



## Australian Garden History Society Tasmanian Branch

Newsletter No. 89

July 2006

### A History of the Chudleigh Valley

#### Introduction

Tasmania has some of Australia's finest extant Cultural Landscapes, as created by Aboriginal or European Settlement. The Australian Council of National Trusts, Heritage Victoria and Heritage New South Wales have policy documents or documentation dealing with Cultural Landscapes. Tasmanian Heritage authorities have, as yet, not proceeded down this path despite having "A landscape recognised across time as beautiful, symbolically Arcadian and of immense diversity; one of unlimited value to the Tourism Industry."

The Tasmanian Heritage Council has permanently registered Bentley and its cultural landscape on the Tasmanian Heritage Register. It is the first entry to specifically refer to a cultural landscape as a contributor to a properties heritage significance. Processes are in train for an extension of this registration to the Chudleigh Valley so as to encompass the 19th Century Estates of Native Plain now Old Wesley Dale and part of Mountain Villa, Bentley and Mayfield. Travers Hartley Vaughan's Native Plain was an 1830 land grant of 2,560 acres. Bentley, a land grant of 1829 to John Badcock Gardiner of 840 acres and finally, in 1832, Mayfield a land grant of 860 acres to the Boutcher family, later acquired by the Ritchie's where they run the oldest registered flock of sheep in Australia. Mayfield has now been subdivided into three properties of approximately 240 acres each.

The whole valley is presided over by the Gog Range, this features a natural rock formation, that, in the morning light produces a perfectly formed human face, some 200 feet high. It was from this ridge that the Aboriginals gathered their ochre, O'Connor the Land Commissioner called this area the "City of Ochre." Europeans, under Captain John Rolland, of the Third Regiment spent nine days mapping the

course of the Mersey River in 1823. On climbing to the top he named the ridges Gog and Magog, the classical names for a King and his supposed Kingdom, as mentioned in Ezechel, Chapters 38 & 39. Rolland must have been of a literary and artistic bent, for apart from the highest peak which he named after himself, the two peaks to the west, he named Vandyke and Claude, after the great landscape painter. I am sure Rolland would have been shown the rock portrait by his Aboriginal guide and it may have given the Aboriginals a reason to revere the ochre and use it for their personal adornment.

This rural landscape is largely as created by Aboriginal fire farming and European settlement in the 19th Century. The land grants noted above were taken up over fire farmed cleared flood plains, created by the Native Hut Corner Aboriginals over 1000's of years. Not having to clear the trees made this land instantly valuable and profitable to European Settlers. Their landscape was to be contained by Hawthorn hedges, the native trees cut to copse, thereby protecting the ridge lines so as to create a large still existing parkland, later planted with European trees, all much in evidence.

The Aboriginal Native Hut Corner camping ground is still locatable being now a Church of England Cemetary (1861) presided over by a 1,000 year old Banksia under which the Pallitore people lived and congregated above the Valley flood plain.

#### The Pallitore at Native Hut Corner

The 1826 Land Grant of 250,000 acres to the Van Diemen's Land Company later expanded to 350,000 acres in the unexplored mountainous country of North West Tasmania provided the impetus for the decline and eventual removal within 10 years of the Chudleigh Valley Aboriginals at Native Hut Corner. The Pallitore people lived on the high ground at one

**Chairperson & State President:**

Robyn Hawkins  
 'Bentley'  
 1519 Mole Creek Road  
 Chudleigh 7304

**Secretary:**

Ivan Saltmarsh  
 125 Channel Highway  
 Taroona 7053

**Treasurer:**

Ivan Pearson  
 'Shasta'  
 15 Ellington Road  
 Sandy Bay 7005

**Committee Members:**

Mary Darcey  
 'Marlbrook'  
 Pontville 7030

Deirdre Pearson  
 'Shasta'  
 15 Ellington Road  
 Sandy Bay 7005

Alison Parsons  
 5/10 Finlay Street  
 Battery Point 7004

Warwick Oakman  
 62 Sandy Bay Road  
 Sandy Bay 7005

Monica Harris  
 29 French Street  
 Launceston 7250

**Newsletter:**

Robyn Hawkins  
 'Bentley'  
 1519 Mole Creek Road  
 Chudleigh 7304

Our newsletter is published quarterly. All contributions and letters are very welcome and will be considered for publication. Please forward to Robyn Hawkins by fax or email.

The talks at the Hodgkin Hall Friends' School, Hobart were well attended. Bruce Poulson with the help of Greg Hogg delivered a talk - an overview of the early history of Recherche Bay. His book '*Recherche Bay - a Short History*' which is available in bookshops continues on from his address and is well worth acquiring (price \$25.00). We really appreciate Bruce's struggle to attend as he was quite unwell and we hope he has recovered.

Nathan Miles, Chief Executive Officer of the Tasmanian Land Conservation (T.L.C.) accompanied his address with slides and explained just how far the T.L.C. had progressed since Di Smith helped with the acquisition of the land. At the moment the Garden History Society can best help with expenses, input into research and preservation techniques for sites.

If members wish to help and monitor the progress, it may interest you to join the T.L.C. and receive mailouts. For this purpose an application form for membership is enclosed. To enhance this information there is at the Allport Museum an intriguing exhibition '*Drawing the Line*' (Tasmania on the Map). It is on view until the 30th September 2006. The early maps being the area in focus particularly those Antoine de Bruni d'Entrecasteaux and the charts he made in Van Diemen's Land. There is also one of Mathew Flinders' immaculately drawn maps; always a treat because of their precision and delicate drawing.

In view of our planned visit to the East Coast looking at gardens, landscape and the impact of the Quaker families. The exhibition at the University of Tasmania's Morris Miller Library '*Quaker Life in Tasmania*' gave a wonderful glimpse into the Quaker life taken from the University Archives. I understand the Library has the largest Quaker Collection in the southern hemisphere. I found the childrens' bonnets very beautiful and the simple china for the table looked very attractive and practical. One book which caught my eye was '*The Quaker - A Study in Costume*' by Amelia M. Gunmore. Congratulations to those responsible for its presentation.

Our donation of \$2,000 to the Launceston Horticultural Society helped them reach their aim to erect a sculpture of the Botanist Ronald Campbell Gunn in City Park, Monica Harris and I attended the official opening by the Governor of Tasmania, the Hon. William J.E. Cox in the Park on Tuesday 4th of July. The Society is to be congratulated on the figure executed by Peter Corlett which is perfectly placed. The particular feature of great relevance to plant lovers is the fact that he is holding a piece of Myrtle (*nothofagus gunnii*). Forty two plants have been given the species name 'gunnii' after Gunn.

The sculpture looks very well against the large trees in their winter skeletons.

Inside the Tasmanian Design Centre where a visitor can glimpse the new monument is an exhibition organised by Jennifer Wilkinson of the trees in the park all named, placed and mapped in their present day positions by the Launceston Council. A must visit which closes on 31st of July.

We are looking forward to the visit to the East Coast. Do not forget to get your replies in on time and the AGM which will be held before dinner on the Saturday night. A nomination form is enclosed. Also enclosed is a sheet for reply to Mary Darcey giving times you are available to help with plant stalls on September 23rd. I do not have any plants to offer and so will be giving two of my prints to the raffle. Anything to do with gardening is acceptable.

The Chudleigh weekend form and information is enclosed together with a map. Suggested accommodation close to Chudleigh are Westbury and Deloraine if accommodation becomes difficult.

