



AUSTRALIAN
**GARDEN
HISTORY**
SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT **2023/2024**

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 2024

Patron Professor Tim Entwisle

Office Bearers

Chair Lynne Walker

Deputy Chair Prue Slatyer

Treasurer Stephen Hathway

Secretary Helen Oates

Public Officer Lyn Barrett

Elected Members

Lynne Walker

Dot Evans

Caroline Grant

Stephen Hathway

Anna Long

Annabel Murray

Prue Slatyer

Branch Representatives

ACT Monaro Riverina

Anne Claoue-Long

Queensland

Susan Booth

Northern NSW

Helen Oates

Southern Highlands NSW

Lyn Barrett

South Australia

Dr Patricia Michell

Sydney

Steven Halliday

Tasmania

Andrew Robert-Tissot

Victoria

Michaela Hill

Western Australia

Felicity Farrelly

Journal Editor

Francesca Beddie

Executive Officer

Dr Sarah Edwards

Sub Committees and Working Groups

Advocacy Subcommittee

A Claoue-Long, S Reid, P Slatyer, J Lennon, J Ramsay

Editorial Advisory Committee (EAC)

A Claoue-Long, F Beddie, J Stackhouse, M Probyn, D Evans, G Cooke, C Grant, EO

Finance Advisory Subcommittee

S Hathway, M Dwyer, P Slatyer, M Faul

Kindred Spirits Fund

S Hathway, C Morris, P Watts, C Dyson

Oral History Committee

P Vizents, A Claoue-Long, H McIntyre, R Hamilton, R Burge, L Chappell, EO

Marketing and Membership Committee

L Barrett, L Walker, P Slatyer, H Oates

Website Refresh

P Slatyer, A Long, L Barrett, S Halliday, C Grant, L Walker, EO

AGHS MoU with Tour Companies

L Walker, J Maurer, A Long

MOUs / Partnerships

A Murray, P Slatyer L Walker, F Farrelly

Conference Manual

P Slatyer

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National Chair report 2023–24

The past year has been interesting one with new challenges and some excellent achievements.

Patron

I am delighted to say that Tim has accepted our invitation to continue as Patron of the Australian Garden History Society. Tim tells me he has kept himself busy since leaving his role as Director of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria in August 2023. A book of essays was submitted to CSIRO Publishing last month, and two others – one on oaks – are well progressed. With wife Lynda, Tim led a garden tour of England for ASA Cultural Tours early this year, followed by a short return trip to Europe to attend the International Botanic Congress in Madrid then the International Congress for Historical Botanical Gardens in Vienna.

In October, Tim was appointed Chair of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, and he continues his work chairing an Open Space Panel for the Suburban Rail Look. For at least a few more months, he also remains President of the International Association of Botanic Gardens.

In between all that Tim and Lynda have been preparing their move northward, hoping to settle shortly in the Southern Highlands, NSW.

National Management Committee (NMC)

In recognition of our new Climate Adaptation policy, where we agreed to limit travel as much as possible, the NMC has continued the practice (post-COVID 19) of meeting four times a year by Zoom along with two Zoom/face-to-face meetings: in Melbourne in February and Sydney in July. Thanks to the Royal Botanic Gardens Observatory House in Melbourne and to Stephen Hathway in Sydney for providing meeting venues in those cities in 2024.

This year sees a changing of the guard with six NMC members either retiring or stepping down and a new Executive being appointed:

- Steven Halliday (SYD), Michaela Hill (VIC), Helen Oates (NNSW), Felicity Farrelly (WA), Susan Booth (QLD) will be continuing as Branch representatives.
- Dr Patricia Michell (SA) will be stepping down for personal reasons, Andrew Robert-Tissot (TAS) is also stepping down as is Anne Wegener (QLD) and I thank them all and wish them well. Special thanks to Anne for convening the terrific Ipswich conference.
- Anne Claoue-Long (ACT) and Lyn Barrett (SH) will be retiring and I thank them very much. With great dedication working on sub-committees, they have both been responsible for initiating major changes in AGHS policy and greatly enhancing our reputation – Anne with her Advocacy toolkit and being Chair of the Editorial Advisory sub-committee and Lyn in marketing and membership and heading the web refresh sub-committee.
- Prue Slatyer, Stephen Hathway, Annabel Murray, Anna Long, Dot Evans, and Caroline Grant will continue as Elected NMC members.
- As an Elected member I will be retiring and would like to thank the NMC for being such an excellent team to work with. It has been my privilege to be your Chair.

Branches

I would like to congratulate the Branches for all their efforts in engaging their existing members, while also appealing to new members. This activity and engagement are evident in their annual reports below. Particular inroads have been made into expanding Branch events, to supporting advocacy cases using Anne's excellent toolkit and to recording oral history with significant garden personalities in each state.

Membership

Current membership is 1408, a disappointing decrease of 182 on last year, mainly attributable to the shutdown of our online membership payment system (see below). We need to continue to work on

expanding the membership by organising active calendars full of interesting events.

National Oral History Collection

Rejuvenation of this program has been brought about largely by Patsy Vizents' return to good health. She has assumed the leadership of the Oral History sub-committee once more with her wonderful zest and enthusiasm. Welcome back Patsy! The website now regularly loads these files making them very accessible and enjoyable. At present there are 53 interviews on AGHS's website and 84 interviews in the Society's national collection up from 29 and 65 in 2022. There is still much to be done so please don't delay in recording candidates in your branch. Ideally there should be someone in each branch who takes on the role of organising the interviews.

Climate adaptation

This year saw the production of an excellent brochure that synthesises the findings from our Antipodean historic gardens and climate change project. This represents the culmination of the project, which involved consultation with a variety of garden owners and managers in Australia and New Zealand, several of whom generously contributed articles about their perspectives on gardening in a changing climate. These essays, approximately 30 in number, have been published on our website at <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/climate-adaptation/> The brochure is excellent and I hope you will all participate in distributing many copies (for a gold coin donation) to members of the public whenever possible. Thanks to all involved in its production.

Executive Officer/staffing

In October 2023, former National Executive Officer, Lisa Nutting, resigned after six years working tirelessly for the Society and we set about the task of finding her replacement. While a number of excellent applicants were interviewed, there was one stand-out candidate, Sarah Edwards. It has been my pleasure to work with her as she has taken on the revised position of Executive Officer with enthusiasm and energy. It has been a steep learning curve for us as it became evident just how much is involved in the job. Thank you to Lisa for being so available to offer guidance and support and thanks also to our contractors Francesca Beddie, Bill Nixon and Mariana Rollgejser for their great support of Sarah, as well as volunteers Anna Long and Lachlan Garland.

Sarah has displayed great warmth and good humour despite having to work under very harrowing conditions as cybersecurity concerns caused our automatic payment system to be shut down by the service provider for several months. The ramifications were immense and caused us to revise our systems. The resulting glitches have only just been sorted thanks to Sarah and Bill working together. More thanks are due also to Sarah who has spent a lot of time communicating with those of our members who were attempting to use the faulty system.

The size and complexity of the EO's position is such that we have now hired a bookkeeper on a temporary basis. Some of you may remember Georgina Ponce de Leon Huerta who is extremely well qualified for the role and who previously worked as Membership & Marketing Office for AGHS from 2013 to 2017. Georgina is working for us for two days a week and already, after just a few weeks, the systems are working well. Thanks to Georgina, Sarah and our Treasurer Stephen Hathway and his staff members.

The contracts of editor Francesca Beddie, designer Mariana Rollgejser and IT specialist Bill Nixon have all been reviewed and updated accordingly. During that process it became clear just how much and how well these three work together, along with volunteer AGHS member Lachlan and of course, Sarah. My sincere thanks to you all.

Publications

Our journal continues to go from strength to strength and I am sure its arrival is as eagerly anticipated in your household as it is in mine. Thanks to Francesca for her vision and hard work in maintaining such a high standard and level of interesting articles and to Mariana for her consistently high standard

in design.

In the last twelve months two significant books have been published by AGHS, *Historic Gardens of Perth European settlement to Modernism* by John Viska and Lisa Williams, and *Weeding Between the Lines* by John Dwyer. Rosemary Simpson has self-published *Rosemary's Gardening Life* and very kindly donated the sales proceeds to the Nina Crone Writing Fund. These books are all available through our shop on the website along with several other excellent books.

