



45th Australian Garden History Society Conference
Mount Gambier

Beyond the Garden Fence

30 October to 2 November 2025
2025 Conference Booklet



Conference venue

The Barn

747 Glenelg River Road, Mount Gambier

TEL: 08 8726 8250 ■ EMAIL: info@barn.com.au

The Barn Palais is a long-established events venue in beautiful gardens located 8 km from the city of Mount Gambier. It is the venue for the conference, the annual general meeting of the Society, the conference dinner (7pm Saturday 1 November) and catering for lunches.

Name badges

Delegates are requested to wear at all times the name badges (lanyard) supplied at registration to assist in identification and communication with fellow members.

Shuttle bus

A shuttle bus, running to a set timetable, will be provided each day of the conference to transport delegates who are without their own car and have not arranged to travel with others between their accommodation and the conference venue. If you have a car, please use it as seats on the shuttle bus are limited. The shuttle bus will also be available to bring delegates without private transport who are staying at other accommodation in Mount Gambier to the dinner and return them at the end of the evening.

Bus travel for day tours

Delegates will be allocated a bus for the duration of the conference and provided with the appropriate colour-coded identification. Buses and bus captains will be similarly designated. As buses will take different routes in order to stagger numbers at the venues and gardens to be visited, **it is important that delegates remain with their designated bus**. Catered tea breaks and toilet stops have been arranged for each tour (the buses do not have toilets).

Contacts

- **Dot Evans**, Conference Convenor: 0480 475 748
- **Sarah Edwards**, AGHS Executive Officer: 0419 977 703

Cover Eugène von Guérard, *Crater of Mount Gambier South Australia*, 1867, plate 11 from Eugène von Guérard's *Australian Landscapes*, published by Hamel & Ferguson, Melbourne, 1866–68, colour lithograph, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

Thanks to the South Australian Tourism Commission for permission to use on p.6 Umpherston Sinkhole/Balumbul, photo Adam Bruzzone, and on p. 8 St Mary's vineyard and garden.

Other images kindly provided by speakers or the conference committee.

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From the Patron, Professor Tim Entwisle



In December last year, Lynda and I moved to a new house (in Bowral), a new State (New South Wales) and a new AGHS Branch (Southern Highlands).

Everyone who has moved house knows that part is never easy. Thankfully we are well practised at it. Shifting from Victoria to New South Wales was something we'd done before, so apart from some parochial administrative transactions – a new driver's licence, new registration plates for the car and remembering to say potato scallops instead of potato cakes – that wasn't too difficult.

As for the AGHS transition? Of course, it was simple. Just a reminder about our change of address and we were soon enjoying our first Southern Highlands newsletter and local events calendar. The Journal found us swiftly at our new home and Lynda moved from being Deputy Chair and newsletter editor for the Victorian Branch to a quieter life (so far) as a regular member of the Southern Highland Branch.

As Patron I try to keep a broad interest across the country (which you can read as shirking the hard work at local level). I attended my first local event, a film fundraiser with choc top thrown in, soon after arriving. A few months later, Lynda and I were eating dinner (with the video off) while Caroline Holmes gave one of her beautifully researched online talks for the Victorian Branch.

A month or two ago, I was in Armidale talking to the Northern New South Wales Branch (about my new book!). Now, we are in picturesque Mount Gambier, attending the 45th annual conference, hosted this year by the South Australian Branch.

The organisers decode the meaning behind the conference's title, '**Beyond the Garden Fence**', as the Society not only soaking up the beautiful gardens of the Mount Gambier region but taking time to understand its geology and land use. I won't return to the debate about our Society's scope and name – my views should be well understood from my out-of-session essay and my welcome in the last conference booklet.

Suffice to say that my recent experiences suggest the fences between our AGHS Branch gardens are low enough to allow plenty of neighbourly chats and even the occasional good-natured dispute. And from my many years with AGHS, I would add that there is barely a fence at all around our Society as a whole and that's probably a very good thing.

Look near or far but always look closely.

From the National Management Committee Chair, Prue Slatyer

Welcome to the 45th conference of the Australian Garden History Society! Our national conferences are an opportunity to come together and explore the history, heritage, cultural landscapes and gardens of regions throughout Australia.

