



*Promoting awareness and conservation of historic gardens and cultural landscapes.*

## Media Release, December 2025

### Pushing the boundaries of garden history



In the January issue of *Australian Garden History*, we ask you to look beyond the garden fence.

Landscape architect **Ben Hardy-Clements** dives beneath Sydney Harbour. There he observes underwater gardens, created by human interventions and natural forces. How do we respond to these gardens? Should they be cultivated, conserved, left alone?

Historian **Siobhán Lavelle** demonstrates how social history emerges from landscape heritage work, with a case study of the Jewish cemetery in Goulburn. Meanwhile, **Christopher Cheng** highlights the power of multilingual, place-based interviews to reveal the inter-generational progression of Cantonese vegetable growers.

Reflecting the eclectic nature of *Australian Garden History*, the issue moves from social to political themes. **Gweneth Leigh** argues for the preservation of public spaces for democratic debate, noting the importance of speakers' corners in an era of social media echo chambers.

**Jo Dickson** reports on the restoration of former Prime Minister **Ben Chifley's** modest garden in Bathurst, which was supported by a grant from the Copeland Foundation.

Grander gardens also feature: **Anne Smith** explores Broughton House in Scotland, while **Stuart Read** celebrates the recognition of renowned garden designer **Paul Sorensen** with a commemorative blue plaque at Gleniffer Brae, Keiraville in the Illawarra.

In 2026, the AGHS will have a focus on significant **trees** — their historical, economic and aesthetic value. Stories of special trees will be collected throughout the year, with contributions from **Eleanor Dartnall** and **Caroline Grant** setting the stage.

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*Australian Garden History* is the quarterly journal of the Australian Garden History Society. It is available at <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/product-category/agh-journal/>

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