



Fruits of Orange

Exploring Central Western New South Wales

**46th national annual
conference 24-27
September 2026**



28 September 2026 OPTIONAL DAY TO MOLONG AND BEYOND



Conference venue

The Orange Civic Theatre provides access for people with disabilities and ample off-street parking. The theatre has a hearing loop, which covers the entire auditorium.

135 Byng Street, Orange

Orange taxis

In Orange call 131 008 **Out of town** (02) 6325 0099

AGHS contacts

- **Helen Oates** 0408 434 016
- **Bill Oates** 0411 466 791
- **David Low** 0407 464 876
- **Stuart Read** 0498 594 734

Medical services

Orange Health Service Emergency Department

- 1530 Forest Road, Orange: open 24 hours.
- (02) 6369 3000

Cover Vineyards of Orange,
photo by Robert Bruce
Editor Francesca Beddie
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The Australian Garden History Society
acknowledges Traditional Owners of
Country throughout Australia.

We pay respect to Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander cultures and to
Elders past and present.

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AGHS acknowledges the generous support of our sponsors



From the Patron, Professor Tim Entwisle AO

Many of you will know that I have become besotted by oaks – members of the genus *Quercus* – and that this will be manifest shortly in a book called *The Three World Oaks* (illustrated with lovely watercolours from another AGHS member, Lynda Entwisle).



Why write about oaks in a country that has none? While the simple answer is that Australia does of course have many oaks, even if they were not part of the pre-colonial flora. Excluding planks of oak wood in early ships visiting Australia's northern and other shores pre-1788, living oaks arrived with European settlers.

As did many other 'exotic' plants and indeed the Western construct of a garden. This is not the place to debate definitions of gardens and gardening but let's just say that perennial borders, box hedges and manicured lawns are a relatively recent addition to Australian landscapes, as were the fruit trees and willows colonial settlers introduced to Orange.

My more strident answer is that I can write about what I like. Similarly, we can garden with what we like and how we like.

The story of oaks is also an interesting one, as is the history of Australian gardens and gardening, in which oaks are an integral component. If you visit Newman Park during your stay, you will see an avenue of 16 oak trees planted by returned soldiers and pupils from East Orange Public School in memory of fallen soldiers from the school. Graham Wilson will be speaking about the memorial during his lecture.

Many other garden staples, such as maples, camelias, roses and even agapanthus, came from somewhere else. Gardens are most often multicultural, not monocultural, and that's a good thing.

This year's conference celebrates the fruits of central west New South Wales and we begin, as always, with a First Australians' perspective and a deep dive into the local geology, geography and climate. This lays the foundation for presentations on the cultural history and pursuits of the region, including its orchards and vineyards. At the culmination of our meeting we will have a timely conversation for our Society, and for society more generally, examining how we best protect and defend heritage in Australia and abroad: as a Society, as a collective of like-minded organisations and as a country.

With trees as our 2026 theme, and acorns being fruits, oaks will certainly not go unmentioned.

From the NMC Chair and Conference Convenor, Helen Oates

This year's National Conference is somewhat unusual. When it became apparent that no AGHS Branch could undertake an event in 2026, the National Management Committee stepped in to take on the organisation of the conference. We looked for a location that was easy to travel to and had an abundance of wonderful landscapes and gardens.

Welcome to Orange, on Wiradjuri country. The theme 'Fruits of Orange' was chosen to highlight the products of the past and the bounties of the present. We will explore the rich history of the region, from Indigenous food practices to the arrival of European settlers. We will hear about Cornish chain migration and its influence on local horticulture, and investigate the legacy of the Daltons, a prominent family hailing from Limerick in Ireland.



Since the 1860s, Orange has traditionally been known as a fruit growing region, with apple and pear orchards being among the first commercial producers in Australia. Berries and stone fruit are now included in the bounty; wine grapes have become the focus since the 1980s.

You will have many opportunities to savour the fine cool climate wines from the highest altitude vineyards in Australia. There are over 80 vineyards and 30 cellar doors in the Orange region.