Annual national conferences

Bunbury, Western Australia 18–20 October 2024: the theme is of *Hesperia: New Horizons* which I look forward to having explained to me. Thanks to the WA team of Sue Davis, Rachel Roe, Diane Pope, Catherine Lang, Joan Low and Helen Martin-Beck, ably led by John Viska, the Conference Chair and Lynette Petersen, the Conference Co-ordinator (both of whom incidentally organised the Albany conference in 2014, exactly ten years ago).

Mt Gambier, South Australia 30 October–2 November, 2025: Despite very positive interaction with contacts in Alice Springs and a resulting vibrant program being planned, the SA Conference Committee decided that the situation in the town is still too volatile to proceed in the next twelve months so reluctantly decided to postpone and to hold next year's conference at Mt Gambier. Planning is already under way with a theme of *Beyond the Garden Fence*, taking a broad interpretation of the (changing) cultural landscape of the southeast. Preliminary investigations by Conference Convenors Dot and Mike Evans have found an excellent venue, accommodation, great speakers and variety of sites and gardens to visit.

Orange, Central West, NSW, October/November 2026: in order to give the Branches a break in organising conferences, it has been suggested that the NMC plan the 2026 conference in NSW and preliminary discussions are underway.

Final remarks

There is more to do and I am confident that you, the members, will continue to contribute to our very worthwhile organisation with innovative ideas and interesting activities – always with the aim to have fun along the way.

Thank you for supporting me as Chair for the last two years and as Secretary for several years before that. It has been my very great pleasure. I wish the new NMC well – onwards and upwards!



Lynne Walker
National AGHS Chair

Branch reports

ACT MONARO RIVERINA

Office bearers and Committee members

Chair	Bronwyn Blake (resigned 14 January 2024) Robyn Oates
Secretary	Nancy Clarke
Treasurer	Sue Cassidy
NMC Representative	Anne Claoue-Long
Newsletter Editor and Membership	Judy Pearce
Committee	Lynne Curran (retired August 2023), Louise Gaudry, Susan Phillips (retired September 2023), Paul Mackey (1 February to 4 June 2024)

Chair report

It is my privilege to share with you the achievements of our branch during 2023–24. We welcomed new members throughout the year. Our committee has been small but it has worked hard for the Society. The branch held some most successful events. Highlights included a visit to The Lodge Garden (thank you Bronwyn Blake for persevering in the face of numerous COVID-19 rescheduling); Parliament House Gardens; Retford Park Bowral; and historical walks in Griffith and Hackett. The branch has continued its relationship with key bodies in Canberra, particularly with the Friends of the National Library and The National Trust, ACT Branch. Our advocacy to replace the National Library of Australia Lombardy poplars with like planting was successful. Our Oral History projects have included the Lainie Lawson OAM upload and the interview with Greg Johnson.

I wish to acknowledge and thank the dedication and commitment given by each of our committee members. They are a splendid team who work together with unstinting good humour and collegial support.

We farewelled our Chair Bronwyn Blake who stepped down from her role after years of outstanding service. She had joined the Branch committee in 2015, became an elected member of the NMC in 2016 and Branch Chair in 2022. It was while on the NMC that Bronwyn served as national Co-Chair, sharing that function with Stuart Read (a member of our Branch and local committee in the 1990s). Sharing this responsibility was probably a good thing because they had to cope with the restrictions and uncertainties of the COVID years. Bronwyn's contribution both locally and nationally has greatly helped the Society.

Two committee members, who you will know well are departing after having served their maximum times on the Branch committee in various positions. Nancy Clarke is a longstanding member of AGHS. She joined the Branch committee in 2005 serving continuously until 2014, rejoining in 2015: a total of 19 years. She was Branch secretary from 2007 to 2013 and after re-election in 2015 she has served in this role until now. She was also NMC representative from 2009 to 2015. Her contribution to the Branch has been large and varied. She has been a key liaison point for our many joint events with the ACT National Trust, Friends of the National Library of Australia and Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens. In addition, she has written and contributed to the newsletter, member information emails and advocacy submissions. Nancy took on the technological challenge of the TryBooking platform and, during the COVID-19 restrictions, she nursed us into using Zoom meetings. She has organised many successful Branch events, liaising with speakers, property owners and checking our venues and travel logistics so that everything runs smoothly on the day. As Branch Secretary she created and has maintained a running summary record of Branch events and committee members back to the first meeting 1986. This has ensured that records of Branch activities are maintained, located and digitised copies of Minutes of Branch Committee meetings and Branch Newsletters are available.

Anne Claoue-Long is a local historian and heritage specialist. She joined the committee in 2016 and almost immediately became our NMC representative. As well as facilitating communications between the two committees to further the Society's aims Anne has helped organise garden visits, led walks through significant landscapes and given talks about garden history to members, and about AGHS to audiences with whom we aim to extend our reach. Anne has also been the defacto Branch Advocacy Officer writing many submissions to conserve the special values of Canberra's gardens and landscapes. As part of the NMC Anne has furthered this work by writing the AGHS Advocacy Toolkit, which is available on the website. Anne also chairs the Editorial Advisory Committee, working closely with Francesca Beddie, the journal editor. She has set up the new iterations of both the Nina Crone Writing Fund and Garden Restorations Fund. Just as she thought she was going to escape further calls on her time she was co-opted onto the new AGHS National History Collection Working Group.

Both have been outstanding contributors and I cannot thank them enough for the splendid impact that their skills, enthusiasm and commitment have had, over many years, for our Branch and for the AGHS at national level.

Sue Cassidy has been a stalwart as treasurer. Louise Gaudry and Rosanna Horn have ably stepped into many different roles, as demanded by our activities and organisation. Judy Pearce continued as our Newsletter Editor, Communications Officer and Membership Manager for yet another year. We would be lost without her expertise and dedication, which assist the committee, and therefore the Branch, immeasurably.

We thank our dedicated members Max Bourke, Anna Howe and Jackie Warburton for their contributions to our events program. We also thank our wider membership for donating books for our book sale that netted \$529.00 for the Nina Crone Writing Fund.

Our new committee is reduced in size and this may require some adjustments to event planning in the year ahead. We will soon begin preliminary planning for the 2027 National Conference which will be held in Canberra and run by this Branch.

I thank all our members for their support through event attendance and donations during the past year.

Events

July 2023, Lecture: *French Botanising in Australia in Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries* by Max Bourke AM

August 2023, AGM and address by Francesca Beddie, *Australian Garden History: Growing the AGHS Journal*.

A guided walking tour of mid-century homes and gardens in Hackett, ACT.

September 2023, A Visit to the Lodge Garden: a guided tour of the grounds and gardens at the Prime Minister's Canberra residence by staff from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and staff from the government landscape services at Parliament House.

Dr Julian Raxworthy presented *Overgrowing Canberra: the annual joint AGHS Friends of the National Library of Australia lecture*

November 2023, *Kingston Parks, Gardens and Windbreaks, old and new*: joint event with ACT National Trust.

A visit to Kentgrove and Riversdale, two historical properties in and near Goulburn NSW

January 2024 Parliament House Gardens: a guided walk with Paul Janssens, Assistant Director, Landscape Services

March 2024 Horse Park and ElmGrove historical visit: Two mid-19th century homesteads with remnants of original gardens and new landscaping. Talk from Jackie Warburton, AGHS member, horticulturalist and gardener responsible for both properties.

April 2024 *Exploring Green Griffith*: a guided walk through a historical suburb of Canberra

National Trust Open Day stall at the Yarralumla Woolshed

Modernism and Canberra Red Brick: a heritage walk in the suburb of Griffith, jointly conducted with the National Trust ACT. Commentary by Dr Anna Howe, AGHS member, urban geographer, academic and international consultant.

May 2024•Retford Park Bowral: day tour of the house and the gardens

Modernism and Canberra Red Brick: a heritage walk in the suburb of Griffith, jointly conducted with the National Trust ACT (repeat due to demand)

Advocacy

National Library of Australia forecourt. Proposals to cut down the four lines of Lombardy poplars either side of the National Library of Australia forecourt (an original design and planting by Richard Clough) and replant them with either Fastigiate oaks or tulip trees on the grounds that Lombardy poplars are a weed species in the ACT due to their suckering habit. Advocacy letters from AGHS and other local groups such as the Lake Burley Griffin Guardians succeeded in a newly restored forecourt landscape with advanced poplar trees. Successful.

