To walk the Melbourne Gardens, cane in hand, wearing a Panama, was to travel the tropics. In 1902 a somewhat portly Director of the Botanic Gardens, William Guilfoyle, resting from the heat of a Melbourne summer's day, stood under a palm whose fronds filled the sky, casting a cool pattern on the ground underneath.

In Guilfoyle's garden, palms and other sub-tropical foliage were found in abundance, recalling the South Seas and northern New South Wales, where Guilfoyle had collected plants before taking up his appointment as Director of the Melbourne Gardens in 1873. Guilfoyle might be mistaken for sojourning in the tropics were it not for the small detail of his left hand touching one of the palm's fronds. To Guilfoyle, the palm Phoenix canariensis or Canary Island Palm was no ordinary palm; he considered it 'undoubtedly the most graceful and beautiful palm' of the hundred odd palms growing in the Botanic Gardens. Guilfoyle's presence in the photograph, originally published in the journal Garden Gazette, gives an imprimatur to this judgement.

The presence of the palm illustrates another story. Its height, girth and the luxuriance of its foliage suggest it has always grown on that spot on the Eastern Lawn but has it? It too may have been moved to the gardens like the eight-ton palms Mr Virgoe of Brighton presented to the gardens in 1902. The photograph if recording the successful transplantation of a palm may be tactfully soliciting similar donations. What a master magician Guilfoyle was, conjuring palms by means of the camera.

Paul Fox
EDITORIAL

Just two years ago our secretary, Trevor Nottle, volunteered, like many others, to become involved in a local Bicentennial project. His particular interest was to record and identify where possible the plants growing in the cemetery of St James church at Blakiston, near Mount Barker. Other members of the parish historical group and the church wardens joined forces with Trevor and members of Heritage Roses in Australia to clean up the churchyard and to prepare a detailed study of the headstones and tombs, and of the plants that had been planted there by mourners. The study was to be used to guide future guardians of the property in the conservation of its structures and landscape. At the conclusion of the study a celebratory 'history walk' and picnic attracted a good cross-section of the community and many outsiders who were interested to see and hear about the old church and its surroundings. There was nothing exceptional in all this; it was an event replicated in many communities across Australia; historic graves were recorded, interesting old plants and trees noted, and in the course of a general clean-up things were set to rights again.

While the small rural cemetery at Blakiston, and many like it around Australia, have enjoyed a quiet revival, others in cities and growing towns have become the centres of intense debate as the costs of maintenance and pressure for new graves have brought about critical reassessments of old burial grounds. In the light of hard economics the quaint pleasures, curious delights and historical associations of nineteenth century cemeteries do not stand favourable comparison with sound business management, future planning and consumer demand — even death can be a growth industry in a country with an aging population. In Adelaide, sections of the West Terrace, Cheltenham and Payneham cemeteries have been redeveloped, often with much 'accidental' destruction of historic markers and stones. The oldest sections of Rookwood Cemetery in Sydney have suffered recently at the hands of vandals. Cultural vandalism, at the hands of delinquent louts or in the guise of progressive planning, threatens important aspects of our garden history: the physical evidence of 'God's Acre Beautiful' (the nineteenth century landscaped cemetery) and the great collections of nineteenth century plants which flourish as part of these landscapes or as decorative grave items in simpler churchyards. Where once concern was expressed over the destruction wrought by wardens wielding poisonous sprays there are now two greater forces for widespread devastation: officially sanctioned clearance and re-use, and unhindered deliberate ratbaggery.

Short of becoming vigilantes there seems not much which garden historians can do to prevent wanton vandalism, but there are many positive steps we could take to identify and promote the conservation of important nineteenth century landscapes and plant communities found in old cemeteries. Perhaps there is a challenging project for your local AGHS branch in this field. The skills needed are many and varied: sketching, draughting, photography, writing, display, public speaking, education, research, propagation, organisation and many more creative and practical abilities. There will also be opportunities to strengthen networks with like-minded community groups and to raise awareness of the existence and purposes of the Australian Garden History Society. The outcome could well be a successful conservation program for these important historic community resources.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

LETTER

I'm not sure if 'hands up those who can identify the mysterious "E.V.B." in the last journal was seriously meant or not. But if it is then I write to tell you that she was Eleanor Vere Boyle (or the Hon. Mrs. Richard Cavendish Boyle), poetess, illustrator and writer on gardening and other subjects. I do not know her dates, but Garden Colour was, from memory, c.1907 and one of her better-known garden books was Days and Hours in a Garden (1884). In 1895 she wrote A Garden of Pleasure which Mrs C Earle thought 'not quite so good'. However, you only asked for her name which at least I can supply!

Wendy Abbott-Young
Joslin
South Australia

Thank you to the following members of the AGHS (Vic Branch) who helped mail out the previous issue of the journal: Richard Aitken, Margaret Brookes, Sue Keon-Cohen, Gini Lee, Liz McDonald, Helen Page, Diana Renou, Robyn Russell, Georgina Whitehead.

The AGHS wishes to thank the Urban Design Branch of the Melbourne City Council for use of their word processing facilities to publish this issue of the journal.

25 May 1990
Grow the Best, Discard the Rest

Australian Gardening Ephemera

Flowers, as well as seed packets, are ephemeral. Their life is transitory, nipped in the bud or dead-headed. In 1926, Hazlewood Bros of Epping, New South Wales put out their rose catalogue under the slogan 'Grow the Best, Discard the Rest', clearly informing their customers that 'Every rose has a fault. Raise the standard by fairly facing the fact'.

For insight into the gardener's world, few items can be more redolent than old seed and tool catalogues, pocket gardening guides, annuals and certificates. All were designed for a short-term life, to be read, re-read and then discarded. That they survive is partly chance, partly human nature, partly the growing awareness of the rich resource this type of material constitutes for both the amateur and the specialist.

For documenting new strains, improved equipment, prices and methods of despatch, catalogues and horticultural manuals are invaluable. For contemporary thinking, Yates' Seed Book of What & When to Sow, 1942, notes the expenditure of time and energy on the production and distribution of economic and utility seeds but points to the need for a reasonable quota of our pre-war requirements of flower seeds, bulbs and plants to satisfy, in part at least the hunger for beauty of colour and fragrance, and the need for refreshment and recreation mid war-times work and duties'. Changing fashions in garden furniture — bird baths, sundials, cast-iron fountains, garden seats, gates and fences — can be traced through trade catalogues, illustrated newspapers and the pages of specialist and popular magazines.

In terms of design, seed poster advertisements and prizewinners' certificates are often of great artistic merit. Executed in full colour, many were carefully framed and preserved.

It is exactly this sort of material which the Ephemera Society of Australia hopes to preserve and study through the collections of its members. The Society would welcome contact with AGHS members whose interests lie in the field of collecting horticultural ephemera. How many members have a full collection of Yates' Garden Guides or early issues of Australian Home Beautiful?