This year we meet in Mount Gambier, also known as Berrin, the second largest urban area in South Australia. It is a fascinating city, nestled on the slopes of an ancient volcano and encircled by a landscape shaped by fire and water: crater lakes of remarkable beauty, sinkholes transformed into gardens and fertile volcanic soils that have supported both traditional custodians and more recent settlers.



This is Boandik Country, land cared for by the Aboriginal people for tens of thousands of years. Their long custodianship reminds us that every landscape carries layers of meaning, and that our work in garden history is enriched when we acknowledge and learn from these deep connections.

The conference theme, '**Beyond the Garden Fence**', encourages us to look outward, to see gardens not only as designed spaces but as part of broader cultural landscapes. In Mount Gambier, we are invited to consider how geology, Indigenous caring for Country, colonial settlement, forestry, grazing, cropping and gardens intersect to form a rich and layered regional landscape.

The conference venue, The Barn, has two hectares of beautiful gardens to explore between conference events.

On behalf of the National Management Committee, heartfelt thanks to all those behind organising this conference and the associated tours. The AGHS is also most grateful for the support of conference sponsors, the City of Mount Gambier and the Mount Gambier Wine Region, and for the generosity of all our speakers and hosts.

Welcome to all delegates as we venture beyond the garden fence in Mount Gambier!

From the Conference Convenor, Dot Evans



We had planned to hold the 2025 conference in Alice Springs but owing to the civil unrest in the town, we reluctantly decided that the time was not right. Mount Gambier was the alternative and what a happy choice!

The area is steeped in history. The traditional stories of the Boandik people provide insight into both the volcanic activity and the changes in sea level. When the area was covered in winter-flooding surface lakes, intermittent swamps and coastal freshwater soaks, they constructed substantial canoes and fished in the local waterways.

Subsequent European settlers undertook the drainage of land for agriculture, which now supports thriving vineyards, forestry operations and livestock farming. Additionally, large-scale glasshouse horticultural production supplies major retailers with culinary herbs. Conference participants will explore the area's extraordinary geological features in the company of an expert guide. They will see the vineyards and glasshouses and taste the local food and wine, which will be central to the conference menus.

Environmental sustainability is not overlooked in the program, which includes an overview of the recycling industry, visiting a waste management site associated with agricultural activities and domestic green waste.

Gardens are integral to the program. We will tour historic gardens ranging from tiny historic gardens to extensive country estates and orchards, including a significant heritage garden featuring trees and shrubs, some of which date back to around 1860. A visit to the accompanying mansion, still boasting its original décor, is also on the itinerary.

This year's conference theme, 'Beyond the Garden Fence', will take us outside traditional boundaries, while still firmly rooting our experience within Australian gardens.

I thank the conference team, listed opposite, for all the hard work that goes into putting on a conference such as this.

We hope you enjoy it!

Mount Gambier Conference Committee

Convenor Dot Evans

Committee Mike Evans, Richard Heathcote, Jeff Jenkinson, Anne McCutcheon, Di Wilkins, Susan Woodburn

With greatly appreciated assistance from Prue Slatyer, Chair, National Management Committee (NMC); Lisa Nutting, Vice Chair, NMC; and Sarah Edwards, Executive Officer, and Francesca Beddie and Mariana Rollgejer for their professional assistance in the preparation of this booklet.

Trade tables

Around the Palais at The Barn will be several tables with goods for sale. Make sure you have some cash with you for modest purchases and your credit card for major buys.

- Secondhand gardening books: these have been gathered by Mike Evans, mostly from members of the South Australian Branch. They will range from \$2 to \$30, or make an offer.
- New books by AGHS members. We have an amazing range of talent among our members. Many of their books will be on sale, in limited numbers, at below the recommended retail price.
- Wines: several growers whose vineyards you will be visiting are likely to be present with their wines for sale. You will be visiting some of the vineyards.
- Other AGHS merchandise will also be available.