Kings Park new plantings. Letter sent to National Capital Authority about new plantings that have little reference to the historic planting palette of Richard Clough's design. No response yet.

Former Australian Forestry School, Major redevelopment of the site with residential property is proposed. Letter sent to NCA supporting recommendations in recent heritage assessments and heritage impact assessments with regard to plantings. No response yet.

Weed species which are also heritage listed trees. Following on from the issue of Lombardy poplars, there are several heritage-listed Radiata/Monterey pines now on the ACT weeds list. Many are dead or dying. Branch will follow up with the ACT Heritage Council about replanting.
Pending.

City Hill. Input to community consultation survey about the further development of City Hill urban park with TCG Weston plantings. Now at the centre of a major apartment development with pressure to develop amenities for increased use. Background to survey made no mention of historic plantings or that the park is heritage listed for its history, design and Weston associations. No response yet.

Civic to Woden Light Rail extension. Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act submission regarding damage to heritage values of designed landscape in the Parliamentary Zone (area immediately south of Lake Burley Griffin in front of the Australian Parliament House) and proposed cutting down of cedar trees planted by TCG Weston. Initial heritage advice indicated major irreversible impact on heritage. No response yet.

Projects

The Branch has given advice to the **ACT Rotary Club** about a project for weed removal at the English Garden at Weston Park. Dr Stephen Utick, a Branch member, is leading the Rotary efforts.

Book sale. Members were invited to donate their surplus garden history/gardening books for a book sale to members. Proceeds have been donated to the Nina Crone Writing Fund.

Oral histories. Roslyn Burge has been engaged to conduct interviews with Branch members. Greg Johnston was interviewed in October. Quotes are also being obtained for interviews with Mariana Rollgejser and Juliet Ramsay.

TCG Weston biography

The first draft of Robert Macklin's biography of Charles Weston has been completed. The book will be

published by the National Library of Australia.

Restoration of degraded sign in Weston Park The printing on one of the panels on the Planting Memories sign erected by AGHS in 2016 (funded through the ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program) has degraded and is barely legible. The Committee has accepted a quote to pay for its restoration and further action is pending.

NORTHERN NSW

Office bearers and Committee members

Chair	Helen Oates
Vice Chair	Graham Wilson
Minutes Secretary	Dar Brookes
Treasurer	Tom O'Connor
Reports/Newsletter	Maria Hitchcock
Publicity	Lynne Walker
Events Coordinators	Helen Wilson and Moira Lloyd
Fundraising Coordinators	Lexia Nielsen and Robyn Jackson
Heritage Rose Garden Coordinator	Lynne Walker
Advocacy Representative	Bill Oates
Oral History Coordinator	Liz Chappell

Chair report

Our year has held many varied and enjoyable events. My thanks to the many organisers whose time and efforts have resulted in a multitude of happy times together for our Branch members. We continue to be very sociable, with our members enjoying each other's company at every opportunity.

One of the highlights of our calendar was our weekend visit to Coffs Harbour. It was great to catch up with our AGHS branch members from the area and to see what spectacular coastal gardens their efforts have achieved. The steep terrain – being used to fine effect by some of the gardeners – was certainly daunting, but hugely appreciated, to those of us who garden on much more mellow contours.

I would like to sincerely thank Robyn Jackson (Secretary) and Fran Webb (Fundraising) for their time and efforts over the last year. Their contribution to our Branch activities has been wonderful.

We continue to be challenged by our relationship with the National Trust NSW, which is making the ongoing management and operation of the Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez Homestead quite difficult. Resolution of an allegation of bullying made against one of our members has been unacceptably drawn out, resulting in significant anxiety for our member and for others in the Branch. It will take commitment on both sides to rebuild a positive working relationship.

Events

6 August 2023 The **AGM** was very well attended. Committee meetings will now be held 30 minutes before each General Meeting.

August-September 2023 With more than 600 roses to prune, many **rose pruning working bees** were held in the Heritage Rose Garden.

29 September – 1 October 2023 **Ipswich National Conference** - Nine of our Branch attended the conference, which included day trips to Toowoomba and the Scenic Rim.

4 November 2023 **Peony Farm visit at Arding**, very capably organised by Helen Wilson and Marilyn Pidgeon. We enjoyed a wonderful day, especially hearing from Marilyn about how she and her late husband, John, originally established the farm.

18 – 19 November 2023 **New England Garden Festival** – Our stall promoted AGHS through a display of historic garden photos, AGHS information and give aways of back issues of the Journal, a display on using gravel mulch and the sale of the potted roses.

26 November 2023 **Christmas lunch at Petersen's Winery** – This venue has become our 'go to' for our Christmas celebrations. The event was well attended and very much enjoyed by all.

17 December 2023 **Christmas drinks in the Heritage Rose Garden** – We took the opportunity to 'stop and smell the roses' and to celebrate the fruits of our labour.

25 February 2024 **Glen Innes gardens** – Lexie Nielsen organised a fabulous day of visits to three

historic gardens. Twenty-four members thoroughly enjoyed visiting Brandon, Lilburn and Rosecroft where the garden owners generously shared the history of their splendid gardens.

5 – 7 April 2024 **Coffs Harbour garden weekend** – Helen Wilson meticulously planned our weekend, from the Friday afternoon visit to Claudia Nevell's spectacular garden, to the amazing gardens of Brian Thomas and Scott Carter, then Graeme Brindley and Graeme Bassett on Saturday, finishing the weekend at the Woolgoolga garden of Neil Puddey, then Prue and Peter Young's garden at Bonville.

11 April 2024 **Perennial Poppies garden tour** – Fifty-five Queensland gardeners were hosted at Saumarez Homestead and in our Heritage Rose Garden. They also visited Gaell, the home and garden of our member, Tom O'Connor, in Uralla, which was thoroughly enjoyed.

3 May 2024 **Renaissance Tours visit** - Renaissance Tours brought a garden tour to Armidale as part of a trip beginning in the Hunter Valley and ending in Ballina via Tenterfield. The tour attracted garden lovers from all over Australia and was led by renowned garden personality Elizabeth Swane. The group arrived at Saumarez and, after enjoying a tour of the homestead, went into the Heritage Rose Garden where Cath and Lynne hosted them. They then moved to Dar and Ian Brookes' garden, which gave the group a fabulous example of New England at its autumnal best. Helen Oates and Helen Wilson served a delicious lunch made by AGHS members. This was followed by Dar's tour which was both entertaining and informative.

Advocacy

Sustainable Saumarez Homestead tourism project –the DA for this project has been approved. We will continue to follow up with Armidale Regional Council, the National Trust and NSW Heritage to try to ensure safeguards for the historic precinct are in place. To date, no work has been undertaken on the project.

Old Armidale Teachers' College gardens – contact was made with NSW Department of Education Schools Infrastructure team following extensive negative social media commentary about the neglected state of the heritage listed gardens at the Old Teachers' College. The Branch offered to assist with replacing dead and dying roses in the grounds using the original rose purchasing and planting scheme. The project is ongoing.

Projects

Gravel mulch installation in the Heritage Rose Garden was finished in November 2023. With the assistance of the BackTrack crew, all rose beds were covered in gravel mulch to conserve water usage and to suppress weed growth. A Transgrid Community Partnerships Grant of \$2,000 assisted us in purchasing and spreading the gravel mulch. Richard Bird once again efficiently managed the project from start to finish.

Kurrumbede Homestead garden restoration project. The Branch undertook research into the 1950s garden at Kurrumbede, a property once owned by the family of Dorothea Mackellar and now owned by Whitehaven Coal Mines. \$500,000 had been set aside by the company for the restoration project. We provided a written report for a consultancy fee of \$3,000.

Olive Fitzhardinge rose project. This project, funded by a grant from, and in association with, Heritage Roses in Australia, is sourcing and propagating the remaining examples of the roses of Olive Fitzhardinge. John Maurer, Lynne Walker and Helen Oates (all AGHS and HRiA members) met partners at the Victoria State Rose Garden at Werribee who are providing budwood for the propagation of 'Warrawee', 'Lady Edgeworth David', 'Lubra' and 'Prudence'. Green E Roses in Dural in Sydney are now growing out these roses, which will become available to us in 2025. This exciting collaboration between our Branch and HRiA will have much wider benefits in assuring the ongoing availability of these roses that were at risk of being lost.