Honor Godfrey

The Ephemera Society of Australia holds monthly meetings in Melbourne, issues a quarterly publication Ephemera News, and organises regular bazaars and exhibitions. Its first international conference and fair will be held on October 6 and 7 in Melbourne and further details are available from the Society at 345 Highett Street, Richmond, Victoria 3121, (03) 429 4328. Illustrations for this article have been supplied by Ephemera Society members.
A Goldfields Orchard

Propagating Old Fruit Varieties at Belmont

Belmont, situated in Victoria's central goldfields area, 160 km west of Melbourne, is a garden property known to many members. The society visited the garden during an early 1980s conference and visitors will recall the warm hospitality of the owners Max and Lorna Watkin, third generation descendants of James Frazer Watkin. Prior to the AGHS conference, a series of working bees were held to assist in preparing the garden for opening and so began a fruitful collaboration between the AGHS and the Watkin family. In 1986, a small National Estate grant enabled the AGHS to further this assistance by commissioning a conservation analysis of the property. The study was undertaken with a view to preparing a simple management plan to aid Max and Lorna with decision making in a garden requiring ever increasing maintenance. I completed this project as part of the requirements of my Bachelor of Applied Science (Horticulture) at the Victorian College of Agriculture and Horticulture — Burnley. To complement the analysis, I undertook further project work which involved the grafting of old fruit cultivars found in the Belmont orchard. This project was financially supported in turn by the AGHS using the remainder of the National Estate grant on an irrigation system and a new pressure pump for the garden.

In 1858 approximately twelve hectares of land originally reserved for mining was purchased by J. F. Watkin, and his holding rapidly expanded to six hundred and fifty hectares within two years. The bush of the original purchase was cleared and, in the valley, Belmont was built with orchards and vineyards established in close proximity. In the early 1860s the property incorporated a small but intensively cultivated garden which provided an opportunity for the local community to gather on a Sunday afternoon and purchase home grown goods, such as fruit, vegetables and wine or spirits. By the late 1880s the garden had been significantly expanded to include an elaborate three gabled fernery, new shrub beds, a cottage garden and ornamental ponds, whilst James Watkin's original tree plantings had matured.

It was the orchard which rapidly became a very important component of Belmont's productive life. Over 60 known fruit varieties were planted, along with an extensive vineyard, with the two comprising some six hectares in extent. Its large scale commercial viability became recognised by 1875 when the orchard was approaching the status of an experimental station. Many of the varieties were grown only in very small quantities, although J. F. Watkin appeared determined to try every recommended fruit variety available. Most of these were probably purchased from Nicholls in Ballarat and perhaps Thomas Lang as many of the varieties on the property were listed in Nicholls' catalogues of 1888 and 1892 (still held amongst family papers).

Plantings were irregular. Some sections of the orchard in open ground were planted in rows with blocks of apples and pears. In others, however, such as on the banks of the ornamental ponds, rows continued with single trees scattered randomly over the uneven terrain. The ground had to be cultivated by a single furrow garden plough, the only piece of equipment which was sufficiently manoeuvrable. On areas of greater slope or in areas of difficult access, one man with a mattock would cultivate directly under the trees. Watering occurred on a system of gravity feed. Water was collected from the dam and carried in a four inch main to the opposite hill. Irrigation water was then channelled to the orchard from an elaborate system of inch pipe and open drains, the whole system utilizing the contours of the land.

Most of the material purchased was already grafted, but James Watkin dabbled in some grafting himself. Fresh growth was heeled in the ground and could then be used as a rootstock on which to graft fresh material when it was required. Grafting wax was homemade to a recipe of 1 lb bees wax, 1 lb beef fat and 4 oz resin. After being melted together, strips of surgical material were soaked in the mixture and then wound around the graft to provide an air and water tight seal.

Rigorous pest and disease programmes were observed. Lime sulphur was used against lichen when it occurred, and pear slugs. Arsenate of lead was sprayed three times a year against codlin moth and red oil for black spot, mussel scale and woolly aphid. Max Watkin recalls using thickly distributed ladies hand cream as a protective measure against overspray penetrating the skin.

The orchard remained productive until about the 1930s. Max Watkin thereafter concentrated on wool growing. The extent of the orchard is still evident from remnant stands of trees, although it is now in a bad state of decline. The remaining fruit trees and vines are estimated to be 100 to 120 years old. The trees represent a significant number of varieties, many not known to exist elsewhere in Victoria.

In a conservation study of the landscape, completed in 1988, a stance of 'preservation' was recommended. Ultimately, the landscape's full restoration is most desirable, but management plans for restoration and the
associated processes of finding funding for further study were too time consuming to wait for decisions and action towards orchard restoration, when fruit variety preservation was an immediate concern.

Two ways of perpetuating the old varieties could have been adopted. The trees have had no horticultural tending since the 1930s, so whilst heavy pruning could be expected to promote fresh and vigorous growth, this would only be a short term solution. Consequently, the next option of immediate propagation by grafting was adopted. Collection of the vegetative scion material began in June 1988 by Mark Bartetzko, Nursery Supervisor of the Victorian College of Agriculture and Horticulture — Burnley. Prior to this, every remaining tree on the property had been labelled with their correct varietal name under the direction of Max Watkin. The involvement of the Nursery Supervisor and the college facilities have been very significant in undertaking a successful grafting programme.

The arrangement between Belmont and V.C.A.H. — Burnley has mutual benefits. Belmont obtains clonal fruit varieties (exact vegetative replicas of Belmont stock), with pots, media, rootstock, grafting equipment, maintenance and expertise being provided by the college. Thus the old varieties are retained, aiding the properties historic conservation. V.C.A.H. — Burnley gains a source of scion wood of old varieties to add to their own fruit variety reference collection. The college will be marketing old fruit tree varieties to home gardeners in the near future and this will offset the costs of their involvement in the project. It should also encourage an interest in old fruit varieties, ensuring their continued survival.

The scion material obtained was processed using standard nursery procedures. Apple, cherry and plum rootstocks were used which were clonal and dwarfing. When considering the small amount of space available for planting the trees in both the college grounds and at Belmont and to minimise the area requiring maintenance and irrigation, dwarfing the trees was an important factor. Grafting techniques used were cleft, double cleft and side veneer, used at random, to produce three or four trees of each variety.

Essentially, grafting was a means of quickly processing the material. The success of the grafts largely depended on the vigour of the material taken and older material proved more difficult to graft successfully. More scion wood was taken from the few varieties which failed completely, such as the apple Dumelow's seedling, and grafted late last year as a second attempt. These have proved successful.

The location chosen for planting the trees is south-west of the residence. It was chosen for its gently sloping even ground (to aid drainage), its size and its close proximity to the residence. The latter was a key factor to enable the area to be easily monitored and maintained by Max Watkin. In planting preparation, the area was fenced to be rabbit and sheep proof and then the enclosed ground was ripped, ploughed, rotary hoed and harrowed to open the soil and even the surface.

The trees were planted in rows at 4 metre intervals. With this arrangement, the third row accommodated an
old pear tree. Its retention was not logically considered, I readily admit, because at the moment the variety is unknown and the tree is in decline! However, the tree does provide a reminder of the historic significance of the holding block and it is hoped that with careful pruning the tree will be rejuvenated and perhaps one day named. Should the tree fail, it can be removed and the space replanted with another variety. The grid pattern is so designed to enable cultivation or slashing between the trees and allows enough room for the tractor to turn on all sides.

It should be emphasized that the purpose of this area is not to re-create a historic orchard, but to use the area as a scion cultivar block holding vegetative material for future use.