You will be delighted by our conference dinner speaker, Colleen Southwell, and in awe of her stunning art works. As The Garden Curator, Colleen draws on her background in horticulture, landscape design and creative practice. As an artist, Colleen's delicate and exquisite three-dimensional paper sculpture and mixed media works are reminiscent of herbarium, entomology and ornithology specimens.

Our conference program will merely whet the appetite. Why not start to plan your next visit while you're here?

The 2026 conference committee, working remotely, has planned a varied and enjoyable program. We have also aimed at delivering an environmentally sensitive program: easier said than done on a limited budget. I urge you all to use your own drink bottles, whenever possible. My sincere thanks to each of the committee members for the patience, perseverance and enthusiasm. Their hard work has resulted in a conference program we are proud to bring to you.

My thanks also to the judges, John Maurer, Robyn Oates and Meg Probyn, of the short story competition for year six students in the Orange district.

Please enjoy!

Orange Conference Committee

CONVENOR

Helen Oates

TREASURER AND LOGISTICS COORDINATOR

David Low

SPEAKERS PROGRAM

Bill Oates

MARKETING AND MERCHANDISE

Eleanor Dartnell

VISITS AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Richard Landon and Marilyn Hawkett

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Francesca Beddie

PRE-AND POST-CONFERENCE TOURS

Stuart Read, Steve Halliday and Stephen Hathway

ON-SITE COORDINATION

Lisa Nutting



Delegates are reminded to bring a filled water bottle to each day's events. Water filling stations are available at the Civic Theatre. Very limited supplies of bottled water will be made available on buses in the case of a personal water bottle being forgotten on the day.

Garden visits

Travel between the conference venue and gardens has been carefully planned and timed. Coach captains will provide details of timings for the visits, especially the time to return to the coach. This will be given upon arrival at each location and as delegates are disembarking. They will ring a bell, or bus horns will be sounded when it is time to return to your bus. Please do not tarry!

Some generous hosts have opened their homes to members in association with garden visits. Others have welcomed us into their gardens but reserved the privacy of their homes.

Our garden tours are often written up in Branch newsletters and the Society's Journal. In addition to the requirement that no photographs be published without consent, courtesy also requires that nothing be said about gardens visited which may cause offence to the owners. If these simple rules are not followed, we may not be permitted to repeat our visits and the number of owners willing to invite us in could diminish.

When photographing during garden visits, please avoid taking images of the home and, when publishing, use the name of the property rather than identifying the owners by name.

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

Thursday 24 September

Mayoral reception and registration

- The reception desk will be open from 4.15pm
- 4.30pm in the foyer of the Civic Theatre

Welcome by Mayor Tony Mileto

Tony Mileto is a lifelong resident of Orange. He has served as Mayor since September 2024. Since being elected as a Councillor in 2017, Tony Mileto has worked to shape Orange as a place where families thrive, businesses succeed, and residents feel supported.

- Wine and food will be available from 4.30pm to 6.00pm.
- Free evening: a restaurant and cafe guide is included in the conference satchel.



A Grandfriend's Garden Year 6 Short Story competition

Introduction by John Maurer
Chair of the judging panel

Awards presented by
Mayor Mileto

Competition generously supported by:



Friday 25 September

Lecture program Orange Civic Theatre

- 8.00 am Conference registration in Civic Theatre foyer
- 8.45 am Welcome and housekeeping, Chair, **Helen Oates**
- 9.00 am Welcome and conference opening, **Professor Tim Entwisle**, AGHS Patron
- 9.15 am Welcome to Country, **Ricky Ahsee**, Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council
- 9.30 am Geography, geology and soils of Wiradjuri lands near Orange, **Dr David Mackenzie**, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- 10.00 am Orange region – orchards, grapes and wine, **Peter Hedberg**, member of the Orange Region Vignerons Association