In the winter months next year we plan to organise a 'How To Weekend' in order to help young or first time owners of early landscapes or houses. I know we have skilled, knowledgeable members such as landscape designers, builders, architects, etc. and I would appreciate expressions of interest in participating in that weekend. Do not forget the China connection for early next year.

Thank you for the Committee's hard work and we hope Deirdre Pearson is making a full recovery after her dreadful fall while researching the East Coast Tour.

**Robyn Hawkins**

**IN THIS ISSUE...**

**Page No:**

<i>A History of the Chudleigh Valley</i>	1 - 4
<i>A history of the Fortified Barn Complex at Wesley Dale</i>	4
<i>The History of Bentley</i>	5
<i>Wychwood Garden and Nursery</i>	9 - 12
<i>Roses... for the Common Good</i>	13 - 14
<i>Weekend at Chudleigh Valley</i>	15
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	16

**The Australian  
Garden History Society  
(Tasmanian Branch)  
2006 AGM  
will be held in the  
Blue Room Restaurant  
10 Franklin Street, Swansea  
6.15 pm  
(prior to Dinner) during the  
East Coast Tour  
on  
Saturday, 26th August**

**Enclosed is a nomination form  
for the Committee. We urge as  
many as possible to become  
involved.**



*Monica Harris beside the sculpture of Botanist Ronald Campbell Gunn in City Park.*

of the crossing points of the Lobster at Native Hut Corner. The Van Diemen's Land Company needed an inland route from Launceston to Woolnorth, then only accessible by sea. The problem, as always, with bullock and horse drawn drays was to cross the rivers and they had the misfortune to camp at one of the crossing points.

By 1826 river crossings had been achieved at Hadspen, Carrick, Westbury and Deloraine. The next big obstacle was the Mersey at the end of the Valley, Edward Curr, Chairman of the Company reported to Lt. Governor Arthur on July 31st, 1826 "We remained in the neighbourhood of the second Western River which we named the Mersey... and formed a stock reserve north of Quamby's Bluff." It should be noted, Curr, in addition to the Van Diemen's Land Company's imported stock, had purchased 2,300 sheep in Tasmania, so overlanding was the only way. This was achieved by Fossey, the Company's Land Surveyor as a cart track by April 1827.

Crossing the Mersey at Gad's Hill the track led to the Company's Land Grants at Middlesex Plains, 10,000 acres, Surrey Hills, 150,000 acres and Hampshire Hills, 10,000 acres and then on to the coast at Emu River, thence along the coast to Woolnorth.

The driving of this new track through Pallitore country resulted in conflict, so much so that Lyndall Ryan in the 'Aboriginal Tasmanians' concludes "when conflict broke out in June 1827 it was more intense

than in other parts of the settled districts, as a result between June 1827 and September 1830 they fell in number from 200 to 60." Robinson's expedition, between Emu Bay and Westbury, 6th August to 24th September 1830 allowed him a visit to the ochre mines on Gog as described in his diary. It should be noted that from Robinson's descriptions of this trip hardly any Aboriginal people remained on their original camp sites.

### A history of the Fortified Barn Complex at Wesley Dale, formerly Native Plain

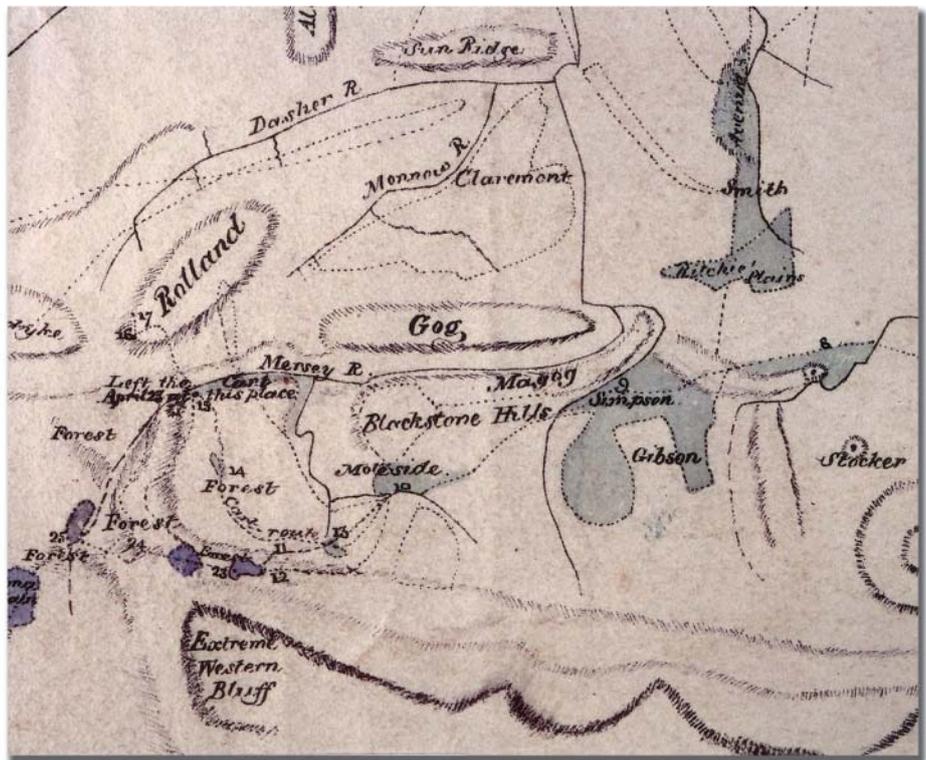
This seemingly unique Tasmanian complex is of Anglo Scottish form with architectural detail peculiar to Co. Cork. Travers Hartley Vaughan, the grantee of Native Plain in 1829 was a product of the Protestant Anglo Irish Ascendancy in the South of Ireland with familial relationships to Dublin. The concept of an enclosed yard with the Barn as a centerpiece spread from the west of Scotland, to Northern Ireland thence to the South. The peculiarity that distinguishes the design of this complex to the South of Ireland is the rounded columns to the single storey cottage and the entrance yard. Rounded columns constructed by hand in stone and slate from the entrance gates at Castle Freake, Co. Cork, Eire, circa 1825 are excellent examples for purposes of comparison.

T. H. Vaughan was well connected, as evidenced by his letters of introduction to the Colony from Downing Street and the General Commanding in Chief, Fitzroy Somerset at the Horse Guards. This

Map 1. Detail, Fossey, 1827  
(Explorers)

Original hand drawn map to accompany Fossey's report to the Van Diemen's Land Company. His daily progress along the route is marked by the number and the day out from Launceston. Between Days 7 and 8 he crossed the Meander at Deloraine. By Day 10 he had reached Moleside via Caveside.

Early in April 1827 he had set out from Launceston to find a land route to Surrey Hills, an area in the north-west selected by Henry Hellyer for the Company's occupation. Naming features and overcoming difficulties, Fossey reached his destination on 12th May. Later, under his supervision, this track was formed for 70 miles and met the one completed to Circular Head in February 1828. For his preparatory work on this 'Great Western Road' and for his assets of £1,300 Fossey received a grant of 2000 acres near Ben Lamond Rivulet.



with his available funds enabled him to take up a large land grant 4 square miles at Native Plain, the then limits of European Settlement. The flat bed of the valley had been fire farmed by Aboriginals, hence a Native Plain for thousands of years so the clearing of the remaining trees would not have been difficult. Breeding stock was expensive and needed servicing and protection from Aboriginals, Bushrangers and the Elements. The layout of the yard bounded by stone walls of a height which is unscalable, as distinct from mere enclosures is further evidences this need for protection. As a result the centerpiece to the yard, then a two storey barn, was fortified.