The area accommodates 35 trees: 17 varieties of apple, four varieties of pear and one cherry variety. The first priority was to make sure that at least one tree of every variety of grafted material was planted. From there, a duplicate tree was planted of those varieties deemed endangered, for instance where only one or two trees had survived. These are Cleopatra, Rome Beauty, Five Crown and Rokewood. Duplicates were also planted of those varieties which Max Watkin considered useful as good eating apples, such as Reinette de Canada, Northern Spy, Munro’s Favourite, Scarlet Nonpareil and Jonathon. Other duplicates were chosen at random according to tree quality. Duplicated varieties were planted together, but the sequence of varieties holds no significance other than demonstrating the randomness of the old existing orchard.

Upon completion of planting the trees were labelled with a dymo metal tape gun and mulched with straw. One to two biscuits were used per tree to mulch a small area around the tree base. This is to precipitate moisture retention, inhibit weed growth and retain soil warmth. Straw was chosen because of its low seed content, its weight to remain around the trees, the slowness to break down, low cost and no impact on machinery or later cultivation, unlike the commercial weed mat.

Part of the money from the National Estate Grant has been used to irrigate the holding block. Irrigation, of course, was crucial for the trees’ survival during summer and Graham Wells, a local Beaufort man, was employed to investigate and install a suitable system. Graham has been working extensively on urgently needed renovations to the Belmont residence, funded by the Historic Buildings Council. With his enthusiasm and expertise, familiarity with the Watkin family, local knowledge and sensitivity to the historic nature of the property, Graham was the right man for the job. He installed a microspray system, linked to a pump, late last year. It has been manually operated over Summer, but it is intended to link the system to a timing device.

With the technical detail of the holding block now completed, ongoing maintenance is the key to success. Presently, Max Watkin and Bob Reid (Max Watkin’s son-in-law) slash the grass between rows. Mulch controls weed growth immediately around the trees and straw was re-applied at the AGHS working bee last October. Eventually a herbicide spray programme may be used which will be less labour intensive. Labels must be checked and replaced if necessary. Pruning will be required for the first time this June/July to begin shaping the trees and a regular fertilizing programme will need to be established.

The future progress of the holding block, and indeed the rest of the landscape, is dependent on people taking an interest and participating in the project. For myself, the great satisfaction of pursuing this project has been the enthusiasm and delight of Max and Lorna Watkin and their willingness to support preservation procedures. Their hospitality, personality and friendship have made the project one of great spirit and commitment. Our working parties of family and friends, who have become involved in planting, grafting, weeding and planting, have been days of much fun and good friendship. That’s the magic of Belmont.

Andrea Bartezko
Every year many different varieties of cultivated plants are lost from gardens and nurseries throughout Australia. Some are victims of changes in fashion, others may be plants difficult to propagate or cultivate; still more are lost every time a nursery closes, a plant collector moves or dies, or a garden changes hands. Gardens, like nurseries, do not remain static: they rise and fall, expand and decline, and are taken over by new owners with new visions.

In order to assess the full extent of these plant losses, the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne carried out in 1983-84 a survey of plant cultivars growing in Victoria. An indication of the decline in the numbers of cultivars available in the nursery trade was typified by the genus *Bouvardia*. Of the 53 species and cultivars of *Bouvardia* available in Victoria early this century, only five or six still survive. Perhaps not all *Bouvardia* were worthy of being kept, but indiscriminate losses have eliminated many that were.

Although specialist plant societies are conserving certain plant groups, it was considered essential that immediate action be taken to prevent the loss of many significant plants. With this objective in mind, the Ornamental Plant Collections Association (OPCA) was established in 1986.

The Association consists of three separate but interconnected bodies: the Members, Subscribers and the Collectors. The Members is essentially the steering committee, the Subscribers the public wing of the Association and the Collectors hold registered collections which provide a reservoir of worthwhile ornamental garden plants for scientific study, horticultural education and propagation purposes.

One of the important tasks recently initiated by the OPCA has been to document as thoroughly as possible the range of ornamental plants available throughout the nursery trade in Victoria last century. The information which will include plant name, form, modern synonyms, years in which the plant has been available, source and current availability, is being entered into a computer database. This information will be made publicly available as a booklet, funding for which has been provided by a grant from Victoria's Gardens Scheme. It will provide useful lists of plants under 'form' classifications (trees, shrubs, climbers etc) for specific time periods, as well as an alphabetical list of all plants encountered in the catalogues.

The booklet will enable people wishing to restore a garden to a particular period or style to select plants known to have been available through the nursery trade.

The following is a list of nineteenth and early twentieth century nursery catalogues which will be included in the project. It comprises those catalogues held by the National Herbarium of Victoria library and also some xerox copies from the State Library of Victoria and private collections. The project officer would welcome advice of catalogues not included on this list so that the project can be as comprehensive as possible.

- Adamson, William, *Catalogue*, Melbourne, 1880
- Adamson, William, *Descriptive catalogue of bulbs, floral and vegetable novelties*, Melbourne, 1888
- Brunning, George, *Catalogue of hardy ornamental trees, shrubs, conifers and bulbous-rooted plants*, 1865
- Brunning, George, *Descriptive catalogue of hardy ornamental trees, shrubs, conifers and bulbous-rooted plants*, 1873
- Brunning, George, *Descriptive catalogue of... Roses, pachystachys, Fuchsias...Hardy ornamental trees, etc.*, 1882
- Cole, John C., *Descriptive catalogue of fruit trees, vines, etc.*, 1868
- Cremorne Nursery Co., *Catalogue of plants cultivated for sale*, 1901
- Handasyde, McMillan & Co., *Catalogue*, 1864
- Handasyde, McMillan & Co., *Catalogue of ornamental trees, shrubs, fruit trees, herbaceous plants, culinary plants and roots*, 1865
- Harris, Joseph, *General descriptive catalogue of fruit trees, shrubs, ornamental trees, plants, etc.*, 1865
- Lang, Thomas & Co., *Catalogue of plants cultivated for sale No.11*, 1865
- Lang, Thomas & Co., *List of flowering bulbs and tubers No.19*, 1868
- Lang, Thomas & Co., *Catalogue of plants cultivated for sale*, 1873
- Law, Somner & Co., *General catalogue of agricultural, garden and flower seeds*, 1864
- Marriner, G., *General catalogue of Coniferæ, shrubs, greenhouse plants, fruit trees etc.*, 1877
- McMillan & Co., *Select list of flower seeds*, 1860
- Purves, W.J., *Seed catalogue and garden calendar*, 1908-9
- Rule, J. & J., *Catalogue of plants for sale*, 1855
- Rule, John J., *Catalogue of plants cultivated for sale*, 1857
- Rule, John J., *Catalogue of trees and shrubs (and vegetable, flower seeds)*, 1860
- Scott, J. & Son, *Catalogue of plants, ornamental trees, flowering shrubs, fruit trees etc.*, 1889
- Smith, George, *Catalogue*, 1861
- Taylor, William, *Catalogue of plants, trees, shrubs, etc.*, 1865
- Taylor, William, *Handwritten list of trees, shrubs, plants permanently planted...at bolding at Upper Macedon*, n.d.
- Titheradge, G.S., *Catalogue of daffodils*, 1897
- Wyatt, Charles, *General descriptive catalogue of fruit trees, shrubs, ornamental forest trees, bulbs, etc.*, [1873]
- Wyatt, Charles, *General descriptive catalogue for 1874 of fruit trees, shrubs, etc.*, 1874

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- Wyatt, Charles, *General descriptive catalogue for 1874 of fruit trees, shrubs, etc.*, 1874
at that time. Anyone with an interest in the history of introduction and promotion of various plants in Victoria should find this booklet a fascinating document. As yet the project has been confined to Victoria but hopefully it will encourage other States to undertake similar research.