10.30–11.15 am MORNING TEA

- 11.15 am Bush Tucker, **Gerald Power**, Indigenous Cultural Adventures
- 11.45 am Greening Orange, **Nigel Hobden**, Orange City Council
- 12.30 pm Collect lunch boxes to be enjoyed in the Civic Theatre precinct
- 1.30 pm Board buses at Civic Theatre

Afternoon and evening program

- Begin the afternoon with a tour of the Botanic Gardens
- The rest of the afternoon visits are to places on the slopes of Mount Canobolas/Gaanha bula:
 AT BORRODELL ESTATE, we will hear about the history of heritage apples from Gaye Stuart-Nairne
 WE WILL VISIT ROWAN GLEN, the vibrant and extensive garden of Joy and Kerry Rawson
- Our last stop is the Hotel Canobolas
- 5pm to 7pm BALLROOM OF THE HOTEL CANOBOLAS: enjoy the company of friends while tasting delicious wines from several local wineries

Continue on to dinner as you please with individual bookings downstairs in the Hotel Canobolas or at one of the many restaurants available in the Orange CBD.

Speakers

Dr David McKenzie

David McKenzie established his consulting business 'Soil Management Designs' in Orange NSW three decades ago. He specialises in soil structure management and has a strong interest in the integration of food production targets on farms with biodiversity conservation. In 2018, David was awarded the 'JA Prescott Medal' by Soil Science Australia for his outstanding contribution to Australian soil science. He is an Adjunct Professor with the University of New England. David will speak about the geology of the district dominated by Mount Canobolas/Gaanha Bula, an extinct volcano. Large amounts of basaltic lava erupted from the volcano around 12 million years ago. Weathering of this parent material has created deep, well-structured soils that support horticulture and produce grapes for prize-winning wines.



Peter Hedberg

Peter Hedberg was a leader in establishing the modern Orange Wine Region via the Orange Region Vignerons Association and as a consultant. He also developed his own vineyard from 1998 called Hedberg Hill (now Swinging Bridge). Peter had a research career with NSW Department of Primary Industries before joining Charles Sturt University as lecturer in horticulture and viticulture. His talk will focus on the wine industry, which began with European settlers in the 1870s, although the wine region was mostly established from the early 1980s. The cool climate of Orange matched the quality wine regions of Europe, whose wine styles were becoming popular at that time. Today, a range of grape varieties are grown, which produce aromatic whites at higher elevations and full-bodied reds lower down.



Gerald Power

Gerald Power is an Indigenous businessman and local community leader. He founded Indigenous Cultural Adventures Tours in September 2016 with a goal of sharing the heritage and cultural knowledge of the region's Wiradjuri nation. In addition to generating local employment and economic development, this helps to preserve and promote the wealth of culinary and cultural knowledge held by First Nations people. Gerald serves on the Orange Council as councillor. He held the position of Deputy Mayor for two terms. Gerald will share his knowledge of bush tucker.



Nigel Hobden

Nigel Hobden is a local government professional with extensive experience in parks, open spaces, urban landscapes and environmental management. He has worked in local government for more than three decades, with the majority of his career spent at Orange Regional Council, after moving from North Sydney Council in 1999. Nigel has professional horticultural training as well as a Diploma in Environmental Science. He will speak about the Council's long-term environmental and landscape strategies, including the Greening Orange – Urban Forest Strategy, which aims to improve tree canopy, shade and green infrastructure across the city. Nigel will provide insight into how a community like Orange both protects its botanic legacy, while future proofing its green assets.



Afternoon visits

Orange Botanic Garden

Orange Botanic Gardens is a natural, undulating 17-ha site, which features an impressive native and exotic plant collection. The Gardens were officially opened in 1988 for the Australian Bicentenary. They have an active group of volunteers, the Friends of the Botanic Gardens, who will be our guides.



PHOTO Orange City Council

Borrodell Estate – a legacy of the Gartrell family

Gaye Stuart-Nairne and Borry Gartrell have owned Borrodell Estate for more than 50 years. The name honours the farming families who shaped the Orange region long before the estate took its current form. The Borrodell family arrived from Essex and established orchards. The Gartrell family came from Cornwall via California during the gold rush before settling into fruit growing in the district.