It should be noted that Vaughan, Gardiner and Ritchie were all burning lime by 1831 in the Chudleigh Valley then sending it to Launceston for construction work. The local building materials available were dolerite and or limestone, bricks not making an appearance till the late 1840's. The vital ingredient for building this fortified complex was available, being burnt limestone for mortar.

In the five years between 1827-1832 Malcolm Laing Smith, Police Magistrate for the Western Rivers made a total of seventeen reports about Aboriginals in his jurisdiction. In 1827 four stockmen including Knight had been killed in separate incidents. This is a small number but a very high percentage in terms of those working on the ground in such an isolated place. Between 1828 and 1831 thirteen incidents were reported, mainly robbery, in two cases stockmen were assaulted or severely injured by Aboriginals.

The survival of this complex in its original form must be considered remarkable. The only alteration to the original design was the brick skillion added within the yard, presumably by Henry Reed in the 1860's and recently removed with the approval of the Heritage Council, despite objections from Mrs Woods of The National Trust. The scourge of the Bushranger and the resistance of Aboriginals soon passed and the utility and purpose of the Barn buildings was subsumed into the general farm yard.

The removal of the skillion exposes the history of the complex which was designed to protect and dominate the landscape. It complies with the aims of the Burra Charter, in that it reveals earlier and more important architectural details, that have an important and eloquent story to tell. This complex is the only surviving "Black Wars" fort constructed at the edge of the then known world.

### The History of Bentley

The land on which Bentley now stands is first mentioned and identified in Roderick O'Conner's and Peter Murdoch's Land Commissioners Journal where it is described "The 6th March 1828, raining the entire night. At daybreak rode to Simpson's Old Stock Run now Ritchie's. The road runs for about four miles through a forest of the finest stringy bark trees we have seen in the colony. From its gloomy appearance, heightened considerably by apprehensions of the Natives, we named it Pluto's Forest. On the outskirts we met droves of Simpson's cattle that had been driven back and left to establish themselves as they best could on Gibson's and Ritchie's Lands. Came to the Hut built by Simpson, the late Overseer, (Knight) lies interred at the threshold of the door, having been killed by the natives, while in the act of cutting a Tree, within a few yards of [the Hut]. This Run consists of two plains of six or seven hundred acres each in extent. They are situated on the East side of a good rivulet which runs into the Mersey at about three miles distance, [at the Lobster Falls] and extends along it four or five miles upwards, including some forest land which separates the two plains on the west side of the Rivulet, opposite the upper plain lies an extensive swamp. These plains are the only parcels of land of any value in this part of the rivulet." The special note "two plains of six or seven hundred acres in extent" refers to J B Gardiner's Bentley

Map 2. Detail, Hellyer, 1828 (Explorers)

Drawn in 1828 by Hellyer, the Van Diemen's Land Surveyor, for the third Company report giving his overland route to the Middlesex Plains. He accurately locates Gog and Magog delineating the Native Plain and stockyards. The areas coloured yellow being grassy country consisting of plains without trees, the red denotes the road for carts.

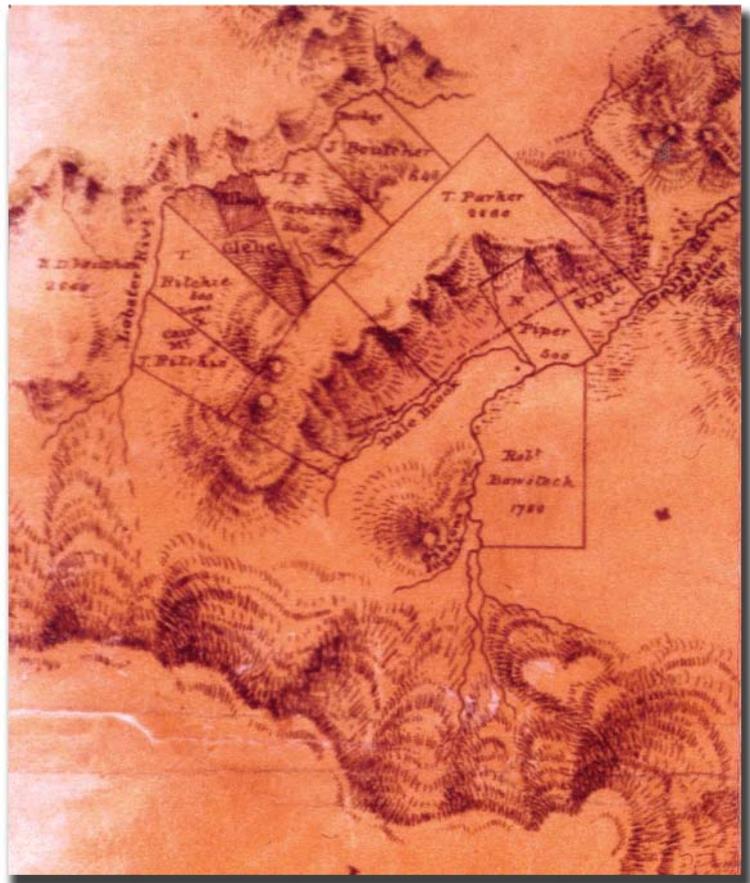


**Map 3. Detail, Hughes, 1837  
(Settlers)**

Original hand drawn watercolour, 1837, by J.L. Hughes which delineates:

(a) A Glebe, before seemingly the name Chudleigh had come into common use; and

(b) The near 5,500 acres of the valley as granted to Vaughan (2,460 acres) Ritchie (1,30 acres) Gardiner (800 acres) and J. Boutcher (800 acres). This the very edge of European settlement, which now nearly 200 years later only extends a further five miles to Mole Creek.



Estate and Ritchie's 800 acres at Native Hut Corner later part of Wesley Dale.

The source of most local history relating to Bentley & Wesleydale is an article "Through Tasmania No 17" in the Mercury Supplement December 8th, 1883, written by "Our special correspondent." This article written within 50 years of white settlement was compiled from information supplied in the main by Daniel Picket, it must therefore be considered authoritative.

"Chudleigh .... the road to Chudleigh is familiarly known as the Old Company Road Map 2, to Circular Head via Gads Hill, Middlesex Plains, Surrey Hills, Hampshire Hills and Emu Bay .... Chudleigh does not muster more than a dozen and a half roofs ... the Inn named the Chudleigh Inn is kept by Mr Daniel Picket ... who came to Tasmania by the ship Jupiter in 1832. His wife Amelia Thompson came on the second immigrant ship to arrive in the year 1837, she was 10 years old. Picket came on arrival to what is now Chudleigh and entered the service of Lt. Vaughan on his maximum grant of 2,000 acres then called "Native Hut Corner" but now Wesleydale. The Big River tribe of blacks had a Mi Mi village by the creek, Lt Vaughan's house was merely a two room and skillion cottage where the owner, a nephew and housekeeper lived." This stone cottage still exists.