QUEENSLAND

Office bearers and Committee members

Chair:	Ann Wegener
Secretary:	Lois Closter
Treasurer:	John Taylor
Newsletter Editor:	vacant
NMC Representative:	Susan Booth
Committee:	Helen Mackay

Chair report

The main Branch activity was the arrangement of the 2023 annual conference. Susan Booth and I took the leading role but we were ably and fully supported by the branch committee and co-opted members, Jane Lennon and Peter Bridgman, and Graham Hesse, my husband. Susan and I and Elizabeth Teeland arranged the accompanying conference tour. The tour travelled to historic places in Somerset and Warwick Regional council areas.

Despite low numbers, the committee determined the conference a success. While some of the Australia-wide membership may have been sceptical about our choice of Ipswich, Queensland's oldest city, wonderful and positive feedback from attendees assured us that the lectures and visits were informed and interesting. Pent-up post COVID-19 international travel took some regular attendees away, as did illness. Jane Lennon summed up the conference proceedings comprehensively and with aplomb.

Our AGM was well attended. We served tea and sandwiches and very much enjoyed Jane Lennon's talk *What plant is behind your cup of tea? The history of tea*.

After six years I will be standing down from my role as Chair. I have enjoyed the full support of committee members and it's been a pleasure to work with them all.

To those members of the Queensland branch who supported our activities I thank you also. We are a small membership and not quite as vigorous in our activities as other branches. I wish the incoming Committee well in their endeavours.

Projects

Following on from the participation of Queensland University of Technology landscape architecture students at the Ipswich conference, the Branch collaborated with the landscape architecture faculty to run an essay writing competition. This involved a workshop in June 2024 run by Dr Shannon Satherley, with Jane Lennon, landscape architect Ben Hardy Clements and Francesca Beddie, editor of *Australian Garden History*. The competition has a prize of \$1000 and will be judged by Dr Jeannie Sim and John Taylor. The winning entry will be published in the journal.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Office bearers and Committee members

Chair	Richard Heathcote
Vice-Chair, NMC representative	Dr Patricia Michell
Treasurer/Secretary	Di Wilkins
Committee	Janie Smylie, Jeff Jenkinson, Susan Woodburn (coopted), Dot Evans, Mike Evans

Chair report

A major win for the Branch was its part in advocating against the allocation of land in the South Park Lands of Adelaide to the South Australian Police (SAPOL).

The Branch trialled a number of activities for weekdays rather than weekends but these failed to attract sufficient numbers. One mid-week activity that did go ahead was a visit to the Museum of Economic Botany. A minor accomplishment of the Branch Committee was to use Zoom for its four meetings, as several members live outside of Adelaide. Three face-to-face Conference Working Party meeting were held.

We are working on the 2025 annual conference, to be held in Mount Gambier from 31 October to 2 November.

Events

The Branch 2023 AGM took place at the Glen Ewin Estate on Sunday 24 September 2023. Lunch was enjoyed and then owner, Wendy Wauchope, provide a walking tour of the garden and grounds with a commentary on the history of one of the earlier vineyards in South Australia, established in 1845. Today with Anstey's farm (a State park) and Newman's Nursery (a business), it forms tangible evidence of the agrarian cultural landscape created by early colonial settlement. Glen Ewin's reputation is now based on its fig production (12,000 trees and five varieties).

Australian Museum of Gardening: the Branch ran a joint fundraising event with Carrick Hill in October 2023, at which Seamus O'Brien, Head Gardener, Kilmacurragh Botanic Garden, Wicklow (a branch of the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland) spoke. The engrossing talk on the history of Kilmacurragh garden and its links to Australia held the 80-strong audience in thrall.

Annual Garden Party: the 2023 end-of-year event was held at Margery Brown's garden in Glenunga. Despite stormy weather, the two dozen members attending enjoyed afternoon tea, a handsome raffle, snugly sheltered in the garden summer house.

National Conference planning 2025: Committee member Dot Evans (elected representative on the NMC) set up a working party to explore the idea of holding the conference in Alice Springs. Regrettably, the civil unrest and deteriorating situation in Alice during 2024 meant the very promising program had to be suspended. Mount Gambier has now been confirmed as the location of the 2025 annual AGHS conference.

Advocacy

The Branch joined the campaign (coordinated by Friends of the Park Lands Association) to prevent the South Australian Government (SAPOL, the Police Department) from receiving freehold title over approximately eight hectares of Golden Wattle Park (Mirnu Wirra) in Adelaide's South Park Lands. Led by Richard Heathcote and Di Wilkins, the Branch attended the public forum with the Premier, the onsite protest rally at Mirnu Wirra and gathered signatures for the petition to Parliament. The Chair sent correspondence to editor of the *Adelaide Advertiser* pointing out that the cultural landscape about to be destroyed was a defining element of Adelaide's character as a city. The campaign was successful.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Office bearers and Committee members

Chair	Ruth Bailey PhD
Secretary	Sue Trudeau
Treasurer	Lynda Cowley
Event Coordinator	Eleanor Dartnall
IT Coordinator/Research	Jenny Woodwell
Inflorescence Editor/Research	Bud Townsing
Committee	Chris O'Brien, Narelle Bower

Off Committee: Lyn Barrett (NMC representative); Laurel Cheetham (Wingecarribee Heritage Committee Representative); Ray Bradley (Tours)

Chair report

We have continued to be an active branch this past year and have held 12 separate events. We have maintained our policy of providing some free events, and some single day and multiple day events to appeal to the preferences of our wide-ranging members and friends. Eleanor Dartnall and Sue Trudeau have worked very diligently to ensure that all the local events were a great success. Ray Bradley has again been an excellent tour generator this past year with two successful tours, one to Braidwood which sold out in four days and the other to the South Coast of NSW.

Having an annual subscription to Nearmaps has provided significant support for our advocacy activities and those of our local partners who are involved with advocacy or who want to document environmental changes over time to home properties or public spaces. The 2024 subscription was enabled by a donation from one of our members. We will continue this subscription in 2025 because it supports our advocacy efforts within townships in the Southern Highlands.

As set out below, our advocacy activities are being rewarded with objections to several DAs being upheld by the Land and Environment Court. These DAs would have significantly impacted heritage areas in Bowral, Berry and Berrima by removing very old trees that form part of the heritage landscape. Tree preservation has become a large issue due to pressure from the NSW State Government to construct medium/high density housing in the central areas of towns. We are hopeful that the Wingecarribee Community Heritage Study will result in many homes being heritage listed and new conservation heritage areas created. Heritage listing is the only way new development applications (DAs) have to be considered by the Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC). We anticipate advocacy activities will continue to be a high priority in the coming year.

Inflorescence is published every two months with Bud Townsing as the editor.

Because of challenges to the database since May, we do not have current member numbers as of 30 June. However, we believe our membership will be similar to last year (~180 members), which is a significant achievement as many people are under considerable pressure financially either personally or through helping out their families.

Events

Book Auction: a variety of donated garden books were auctioned online in July 2023.

AGM and Second Winter Seminar: 27 August 2023, with two speakers: Geoff Duggan, a Certified Level 4 Master Craftsman of Dry Stone Walling – the only one in Australia, who spoke about dry stone walling in the Southern Highlands; and Ben Hayman, a horticulturalist who shared his experience at Great Dixter in the UK learning from Fergus Garrett how to manage a large historic garden.

WSC Sustainability Fair: 30 September 2023, Bowral. The Branch provided documentation to promote the planting of appropriate trees in the many small and medium-sized blocks now being sold for huge developments in the Southern Highlands.

Self-drive to Camden Park: 25 October 2023. Members were delighted to tour the house itself and also the gardens, which have been significantly extended during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Private Garden Visit to Tavistock in Exeter: Free event on 5 November 2024 in the gorgeous garden of Eleanor and John Dartnall.

Wine and Roses Event at Harper's Mansion: 10 November 2023. The Branch advertised the AGHS by manning a tent at the entrance to the property. There were about 500.

Coach Tour to Braidwood: Ray Bradley organised an excellent day trip for 45 members on 23 November 2023 to Bedervale, an historic homestead and garden, and Mona Farm styled after Capability Brown in the Braidwood area.

Christmas Celebration: Drinks were held at Harper's Mansion, Berrima on Friday 1 December 2024.