Conference program 30 October to 2 November

Thursday 30 October

registration and reception 4pm to 6 pm

City Hall, Commercial Street East, Mount Gambier

4.30 pm Welcome by Her Worship the Mayor the City of Mount Gambier,
Mrs Lynette Martin OAM

City Hall is within easy driving distance or a 10-minute walk from Mount Gambier's Commodore motel. A shuttle bus will be available for delegates staying at The Barn who do not have their own car or access to other private transport.



Umpherston Sinkhole/Balumbul,
photo Adam Burzzone, courtesy South Australian
Tourism Commission

Friday 31 October

morning program of talks

8.00 am Registration at The Barn Palais

8.30 am Welcome and introduction, **Conference Convenor Dot Evans**

8.45 am Welcome, **AGHS Patron Tim Entwisle**

9.00 am Keynote address, **Trevor Nottle**,
'Reflections on the changing "landscape" of the AGHS'

9.30 am **Ian Lewis**, 'The origins of the landscape and soils of the Limestone Coast region and how these have profoundly shaped biological and botanical life forms and human habitation'

10.00 am Morning tea

10.30 am **Richard Heathcote**, 'Viewpoints: perceptions of the landscape of the southeast by early European artists and visitors'

11.00 am **Glenys and Barry Mulligan**, 'The evolution of a garden, 1937 to 2025'

11.30 am Questions and discussion

12.00 pm Housekeeping

12.15 pm–1.30 pm Lunch, The Barn

Friday 31 October

afternoon program of visits

1.40 pm Buses leave from The Barn

Visits to Umpherston Sinkhole, The Apple Farm (with afternoon tea) and Blue Lake.

The order and exact timing of visits will depend on the route of the bus allocated. These have been varied to limit the number of delegates arriving at any venue at one time.

5.00 pm Buses return to The Barn

7.00 pm **Dinner at Limestone Coast Pantry**, housed in the former Worsted (Woollen) Mills, 1/20 Harrauld St. Mt Gambier. Two-course buffet dinner. Delegates to purchase their own drinks.

Saturday 1 November

morning program of talks

- 8.00 am** Annual general meeting
- 8.40 am** **Uncle Ken Jones**, 'Stories of the Boandik people and their habitation of the southeast'
- 9.10 am** **Sue Bell**, Bellwether Vineyard, 'The gentle art of making wine at a Coonawarra winery'
- 9.40 am** **Matt van-Schaik**, Bio Gro, 'The recycling and utilisation of forestry and other "waste"'
- 10.10 am** Morning tea
- 10.40 am** **Susan McCormack**, Director Carrick Hill, 'The Australian Museum of Gardening and The Blade exhibition'
- 11.10 am** Questions and discussion
- 11.40 am** **Stuart Read** – Conference summation
- 12.00 noon** **Helen Oates** introducing the 2026 Conference in Orange
- 12.15 pm** Housekeeping
- 12.20–1.30 pm** Lunch – The Barn



Saturday 1 November

afternoon program of visits

1.40 pm Buses leave from The Barn

Visits to Caroline Hills garden and vineyard and the Bio Gro composting facility in Wandilo and packing plant in town.

Buses will travel in different directions so the order and exact timing of visits will depend on the route of the bus allocated. Afternoon tea will be served at Caroline Hills. Buses will return delegates to their accommodation around 5 pm.

7.00 pm Conference dinner – The Barn

Prue Slatyer, National Chair – Welcome

Francesca Beddie, Editor of *Australian Garden History*, is our after-dinner speaker on the topic 'Diplomatic divertimenti, a reflection on where plants fit into a career bound together by a belief in the power of words'.

Sunday 2 November

all-day trip

Buses depart from The Barn at 9 or 9.30 am.

The all-day trip incorporates the Nangwarry Forestry Museum, Penola Petticoat Lane cottages, St Mary's vineyard and garden, Yallum Park Homestead and garden, Lake McIntyre (Millicent wetlands) and the Holla-Fresh herb farm at Tantanoola.

Delegates will be given a packed lunch, catered by The Barn. Morning tea will be provided either at Millicent Wetlands/Lake McIntyre catered by the Hatherleigh Hall committee or in Penola at the St Mary McKillop Primary School, a short walk from the Petticoat Lane cottages, catered by members of the Country Women's Association.

Buses return to The Barn around 5 pm.