The estate began as an orchard. In the 1990s, the focus shifted from commercial fruit growing to cool-climate wine, although the orchard never disappeared. Today, it includes more than 180 varieties of heritage apples, quince and plums – many once grown in historic European orchards.



Gaye Stuart-Nairne
PHOTO Borrodell Estate

Rowan Glen

Rowan Glen is a country garden that doesn't reveal all its treasures at once. It has many different sections, some hidden behind tall screens, some tucked around corners and others shaded beneath trees. From some parts of the garden, there are vistas of farm paddocks, bushy hillsides and the mountains beyond.



PHOTO Robert Bruce

Hotel Canobolas

The Hotel Canobolas was built by Tooheys Ltd in 1938 in the Art Deco style on the site of the Club House, which was established in 1875. When the Hotel Canobolas opened, it was the biggest hotel west of the Blue Mountains.

Enjoy the company of friends and the fruits of the Orange Wine Region in the ballroom. A share table of delicious food will accompany our wine tasting.

For those wishing to dine further, see the restaurant guide in the conference satchel.



PHOTO courtesy Central West Libraries Online Collections

Saturday 26 September

Lecture program Orange Civic Theatre

- 9.00 am Orange blossoms, a cultural history of gardens in Orange and district, **Elizabeth Richards**, author of *Orange Blossoms*
- 9.30 am The Daltons of Orange, **Robert Bruce**, Dalton family member
- 10.00 am The transformation of Orange, from hamlet to distinctive 'city image', **Matthew Taylor**, heritage landscape architect

10.30–11.15 am MORNING TEA

- 11.15 am Zeke and Senior illustration collections, Plant Pathology Herbarium, **Dr Jordan Bailey**, Institute Director, Plant Biosecurity Research and Development, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- 11.45 am History of agricultural education, **Dave Anthony**, Chair Tocal Advisory Council

12.15 pm COLLECT BOXED LUNCH AND BOARD THE COACHES TO COOK PARK

Afternoon program

- Boxed lunch and a stroll in Cook Park
- Leave at 1.45 pm for our visits (in two separate groups) to historic gardens in and around Orange city.
DUNTRYLEAGUE – AFTERNOON TEA will be provided for us in the restaurant area
WISTERIA – Bargwanna Road
- An early finish at 4.00 pm will allow us to prepare for dinner. You are invited to wear a touch of orange.

Conference dinner

- 5.30 pm Coaches will pick up from the Civic Theatre
- 6.00 pm Pre-dinner drinks and music from the Orange Conservatorium of Music
- 7.00 pm A TOUCH OF ORANGE AT BANKSIA
Dinner speaker **Colleen Southwell**, The Garden Curator

Pre-dinner drinks and initial table wine are included. Further drinks can be purchased at the bar (EFTPOS only).



Speakers

Elizabeth Richards

When Elizabeth Richards began planning her new garden in 1998 on the slopes of Mt Canobolas on a site rescued from an old orchard, she brought with her a historic church building rescued from her rural Queensland roots. As well as an avid gardener, Elizabeth is an accomplished graduate in the study of history, a keen observer of art and landscape, and a sage commentator on life. Her book *Orange Blossoms* surveys the contemporary history of Orange gardeners and their motivation to create the local landscapes we now enjoy. Elizabeth will talk about the work of local artists in capturing these gardens.



Robert Bruce

Robert Bruce is a professional photographer based in Orange and a descendant of James Dalton of Duntryleague, his mother, Muriel, being James's granddaughter. His research into the Dalton history was published in 1988. He will present the story of the Irish Dalton family from 1835 and the family's influence on the growth of Orange and district. James Dalton the elder was sent to Sydney as a convict with a seven-year sentence for abduction. He was a free man when he arrived in Orange, where he was eventually joined by his three children. His son, James Jnr, built Duntryleague in 1876. The property was later sold to the Orange Golf Club and remains an iconic landscape within the city.