Then follows a description of the black uprising and the spearing of cattle, continuing:

"In 1833 the house at Native Hut Corner was stuck up by the bushrangers Britten, Jeffkins & Brown." Then follows a description of the hold up "Mr Godfrey Bentley, the nephew, had his guns sighted at one of the bushrangers and asked if he should shoot but he was told not to for if he fired his uncle and the woman

would have been sacrificed.... Jeffkins took the gun which was a double barrel percussion one and said jeeringly "Old man (Lt Vaughan was 63) you'll get it back in as good order when I am dropped." ... "The late Mr Henry Reed became owner of Native Hut Corner in 1837 and called it Wesleydale adding to it by purchase and grant importing immigrants to its present area about 6,500 acres.... Mr Norman Cameron's estate "Bentley" is about 3,000 acres on both sides of the road at Chudleigh, a new one storey house has just been built on the level at the foot of a beautiful slope... much of the land is excellent and with money judiciously laid out be a valuable estate... grazing is the only interest."

Previous writers may have assumed that the name Bentley arose as a result of Lt Travers Hartley Vaughan having a nephew by that name present at the hold up by the bushrangers. The modern title deeds for Bentley show that the property was part of a land grant to Phillip Oakden, (1784? to 1851) whose name is still commemorated by a cottage on the Old Company Road, now Mole Creek Road.

Louisa Meredith states " Mr Picket tells me that Mr Gardner was the first owner of Bentley not Mr W.A. Gardner." The notation of a grant to Phillip

Oakden would in fact appear to be incorrect as proved by an original watercolour drawn in 1837 as a map of the district in the collection of the Launceston Public Library. Map 3. This, by J.L. Hughes locates the limits of western settlement in the rich Chudleigh & Dairy Plains Valleys, they being bounded by the 'Western Rivers' now known as the Mersey & Meander. Hughes's map, indicates that the Van Diemen's Land Company's road, prior to 1837 cut away to Dairy Plains. The current route then being considered impassable until at some stage in the early 1840's 'The Eye of the Needle' was discovered and the current road to Chudleigh took its place. The site of Chudleigh Village, then unnamed is shown as a Glebe, on land reserved for the Church. Two large land grants had been made to the East of the Glebe, one to J.B. Gardiner of 850 acres, John Badcock Gardiner arrived in Tasmania on the Swiftsure as a free settler in 1829 with his wife Esther (Jarman) and three children, two boys, one girl. The other to the west of the Glebe was to Thomas Ritchie, of 800 acres, both bounded by the Lobster River. I suggest that it is these two parcels of land referred to by O'Conner and divided by woodland over what is now the village of Chudleigh. To the west of this creek was the land grant for Travers Hartley Vaughan at Native Corner, it should be noted that no grants had been located or made north of the Lobster River or creek.

J.B. Gardiner's grant at Western River, now known as Bentley was made on 30th June, 1829 and is to be found in the Register of Locations, Orders Issued, Duplicates, 1824-1832, on page 130, described as "at Western River for 800 acres, ordered by Lt Gov Arthur at Simpson's Run to take possession 8 April, 1830." Gardiner was born at Pougill, Devon in 1800 and was married in England at Bickleigh, some 15 miles north of Chudleigh. This close connection suggests Gardiner as the person who named Chudleigh in Tasmania. It was this grant that was later sold to Phillip Oakden circa 1836/7.

Having established that the original land grant was to John Badcock Gardiner it is interesting to consult George Augustus Robinson's Journal tracking his searches for the last surviving aboriginals in Northern Tasmania. This journal, published as *Friendly Mission*, edited by N.J.B Plomley, page 597 describes his visit to Mr Gardiner's property on the 8th April 1832 "... proceeded onto the farm of Mr Gardiner. The road to the place leads through thickly wooded country and the road is hilly and rugged. Mr Gardiner is a lime burner (in addition lime was burnt by Mr Ritchie & Mr Vaughan) and in my journey from Launceston to this place I met numerous carts loaded with lime of the finest quality.

The stone is a hard blue stone. Great quantities are conveyed to Launceston on bullock carts upwards from a distance of forty miles.... proceeded on to Lieut. Vaughan's. Here I halted for the night. The country at Gardiner's and Vaughan's is clear country possessing extensive open plains. That where Lieut Vaughan has taken his grant was called Native Plain and was a favourite place of the natives. The soil is exceedingly rich. It is very picturesque...." From this entry we can deduce that Vaughan, Ritchie and Gardiner were in the lime burning business. The lime for mortar being the vital ingredient for the brick or stone layer, previously only located in Aboriginal shell middens, its discovery made the owners rich. The following day, the 9th April, Robinson allowed his native women guides off as they "Expressed a wish to go in the direction of the Mersey River for red ochre, and this spot was frequented by the natives for the purpose of procuring this colouring." The Native Plain was a creation of the original Aboriginal inhabitants who burnt the trees over many thousands of years to create a treeless valley for ease of hunting. It was this "rich" land noted by O'Conner in 1828 that was taken up by Vaughan, Ritchie and Gardiner.

Phillip Oakden acquired Bentley in 1838 from Edmund Bryant and it was he who combined Bentley and Harwood as one property. Oakden suffered a business failure in London and went to Hamburg in 1816 returning to London in 1827, thence to Tasmania, for he was now well experienced in all aspects of wool trading. He repaid his creditors in full, so grateful were they for his honesty and integrity that they presented him with a silver plate worth £100 which is still in the possession of his Tasmanian descendents. Phillip Oakden imported into Van Diemen's Land in partnership with Osmond Gilles, the first Lincoln sheep to graze at Bentley. Oakden returned to England in 1836 but was back in Tasmania when he imported the Leicester ram "Sprightly" mentioned in an advertisement in the Hobart Town Courier of 1st November 1839. Oakden exhibited at the Great Exhibition in the Crystal Palace London of 1851 "Two wool fleeces of improved Leicester, the produce of sheep imported from the best flocks in England in 1837, exhibited to show the improvement in the softness and silky appearance of the fleece which are attributed to the climate. "Sprightly" had proved to be a success. As a member of the Launceston Horticultural Society he must have been responsible for the planting of the six miles of hawthorn hedges, which are to this day such a feature of Bentley. They are referred to in 1870 as: "Nothing of note occurred on the road until our arrival in Chudleigh, 10 miles from Deloraine. I should have mentioned however that the road for

about a mile before reaching Chudleigh, passes through what is called the "Bentley Estate," and is bordered on each side with the finest hawthorn hedges that I have ever seen out of England, planted 28 years ago, standing from 15 to 20 feet high; the smell of English grass hay which was then on the ground, lent a great charm to this part of the journey. I could not help envying the lot of the residents of such a delightful spot.

It was Oakden who consolidated the Bentley estate at Chudleigh for Gardiner had mortgaged the land to Thomas Ritchie and John Boutcher for £400 on 25 Sep 1835. This mortgage was paid out by Gardiner and for a further £200 the property was transferred to Edmund Bryant who sold to Oakden. To accurately secure his title Oakden had his purchases surveyed by James Scott on the 28 Dec 1843. The survey bears the notation "Surveyed for Mr Oakden who is about to apply for a new grant." The survey shows that by this date Oakden had, in addition, acquired Magnus McLeod's 640 acre grant to the north of the Lobster Rivulet and he is noted as owning the 1,500 acre block, Harwood, south of Bentley. So Bentley was Oakden's creation of 3,000 acres before 1843.