Delegates to make their own dinner arrangements.

Conference speakers

Friday 31 October

Tim Entwisle

Professor Tim Entwisle is an author, botanist and former botanic gardens director: Chief Executive of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria for ten years, two years in a senior role at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew in London, and eight as head of Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust in Sydney. He is currently Chair of the Harbour Trust in Sydney and an Honorary Professorial Fellow at The University of Melbourne. Tim has a broad interest in algae, plants and public gardens, contributing regularly to Australian radio, print and social media. His memoir *Evergreen: the Botanical Life of a Plant Punk* was published in 2022, and his latest book, *The Sceptical Botanist*, in August 2025.



Trevor Nottle



Trevor Nottle is a horticultural consultant, garden historian and author. While he has lived in Adelaide since he was a child, he has travelled far afield as an author on subjects as diverse as cottage gardens, perennial plants, old-fashioned roses, garden restoration, the history of gardening in Australia and other horticultural subjects. He has had some 25 books published in Australia, New Zealand and the USA.

His most recent book is *POTPOURRI for rose lovers and gardeners*. In 2020 Trevor received the Master Landscapers SA Frank Ugody Award for Lifetime Contribution to the Industry.

In his opening remarks, Trevor will give an overview of the achievements of the Society since its last meeting in Mt Gambier in 1999. As well as looking back, he will offer some insights into what might come next for the organisation and for garden history in face of the challenges posed by a warming and drying environment. Thinking about this now will support an adaptive approach to the future of historic gardens in Australia.

Ian Lewis

Ian Lewis grew up in Mount Gambier and became a cave explorer and pioneer cave diver there. He works as a hydrogeologist for the South Australian Department for Environment and Water. He has published several books on South Australian caves. Papers he is writing on raising public appreciation of geological heritage are building towards a PhD at UniSA.



Ian will explain the origins of the landscape and soils of the Limestone Coast region of South Australia, which has been shaped by ancient sea floors, sand dune beaches from a dozen Ice Ages, caves, sinkholes, volcanoes and vast rainwater aquifers. These have had a profound effect on the region's botanical and biological life forms and have guided the activities of the human occupation of the land by the Boandik people and European settlement.

Richard Heathcote

Richard Heathcote has managed historic gardens (including Rippon Lea and Como) for the National Trust in Victoria and from 2004–2021 was curator and Director at Carrick Hill in Adelaide. His particular interest



is in the social use of gardens and their gardeners. His work in interpreting gardens has included television presentations as well as talks and publications. With his wife Margaret he leads tours of historic houses and gardens in Australia, the United Kingdom and Channel Islands for ASA Cultural Tours. Richard has been an active member of the AGHS for many years, including as National Chair and Chairman of the SA Branch. He retains a close association with Carrick Hill and the much-anticipated Museum of Australian Gardening.

Richard will draw upon historical visual representations and accounts of visitors to the southeast region to describe their response to the distinctive features of the landscape and the changes wrought upon it by changing land use and ideas of beauty and social amenity.

Glenys and Barry Mulligan, St Mary's Wines

Glenys and Barry Mulligan are the owners of the award-winning winery and distillery St Mary's Wines at Penola. In the early 1980s they began planting vines on the property settled by their family earlier in the century. In 1985 they established St Mary's Vineyard, progressively planting Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc and Pinot Noir varieties on terra rossa soil over limestone. A vodka distillery was added in 2015, with spirit production then expanding to rum and gin. Glenys and Barry have also developed the garden begun when the Mulligan family first purchased the property in 1937. The garden has a rich variety of bulbs and a continuing emphasis on roses as the traditional pairing with vines.

In their talk, Glenys and Barry will illustrate the gradual and dramatic evolution of the garden (including the impact of Ash Wednesday) over nearly 90 years.