Matthew Taylor

A registered landscape architect with over 46 years' experience, Matthew has worked on a diverse range of projects both nationally and internationally. He has expertise in heritage landscapes, master planning and the adaptive reuse of former heritage-listed industrial sites. His work has been recognised by national design awards from the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects for the ANZAC Commemorative Site in Gallipoli, Turkey and the Kiera View Ponds, University of Wollongong. His talk will trace the transformation of Orange from a hamlet in 1846, to the coming of gold in 1851 at Ophir to today's prosperous logistics centre. Matthew will show how Orange became a place with an established landscape, whose parks and gardens form an integral amenity and identity to the city.



Jordan Bailey

Jordan discovered the world of herbaria as an intern at the National Herbarium in Sydney. Her degree in Agricultural Science took her to postgraduate studies in plant pathology, biosecurity and diagnostics. She then worked with herbaria at Purdue University and the United States Department of Agriculture, focusing on specimen digitisation, and taxonomy and systematics of fungal pathogens. She took on the role of Curator at the NSW Plant Pathology & Mycology Herbarium in Orange in 2017. Jordan is passionate about collection management and safeguarding precious specimens as an integral part of the biosecurity framework and for future generations. Jordan will talk about the plant pest and disease collections held in the Orange Herbarium. Examples of these beautiful illustrations will be on show in the Civic Theatre foyer.





Dave Anthony AM

Dave Anthony's career has spanned agricultural production, processing, marketing, research and development and education. Working for over 43 years with Auscott Limited, from agronomist to CEO and Chair, he also held positions in various R&D organisations and served on several NSW Ministerial Advisory Councils. He was awarded an AM in 2023 for services to agriculture and the community of Narrabri. Dave is the Chair of Tocal College's Advisory Council and will speak about the challenges facing agricultural

education. As the third largest income earner for Australia, agriculture is misunderstood in our urban-dominant society. More agricultural graduates are required to meet the sector's needs. This means attracting school students to study agriculture and showing them the career opportunities in agriculture.



Colleen Southwell

Colleen Southwell is a professional paper sculpture artist and garden maker. She is inspired by nature, both wild and cultivated. Her three-dimensional works reflect botanical, entomological and ornithological elements. Each piece is a delicate combination of detailed drawing in pigment, watercolour, fine gauge wire, gently manipulated paper and occasional found materials.

Afternoon visits

Cook Park

Cook Park, an area of 4.5 ha in the heart of Orange, was created by popular. In 1854 the whole block that became Cook Park was withdrawn from public auction (it was marked for residential sale in the renamed village of Orange in 18530 and retained as open space. The park was proclaimed as an official recreational reserve in 1873 and trees planted: conifers and deciduous forest trees. In April 1882 Cook Park was officially named in honour of Captain James Cook. The Park was laid out in a traditional Victorian design with straight paths and rows of trees. Much of the original design is still in place. The James Dalton Fountain was donated to the people of Orange in 1891. [See the brochure on Cook Park in your satchel.](#)

Cook Park, PHOTO Orange City Council.



Duntryleague

The visit to Duntryleague will bring our morning lectures to life. Beginning in 1876, the mansion was built for James Dalton to the design of architect Benjamin Backhouse. The house was constructed from bricks made on the property. Features include a magnificent stairway, wrought iron lace embellishments and an iron lace portico. Duntryleague is set in magnificent grounds with many exotic trees planted in the 1880s and 1890s. The first formally trained landscape architect in Australia, Ilmar Berzins, designed the master plan for the Duntryleague Golf Club landscape and planting program.



PHOTO duntryleague.com.au

Wisteria

Wisteria is a blue stone home built in the 1850s. Its rambling gardens are framed by towering trees, with thoughtful planting and statuary throughout the garden, which draws the eye. The property is set above Gosling Creek Reserve, and just beyond the Bloomfield precinct. This precinct surrounds the original Bloomfield Hospital, established in 1925 as one of only three, dedicated mental health facilities in rural NSW. The site holds state heritage significance.