Film Day: The successful showing of the film *The Gardener* on 20 February 2024 at the Empire Cinema was a shared event with the National Trust.

Private Garden Visit: A free event was held at the private garden Upper Woodlands on 17 April 2024.

Coach Tour to South Coast NSW: Thirty-five members and friends visited heritage gardens in Braidwood (Longsight), Bodalla (The Rectory Garden), Eurobodalla (Regional Botanic Garden - showing great regeneration after the fires of 2020), Moruya and Nowra (Terrara) from 7 to 9 May 2024.

Winter Solstice Seminar: Held at Southern Highlands Botanic Garden on 23 June 2024. Charlotte Webb provided a superb talk, *Making the Impossible Possible*, on the creation of the Botanic Garden.

Advocacy

Objection to DA Submission for 2 Edward St, Bowral Upheld: We wrote a letter of objection in 2023 and attended on 29 January 2024 a conciliation conference between the developers and the WSC. We provided both parties with a detailed history of the Glebe Subdivision plus Nearmap images. The Land and Environment Court dismissed the appeal by the DA for dual occupancy and subdivision for 2 Edward St (also known as 33 Boolwey St) Bowral.

Bowral Town Center Master Plan: We wrote to the WSC on 17 March 2024 to support many good ideas in the plan; however, there were some areas that the Branch asked them to reconsider. These concerned the planting of new trees in Station Street, removal of trees in Corbett Plaza, some traffic arrangements.

Wingecarribee Community Heritage Study (WCHS): the Chair wrote a letter on 17 June 2024 to the WSC to support the Independent Peer Review Report (IPRR) of the WCHS, which stated that a Register of Significant Trees should be created, and to urge that the heritage camellias, trachyte terraces and pin oaks in Station Street, Bowral, be listed as heritage items in their own right.

Berry Hotel in a Heritage Conservation Area At Risk: On 12 November, 2023 Bud Townsing conveyed the Branch's objection to the proposed DA to significantly modify the old Berry Hotel and surrounding land, which is a Heritage Conservation Area. The DA was rejected by the Southern Regional Planning Panel but the developers are likely to take this to the Land and Environment Court (LEC).

Berrima Residence Association (BRA): We supported the BRA by giving it a set of high resolution A3+ size Nearmap images of Berrima to assist in defending an LEC appeal against a council decision to refuse a dual occupancy and subdivision at 11 Oxley Street Berrima. The LEC dismissed the appeal thus helping maintain the integrity of Berrima village and landscapes.

Projects

Berrima Museum Exhibition: The exhibition *Gardens and Landscapes of the Southern Highlands – Then and Now* has continued to be successful. Several garden clubs organised visits to the museum to see a slide show by Bud Townsing on the Thrushwood garden (see below) and they were in awe of the garden's wide variety of plantings.

A Garden Recording: Recording the Thrushwood garden is complete. Thrushwood was one family's residence for 47 years before being sold in February 2023. The owners had been avid plant collectors but the garden has never been shown to the general public due to lack of parking in the street. The recording involved identifying about 85 per cent of all plants in the 2,782 m² garden. Plans were also drawn to locate all plants in 15 separate gardens on the property. A photo book and family history is currently in final draft form. A second volume includes the slide presentation for the Berrima Museum

and documents the heritage camellia, maple, hydrangea and clematis collections. It too is almost completed.

Station Street Camellias: Since September 2023, Laurel Cheetham has been coordinating with the 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. We anticipate the signs will be completed in the next few months and installed.

SYDNEY

Office bearers and Committee members

Chair	Anne Smith
Vice-Chair	Steven Halliday
Secretary	Jan Churcher
Treasurer	David Low
Committee	Stephen Hathway, Wendy Robinson, Judie Rawling, Stuart Read, Christina Kanellaki Lowe
Newsletter editor	Anne Smith

Chair report

It was a great pleasure to represent the Sydney Branch at two events in the last year, firstly at the celebration in December of the listing of Badangi on the State Heritage register. AGHS members James Quoye, Colleen Morris and Christine Hay spoke. They are the authors of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Landscape Heritage Report on the site. The Badangi listing covers the foreshore parklands and reserves around Greenwich and Wollstonecraft. Several other AGHS members attended the celebration. Also in December, I represented AGHS at the Callan Park celebration of 25 years of the Friends of Callan Park where other AGHS members were also present in different capacities. The Friends made clear their appreciation of the support AGHS has given over the years.

This year's well-attended branch events were informative and interesting, thanks to many high calibre presenters. The talks have broadened our knowledge of garden and landscape issues and their historic layers, while also being enjoyable social events. Viewing the Richmond landscape around Durham Bowes was particularly thought-provoking. People travelled long distances to hear about the threat to this historic area.

The Branch publishes a tri-annual newsletter, *Branch Cuttings*, a detailed newsletter that includes illustrated reports on events, advocacy and an article on a topic of interest to members, as well as a high-quality monthly E-news alerting members to events.

My term on the Sydney committee has come to an end. I would like to extend my huge appreciation to the Committee whose talented, knowledgeable and supportive members have generously put in great efforts to produce an interesting and varied program of events for our members, led walks, presented talks, catered for the events, communicated with members, managed finances and written advocacy submissions.

Events

23 August 2023, **Sydney Branch AGM**, followed by an illustrated talk by Colleen Morris titled *James Jones, the little-known designer of public landscapes in NSW*. We heard about the work of James Jones in Europe and in NSW and the interesting influences of French landscape design on his work.

5 November 2023 **Open Day and Garden Party at Government House** with optional lunch at the Royal Automobile Club for AGHS members. It was a good opportunity to walk around the gardens of Government House.

3 December 2023, **AGHS Christmas Party** in the beautiful Upper North Shore garden of John and Chay Kaleski at Warrawee. Landscaper, Myles Baldwin, who renovated the garden several years ago, gave a brief talk and led a tour of the garden. The hens wandered from their chook palace to entertain the guests.

10 February 2024, **Self-drive tour of Richmond Lowlands** in the Hawkesbury to visit the 1804 State Heritage-listed property, Durham Bowes homestead, and St Peter's Anglican Church. The homestead is threatened by a proposed new road. The tenant at the church rectory generously spoke about the construction of the house and allowed us to wander in the grounds and enjoy the view of the lowlands.

from the garden seating.

10 March 2024, **Walking Tour of Oatley Park** led by Matt Allison of the Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society after a talk by local historian, Rodger Robertson. The walk around the bushland peninsula revealed views to the Georges River and glimpses of the historic property Glenlee through the lovely trunks of the angophoras and *Eucalyptus punctata*. Later in the day committee member, Jan Churcher, led a walk around Lime Kiln Bay.

13 April 2024, Guided tour of **Florilegium: Rainforest Species at Risk** exhibition by curator Colleen Morris. Displayed were contemporary botanical paintings produced by artists from The Florilegium Society at the Royal Botanic, Sydney and artwork by the Botanic Gardens scientific illustrators. Artist Beverly Allen explained details of some of the artwork and the processes involved in producing it.

14 April 2024, **Self-drive trip to The Braes, Leura**, an historic Sorensen designed garden in the Blue Mountains. AGHS Committee Member Stephen Hathway led some of the group around the garden. Later Stephen and his partner, Felix, welcomed the group to their lovely garden for a BYO lunch.

29 May 2024, **Leslie Wilkinson's Career and Garden Making**, an illustrated talk by heritage consultant, Flavia Scardamaglia, about the extensive work of influential architect Professor Leslie Wilkinson and his role as a garden-maker and designer.

19 June 2024, **Chinese landscape making in Australia**, an illustrated talk by landscape architect and historian Stuart Read on how the Chinese have influenced the Australian landscape, gardens and plants over their long history as visitors and migrants.

Advocacy

February 2024 – **Transport Oriented Development (TOD)** – letter to NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces expressing concern over loss of valuable cultural landscapes, including heritage listings and existing street trees and open space; concern over the quality of future urban landscapes with regard to soil depth, tree canopy and green space; and urging individual assessment of precincts.

April 2024 – **Durham Bowes** and proposed traffic access at Richmond Bridge – letter to the NSW Minister for Transport expressing concern about the likely adverse heritage impacts of the proposed new Richmond Bridge on the State Heritage-listed property Durham Bowes/Mountainview at Richmond and the Richmond Lowlands, noting no heritage impact statement had been prepared for the development.