Sources of reference for this project have included catalogues from Victorian nurseries, published from the 1850s to the early 1900s. The earliest catalogue available from a Victorian nursery is from John Rule's Nursery in Richmond, which was established in 1850. The catalogue, a photocopy of the original, is from 1855, and contains around 870 species and cultivars, including 44 roses and 20 orchids. George Brunning, later known for his own nursery, was manager at the time.

Rule's nursery catalogue of 1857 showed an expanded range of stock: 1,455 spp and cultivars including 64 plants under the heading 'Conifers and Taxads', 74 camellias, 48 fuchsias and 21 gladioli.

An interesting facet of the research has been the annotated comments which indicate attitudes prevalent at particular periods. Joseph Harris' South Yarra catalogue for 1865 contains a vitriolic attack on those less scrupulous plant dealers located north of the border:

Of evergreen and deciduous shrubs, conifers etc, I have the largest pot-grown stock in Victoria — good sized plants, and grown somewhat differently to those half-starved pot-bound things annually sent here from Sydney, which seldom give satisfaction to the planter, dying outright in many cases, and generally leading a lingering life for a few years, the result of the roots being cramped in too small pots, and of being stifled in a close auction room for mayhap months together.

A copy of Law Somner's catalogue of 1864 noted that seeds of the Osage Orange (Maclura pomifera) were 'not obtainable this year in consequence of the American War.' Presumably it was the participants in the American Civil War who had interrupted collection of the seeds which had been supplied as a hedge plant in Victoria since 1857 (Rule, 1857). Combinations of Osage Orange and 'Whitethorn' (probably Crataegus sp.) were recommended. A good range of other seed stock, including 15 ornamental grasses, were also included in this catalogue.

By the 1870s some nurseries were carrying very extensive ranges of stock. Thomas Lang & Company at Warrenheip (near Ballarat) and Elizabeth Street (Melbourne) listed over 2,200 different species, and cultivars in their 71 page catalogue. These included 68 'Ferns and Lycopodiums', 61 fuchsias, 106 gladioli, 114 dahlias and 130 camellias.

The project is continuing through the catalogues of the 1870s and 1880s at present. The database of plant names currently totals around 7,000 and is expanding rapidly. If anyone has a catalogue from a Victorian nursery from the 1800s or early 1900s, and they wouldn't mind either lending it or having it copied, would they please contact either the research officer, Richard Barley, or the OPCA project officer, Francine Gilfedder, both at the Royal Botanic Gardens. The use of any material which will help to fill the gaps will be gladly appreciated.

Richard Barley
Francine Gilfedder

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Garden Covenants

Leicester Square Gardens and the Protection of Private Gardens in Victoria

The Leicester Square gardens in London have an interesting history. It was originally Lammas land, that is, common land available to the community for drying clothes and pasturing cattle after Lammas Day. The Earl of Leicester acquired the land in 1630 and it remained in private ownership until 1874 when 'Baron' Grant presented it to the Board of Works following extensive renovations and adornment with a statue of Shakespeare and busts of Hogarth, Reynolds, John Hunter and Isaac Newton in its four corners.

Prior to transfer to public lands, the Tulk family sold the gardens in 1808 to a dentist named Elms. The sale was subject to a covenant which required Elms 'for himself, his heirs, and assigns ...at his) own costs and charges, (to) keep and maintain the said piece of ground and square garden, and the iron railing round the same in its then form and in sufficient and proper repair as a square garden and pleasure ground, in an open state, uncovered with any buildings, in neat and ornamental order'.

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Richard Barley
Francine Gilfedder

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It's a long way to Tipperary,
Farewell Leicester Square.

The covenant also required the owner to provide the inhabitants of the square, on payment of a 'reasonable rent', with keys so that they might have the 'privilege of admission therewith at any time'.

The gardens passed 'by divers meane conveyances' into the hands of a Mr Moxhay. They had for some time become 'very ruinous and dilapidated' although the geographer James Wyld had constructed 'The Great
The Society was formed in 1980 with a view to bringing together all those with an interest in the various aspects of garden history — horticulture, landscape design, architecture, and related subjects.

It's primary concern is to promote interest in and research into historic gardens, as a major component of the National Estate. It is also concerned, through a study of garden history, with the promotion of proper standards of design and maintenance that will be relative to the needs of today, and with the conservation of valuable plants that are in danger of being lost to cultivation. It aims to look at garden making in its wide historic, literary, artistic and scientific context.

The benefits of membership include:

1. The Society's official journal six times a year.
2. An opportunity to participate on regular tours.
3. An opportunity to attend seminars, lectures, social functions, hands-on garden restoration days, a variety of garden visits, weekend conferences and other activities organised at a State level.
4. An opportunity to attend the Annual Conference, held in a different centre every year, combining visits to important public and private gardens with a variety of interesting speakers.
5. Knowing you are contributing to the conservation of important gardens as a component of the National Estate.
Membership Application Form

For new members

To: The Membership Secretary, Australian Garden History Society,
C/- Royal Botanic Gardens, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, Victoria 3141

I/We wish to become a member of the Australian Garden History Society and enclose my/our subscription as under

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*The Society is affiliated with the Australia Council of National Trusts and is thereby able to benefit from the Trusts’
tax deductible status. Donations are welcome and should be made payable to the National Trust of Australia
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If you would like to participate in any of the AGHS activities detailed in the Calendar of Events in this Journal please complete one of the forms below for each activity you wish to attend and forward it to the appropriate Branch Secretary (listed under Branch Contacts in this Journal) or as directed in the Calendar.

**Note:**
1. Refunds will only be allowed where one week's notice is given and tickets (if issued) returned for resale. A cancellation fee may be charged in some instances. Please advise of cancellations as early as possible in case there is a waiting list.
2. Please enclose a stamped self addressed envelope where appropriate.
3. For ease of accounting we would prefer that membership payments are *not* included with activity payments.

### Activity Booking Forms

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I and cultural landscapes? Gardens should be protected? I believe that it is gardens to be registered by the Historic Buildings Council Australia as Heritage Agreements and in NSW as war it would remain to return to.

As a consequence of the covenant, the gardens have been preserved for the public weal and thousands of soldiers were able to bid ‘Farewell Leicester Square' knowing that if only they could survive the vicissitudes of war it would remain to return to.

Having ingeniously invented the common law covenant the English have been very tardy in not introducing statutory covenants — i.e. covenants which derive their force and effect by virtue of an Act of Parliament. In the USA millions of acres have been protected with statutory covenants and in New Zealand, South Australia and Victoria there has also been progress in recent years. The statutory covenant is free of the various common law deficiencies and is enforceable by a body charged with conservation objectives. In Victoria they are known as Conservation Covenants, in South Australia as Heritage Agreements and in NSW as Conservation Agreements.