PHOTO Helen Oates



Sunday 27 September

Lecture program Orange Civic Theatre

8.30 am Australian Garden History Society Annual General Meeting

9.15 am Cornish chain migration in the Orange District, **Bill Oates**, AGHS Northern NSW and member of the Cornish Association of NSW

9.45 am Trees of remembrance, **Graham Wilson**, AGHS Northern NSW

10.15–11.00 am MORNING TEA

11.00 am Transitioning the future of heritage organisations, a panel session chaired by **Jane Lennon** (AGHS NMC), with representation from the National Trust NSW (**David Burdon**), ICOMOS (**Stuart Read**), Orange City Council (**Alison Russell**), AGHS (**Tim Entwisle**)

11.45 am 47th annual conference, **Robyn Oates**, Chair, AGHS ACT, Monaro and Riverina

12.00 pm Conference in review, **Francesca Beddie**, Editor, Australian Garden History

Wrap up and thanks

12.15 pm **Helen Oates**, AGHS NMC Chair

12.20 pm **Lyndall Harrison** – Welcome to Millthorpe

12.30 pm LUNCH IN THE CIVIC SQUARE PRECINCT

1.15 pm Board the coaches for an afternoon in Millthorpe

Afternoon program

- 2.00 pm Arrive in the village.

Armed with a village map, which you will find in your satchel, enjoy a self-guided walking tour of the village. Entry to the Golden Memories Museum is included in your afternoon, where you will discover many interesting displays.

Afternoon tea will be served at the Golden Memories Museum in a number of sittings from 2.30pm.

- The afternoon, and the conference, will conclude with drinks and canapes from 4.30pm hosted by the Golden Memories Museum, showcasing wine from the three local tasting rooms Tamburlaine, The Slow Wine Co and Angullong.

Coaches will return to the Civic Theatre.

Please speak to the conference convenor if you are departing by plane from Orange airport on Sunday evening. We can investigate drop-off options.

Speakers

Graham Wilson OAM

Graham Wilson trained as a secondary teacher. He joined the Armidale College of Advanced Education in 1985 where he taught Australian history and local and applied history, later becoming Director of the New England Historical Resources Centre. He then worked as a heritage advisor to local councils across the New England region. In 2008 his contribution to heritage work was acknowledged by the award of an OAM.

For two decades, Graham has recorded war memorials for the NSW War Memorial Register. He will speak about the contribution trees make to the diversity of these memorials and the importance of each AGHS branch raising awareness of the natural and cultural value of trees and encouraging local government to list their significant trees.



William Oates OAM

Bill Oates was born into a family embedded in the Cornish settlement near Orange. His great-great-grandfather won the gold medal for Cornish Wrestling in Bathurst in 1861. As UNE Archivist for nearly two decades Bill has wrestled with archives, records, digital images and museum collections in the New England region. He is an Adjunct Senior Lecturer at the University of New England, patron of the Armidale and District Historical Society and now works for NSW Department of Agriculture and Regional Development in the records team. He was awarded an OAM for the preservation of history in 2026.

His presentation is based on a study commissioned by Orange Regional Council that identified a concentration of immigrants from Cornwall orcharding in the Orange Region. How did just one per cent of migrants to colonial Australia create four out of five of the largest orchards in the Orange district?



Dr Jane Lennon AM

Dr Jane Lennon trained as an historical geographer, worked in national park planning and historic site management in Victoria and as a heritage consultant in Brisbane. Jane has a PhD on cultural landscape conservation. She has been a National Trust member since 1969; is a founding member of Australia ICOMOS (1975), chair from 1987–90 and Honorary member; a foundation member of AGHS (1984). She has served on many boards including the Australian Heritage Commission/Council and Queensland Heritage Council. She is currently the chair of AGHS Queensland and of AGHS's advocacy sub-committee.

The panel will consist of the National Trust, which is committed to conserving and presenting historic buildings; Australia ICOMOS is a society of professional practitioners of heritage conservation; local government, the caretaker of public parks and gardens; and AGHS, a knowledge society committed to advocacy and education about historic gardens and landscapes. All want heritage to be known, shared and enjoyed. The old models of presenting heritage are not succeeding so how can we transition to new bodies?