June 2024 – **Callan Park** a submission to the Plan of Management of Callan Park was sent urging recognition 'of the historic, aesthetic, social and rare significance of Callan Park' and prioritisation of 'conservation, repair and reinstatement over other uses or land-use pressures'.

Wyoming – submission to State Heritage Listing Register supporting the continued retention on the State Heritage Register of Wyoming at Birchgrove, a rare large house and garden on its original landscaped setting on the foreshore of inner Sydney Harbour.

Projects

The \$195.00 profit from the AGHS Florilegium event in April was donated to **The Florilegium Society**.

Yasmar, Haberfield: Gina Plate horticulturist, AGHS member and past executive Committee member, continues to lead a team of volunteers working Thursday mornings to remove weeds, prune and keep the garden tidy. This work is temporarily on hold while the new owners, the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, carry out demolition works on another part of the site and organise a new work licence for the garden volunteers.

TASMANIA BRANCH

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Co-Chairs	Rosie Mackinnon and Ann Stark
Secretary	Antonia Dunne
Treasurer	Ian Kilgour
Events Coordinator	Wyn Manners
Membership officer	Leslie Kilgour
Special Projects officer	Andrew Robert-Tissot
Advocacy officer	Sue Small and Janet Whelan
Newsletter editor	Jennifer Stackhouse
Member	Ian Sampson

Co-Chairs' report

Branch activities have involved a strategic planning session to ensure the Branch focus is coherent with the AGHS Strategic Plan, 2020–2025. This session created clear guidelines for future funding decisions on grants and supporting other requests.

Membership continues to grow with more new members joining than those retiring in the last 12 months. Membership is increasingly drawn from the three regions of the State and the Committee is aware of the need to hold activities in all regions. A streamlined format for our membership list has given a clearer indication of current subscription, skills and experience in our database as well as improving communication with the wider membership.

Greater awareness of our Branch activities has improved coordination with the National Trust, Cultural Heritage Practitioners of Tasmania, East Coast Alliance, Friends of the Soldiers Memorial Avenue, Heritage Council and Launceston City Council. This has also led to our attendance at workshops relating to definitions of cultural landscapes and requests for support in relation to threatened landscapes.

The Committee, as always, is grateful to the Editor of *Blue Gum*, Jennifer Stackhouse who, despite a very heavy workload and overseas commitments has again managed to produce high standard publications over the year. In response to the changing needs of the membership and the resources we have available, the committee has decided to trial a different mean of communication with the membership. The July 2024 *Blue Gum* will be the final one produced for now.

Two members are retiring this year. Wyn Manners and Rosie Mackinnon. Over the last three years, Wyn has developed excellent templates and flyers for all events. Her ability to plan, delegate and execute profitable events has led to increased growth in membership and an interest in joining the committee. We will miss her ability to organise people with a delightful sense of humour and quick decision making. Thank you Wyn!

Rosie has come to the end of six years on the Committee, in the midst of which there was a national conference in Hobart. This period included three years as Co-Chair – for most of one year without a 'Co'. She was part of keeping the Branch functioning during COVID challenges and has advocated strongly for the needs of northern Tasmanian members. Rosie was also instrumental in widening the focus of the Branch and encouraging a broader conception of what AGHS can mean in Tasmania and is one of the major reasons why the Branch has been so active and busy this year.

Thank you also to all those members (including the spouses of Committee members) who have helped out at Branch functions in 2024. We could not operate without you!

Events

July 2023: Second Winter lecture: *Using Convict Records to Explore Garden History*

October 2023: Spring in Georgian Towns of Kempton and Oatlands

Christmas Visit and Party 2023: Uplands Stables, Cambridge and Woodlands, Tea Tree

February Walk 2024: Soldiers Memorial Avenue Domain Hobart

March 2024: Historic West Coast landscapes and Hydro installation

April 2024: Gardens of Historic Sites of Port Arthur

May 2024: First Winter lecture and autumn visit to Longford and Launceston

June 2024: Second Winter lecture, *Hobart Penitentiary, Convict Gardeners and Their Gardens*

Advocacy

Proposed AFL stadium at Macquarie Point. The stadium project is an ongoing issue of concern. The State government has sought submissions on draft guidelines for the development from registered groups. AGHS Tasmania was not included in this group. An associated specialist AFL training centre is proposed for Hobart's eastern shore. There may be issues relating to this development too, due to the possible destruction of parklands, bush and other community amenities. The branch is exploring the significance of these parklands and their history.

Cambria Green, Swansea, East Coast. At our 2023 AGM, guest speaker Ann McConnell from the Cultural Heritage Practitioner Network spoke about the implications of a proposed development at Cambria Green for the cultural heritage landscape. In October 2023, the Tasmanian Planning Commission rejected a draft amendment intended to facilitate the large-scale tourism-based development on more than 3,100 hectares outside Swansea village. However, the developer has a continuing presence in Swansea. Further to our involvement in advocacy in relation to this plan, in May 2024 the East Coast Alliance (ECA) requested our assistance in advocating for the maintenance of the fabric of Cambria Green. A letter is being sent to Heritage Tasmania to support ECA's concerns from a cultural and landscape heritage perspective.

Runnymede, a National Trust property. In early May, the Branch was requested to lend support to the National Trust objection to a proposed development very close to the Runnymede boundary. Committee members and the national Vice Chair (Prue Slatyer) assessed the proposal, noting the threat to heritage trees, garden and aspect; and drafted and lodged an objection at very short notice. This has enabled the Branch to join any further action as an interested party. Sue Small successfully represented the Branch at the subsequent hearing, with a very satisfactory outcome: amendments to the development application to protect Runnymede were added as a result of our joint advocacy.

Projects

Nomination and updating of **significant trees** from the Tasmanian National Trust register is ongoing and is an example of a productive undertaking with the National Trust (Tasmania). AGHS and other stakeholders have been invited to join the Launceston City Council to compile a significant tree register within Launceston. This is in addition to the ongoing MOU with National Trust to identify and record significant trees.

Oral history interviews have been conducted by Jean Elder and Rhonda Hamilton: Jerry de Gryse, landscape architect; Tonia Cochran, Inala, Bruny Island; Sally Johansson, horticulturalist; Tara Edmondson, Government House Estate Gardens Manager; Neville McKinnell, Clarendon Evandale. Libraries Tasmania is to store the Tasmania Oral Histories in their archives.

Establishment of a **Northern Group** based in Launceston, with a nucleus of 18 members and non-members. The group plans to meet three to four times a year to discuss on local issues. There is an interest in searching historical landscape records and publishing.

Strategic planning session for the committee to develop guidelines for funding requests and a coherent plan.

The Branch is working on creating a **complete archive** of *Blue Gum* newsletters and journals.

Developing capacity in Committee members to use the Try Booking platform, which also provides archival records of past activities for reference.

VICTORIA

Office Bearers and Committee Members

Chair	Wendy Dwyer
Vice Chair	Lynda Entwisle
Secretary	Wendy Dwyer
Treasurer	Anna Long
Bookings	Robyn Teed
Newsletter	Lynda Entwisle/Carol Beaumont
Working Bees	Diana Ellerton (retired 5/24) now Fran Faul
Advocacy	Ros Savio/Michaela Hill
Projects	Trevor Pitkin
Catering	Annie Woodside (retired 5/24)
NMC Representative	Michaela Hill
General Committee	Sue Foran

Chair report

The Branch was very pleased to present a wide-ranging program for members and friends. This is only possible through the hard work of the committee, which is comprised of a dedicated team with a variety of talents, who have delivered regular newsletters, a varied series of lectures, trips, working bees and walk and talks. Also, we have been proactive in addressing relevant Victorian issues impacting heritage gardens and landscapes. We have continued our program of oral histories, as well as researching and compiling garden histories and other projects.

During the year our Working Bee Co-ordinator, Diana Ellerton retired as did long-term committee member and catering co-ordinator, Annie Woodside, who moved interstate. Many thanks to both for their enormous contribution to the Branch over many years. Vice Chair and newsletter editor, Lynda Entwisle, is stepping down as she too is moving north. Her technical skills, sensible advice and willingness to support all aspects of the committee and the Chair will be sorely missed. Tim Entwisle is thanked, for although not on the Victorian committee, he was always willing to share his knowledge, skills and contacts.