Saturday 1 November

Uncle Ken Jones, Bush Adventures



Uncle Ken Jones is a proud Boandik Elder from Mount Gambier and long-time resident of Port MacDonnell. Starting life in a fishing family, Ken worked alongside his father before joining the Fisheries and Wildlife Department. When he returned to his family property in 1983, he saw the environmental degradation of Boandik Country. This sparked a renewed commitment to conservation, leading to his work with National Parks, and later founding Bush Repair, an Aboriginal contracting business focused on environmental restoration and weed control. Evolving into Bush Adventures, Uncle Ken now offers environmental and cultural education at primary, secondary and tertiary level and in Mount Gambier prison. His experience demonstrates how traditional knowledge and

environmental science can merge to protect and restore Country. Here is a blueprint for Aboriginal involvement in land and water management.

Uncle Ken will share stories of Aboriginal habitation of the region, including 'How the secret of the fire was stolen' about the Bunyip who haunted the reeds and rushes of the creeks and swamps and ruled the small permanent wetland next to Pahren.

Sue Bell

Sue Bell is the winemaker, owner and gardener at Bellwether Winery, based in an 1868 stone shearing shed, she has renovated over the last 17 years. Sue has a degree in Agriculture with a major in Oenology and post graduate studies in Viticulture and soil science. She was dux of the prestigious Len Evans tutorial and is a regular wine show judge, having chaired many regional and capital city wine shows. Sue is a past winner of the Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology winemaker of the year, nominated for the Gourmet Traveller Winemaker of the year and South Australian hospitality woman of the year.



Sue will discuss her approach to running her Bellwether business. The impacts of climate change and preservation of history influence all her decisions. She has a fascination for climate appropriate grape varieties. And now her small property is a boutique campground where guests are able to harvest their own ingredients for cooking in the camp kitchen or pre-order food made using only local ingredients. Her focus is on sustainability, recycling and improving biodiversity.

Matthew van Schaik

Matthew is the Brand and Partnerships manager of BioGro, a privately owned family company specialising in organics resource recovery and the provision of growing media, mulch, compost and liquid stimulants. The company was founded by Hans and Marjan van Schaik in the 1970s to utilise waste by-products of the local timber and forest industry.

Matthew will talk about BioGro's path through experimentation and expertise to becoming a

leading innovator within the Australian horticulture and waste management industries. Visits to this company's organics resource recovery operation at Wandilo and packing facility in Mount Gambier are included in the afternoon tour.



Susan McCormack



Susan was appointed as Director of Carrick Hill, a historic house and garden in Adelaide, in 2022, following extensive overseas experience as a senior curator, travelling exhibitions manager and head of contemporary programs at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and as director of public engagement at the Ashmolean in Oxford. At Carrick Hill she has brought to fruition plans for developing exhibition space and creating a new visitor precinct and facilities.

Susan will discuss *The Blade* exhibition, which will be on display in The Barn's foyer during the conference. She will also report on progress towards the establishment of the Australian Museum of Gardening at Carrick Hill, an ambitious project based on the collection of antique garden tools and related ephemera donated by Richard Bird and Lynne Walker.

Stuart Read



Stuart Read is a landscape and garden historian, horticulturalist, heritage bureaucrat (Heritage NSW), tour leader and educator whose interests include environmental history, economic botany, landscape design history, dendrology, public parks and the transportation of plants around the globe. He has written extensively on garden design, plants and gardens in and beyond Australia. Stuart has served as Co-Chair of the AGHS and member of the NMC and is currently Chair of the Sydney Branch.

Francesca Beddie



Francesca, the current editor of the AGHS Journal, is a former Australian diplomat who served in Jakarta, Moscow and Berlin. She also worked as a senior official in the then Australian Agency for International Development. From 2002 to 2004 she was executive director of Adult Learning Australia, and from 2007 to 2012 managed the research division at the National Centre for Vocational and Education Research (NCVER). Francesca studied history at the Australian National University. She is a member of the Professional Historians Association (NSW & ACT). In her after-dinner speech, Francesca will put together a bouquet of flowers as eclectic as her career.

Venues for tour visits

Friday 31 October

Umpherston Sinkhole (Balumbul)

The Umpherston Sinkhole, a cave formed through dissolution of the limestone, was created when the top of the chamber collapsed. James Umpherston began creating a garden in the chamber by in 1886, the topsoil on the floor providing an ideal environment. It became a popular feature with visitors to the region but fell into disrepair and was even used for some years as a rubbish tip. Locals began to revive the gardens, from the 1970s Under the enthusiastic leadership of timber mill worker Ken Norton (OAM 2006), the area was planted extensively with trees and shrubs (the hydrangeas now dominant because of their resistance to the depredations of possums), turning the sinkhole into a public garden and picnic spot and significant tourist attraction.