Oakden in a letter to a business associate in Manchester foretold the foundation of Melbourne "Mr Batman of Ben Lomond is about hiring a vessel and proposes going to Port Phillip direct to sheep farm on an extensive scale joined by several others with money." Together with Gilles he was a Director of the Tamar Bank and he raised a large sum from his backers in England in 1836 through the good offices, George Fife Angas. He was also a Founding Director of the Launceston Savings Bank in 1835 and a devout Wesleyan as was his neighbour Henry Reed from whom with Bryant's help he purchased Harwood. Prior to his death in 1851 he could claim subsequent notoriety for the introduction of the first blackberry plant into Tasmania.

On Oakden's death in 1851 the Bentley Estate was acquired by William Atkinson Gardiner/Gardner who died in Launceston in 1855. The property then passed to his brother in England until sold to Donald Cameron of Nile who let the property during the minority of his son the Hon. Donald Norman Cameron. (1851-1931)

The 1867-1868 Directory of Tasmania lists "Joshua Higgs, farmer Bentley" as the tenant of the Cameron's. Donald Cameron had also acquired Oakden's land to the North of the Lobster River then known as Old Bentley, an area of 640 acres, and the Harwood block of 1,500 acres previously granted to Pearson Foote. (The Westmorland # 1 Map revised August

1939, but taken from the original printing of circa 1870) Lt. Pearson Foote was the owner and builder of Calstock an important early Tasmanian house at Deloraine, Calstock and Harwood were named after his families' property in Devon. The Bentley Estate, until 1951 or for a period of over 100 years covered an area of 3,000 acres as determined by the original Cameron Estate map held by the writer.

A contemporary floor plan exists for the Bentley Homestead but the architect is unknown. The house was finished in 1879. The Hon D.N. Cameron was the grandson of Donald Cameron, (1780 – 1857) surgeon and landowner, born on the 10 January 1780 in Edinburgh. Sailing from Leith in 1814, Governor Macquarie gave him a land grant of 1,000 acres on the Nile River in Van Diemen's Land, later named by him, Fordon. His second son, also Donald expanded the estate by acquisitions throughout Tasmania. Of Donald's three sons Donald Norman Cameron built Bentley, Colonel C. St.Clair Cameron lived at Fordon and his brother Mr E.N. Cameron acquired Mona Vale.

From The Hon D.N.Cameron's obituary "he had a long although broken Parliamentary career and enjoyed the distinction of being a Tasmanian Representative in the first Commonwealth Parliament." The most famous episode in his career in the Federal Parliament was when it was being debated whether the Federal Capital should be built at Canberra or on some other site. The decision lay with him. He kept silent for two weeks tantalising the people of Australia by refusing to say which way he was going to vote, in the end he voted for Canberra. In and out of Parliament he was always a fighter; if he had no foes to fight he would fight his friends rather than go without a contest." He was lean and lanky and conspicuous for wearing a panama hat in all weathers, he challenged the Taxation Commissioner in the High Court of Australia in 1923-1924 over the valuation of his livestock... another lawsuit concerned the three pence exchange owing on a cheque. (Australian Dictionary of Biography)

On Cameron's death in 1931 Bentley was sold to W.O. & C.L. Winter-Irving, sons of William Winter the third generation of a leading pastoral family from Victoria (Australian Pastoral Directory 1949, see index under Tasmania) James Winter (1834-1885) and William Winter-Irving (1840-1901) were born in Edinburgh, the sons of John Winter and his wife Janet Margaret, nee Irving, of Lauder, Berwickshire, Scotland. In 1841 John brought his family to Australia in the William Mitchell settling near Ballarat he acquired Bonshaw Estate and in 1850, Junction Station. His sons were educated in

Melbourne, William attending Scotch College. In 1857 John moved into the Waranga district, lower Goulburn Valley, where by the late 1860s he and his sons had acquired over a quarter of a million acres, either freehold or leasehold: their properties later included Corop, Caragarac, Toolamba, Colbinabbin, Stanhope and Dhurringile. On 27 April 1871, aged 36, James Winter married Caroline, daughter of W.H. Pettert. In 1883 he took his family to England, travelling by way of the United States of America. About to return to Victoria he died of inflammation of the lungs at Norwood near London on 3 February 1885; he was survived by his wife and children. William Winter-Irving retained Stanhope on which he spent about £40,000 in improvements and, he had an interest in Colbinabbin. In 1869 he bought a property near Murchison on which he later built the homestead Noorilim and he also acquired Tirrengower near Colac. He later held Wealwandangie cattle station with James Alison and was part-owner of Rocklands, both in Queensland. Besides breeding cattle and sheep, he developed a famous English hackney stud. He shared the family passion for building. Noorilim, built with the help of specially imported Italian craftsmen cost £71,000 to erect in 1877. In 1888 he changed his surname by royal letters patent to Winter-Irving. Next year he was a government commissioner to the Paris Universal Exhibition. In 1893 he bought Noorilim in Dandenong Road and housed his fine art collection there. Winter-Irving died of cirrhosis of the liver on 28 June 1901, aged 61. He was survived by his wife, five sons and six daughters. It was two of these sons William and Clive that purchased Bentley, in 1939.

The Estate was sold by them to John Elson Humphries in 1951 who disposed of Old Bentley and Bentley by advertisement in *The Advocate* on the 13 February 1954. The property then comprised 1,650 acres on both sides of the Lobster Rivulet, Harwood having been sold for soldier settlement in 1951. Since 1954 the property has been further subdivided or owned by the Eyles, Tracey and Cramp families. Purchased by John and Robyn Hawkins in 2002 with a land area of 528 acres. The property now encompass' 860 acres of the original 1829 Gardiner, Bentley Estate in addition a further 300 acres of Harwood has been acquired, making a total of 1,160 acres, an existing land grant for nearly 175 years of white settlement. **John Hawkins**

*Gwenda Sheridan, Cultural Landscapes The Companion to Tasmanian History.*

*Windschuttle the Fabrication of Aboriginal History, p277. Early Deloraine the writings of Louisa Meredith & Daniel Giffin, p. 48, from articles written by Dan Giffin between 1893 -1894 for the Daily Telegraph.*

*Old Sheep for New Pastures by Ivan C. Heazlewood Great Exhibition 1851, Official Description and Illustrated Catalogue, Part IV Colonies and Foreign States. Van Diemen's Land Catalogue, page 995, Exhibit No 161. The Excursionists Guide to Tasmania by H. Thomas. 2nd Edition, published Melbourne 1870.*

---

*Western Creek - The garden of  
Chris & Bernie Wojcicki*

The bush block at Western Creek was purchased in 1980 and Chris and Bernie lived in a tent on the block for approximately six months. There was no track up to the tent, which was situated a quarter of the way up Mother Cummin's Peak. Consequently, all food, gas bottles and other supplies had to be carted by hand up the steep slope.

Next, a log cabin was built in which they lived whilst building the next house on the now cleared house site and then thirteen years ago Chris and Bernie moved into the lovely home they built themselves on the same block. This home is two storeys with lovely wood features and a magnificent staircase. The views are stunning and on a clear day, one can literally see forever, particularly Bass Strait.

The garden has been evolving over the years and now contains a mixture of native and ornamentals, featuring a large number of rhododendrons, camellias, waratahs, leucadendrons, proteas and banksia. This garden is surrounded by native bushland containing huge tree and fish ferns, the total garden area covering one and a half acres.