During the year, Sue Foran and Carol Beaumont joined the Committee bringing new skills and fresh ideas. Also, we thank Fran Faul for again stepping up as ex-officio Working Bee Co-ordinator to ensure this activity continues.

I would like to thank the Victorian membership for supporting all our events throughout the year.

Events

Lectures

11 July 2023, international Zoom lecture. *Little Men in Red Hats: The Story of Garden Gnomes*, by Dr David Marsh Gardens Trust, UK.

30 August 2023 AGM and lecture, *The Duxbury Postcard Collection*, by Helen Page.

Events and trips

17 November 2023 'Planting Paradise: A guided visit of Heide Gardens' with Head Gardener David Murphy.

7 December 2023 Christmas Walk and Talk at Maranoa Gardens and Beckett Park with horticulturalist Andrea Denis.

7 February 2024 Walk and Talk around Garden City, Port Melbourne with Fran and Mal Faul.

3 April 2024 Bus trip 'From Dandenong to the Dandenongs', visiting Heritage Hill and Walling-influenced property of Culraven.

9 May 2024 Self Drive to Broughton Hall, Jindivick for private tour with owner, David Musker.

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: 14 April 2024, Medlow; 30 June 2024, Belmont.

Advocacy

HV McKay Memorial Gardens Sunshine: Brimbank Council advised the Gardens' Strategic Management Committee, of which AGHS is a member, that new contractors had been appointed for the Airport Rail Link works and revised plans would likely require a new Heritage Victoria permit. Airport Rail Link project now postponed indefinitely.

Wombat Park, Daylesford: AGHS has followed up its nomination to the Victorian Heritage Register made in late 2019. Heritage Victoria has advised that an assessment, previously delayed due to the pandemic, will be made in the 2024-25 financial year.

An amendment to **Hepburn's Planning Scheme** and planning permits for proposed subdivisions at 1 and 9 Raglan St, adjacent to Wombat Park, which include the five large blocks proposed for Channel 9's The Block program, have been approved by the planning minister as part of the State government's Development Facilitation Program. AGHS had previously submitted a letter to council addressing concerns about these proposals and the "Proposed Daylesford and Hepburn Structure Plan," to address concerns about how it may affect Wombat Park. As a result, AGHS was asked by the Shire to be included as a stakeholder in this matter.

The **Gong Reservoir–Buninyong Botanic Gardens:** the Landscape Masterplan was adopted by Ballarat City Council in mid-2023 with detailed planning and design under consideration for the Gong Wall to address instability and leaking. AGHS continues its watching brief with community groups.

Projects

Oral histories: John Dwyer (by Prof Tim Entwisle); Kathy Wright, Fran and Malcolm Faul and John Hawker by professional historian, Dr Kate Cregan.

Digitisation and databasing of 1916 Nobelius Nursery transaction ledger: AGHS contribution in the form of a new scanner. Support for transcription of the digitised ledger lapsed but may restart, probably in collaboration with the Emerald Museum which has been successful in winning grants recently.

Garden restoration assistance for Yantaringa, Ivanhoe: Following a working bee to expose the hard landscaping elements of this garden, the Branch funded Barrie Gallacher, Heritage Landscape Architect, to prepare a comprehensive restoration guide.

Relationship establishment with Trust for Nature/ (Memorandum of Understanding): Following a successful event at the Uambi Reserve, a meeting with Trust for Nature's CEO, Director of Development and Communications Coordinator was held in early September, setting up an agreed basis to pursue the goals of the MOU.

Film artefacts (Kamesburgh as demonstration site): A meeting was held in late August with Mozghan Pazooki, a film maker referred to us by AGHS Tasmania. Two site visits have been conducted, the second with some preliminary filming. A third visit and completion are expected late 2024.

Spring 2024 tour design (Eugene von Guerard/landscape focus, Camperdown area): Background research continues ahead of preparation of a detailed booklet for the tour in mid-November. Supporting lectures arranged to be given by Dr Raymond Madden & Dr Ruth Pullin.

WESTERN 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
Committee	Sue Medalia

Chair report

This year's major focus has been organising the October National Conference in Bunbury. Articles and promotion appeared in two issues of this year's journal, with notification being sent to members on 2 April. Three places for tertiary students, sponsored, by an anonymous donor, have been included. Follow-up trips to Bunbury have been made regularly to meet personnel involved with the three-day event and gain information for the delegates' conference booklet.

The launch of our book, *Historic Gardens of Perth: Early settlement to Modernism*, prompted two newspaper articles one in the *West Australian* and the other in *Have A Go*. These generated book sales. As a result of entering the book in the Royal WA Historical Society's annual book prize, I was invited to join a panel to describe the publication. Fifteen talks on subjects of WA's garden history and the *Historic Gardens of Perth* publication have been presented to local history societies, community groups, Probus and gardening clubs. *The History of Rose Growing in WA* was presented at the 2023 National Rose Society's Conference in Perth, and we were invited to be a guest speaker at the launch of Open Gardens WA 24/25 season. I gave a talk, my *Potted History of Wilson and Johns' Nursery*, at the Spring into York weekend. Each of these events has provided the opportunity to sell *Historic Gardens of Perth*, display the branch's banner and promote AGHS by providing complimentary back copies of the Society's Journal, membership forms and website details. An A5 Flyer was produced to inform the public about the Society and was distributed at public events.

The topic of Conservation Plans was again presented to third-year landscape design students studying at the University of Western Australia. Back issues of the Journal have been donated to the School of Landscape Architecture at UWA as a student resource and two copies of our book have been purchased.

Caroline Grant and I gave feedback to the Heritage Council on their draft *Guidelines for the Managing of Significant Trees*.

A special thanks to Lynette Petersen, the Branch Secretary, for her secretarial expertise that has ensured monthly branch meetings and conference organisation run smoothly. Finally, many thanks to the branch committee members and the conference volunteers whose participation and expertise ensures that we will have a successful event in October.

Events

The **34th AGM** was held on 23 August 2023. This was well attended by 25 members, three guests with seven apologies received. Branch member Gillian Lilleyman presented an informative talk on tourism in the southwest titled, 'Purpose Built: The Making of Caves Road'.

The **launch** of *Historic Gardens of Perth: European Settlement to Modernism* by the City of Perth's Lord Mayor, Basil Zempilis, on 11 September. More than 60 people attended.

For the annual event, '**A day in the country**', we took advantage of 'Spring into York', a two-day garden festival organised by the Town of York. On Sunday 15 October it was forecast to be over 40 degrees; consequently the attendance was low. Members met at Friendship Park and travelled in one car to view four gardens in and around the town.

The **Christmas function** took place in Wanneroo in the grounds of Buckingham House and was well

attended by 24 members on 3 December. An officer from the City's Museum gave a brief history of the occupation of the site and prior to the traditional Annual Quiz members inspected the limestone cottage and the one-teacher school classroom on the site.

Wirra Willa Armadale, one of the first gardens viewed when the branch was formed in 1988, was revisited on 28 March. A group of 24 attended, 17 members and 7 non-members. Grant Nixon, formerly associated with the Araluen Botanic Garden described the sorry state of the garden after the City of Armadale took possession of the site. He outlined the City's intention of having the property in the public domain when it is in a presentable state. In 2017 the branch wrote to the Heritage Council informing them of the parlous state of the grounds. We were pleased to note that it was placed on the State register of Heritage Places in 2021.

The Society was invited to participate in the **City of Perth's Heritage Festival** on the weekend of the 13 and 14 April. An information stall was set up in the grounds of Government House and on each day two guided walks of the garden were provided. Rostered members gave out flyers, back copies of the journal and sold copies of *Historic Gardens of Perth*, with a signed copy being presented to the governor. We have been invited to participate again next year.

On 23 May, 14 people attended the morning talk at the **Kings Park** guides headquarters in the reconstructed superintendent's residence. Judy Burn, a park guide for 15 years, covered the 130-year history of the park.

At the **State Herbarium** on 19 June, 12 members were met by Dr John Huisman, the Director, and given a guided tour. At the Threatened Flora Seed Centre a herbarium specimen from Banks and Solander's trip in 1770 was on display.

Advocacy

The branch gave its support to addressing an issue in Fremantle, by alerting our members of a Moreton Bay Fig tree, planted in the residence of Phillip Webster in the 1880s, being delisted from the City's **Significant Tree Register** and encouraging them to sign the petition to have it retained.