Blue Lake (Warwar)

The Blue Lake is a crater lake located within a now dormant volcano, one of four volcanic crater lakes originally on Mount Gambier maar. It is the dominant feature of the region. From November to March its colour changes from a deep turquoise to a duller blue. Named Warwar, meaning 'the sound of many crows' or crow country in the language of the Boandik inhabitants (a name recognised in the Dual Naming program implemented by the City of Mount Gambier from 2020), it prompted the awe of early Europeans who traversed the region and has been the subject of numerous artistic representations. More prosaically, it was a favoured fishing spot for locals (in competition with shags) and the source of Mount Gambier's water supply, complete with a pumping station, which can still be visited. The lake is also the site of poet Adam Lindsay Gordon's daring riding feat in 1865, today commemorated by an obelisk.



The Apple Farm, OB Flat Hosts Kelsie and Troy Prowse



For many years this apple farm attracted locals on weekends, who sorted through picking bins filled with eight varieties of fresh apples, enjoyed homemade scones and apple pie. Weather extremes, pests and disease made apple growing a less reliable livelihood but, since Kelsie and Troy Prowse took ownership in 2014, the Apple Farm has been revived to become a premier event venue.

Although apples are no longer the main attraction, the spirit of the orchard lives on and the trees have been allowed to age gracefully. The property also has grapevines (Riesling, Pinot Noir and Cabernet Franc), planted by a previous owner and leased by a local boutique winemaker under the label Limus. It features two stunning 30-year-old glory vines that in summer form a lush green canopy over the event space and in autumn turn a vibrant red. There is also a small but thriving veggie patch that provides produce used wherever possible in The Apple Farm's catering.

Saturday 1 November

Caroline Hills garden and vineyard, Yahl Hosts Terry and Helen Strickland



This beautiful property, developed over 50 years, began with the purchase in 1975 of 25 hectares with an old dairy, weatherboard cottage, cypress tree and a single ancient snow gum. The first experimental planting of vines (Cabernet Sauvignon) was in 1988. From 1994, the vineyards had progressively expanded in extent and varieties. Today the property encompasses nearly 80 hectares and has been awarded Sustainable Winegrowing Australia Accreditation.

The large rambling country garden, with plantings focused on form, perfume and texture, extensive lawns and winding paths, has been featured in SA Life and in Australian and South Australian open gardens schemes.

Bio Gro composting facility, Wandilo and packing plant Mt Gambier

The BioGro composting facility at Wandilo is amazing. Green waste is collected from a variety of sources: Melbourne and local green bins, sawdust and bark from forestry operations, prunings and must from vineyards and wine making, and many others. This material is expertly sorted (removing what should not have been put in green bins), chopped, sieved and combined before being left to compost in long rows. Laboratory testing is used to determine the final composition before it is trucked to the packing plant. On our visit we will be shown over operations at both the composting facility and the packing plant for the horticultural products BioGro make from their resource recovery operations.



Sunday 2 November

Forestry and Logging Museum, Nangwarry

The Nangwarry Forestry and Logging Museum, established in 1991, preserves the legacy of the plantation-based forest timber industry that has been a significant element of the land use and economy of the southeast for 150 years. It houses machinery used in felling and logging, information on the management of plantation forests, timber products and woodworking displays, and a century of photographic documentation including of the men who worked there, many of whom were migrants, among them Italian and German internees and prisoners of war (1941 to 1945). The museum also records the impact of the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires on the logging industry and the local landscape.



Petticoat Lane cottages, Penola

Cottages from the mid-19th century preserved along Petticoat Lane in Penola offer a glimpse of life in the early years of settlement of the region. They were among the original buildings of the township developed largely through the initiative of local pastoralists Alexander King Cameron and John Riddoch of Yallum Park. Five cottages are State Heritage listed and today looked after by the Penola branch of the National Trust. The oldest building, Sharam cottages, constructed from blackwood slabs with a bark roof, has a working herb and vegetable garden.