In Victoria, there has been a strong push for private gardens to be registered by the Historic Buildings Council which is responsible for protecting buildings. It would operate with a gardens sub-committee. This proposal appears unlikely to succeed which is a pity. In Britain, significant gardens are not yet subject to legislative control but they have been registered for some time and this process of identification has greatly improved the attitudes of owners and authorities towards preservation. Registered gardens have also received Government grants in the UK.

Do we in Victoria believe that outstanding private gardens should be protected? I believe that it is anomalous that some thousands of buildings are the subject of protection, advice and assistance whilst gardens are ignored. Surely we have now reached the stage where we can recognise the importance of gardens and cultural landscapes?

The Victorian Conservation Trust is a small statutory body which initiated its covenancing programme in 1986. Over 100 properties have been covenanted thereby protecting over 4,000 hectares of prime conservation land. Most of these covenants relate to natural or semi-natural areas although gardens have been proposed and grasslands, wetlands, historic graves and other features have been the subject of control.

Conditions may be included which suit individual owners for example, Mrs Stillwell has been permitted to maintain her menagerie of six cats during her lifetime, Xersa has insisted on the use of, ‘natural paints and varnishes of natural tonings' for any future buildings and John and Ailsa Swan have prohibited the construction of ‘baronial style entrance gates' at Phillip Island.

There is almost no limit to the level and detail of control which can be applied should the owner and the Trust be in agreement. At Greensborough for example, a covenant requires the Council to bind itself to a stringent management plan prepared by the botanist Andrew Paget. The covenant is registered on the title with the result that when the property is sold, it tends to attract sympathetic purchasers so that future conflict is very rare.

However, gardens are dynamic and any number of covenants, writs and interrogatories will not create good gardeners where there is a lack of motivation and resources.

Nevertheless, as Peter Goodchild of the Centre for the Conservation of Historic Parks and Gardens at York says, ‘If one doesn’t attempt it one will never find out what degree of success can be achieved'.

He points out that development controls can prevent the destruction of sites and we are reminded of our town planning controls at Mt Macedon which have at least prevented the loss of those gardens through subdivision. Similarly, I would argue that the covenancing of gardens, particularly the recording of the structure of the garden and its principal features, trees etc., would go a long way towards their conservation. Goodchild states: Preventing destruction or material alteration is of course only one aspect of conservation. It is just as important to ensure that the site remains in good condition; the question is how does one do this? In brief it relies on the owner or manager of the site having adequate resources, information and advice. Additional resources can be provided through selective fiscal reliefs, grant aid and subsidised manpower schemes etc. Information and advice can be supplied through publications, education, professional advisers etc.

We do have some outstanding gardens here in Victoria and I suggest that it might now be appropriate to consider protection of some of them in conjunction with assistance, information and advice.

I believe that if some garden owners entered into covenants with the Trust, other bodies and the Government generally would work towards providing support. For example, the Victorian Gardens Scheme has already provided assistance to privately owned gardens and recently the SEC provided a subsidy of $10,000 to enable undergrounding of power lines through the covenanted Stillwell property at Warrandyte.

The purpose of this article is to elicit discussion and response. I would welcome comment from anyone interested in the subject.

Warwick Forge

1 The London Encyclopaedia, (Macmillan), 1983, pp. 451-453
2 Tulk v. Moxhay (1848) 2 Ph 774; 41 ER 1143, 1144.
3 Letter to the author dated 12 April 1990.
**REPORTS**

**A visit to the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens**

In July 1989 I had the privilege of meeting with Tony Lowe and Graham Pattison of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG) to discuss recent developments and progress of the scheme. NCCPG is 10 years old and has grown at a remarkable rate; it now includes in excess of 500 National Collectors scattered throughout the British Isles. Of the collections that are in existence some 60 are duplicates.

The NCCPG consists of two closely inter-related groups: the membership and the National Collections. There are now 39 groups and while I was at Wisley, Graham Pattison was off to Northumberland to launch yet another one. These local groups of 'plant enthusiasts', which are somewhat similar to our own Society for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens, are vital for the success of the scheme.

The custodians of the collections are divided as follows: 30% private, 28% trusts and societies (including some held by NCCPG local groups), 18% colleges, 14% nurseries and 10% local government. Collections include *Acer palmatum* cultivars and *Salix* at the Westonbirt Arboretum, *Tulipa* at the Cambridge Botanic Gardens, *Cistus* at the Chelsea Physic Garden, *Betula* at Wakehurst and *Cornus* at the Newby Hall, owned by the Chairman of the NCCPG, Robin Compton. Even Tony Lowe holds a collection of *Crocosmia*.

The National Trust is responsible for 21 collections and includes *Penstemons* at Rowallane House, *Peonies* at Hidcote and *Embottitrum*, *Magnolia*, *Eucryphiia* and *Rhododendron forrestii* and its close allies at Bodnant. One of the largest collection holders is the City of Leeds which is responsible for 11 National Collections. Apart from their horticultural and conservation value, the City views these collections as valuable tourist attractions, of benefit to staff morale and good publicity for their parks and gardens. One of the most recent additions is the *Fagus* collection, which will be held by Prince Charles at his property Highgate. What must surely be one of the most interesting collections is the heather collection, which is supported by a whiskey company.

It is interesting to consider the effect different ownerships have on the development and security of National Collections. It has been observed that private owners are very committed, but may be unreliable in the long-term. There may be difficulties in protecting the collection if the owner moves or dies. Collections held by trusts and local government may not develop very quickly because of financial constraints, but they are safe; those held by the trade develop very quickly because of commercial incentives, however they are less secure. Ideally, there should be a fairly even distribution of collections amongst the ownership groups.

Already some collections have been lost or have not developed at the expected rate. Early in the project nearly all nominations were registered and there were poor agreements between the NCCPG and collection holders. Now standards are much higher and nominations are assessed much more thoroughly. The NCCPG now insists on minimum standards for registered collections and asks that annual reports be submitted. The committee is regularly looking for other collections and the need to duplicate existing collections. Ultimately the development of any collection relies largely on the interest and enthusiasm of the person in charge of the plants.

*John Hawker*

**Does the Elm have a future in Australia?**

The future of the elm in Australia was the subject of a seminar held at the Victorian College of Agriculture and Horticulture — Burnley recently. The speakers included prominent arboriculturists as well as two international experts who spoke of the overseas experience. These were Dr Don Dahlsten of California and Dr John Bain from New Zealand.

The main purpose of the seminar was to address the issue of Dutch Elm Disease. This disease, which has fortunately not yet been recorded in this country, has all but wiped out the populations of elms in Europe and northern America. The seminar also covered other issues including the history of elms in Australia, their use in the landscape and current management techniques.

Australia's freedom, so far, from Dutch Elm Disease has made us complacent about this devastating and incurable disease. Recent experience, however, has reminded us that our isolation alone is not sufficient defence as Dutch Elm Disease was discovered in New Zealand earlier this year.

The shock of this unexpected discovery has forced us to re-examine our precautionary measures, as well as what action would be needed to protect our elms if the disease was discovered here. Such an action plan could include immediate removal of any infected trees, which
would then be fumigated and subsequently buried. This course of action may sound drastic but it would be necessary to prevent the disease spreading.

