management Committee.
- 7** Any other business.

To register your apology, please email the National Office at info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au

Sarah Edwards
EXECUTIVE OFFICER