St Mary's garden, Penola Hosts Glenys and Barry Mulligan



The country garden that today welcomes visitors to the cellar door at St Mary's Wines began when members of the Mulligan family first purchased the property in 1937. It features hundreds of roses in addition to bulbs, iris, hardy perennials, trees and shrubs suited to the region, all expertly tended by Glenys. A substantial kitchen garden has been established in a former sheep yard, using permaculture principles. Sandstone rock and plate

from the quarry have been used by Barry to build drystone walling, pathways and ornaments, as well as ramps, plinths, platforms. The property offers an opportunity to see the terra rossa soil and limestone features of the region that support the characteristic vineyard landscapes.

Yallum Park Homestead, Monbulk Hosts Annie and Andy Clifford



Yallum Park is an imposing two-storey residence built for pastoral pioneer and local politician John Riddoch between 1878 and 1880. It has remained in private hands with its original architectural features, interiors and finishes wonderfully maintained. The gardens and arboretum, laid out soon after completion of the mansion, are extensive and of major historical significance. They

incorporate Norfolk Island pines, densely underplanted, and other trees, especially conifers, planted as a park, shrub borders, an orchard with fruit and nut trees and a small vineyard (including a Malbec vine believed to have inspired the establishment of the Coonawarra wine industry). Like the house, the original garden design has been maintained almost intact and is enhanced by the long sweeping drive lined with trees and shrubs and finely worked timber entry gates.

The mansion is still a private home to the Clifford family but, by courtesy of the owners, delegates will be able to view two reception rooms of the homestead in addition to the garden where the poet Adam Lindsay Gordon wrote these lines:

*Life is mostly froth and bubble
Two things stand like stone
Kindness in another's trouble
Courage in your own.*

Millicent wetlands, Lake McIntyre Introduction by Selena Smith

Lake McIntyre, just minutes from the Millicent town centre, came about from a worked-out sandstone quarry in which a spring was disturbed. Since 1991, the Wattle Range (formerly Millicent) Council and volunteers have developed it as a native wildlife and vegetation reserve. It provides a habitat for birdlife (and birdwatching) and native aquatic plants. As well as having an easy walking trail and attractive public picnic area it has become an educational tool to promote conservation.



Holla-Fresh herb farm, Tantanoola Host/guide Ian Lines

Holla Fresh began as a small hydroponic farm on an 18-ha property purchased in 1991 by Mark Lines. It was chosen for its affordable land and secure rainfall. Mark and brother Ian soon recognised the potential of a niche market in fresh herbs.



With their families and mother Maxine, in 1994 they established the business that is now the major supplier to supermarkets large and small throughout South Australia. Subsequent expansion has incorporated dedicated transport to control distribution; improvements in the design of greenhouses and packing sheds; initiatives in renewable energy; and an extended product range with innovative packaging. Ian Lines was the Protected Cropping Australia Grower of the Year in 2019 and a finalist in the Leaders' category at the SA Premier's Food and Beverage Industry awards in 2021. Holla Fresh remains a family-owned business under the leadership of Ian and Sue Lines.

Optional day tour

Monday 3 November

9.30 am Tour busses depart from The Barn

This full-day trip led by Richard Heathcote, Di Wilkins and Jeff Jenkinson, will travel to Naracoorte region to visit the World Heritage listed Naracoorte Caves National Park, Hynam and Moy Hall. The day begins with a guided tour of the megafauna fossils at Victoria Caves.

After a short drive, delegates will arrive at Gum Park house and garden, where Dee Nolan, the granddaughter of its original owner, will speak about the history of the property. A picnic lunch will be served here with a glass of local wine. In the afternoon, the tour goes to Hare and Thistle in the shearing shed at Moy Hall, where there will be an introduction to the history of the property by owner Anna Robinson and an opportunity for retail therapy amid its collections of restored antique and vintage furniture, interior design products and homewares.

4.45 pm Estimated arrival back in Mount Gambier.



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**
- 2023 QLD, Ipswich: Digging into the past: above and below the Limestone Hills**
- 2024 WA, Bunbury: Hesperia: Looking West**