Afternoon visit to Millthorpe

A self-guided walking tour of the village, including selected gardens and parks. Of particular interest is the Old Hospital at 5 Kingham Street where our host and botanic artist, Mary Ann Mein, will share her love of her garden and of her artwork.

Many shops will be open for us.

Free evening

Refer to your restaurant/café guide in your satchel.



Old Hospital garden, PHOTO Mary Ann Mein

Farewell

until we meet again in
Canberra in October 2027 or
only until our Optional Day tour tomorrow.

Monday 28 September

Optional Day tour to Molong and beyond

8.30 am Meet the coaches at the Civic Theatre

Today, we will be travelling west of Orange, in the Cabonne region. Its history begins with the Wiradjuri people, who have occupied this Country for tens of thousands of years. By 1815, Europeans had arrived in the Bathurst area and nearby Cabonne was soon explored. The initial pastoral settlement began without official approval and led to the dispossession of the Wiradjuri.

In the 1830s and 1840s, the area established itself as a significant pastoral region. The first settlements, notably Molong and Canowindra, also appeared. Cornish settlers began arriving in Byng, east of Orange.

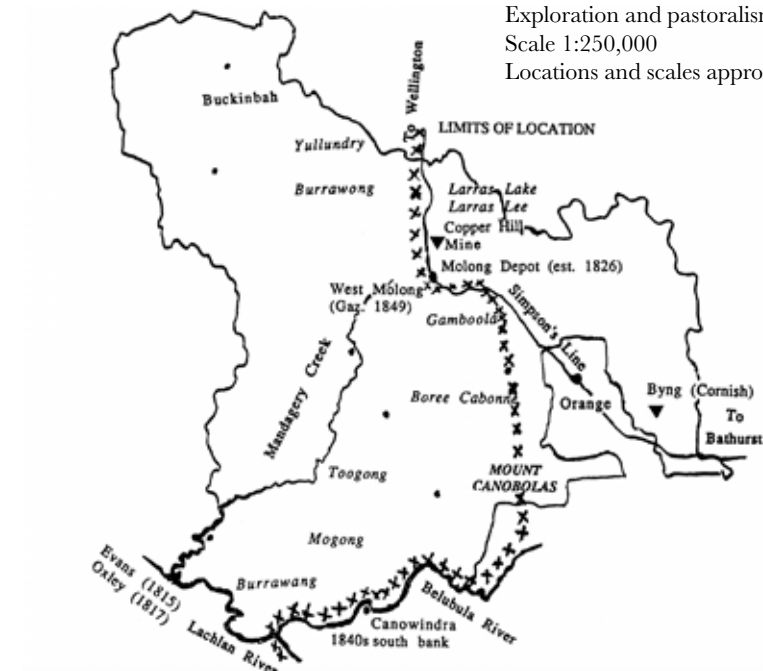
Attempts at copper mining in the 1840s and were followed by the discovery of gold at Ophir in 1851. The Selection Acts, beginning in 1861, allowed for settlement on smaller farms.

Cabonne Shire

Exploration and pastoralism 1815–1850

Scale 1:250,000

Locations and scales approximate only



Source of text and map: *A big country, a contextual history of Cabonne*, prepared for Cabonne Council by Times Past Productions, December 2002

Our first stop is **Kangaroobie**, bought by James Dalton in 1881. Our guides will be Robert Bruce and the onsite gardener Cooley Mutton. Now owned by the Gilmandyke Pastoral Company, the future of the extensive garden and homestead is assured.