Polyphagous shot hole borer (PSHB) Hyde Park. The polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) is threatening the 120-year-old trees in Hyde Park in Perth. At the 2024 City's AGM and Electors' meeting, John Viska moved that a committee be formed with representatives from the city council, the Heritage Council, Aborigicultural Association and community members, to act as an advisory body for Hyde Park. This motion was adopted and AGHS (John Viska) is now on the committee, which has been meeting monthly with the aim of recommending suitable species to replace the canopy when trees have to be removed.

Kings Park. We informed Branch members about a trial for glamping in the park and directed them to the online survey where they could put their views.

Projects

Our book *Historic Gardens of Perth: European Settlement to Modernism* has been selling well via the AGHS website and community presentations. Two copies are in the State Reference Library, one has been lodged with the National Library in Canberra and the Heritage Council of WA. The WA Parliamentary Library and the School of Landscape Architecture at UWA have made purchases.

Garden restoration grants. The money generated by book sales will go back into the community through grants for garden restoration projects that will be advertised next year.

Our E-Newsletters have been lodged at the **State Library** and we are sifting through branch records with the intention of lodging them with the archives.

Pensioner Guard Cottage Garden. Kate Driver, a fourth-year Landscape Architecture student from the University of WA, has prepared a concept plan for an interpretive garden for the Museum of Perth and the Bassendean Historical Society.

AGHS National Treasurer's Report for FY 2024

I have the pleasure to make my report as your AGHS Honorary Treasurer and member of the National Management committee for the 30th of June 2024 financial accounts.

As all members know the activities of the Australian Garden History Society here on called Society, are the activities of the individual state and district-based branches and the holding of an annual national conference. The continued financial health of our Society rests with these activities. The largest contribution comes from the mass participation at the Annual Conference.

I am delighted to report that the financial reserves of our society have returned to pre pandemic levels, and at balance date we have additional funds in interest bearing deposit. We hold accounts that have topped \$794,909 and \$221,979 in the Kindred Spirit Fund. Against the general account, we have recorded Deferred income for the WA 2024 October National conference of \$193,305.

Your society is financially strong and well positioned for future activities and advocacy.

This year under review we have recorded a deficit of \$48,217. The main reasons for this are: Delays in collecting annual subscriptions due to e-commerce systems being down; Needing to spend on improved membership management; Investment in the next decades Web presence and resources; Change of Executive Officer and office matters; Building stronger reporting systems – administration and accounting; and National Office refurbishment.

These investments were needed and will result in a more efficient and productive work environment that is better able to meet the needs of members. Our society's real engine rooms are in our branches. Your Society's accounts indicate resilience in trading across all branches with only two in a small deficit.

The Kindred Spirit fund is steady at over \$220,000. We should continue to focus on Clause 7.5 in our Constitution to enable the fund to benefit from input of ideas and projects by the NMC and advisory committee. We significantly benefitted from the generous donation by author John Dwyer, KC to enable us to publish his *Weeding Between the Lines*. AGHS continues to gain from sales of the book in our on-line shop. The long road for our Society in achieving DGR status – Deductible Gift Recipient - remains to be travelled. Our revised cultural organisation application was rejected on the grounds that AGHS does not:

- Have a suitable principle purpose
- Have a compliant, established gift fund and
- Have compliant winding up and revocation clauses.

We are more determined than ever to achieve DGR status moving forward. We encourage any tax deductible donations to your AGHS to made via the National Trust and we encourage the generosity you have shown in the past to continue.

Thank you to all the Branch Treasures in making my work easier. I look forward to serving in this role for as long as required. The time spent in the company of my fellow AGHS national committee has been much appreciated and I admire every one's unique contribution from across the breadth of the Society.

I encourage you to continue to financially support AGHS to keep our membership thriving.

Stephen Hathway
National Treasurer

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

15 Statement of Income and Expenditure by Branch

	Southern Highlands	Sydney		Victorian Branch	Tasmanian Branch	South Australia Branch	ACT Monaro Riverina Branch	West Australian Branch	Queensland Branch	Northern NSW Branch	Internal Transfers	Total
	National	Branch	Branch	Branch	Branch	Branch	Branch	Branch	Branch	Branch	Branch	Branch
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Income												
Member subscriptions	101,391	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	101,391
Conference income	103,753	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	103,753
Functions and tours	1,432	42,627	4,934	5,178	36,300	705	7,144	10,421	7,206	5,165	(7,206)	113,906
Donations and grants	33,655	3,889	-	-	-	-	195	-	-	5,370	-	43,109
Interest income	5,434	306	411	372	1,998	-	2	2	-	761	-	9,286
Income from lectures	-	-	-	620	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	620
Sale of publications	2,043	392	-	600	1,444	-	312	8,115	-	-	-	12,906
Other revenue	3,006	986	-	160	-	-	4	-	2	557	(700)	4,015
Total Income	250,714	48,200	5,345	6,930	39,742	705	7,657	18,538	7,208	11,853	(7,906)	388,986
Expenses												
Audit or review fees	5,000	100	100	-	100	100	-	100	100	100	(700)	5,000
Bank charges	3,793	69	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	5	-	3,873
Conference expenses	80,623	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(7,206)	73,417
Function expenses	-	35,354	2,305	4,760	29,242	500	3,843	260	475	4,173	-	80,912
Journal expenses	87,263	112	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	87,375
Postage and stationery	1,193	295	324	37	-	-	-	1,483	-	-	-	3,332
Publications	10,296	-	-	175	-	-	-	100	-	251	-	10,822
Projects and grants	6,000	-	-	9,688	4,627	-	-	-	-	21,914	-	42,229
Employee benefits	84,501	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84,501
Sundry expenses	11,554	5,541	300	492	877	-	1,407	100	-	-	-	20,271
Telephone and internet	1,388	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,388
Travel expenses	5,013	-	-	-	-	-	1,660	352	-	-	-	7,025
Website expenses	16,058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,058
Total Expenses	312,682	41,471	3,029	15,152	34,846	600	6,916	2,395	575	26,443	(7,906)	436,203
Operating Results	(61,968)	6,729	2,316	(8,222)	4,896	105	741	16,143	6,633	(14,590)	-	(47,217)

Notes to the Financial Statements
 For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

16 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	537,070	42,473	15,850	33,504	62,610	17,862	27,815	33,322	10,797	13,606	794,909
Trade and other receivables	-	306	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	306
Prepayments	3,142	725	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,867
Loan to KSF	7,550	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,550
Total Assets	547,762	43,504	15,850	33,504	62,610	17,862	27,815	33,322	10,797	13,606	806,632
Liabilities											
Trade and other payables	55,293	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55,293
Employee benefits	1,294	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,294
Deferred income	193,305	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	193,305
Total Liabilities	249,892	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	249,892
Net Assets	297,870	43,504	15,850	33,504	62,610	17,862	27,815	33,322	10,797	13,606	556,740
Retained earnings											
Opening balance	360,838	36,775	13,534	41,726	57,714	17,757	27,074	17,179	4,164	28,196	604,957
Operating result	(62,968)	6,729	2,316	(8,222)	4,896	105	741	16,143	6,633	(14,590)	(48,217)
Closing balance	297,870	43,504	15,850	33,504	62,610	17,862	27,815	33,322	10,797	13,606	556,740



AUSTRALIAN
GARDEN
HISTORY
SOCIETY

AGHS 45th Annual General Meeting

Sunday 20 October 2024 AWST

@ 8:00 am

Auditorium
Bunbury Entertainment Centre
BUNBURY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Australian Garden History Society invites you to attend the 45th Annual General Meeting to be held at Bunbury, Western Australia on Sunday 20th October 2024.

The 2023/24 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 44th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 30 September 2023 at Ipswich City Council Building, Ipswich, Queensland.
- 2 To receive the Chair's Report for the year ended June 2024.
- 3 To receive and consider the financial statement for the year ended June 2024.
- 4 To appoint an auditor for the 2024/2025 financial year.
- 5 To elect members of the National Management Committee for the 2024/2025 year.
- 6 Future Directions
- 7 General Business

Please contact **Head Office** to register your apology or to obtain further information regarding attendance online.

Sarah Edwards
EXECUTIVE OFFICER