Needless to say, it would be a costly business that would require the commitment — both spiritual and financial — of federal, state and local governments. However, if nothing at all was done it would cost us more, not only in the removal of dead trees, but also in the loss of a significant part of our horticultural heritage.

We can only hope that plans for the prevention of Dutch Elm Disease are reviewed and updated now, and that contingency plans are put in place in case the disease is discovered here. After all, since the loss of Europe and America's elms because of this disease, we have the last great stands in the world. We need to protect them.

Kevin Walsh

**BOOK REVIEWS**

**Biddulph Grange, Staffordshire — a Victorian Garden Rediscovered** by Peter Hayden (The National Trust and George Philip, London, 1989, $49.95)

Produced as a fundraiser for the restoration of Biddulph Grange this book tells the 'whole' story of this important Victorian garden from the influences that developed gardening as a major social activity, through the adventures of nineteenth century plant hunters to the specifics of the original design of the garden. Now a National Trust (UK) property after a long period as a hospital, Biddulph Grange garden is one of a handful of Victorian gardens to survive in England virtually as it was originally conceived by its creator James Bateman.

Browsers will almost certainly recognise the cover at once for it shows, in a form slightly altered by artistic licence, the Egyptian Court, one of the more famous topiary features of the garden. The text reveals what is not so well known; that the reverse side of this structure surprisingly turns out to be a timber framed 'antique' cottage. Other diversions in the garden are a Chinese temple, watch tower, Joss House and Great Wall of China overlooking an equally oriental water garden with rock work pocked with grotesques and a subterranean passage. Elsewhere there is a bowling green, quoit's ground, a formal Italian garden, Dahlia Walk, Pinetum and Rhododendron Ground along with more frequently met features of Victorian gardens such as a Wellingtonia Avenue, ferneries, bedding-out gardens, arboretum and a Camellia House.

Briefly, the book covers much ground and eventually leads into the story of James Bateman who built the house and made the garden aided by his artist-friend Edward Cooke. Rich and able to pursue his interests from an early age, he grew orchids as a student at Magdalen College, Oxford and from then on broadened his gardening to cover many other plants. An extension of his interest in orchids was sponsorship of George Skinner (Cattleya skinneri and Lycaste skinneri) and other orchid hunters, and his publication of The Orchidaceae of Mexico and Guatemala — the largest botanical book ever published.

I found the mass of background information rather dominated the purpose of the book, that is to extol the value of the gardens at Biddulph Grange. Nonetheless the book is full of interest for historically-minded gardeners. It is beautifully illustrated and handsomely produced.

Trevor Nottle

Lavender by Pamela Allardice (Hill of Content, Melbourne, 1990, 96 pp., RRP $19.95).


How do you choose between two beautifully packaged books on Lavender, both written by Australians, both covering topics from horticulture to herbal medicine, and more curious still, both costing just under $20.00? Simple. You read them.

The differences are striking. Pamela Allardice's book is for browsing; you get tantalising glimpses into the world of lavenders amid a pot-pourri of intriguing titbits. Judyth McLeod, on the other hand, has produced a tightly written reference book, rich with information as well as romance.

The two authors bring to lavender vastly different worlds of experience. Pamela Allardice comes from a marketing background, and has interests in herbalism, natural health and beauty care. Judyth McLeod is a lecturer in landscape design, with training in fine arts. Both authors have solid book-writing experience.

*Lavender*, by Pamela Allardice, is 80 pages long, but could easily have squeezed into 40 pages. The layout is fresh and breezy with lots of open space. Personally I find such formats off-putting, but some onlookers thought it appealing and somehow inviting. Although the writing is at times loose and slightly disjointed, it is easy to read. The illustrations (provided by Simone Bennett) are pleasant and fit perfectly with the leisurely tone of the book.

There are chapters on love, gardens, cuisine, 'milady', remedies and 'about the house'. Recipes and anecdotes dominate the text, mixed with a heavy dose of quotation and verse. There is an extensive bibliography but no index. In general, the text seems to be accurate, although the section on classification is weak (there is a disclaimer in the opening pages expressing the opinion that as far as plant nomenclature is concerned, anything goes). I was also a tad sceptical of lavender being proffered as a cure for ills ranging from hiccups and colic to colds and flu...but that is just my opinion. Altogether, this book will allow you to soak up a little lavender lore as you while away a few hours in front of the fire.

In *Lavender, Sweet Lavender*, Judyth McLeod gives us a book with more lasting appeal. It is in fact an upmarket,
Yuulong in Victoria — incidently, soon to be joined by a Western Australian venture), and their progenitors in overseas experiences), perfumery, food, medicines and plenty more. Colour photographs and pen and ink drawings complement the text, and a bibliography and index are provided.

I was particularly interested in the history of the two lavender farms in Australia (Bridestowe in Tasmania and Yuulong in Victoria — incidently, soon to be joined by a Western Australian venture), and their progenitors in England. The history of lavender as a garden plant is also extensively covered and for gardeners with an historical bent, the text is flush with dates, names and places (and the occasional garden design).

The classification section in *Lavender, Sweet Lavender* is precise and up to date. It is not swamped with terminology and taxonomic hocus-pocus, but it simply and clearly describes the different kinds of lavender available (although not all in Australia) and tells us something of their origins. Overall, the book provides an enthralling read for anyone seriously interested in lavenders or even mildly curious about what lurks behind this often neglected garden staple. On top of that, it has recipes and concoctions to be savoured in future readings (her treatment of the medicinal properties of lavender is more down-to-earth than Allardice's, and it is fortified with historical precedent).

As must now be quite obvious, *Lavender, Sweet Lavender* appealed to me. But I should note here that two out of three honorary reviewers (family members who kindly gave me their opinions on these books) preferred Pamela Allardice's *Lavender*, with its breezy layout, tranquil lavender-blue paintings and 'easy browsing' format. They both said it would make an ideal gift. (The first 30 books off the press were packaged with a spike of lavender tucked under a soft-blue ribbon, but these are no longer available.)

In spite of their similarity in price and topic, these two books are destined to reach two different audiences. *Lavender* is a very pretty gift book, while *Lavender, Sweet Lavender* is a well-researched and attractive reference book. The choice is now yours.

Tim Entwisle

**NATIONAL NEWS**

**Report of National Management Committee meeting**

The National Management Committee met in Sydney on 29 May 1990. Key issues discussed included:

- October conference programme provides for most interesting lectures and garden visits with emphasis on Beechworth and north-eastern Victoria. The use of Australian flora to be discussed, also a visit to major historic property Bontharambo is proposed
- Progress of AGHS Journal, branches, finances for 1989-90 now viewed as stable and satisfactory
- State Treasurers need to prepare annual reports forthwith: Robin Lewarne to advise by letter on suitable format
- Future issue of Journal and possibly 1991 Conference to study 'the creation of new gardens in Australia'
- Need for branch newsletter and related local funding emphasized by Tasmania and ACT branches
- Procedures Manual to be prepared by Peter Watts, Richard Aitken and Victor Crittenden based on the AGHS constitution and minutes
- Funding has been obtained to publish the proceedings of the Society's ninth annual conference
- Tenth anniversary of formation of the AGHS noted
- New membership forms available from Birdwood Avenue office.