---

*Chudleigh Store & the garden of Marg Wilson*

The original building in which the store and house are situated is one hundred years old, and was originally just a shop. When Marg Wilson moved took the store over in 1986 it was all in very bad disrepair and a number of alterations were made. The lovely home now contains five bedrooms, a large farmhouse kitchen, and two living areas.

The garden, which was non-existent and fenceless was designed as a cottage garden and completed seven years ago. It is full of colour all year round, and at its best between January and May. Gardeners in this area have to overcome many obstacles, with the weather being either very wet or very frosty for five months of the year and this garden, which consists of trees, shrubs and rare and unusual perennials, is a testament to Marg Wilson's persistence. For information on these two gardens, contact Marg Wilson on 6363 6138. **Margaret Wilson**



The history of our garden is, in comparison to some of the grander gardens in our area, relatively short. The small Californian bungalow we call home was built a mere 50 years ago, and we have no ancient oaks to sit under at the end of the day. We never unearth pottery shards from convict days and cannot tell stories from years gone by. The history of our garden is, quite simply, the story of our first 15 years in Tasmania. It is inseparably linked with our lives – our first real adventure away from our families, the birth of our children, the beginning of our business.

We moved from Queensland to Tasmania in 1991, and bought a modest house on 2 ½ acres (one hectare) in a small town called Mole Creek. The town nestles in the lap of The Great Western Tiers, a majestic mountain range that runs east to west along the edge of The Great Central Plateau – Tasmania's wild inner heart. Mole Creek and its surrounding areas provide some of the most breathtaking beauty available in the state. Its soil is a sandy loam – not overly fertile but great for growing meat, and an annual rainfall of about 45 inches means that when other parts of the state are suffering from extended dry, we remain relatively green. We were entranced and excited by our new home and spent the long evenings of our first winter here pouring over books and magazines overflowing with photos of free-roaming chickens, downy ducks and fluffy lambs. Not once did we ever contemplate turning our 2 ½ acres of paradise into a garden – not when we thought we would rear our own meat, grow our own fruit and vegetables and make our own hay.

A small area around the house – probably no more than a quarter of an acre – was already fenced off from our several paddocks, so we developed a vegetable garden and created a few flower beds, under the watchful eyes of a dozen sheep and a menagerie of various types of poultry. We planted currants and raspberries, blueberries and a cherry tree, foxgloves and lupins. Our first winter was a lesson in frost – that undeniably beautiful but vicious element that we had never once experienced in our childhood homes of Queensland. Nothing prepared us for the damage it could do to poorly chosen plants, and it soon became the governing feature in our garden palette. Any disappointment with the severity of frost we experienced soon gave way to the excitement of discovering the vast array of beautiful frost-hardy plants we could grow.

Around this time, within the first year of arriving in Tasmania, we started mowing lawns for a living. Our trusty white VW Stationwagon with its rear end laden down with a mower and brushcutter became

a regular sight around the larger towns in the area. We advertised little, relying on word of mouth and perseverance to get us the work we needed. We didn't just mow lawns – we were happy to do anything garden related, and all the while we were learning more and more. Some of the gardens we were asked to help in proved to be nothing short of inspirational. A seed had been sown and it was seriously germinating.

Books by Beth Chatto and Rosemary Verey replaced self sufficiency manuals, and we greedily soaked up the atmosphere in photos by Andrew Lawson and Jerry Harpur. Slowly we began to move the fencelines back. We started to plant trees in the paddocks and altered the entrance to our property by putting a long sweeping driveway from a far corner toward the house. It was the decision to mow that first paddock of about ½ acre – instead of continuing to run sheep on it – that was the catalyst to something much bigger than we had anticipated and it was very exciting. We could now garden on a scale that meant creating large beds, and planting copses of trees instead of specimens.

We never made a master plan of our intentions. It was only one paddock! We fashioned a bed along our road boundary to become a hedgerow and planted it with a mixture of typically English things – hawthorn, wild rose, damson, plum, elder and willow. Along the drive we haphazardly dotted silver birches and could hardly wait for their papery bark to develop. As we became more and more confident, our plant palette grew and we began to experiment with perennials. We discovered a wonderful local nursery run by John and Corrie Dudley, who specialized in unusual plants. Suddenly, our new half acre garden seemed too small. We wanted sweeping curves, we wanted birch groves and we wanted perennial borders. The fences were moved back again.

Halfway down our property, in an area where there were a few old existing fruit trees, we decided to create an orchard. Visions of overflowing wheelbarrow loads of apples filled our heads and we discovered a man in the Huon Valley called Bob Magnus who grew old apple varieties. We rang for a catalogue and were instantly enthralled by names such as 'Cats Head', 'Pomme de Neige' and 'Esopus Spitzenberg'. The stories behind these early varieties captivated us, and their history was humbling. We could hardly wait until our new trees arrived.

The nature of our garden-maintenance business had changed with our emerging interest. Instead



of just mowing lawns, we were now being asked to plant gardens for people, and to help come up with ideas for change within already existing gardens. In the 4 years that had passed from when we first began, our business was evolving to become a reflection of our developing passions. The new beds we were creating in our garden became home for a large selection of perennials and shrubs, as well as species roses and ornamental grasses. Every trip to the small specialist nurseries we favoured became an adventure, and we couldn't wait to discover a new treasure that we could whisk home. We found ourselves fascinated by what was termed the 'New Perennial Movement' – pioneered by landscape architects Wolfgang Oehme and James van Sweden - where a more naturalistic style of planting is undertaken and perennials were used en masse. Who would have thought that gardening could be this exciting?

Around about the same time we decided to have a family. The notion was a surprise to us – it was something we had given very little thought to up until this point. I will never forget the day I went to see my lovely lady doctor to tell her our plans – she looked at me, rather amused, and asked what the hell are you waiting for then? So we waited no longer and I was pregnant within a few months. Contemplating our future, we came to the decision that we would rather like to start our own small nursery – well, wouldn't I be a bit bored at home once the baby came? (I never said I wasn't naïve). So, whilst we continued to mow lawns and garden, we also built the infrastructure necessary for a small horticultural concern – shadehouses, benches and a sales area. We also began importing seed and learning all we could about the art of propagating, with invaluable help from John and Corrie Dudley. Sowing our first batch of seed was wonderful. Watching them germinate was even better.

We had struggled to decide on a name for our new enterprise, but one day we found an old book at a market – 'The Englishmans Flora' by Geoffrey Grigson, and an enchanting common name for the Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*) jumped out of the page at us – Wychwood. It was perfect. Our daughter Holly was born in May 1995, and we opened Wychwood Plants in the October of 1997.

From then on it became clear to us that the space we had allocated for the garden – probably by that stage about an acre and a half – was not going to be enough. Trees we had planted within the remaining paddocks were maturing beautifully – birches, alders, spruce – but they were crying out for companions. In all honesty, it is hard to remember the sequence

of events, but each couple of years the fenceline would move further and further toward our bottom boundary – Mole Creek itself. The beds we made became bigger, and the planting schemes within them became more adventurous. Each time a fence was moved we were conscious of linking areas so that there was a sense of cohesion and flow. We struggled with straight lines, so each bed boasted sensuous, sweeping curves. Our method for actually creating the beds became more refined – in the past we had painstakingly removed the turf and thoroughly dug the entire area every time, foolishly exposing weed seeds and nearly killing ourselves in the process. Now we did it the easy way – the bed was shaped and then edged using a spade, sprayed with Roundup, left for a few days and then mulched heavily with newspaper and pea straw. After a while, when no evidence of persistent weeds emerged, the plants could go in. It all sounds so easy.