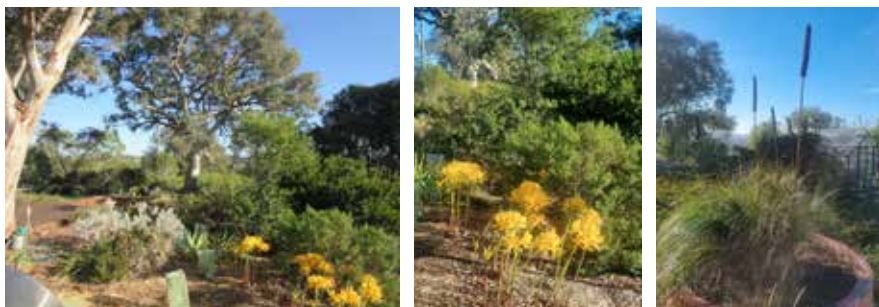
The **Molong Museum** has exhibitions on the history of Fairbridge Farm established in 1938 as a home for child migrants sent from the United Kingdom, the development of the Packham Pear and other displays, including the Godfrey Tilbrook Photographic exhibition from 1905 to 1930.

Morning tea will be provided by the Molong Historical Society volunteers.

Wiamera, a spectacular native garden, was created by Sue and Cameron Wild. This garden contrasts the colonial gardens we have seen throughout the conference and showcases how gardens can be adapted to cope with variations in climate. You will enjoy spectacular views across the landscape and be fascinated by the wonderful plant collection.



Kangaroobie, PHOTO Helen Oates



Wiamera, PHOTOS Bill Oates

Boree Cabonne

In 1847, John Smith leased vast tracts of land among the rolling pastoral vista of the New South Wales midwest and established a giant merino empire that remained a family legacy for 175 years.

Originally called Buree after the Aboriginal tribe who resided there, the property came to be known as Boree Cabonne – Boree after the myall trees that grew in the valley and Cabonne, a Wiradjuri word meaning a big collection or assembly.

Smith's son, Lancelot Noel, built the two-storey Victorian homestead between 1896 and 1898 and today Boree Cabonne is listed by the National Trust. The garden is under the care of Tracy Middleton and has many hidden delights to discover.

Lunch is at Boree Cabonne.



Boree Cabonne, PHOTOS Helen Oates

Boree Nyrang

This Edwardian-style blue stone homestead sits in a picturesque rolling landscape with views towards Mount Canobolas. Built in 1904 by the Kater family, the homestead has a traditional verandah and large rooms. It reportedly was built in just four years, by four Italian immigrants.

Banjo Patterson's grandmother, Emily Barton, once owned the property. We will visit the study in the homestead that reflects the life and times of Banjo.

Our hosts, Susan and Brian, will generously provide afternoon tea.



Boree Nyrang, PHOTOS Helen Oates

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: Brownd 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
2025 SA, Mount Gambier, Beyond the garden fence

The Daylight is Dying by Andrew Barton Paterson (1890)

The daylight is dying
 Away in the west,
 The wild birds are flying
 In silence to rest;
 In leafage and frondage
 Where shadows are deep,
 They pass to its bondage—
 The kingdom of sleep.
 And watched in their sleeping
 By stars in the height,
 They rest in your keeping,
 Oh, wonderful night.
 When night doth her glories
 Of starshine unfold,
 'Tis then that the stories
 Of bush-land are told.

Unnumbered I hold them
 In memories bright,
 But who could unfold them,
 Or read them aright?
 Beyond all denials
 The stars in their glories
 The breeze in the myalls
 Are part of these stories.

The waving of grasses,
 The song of the river
 That sings as it passes
 For ever and ever,
 The hobble-chains' rattle,
 The calling of birds,
 The lowing of cattle
 Must blend with the words.



Without these, indeed, you
 Would find it ere long,
 As though I should read you
 The words of a song
 That lamely would linger
 When lacking the rune,
 The voice of the singer,
 The lilt of the tune.

But, as one half-hearing
 An old-time refrain,
 With memory clearing,
 Recalls it again,
 These tales, roughly wrought of
 The bush and its ways,
 May call back a thought of
 The wandering days,

And, blending with each
 In the memories that throng,
 There haply shall reach
 You some echo of song



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The Australian Garden History Society promotes awareness and conservation of significant gardens and cultural landscapes through engagement, research, advocacy and activities.