*Howard Tanner*

**National Management Committee nominations**

Nominations are called for the National Management Committee of the Australian Garden History Society Incorporated. Nominations signed by two members and endorsed by the candidate must be sent directly to the Secretary, Howard Tanner (52 Albion Street, Surry Hills, New South Wales, 2010) by 3 September 1990. Nominations should be accompanied by a 50 word statement summarising the candidate's qualifications and experience.

Any member wishing to place an item for discussion on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting must advise the Secretary by Monday, 27 August 1990.

**AGHS National Conference**

This year's AGHS conference is set in the picturesque region of north-east Victoria. This area of Victoria is one of that state's most scenically attractive areas with a wonderful mosaic of landscape types. Wide fertile valleys and lowlands contrast dramatically with Victoria's highest mountains. The region is typified by its linear valleys and ridges south and east of Yackandandah; the dissected hills around Beechworth; the flat plains to the east of Wangaratta; the Murray River and its associated flood plain and a number of important historic towns.

The region still retains large areas of indigenous forest particularly in the southern and western sectors. However, the wide range of climatic, topographical, geological and vegetation types have also led to a great range of agricultural land uses. Primary production is dominated by cattle grazing. This activity is mixed with sheep grazing in the north, and in the high plains. Beekeeping occurs in all areas except the higher southern mountains. Tobacco production occurs along the plains of the Ovens River and also in the King, Buckland, Wandiligong, Kiewa and Happy Valleys. In areas such as the Wandiligong Valley where tobacco is grown with other crops such as apples, chestnuts, walnuts and hops,
the landscape becomes a picturesque mosaic of diverse activities. Dairy farming, vineyards, olive and citrus groves, softwood and hardwood production all add to the diversity of agricultural use and therefore to the visual character of the region.

The historic nature of a number of towns, especially Beechworth, Yackandandah and Chiltern, is a great attraction for the region. All three towns retain their basic nineteenth century character, with many buildings from the 'gold' era and the later boom period in the 1880s. Each has quite a different character with different physical settings, building materials and forms.

Beechworth was the administrative centre for the goldfields in the area and reflects the prosperity of the times in its stone buildings, most of them built for various public authorities. Beechworth's main streets are broad and laid out in a rectilinear fashion, while around the central area small brick and timber cottages dot the hills. Conference delegates will visit the garden attached to the nineteenth century asylum as well as the densely planted Town Hall Gardens.

Yackandandah, on the other hand, nestles cosily in the folds of the surrounding hills. Its buildings are less grand than those in Beechworth but its streets retain their nineteenth century character, with many small timber shops and more substantial hotels and banks. There we will visit a delightful cottage garden, recently created by its owner. Members will now have their conference brochures and the National Management Committee looks forward to meeting a large number of members at the conference.

Peter Watts.

ACT/MONARO/RIIVERINA BRANCH

Historic gardens and the National Estate - March talk
Julie Ramsay, a consultant to the Australian Heritage Commission, gave an interesting talk on how historic gardens are assessed and listed on the Register of the National Estate.

She explained the process of listing and what types of criteria were used to decide the national and cultural significance of historic gardens. These included the form (size, buildings, major garden features), era (age) and style. Style is a difficult concept to define because people have different perceptions about what various garden styles mean. Examples of garden styles included squared (old vernacular), landscape, picturesque, gardenesque (Victorian), federation, Australian suburban etc.

Julie will be presenting an expanded version of her talk at the Annual National Conference in October.

Country and Kitchen gardens in Germany and Switzerland - May talk
Ingrid Alder gave us an interesting talk on gardens that can be seen in Germany and Switzerland. This was not a look at the gardens of the rich and famous that exist in chateaux and palaces but rather gardens that 'ordinary folk' plant and tend. Some of these garden types are now rare, like the geometrical squares containing herbs in a pharmacologist's garden, but most have come down through the ages in much the same form. The various types of garden have been recreated for posterity in places such as outdoor museums where houses from different regions have been relocated and rebuilt.

The basic philosophy behind gardening in these countries is to grow plants for food and medicinal purposes with some flowers to attract pollinators and for decoration in front of the house. However, the window boxes were surely planted out of pure rivalry to see who could get the best and most blooms into a small space.

VICTORIAN BRANCH

Letter to the Age newspaper
Marian Brookes, as president of the Victorian branch of the AGHS, wrote a letter to the editor of the Age outlining the Society's concern about the impending danger of Dutch elm disease reaching Australia and the Government's lack of preparedness to combat this menace. This letter was published on 1 May and received an immediate reply, published in the Age on 5 May, from Barry Rowe, the Victorian Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs, who gave a brief description of government action to meet this threat.

Visit to Anzac Hostel, Brighton on Sunday 6 May 1990
A small but enthusiastic group of members and friends braved the rather cold showery weather to visit Anzac Hostel. We were rewarded with a pleasant stroll around the spacious grounds and information about the early
history of the mansion from 1874 and its long continuous development up to the present restoration. David Caldwell, the landscape architect involved in the project, showed us early photographs and plans, and compared them with slides of modern planting and conditions, and outlined efforts to replace old landmarks and garden forms. Trees planted mainly in the last century are an outstanding feature of the garden. A simplified version of the original plan should be able to be reinstated with the present efforts and dedication of David Caldwell and his helpers.

Elaine Brumley

Garden conservation in Britain and Italy
On 7 June 1990 approximately 30 members and friends attended an illustrated talk at the National Herbarium of Victoria by John Hawker. John spent 12 weeks in Britain and Italy last year as part of a Churchill Fellowship to study the management, conservation and interpretation of historic gardens. Having regard to his work as Project Officer at Melbourne’s Royal Botanic Gardens, John focussed his attention on plant conservation, especially aspects involving arboriculture. His visit to the NCCPG is detailed elsewhere in this issue and much of his time was taken up with work for the English National Trust. He spent an engrossing fortnight at the Trust’s newest acquisition, Biddulph Grange in Staffordshire, an eclectic nineteenth century garden with many parallels to Australian gardens of this period. His particular task was to assist in restoring the ‘Rhododendron Rainbow’, an arc of contrasting coloured cultivars. The fast growing discipline of garden archaeology was also well in evidence at Biddulph and visitors can look forward to a real treat when the garden is open to the public in 1992. At Sissinghurst and Hidcote, John observed at first hand the problems of high visitor numbers. Trust policies to lessen this impact include timed ticket and entry systems, path widening, hedge thinning and provision of hard paving where once there was gravel or lawn.

Major botanic gardens were also studied by John and at Kew he examined the micro-propagation unit, used to assist in the conservation of the world’s endangered plant species. At Kew’s sister garden, Wakehurst, the damage of recent storms was still painfully evident and consequent management problems have included a massive jump in the growth rate of grass and weeds due to the loss of tree canopy. At Edinburgh Botanic Gardens John was impressed with the work of Dr Chris Page who has a complete collection of the world’s conifers and is revising their taxonomy. Dr Page has a special interest in the araucarias of Australia and the Pacific islands. Within Britain John discerned several trends affecting historic gardens, most notably the increased pressure on gardens to generate revenue. The National Trust for instance has very sophisticated marketing and commercial operations and even the British botanic gardens were forced to reuse buildings for commercial purposes. The need to reduce labour costs of historic gardens open to the public has lead to the introduction of different lawn mowing regimes; not only is this used to save labour and keep visitors off sensitive parts of the site but it has the bonus of encouraging meadow flora.