We now had two little children (Louis born in 1997). Peter was still doing some garden maintenance work as well as fly-fishing guiding for a local business, and we had our nursery. Time flew. Our birch copses grew to become small forests and our orchard became productive. Hedges that we had planted with much enthusiasm but little patience, actually started to take shape. When children are growing up time has a habit of disappearing and it seemed that almost overnight the garden began maturing. At around this time we were approached by the Australian Open Garden Scheme to see if we would agree to open our garden to the public. We were a little shocked but incredibly pleased. Although we loved our garden, and our nursery customers enjoyed looking over it, would anyone else really be interested? They proved to be. To this day, we still open our garden for the scheme, and our association with them is one of which we are very proud.

All that remained of our property that hadn't been turned over to garden was our 'bottom paddock' - roughly  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre that bordered our creek. We had been planting trees there for some years – a birch copse, some lovely Chinese maple species that we had grown from seed, and a weeping willow stick given to us by a friend. It had become our favourite barbeque spot, and many a Saturday evening was passed by with friends on the bank of the creek. The time had come to retire our last few remaining sheep, buy a ride-on lawnmower and take the plunge.

As with every time we had decided to extend, the first job was to get the grass down. It usually took

several mows and then hours of raking to make the area look halfway decent. From then on, time was spent planting more trees and arguing about what else to do with area. We always have a giggle when people make the assumption that because we work together from home, my partner Peter and I must work harmoniously side by side, graciously accepting each others opinions and compromising without question. In truth, we work as far apart as possible. We are indeed very fortunate to have only distant neighbours as we argue like cat and dog. Our garden, although so very much a team effort and testament to what is a great partnership, has been the venue for many a disagreement. These days we tend to try and avoid such confrontations and have just accepted that even six metres of *Rosa rugosa* hedging between us is never enough!

Regardless, a joint decision was made to mow a grass labyrinth – a seven-ring unicursal labyrinth to be exact – in to the lawn by the creek. We had been contemplating the addition of a maze into the garden for some time, and upon researching had discovered labyrinths. These differ from mazes in that the intention is never for the walker to get lost – rather for them to simply the enjoy the experience of walking the path. Add to this their long history in many regions of the globe (most significantly for us, in Scandinavia where Peter was born) and creating one seemed like a wonderful idea. The design we chose was an ancient one and the method very easy - it involved nothing more than mowing the pattern in to the grass. The effect was far from simple though – in just a matter of minutes there was a presence by the creek that to this day we still respect. Viewed from the slope above, especially on a frosty winters morning, it is quite simply, beautiful. In its centre now lives a sculpture by Ulverstone ceramicist Gerald Makin, appropriately called 'Ancient Column'.



*Wychwood Garden entrance.*

So now, all of our land was under garden. Years passed and the trees and children grew. What had been newly fashioned beds with what seemed like a dotting of plants, became lush and overflowing. The gardens' dimensions changed when areas became hidden from view with the developing growth. Hedges shielded us from the prevailing southwesterlies, and in some parts the surrounding fields were only visible when the wind sent autumn leaves flying. Our trees – even the English Oak planted in 1993 in memory of Peter's father – were tall enough to stand under. We were even removing plants that had reached their use-by-date. We had reached a stage in our garden that only a few years ago had seemed just too far off. At times the growth had appeared to be happening so slowly, it had felt as if time were standing still. Indeed, there were times of personal tragedy in the last few years when we wished it could, but nature has other plans and the garden we dreamed of fifteen years ago is beginning to emerge.

Because we are not fussy gardeners, maintenance does not dominate our lives. Apart from regular mowing (which in spring can mean every 3 days and can take up to 3 hours) we have bursts of intense activity instead of a daily routine. We do not rush into cutting back our garden until late winter so we can enjoy the fading stems and seedheads of perennials. It is then we also apply a thick layer of pea-straw which will do its job for nearly the entire year. We do not have any help in the garden, it is a job we relish and jealously guard.

So now the hard work is done. In spring we can enjoy primulas, daffodils and fritillaries sharing the space under silver birches, and apple blossom in the orchard. Summer brings roses and countless perennials competing for the limelight, as well as sausages sizzling by the creek on warm, still evenings. If we are lucky we can watch the platypus. In autumn the late perennials and turning leaves bring lovely tapestry tones to the garden and our orchard is heavy with the weight of heritage apples, quince and pear. The ghostly silver trunks of birch appear out of the gloom on winter nights and the air is filled with the scent of witch hazel and viburnum.

We welcome many visitors from all over Australia and other parts of the world to our garden, and love sharing it with them. But at the end of the day this is, quite simply, our garden. It is where our children play soccer, cricket and football on the grass and swim with their friends in the creek on hot summer afternoons and where some of our friends have been married. It's where we watch the world from. We hope this is only part of its history..

**Karen Hall**

*When a small village chooses to beautify their main street...*

*roses* were the only choice  
*for the common good*



Nestled under the mountains that form the Great Western Tiers, between Deloraine and Mole Creek in northern Tasmania, is the tiny village of Chudleigh. Established in the early days of white settlement, it is the centre of one of the loveliest valleys in this very lovely island. Snowcapped mountains, rich soil and rippling streams make for lush pasture and breathtaking views.

There are, perhaps, 40 houses in the village and a total population of 150 people (including children), but there is great civic pride and a strong sense of community. Late in 2001, meetings were held to determine ways in which the village could be beautified. After much discussion, it was decided that roses should be planted the length of the main street, making Chudleigh a 'Village of Roses'.

This became a real community project. Local businesses donated timber and fertilisers and the use of necessary machinery. Wide beds were prepared early in 2002. Weeds were eradicated and a thick mulch of straw laid down - 100 bales, which were donated by local farmers. All the work was done by volunteers.

By July 2002, it was ready to plant and the first 102 roses were settled in on the north side of the street. Much thought was given to the choice of roses best

suited to the project. Hybrid teas, which need a good deal of maintenance were ruled out. The organisers wanted bushes that would look well for a good part of the year and bloom recurrently. Catalogues from the big growers were perused and preference given to the rugosas, bourbons and hybrid musks.

The rugosas are, of course, the ideal choice. I remember visiting Belfast in Ireland, years ago. The road from the airport to the city centre was thickly lined with rugosas. I'm sure they were never watered, fertilised or pruned, but the display was superb. The roses at Chudleigh will be looked after, but the rich soil and reliable rainfall will ensure that not too much maintenance will be required.

***True to Life***

A few years ago, I was given a little book called 'Rosa Rugosa'. It was published in America and a caption on the back cover read: 'The Rugged Roses - wind and salt tolerant, disease resistant, chemical free, cold hardy'. Experience convinced me that this was no exaggeration. One review read: 'The chief danger of this book is that the gardener will be tempted to grow every rose mentioned in it'.

I think this is what happened to the Chudleigh gardeners when they went through the catalogues. Almost every rugosa currently available in Australia has been planted at Chudleigh, including the seldom seen darkest wine-red 'Rugspin'; the only comparatively recently available hybrids 'Therese Bugnet' (deep pink) and 'Vanguard' (apricot-salmon and very tall); the ever-popular mid-pink 'Sarah van Fleet' (almost the first to flower and very recurrent, but no hips); the virginal whites *Rosa rugosa alba* and 'Blanc double de Courbert' (wonderful bloom, not many hips); and the frilly petalled 'carnation roses' 'Fimbriata' (white flushed palest pink) and 'Grootendorst Supreme' (deepest red).