In Italy, John visited many private gardens but concentrated his work on the botanic gardens at Padua and Pisa. Air and water pollution is now a serious problem in Italy and gardens are often severely affected. The circular botanic garden at Padua was laid out in 1545 (possibly the inspiration for the circular system garden at the University of Melbourne) and one of the features which caught John’s attention was a dead tree dating from 1550, retained as the earliest remnant planting of the garden. At Pisa no curator had been in office for a decade, but with its 400th anniversary rapidly approaching, two curators have recently been appointed to tame the rampant garden.

WEST AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

Public Gardens Tour, 6 May 1990
On a sunny autumn Sunday twenty members and friends were conducted on a tour of two late Victorian public gardens in Perth — Queen’s Gardens and Hyde Park. Chairman John Viska briefly outlined the history of Queen’s Gardens which were originally a clay pit for brick making in the mid nineteenth century. By 1897 they had become a public garden and were named Queen’s Gardens in 1899. We looked at the salient features of the Gardens, including some of the original trees, and noted the changes which have taken place over the past 90 years. Members also visited Hyde Park in North Perth where the low lying swamp area was developed into a public garden in 1897.

Anne Willox

The Australian Garden History Society was formed in 1980 to bring together those with an interest in the various aspects of garden history — horticulture, landscape design, architecture and related subjects. Its prime concern is to promote interest and research into historic gardens as a major component of the National Estate. It aims to look at garden making in a wide historic, literary, artistic and scientific context.

The editorial content of articles, or the products and services advertised in this journal, do not necessarily imply their endorsement by the Australian Garden History Society.

CHAIRMAN Jocelyn Mitchell
TREASURER Robin Lewarne
SECRETARY Howard Tanner
JOURNAL EDITORS Richard Aitken

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Calendar of Events

To make a booking for any of the events listed in this calendar fill out one of the Activity Booking Forms included in this journal and forward it with your remittance to the relevant branch unless otherwise indicated.

July 1990

Sydney and Northern NSW Branch
- Tuesday 10 July
Talk by Mrs Helen Proudfoot on her recently published book Gardens in Bloom: Jocelyn Brown and her Sydney Gardens of the '30s and '40's. This book has been widely reviewed in various magazines and journals and an article based on this book appeared in the Oct/Nov 1989 issue of this journal. Refreshments will be served.
Time: 6.00 pm
Location: Meeting Room, State Library, Macquarie Street
Cost: $8.00
Tickets/Information: Robin Lewarne, 60a Shell Cove Road, Neutral Bay, 2089 with stamped self-addressed envelope (02) 953 1916

Southern Highlands/Southern NSW Branch
- Sunday 15 July
Luncheon with Mr and Mrs Claude Crowe at historic Kerever Park. A unique opportunity to be part of garden history when Mr and Mrs Crowe give an informal talk on some of the gardens they have planted. The gardens at Kerever Park boast some of the oldest trees in the Southern Highlands.
Booking slip to be sent to branch secretary.
Time: 1.00 pm
Location: Kerever Park, Riversdale Avenue, Burradoo
Cost: $15.00 members, $18.00 non-members
Information: Janet Payne (048) 61 3271

Tasmanian Branch
- Sunday 22 July
Seminar 'Artistic Elements of Landscape Design'. Topics and schedule for the day include:
1. Artistic Elements of Garden Design
2. Seasonal Colour Emphasis in Landscape Design
3. Colour & Texture Elements of Hard Landscape Design
4. Form, Shapes & Mass in Garden Design
Plus one other speaker
Time: 9.00 am - 5.00 pm
Location: Alanvale, TAFE School of Horticulture, Launceston
Cost: $25.00 including lunch and tea
Information: David Roberts, (003) 98 2745

Sydney and Northern NSW Branch
- Sunday 29 July
North Shore camellia day. Cec Blumenthal, President of the Camellia Research Society - NSW Foundation, will talk on the history and various species of camellia. Two gardens with specialised camellia collections will be visited. Meet 12 noon for picnic lunch at Eryldene, Gordon.
Cost: $10.00 members, $12.50 non-members

Advertising bookings and inquiries
Bill Richards
Richards Communications Pty Ltd
270 Pacific Highway
CROWS NEST NSW 2065
Phone: (02) 437 5373 Fax: (02) 437 5770
**August 1990**

**ACT/Monaro/Riverina Branch**
- Sunday 12 August
  Illustrated talk by Ken Taylor, Associate Professor in Landscape Architecture at the University of Canberra, on the historical gardens of the Tidewater area in north-eastern USA. Restoration of colonial gardens such as Mount Vernon, Gunston Hall, Williamsburg and the William Paca garden, will be discussed.
  Time: 3.00 pm
  Location: Australian National Botanic Gardens Theatrette, Canberra
  Cost: $3.00
  Information: Astrida Upitis (06) 247 0665 (after 1 August)

**Southern Highlands/Southern NSW Branch**
- Sunday 9 September
  Garden Day on the Gib. Inspections to three most interesting gardens on the Gib at Mittagong. One of the gardens will feature a collection of six commissioned sculptures by leading Australian sculptors and a waterfall specially designed for the garden. Another will be a 'Sorensen Garden' and the third a smaller garden built in an old walnut orchard. A picnic boxed luncheon is included.
  Cost: $20.00 members, $25.00 non-members
  Bookings to the branch secretary
  Information: Dorothy Sears (048) 83 4324

**West Australian Branch**
- Sunday 5 August
  Seminar 'Recording and Restoring a Period Garden'. Branch members will receive details in mid July when the programme is finalised. Speakers will cover surveying and measuring a garden, compiling an inventory of existing plants, plants of the 1930s, and tree assessment and management. Participants will view an old private garden and assessing the significance of a property will be discussed.
  Cost: $20.00 members, $25.00 non-members

**Tasmanian Branch**
- Sunday 19 August
  Annual General Meeting, Hobart. Guest speaker is Mr Brian Lamb who is currently restoring Government House garden.
  Time: 2.00 pm
  Location: Southern Teachers' Centre, Edward Street, Glebe, Hobart
  Information: Joanna Foulds

**South Australian Branch**
- Wednesday 22 August
  Annual General Meeting and Dinner.
  Time: 6.30 pm
  Location: Cummins Historic House, Sheoak Avenue, Novar Gardens
  Cost: $25.00 - drinks not included (BYO)

**Victorian Branch**
- Saturday 22 September
  Seminar 'Containerized Gardening and Stone Trough Making'. Limit 30.
  Time: 11.00 am
  Location: Hobart Technical College, Trinity Hill Annex, 32 Church Street, North Hobart
  Cost: To cover the cost of materials, paid on the day
  Information: Laurie Miller (002) 30 7424
  RSVP 7 September

**October 1990**

**National Management Committee**
- Friday 12, Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 October
  Australian Garden History Society Tenth Annual Conference.
  Location: Lake Hume Resort, Albury NSW

The calendar of events has two purposes: one is to inform members of activities in their local area, the other is to make all members aware of activities organized by the Society.

Branch activities are not restricted to members of that branch; all members are invited to participate. You may be able to arrange your holidays or a visit to another state to coincide with AGHS activities. A warm welcome and an interesting experience awaits you.