The gardeners turned then to the ever-reliable, very recurrent and deliciously scented bourbons and, predictably, they selected 'Mme Isaac Pereire', despite her almost maroon colouring, which is not always popular and 'Commandant Beurepaire', one of the most loved of all the old striped roses - pink striped mauve and white. This has been chosen as

a background to a collection of 'Iceberg' roses which were a gift to the garden.

For their perfume, their soft colouring and their perpetual flowering, a few of the hybrid musks were added: the reliable 'Buff Beauty', palest pink 'Felicia' and the lilac-pink, tall-growing 'Lavender Lassie'. These have few thorns, so they will be ideal for the area near the Memorial Hall where it is envisaged a picnic area will be established. A local resident has donated a fountain and some lights for this area, as well as five fine arches.

On the path leading to the toilet block (painted grey-blue and adorned with tulips) is a bed of the recently imported 'Sonia Rykiel', which is one of the French roses imported in 2001 by the South Australian grower, Walter Duncan. It has large quartered blooms of glowing pink, and the grower described it as having heavily scented flowers with 'a rich raspberry fragrance'.

Encouraged by the community's enthusiasm, an approach for funding was made to Tourism Tasmania. This resulted in a grant of \$1,000. Then came a generous gift of \$500 from the Inner Wheel Club of Deloraine. This made it possible for beds to be prepared along two-thirds of the south side of the street and, in July, these beds were planted, bringing the total number of roses to 250. It is an altogether astonishing achievement for such a tiny village.  
**Susan Irvine ~ Your Garden, October 2003**

---

## Chudleigh ~ The Village of Roses

As reported by Susan Irvine in the October 2003 edition of 'Your Garden' magazine, over 250 roses had been planted along three quarters of the main street of our little village. Since then, the remainder of the main street has been planted, taking the total to over 450 stunning plants. A bare piece of land between the Chudleigh Memorial Hall and the Chudleigh store was donated by the Meander Valley Council to enable it to be converted to a children's playground/picnic/park area.

Work commenced on the garden beds for the park in February 2005 and in July and August roses and other bedding plants were inserted. A lovely fountain was donated by Robyn and John Hawkins, which is now the focal point of our park.

Very little rain fell during spring in 2005 a consequence of which the ground was like concrete and it was impossible to dig the foundations for fountain and playground equipment, which was generously donated by Council.

We had arranged with Hon Michael Polley, Speaker of the House of Assembly, to officially open our project on 4 December 2005. Imagine our anguish when, by early November, not a sod had been turned. At last we had enough rain in mid November to soften the ground, and so it was all hands to the wheel. Council excavated the 45cm pit for the playground equipment and our enthusiastic volunteers placed the fountain in pride of place. Only a week to the opening and still the concrete pads for the barbecue and picnic tables hadn't been laid, as we had a deluge overnight and 60 mls of rain. The ground was awash and the pit turned into a paddling pool and there was mud everywhere. Fortunately, a number of the volunteers are also Fire Brigade volunteers, so out with the brigade's pump to pump the water from the paddling pool. We knew that if Council workers arrived the next day (Monday), they would not be able to install the play equipment. However, we worked on, putting in the slabs, erecting the barbecue and picnic tables.

The next morning Council brought in their trucks with the play equipment, leaving great gouges in the grassed areas. Wednesday night another 50 mls of rain which turned the area into a quagmire. Only four days to the opening. We made an executive decision, the opening would be held in the Hall. Council came to the party after a plea to deliver a truck load of sand so that we could fill in wheel ruts and soak up some of the mud so that visitors could walk over some of the park. Not only did they deliver, but spread the sand for us, which was very generous, as we knew they had another job to do elsewhere. We were very grateful.

Sunday dawned bright and sunny and the opening went off without a hitch – except for one lady who, despite warnings, decided to walk across the sanded area and sank to her ankles in thick, black mud. Mission accomplished, and Chudleigh – Village of Roses now not only has a beautiful main street to greet locals and visitors alike, but a splendid park with state of the art play equipment for the children and lovely gardens and fountain for the enjoyment of all. Quite an achievement by a little village of around 150 souls.

**Margaret Wilson**

Australian Garden History Society (Tasmania)  
*presents a Weekend in the Historic Chudleigh Valley*

**Saturday 11 - Sunday 12 November 2006**

*The cost for this exciting weekend is \$150 this includes all meals & bus transport.*

**SATURDAY**

- 9.30 am**      **Registration and information sheet given.**  
Cars will remain at Chudleigh Showground and mini buses conduct participants to venues.
- 10.00 am**      **Lecture by John Hawkins**  
*The History of European settlement from Deloraine westward as a result of The Van Diemen's Land Company Grant at Woolnorth in 1826.*
- 11.00 am**      **Chudleigh, the Village of Roses.**  
**to**              Inspection of planting and morning tea at the Village Store, with inspection of the cottage  
**1.00 pm**      garden.
- Visit Presbyterian Cemetery** with magnificent views of the valley, first gravestone 1860 for settler born in 1788.
- Visit Church of England Cemetery** with its giant Banksia, possibly the finest specimen in Tasmania and estimated to be between 700 and 1,000 years old. This cemetery is situated at Native Hut Corner, the high point on the river flats inhabited for thousands of years by the Aboriginal tribes guarding access to the ochre mines at Alum Cliffs.
- 1.00 pm**      **BBQ lunch** in the Chudleigh Hall or garden if weather permits.
- 2.00pm**      **Garden visit, Old Wesley Dale.** Built by the former army officer Travers Hartley Vaughan  
**to**              in 1829, the fortified barn and courtyard was built for protection against Aboriginals  
**4.00pm**      resisting the European invasion of their traditional land and Bush Rangers and with its gun  
                 slits is an evocative and unique survival of Governor Arthurs Black War.
- 4.00 pm**      **Visit Wychwood Garden & Nursery, Mole Creek ~ afternoon tea.**
- 7.00 pm**      **Dinner the Laurelberry Restaurant, Mole Creek.** A copy of the menu is included, if you  
                 have any special dietary requirements please advise on your booking form which is included  
                 with this newsletter. **Numbers strictly limited to 50.**

**SUNDAY**

- 9.00am**      **Visit a privately owned Australian native garden** high on the Western Tiers with  
                 magnificent views from Westbury in the east to Sheffield in the west.
- 11.am**      **Morning tea.**
- 11.30 am**      **The Alum Cliffs Walk** one of the "great short walks" in Tasmania with a view point down into  
                 the Mersey River, 1,000 feet below, 45 minutes return, going easy.
- 1.00pm**      **Curry lunch** in the Chudleigh Hall or garden if weather permits.
- 1.30 pm**      **Visit Bentley garden** and tour the house, built by the Cameron family in  
                 1879 it is a rare example of a Melbourne City Villa transplanted into the Tasmanian  
                 countryside. Bentley is Tasmania's first privately owned Heritage Listed Landscape of  
                 1,200 acres with laid hedges and drystone walls. A discussion and demonstration of hedge  
                 laying & drystone walling techniques will be held by experts in these fields.  
                 **Afternoon tea in the Bentley Conservatory.**

*For accommodation and booking details consult the enclosed listings and map.*



## 2006 EVENTS

**August 26-27**

### **East Coast Weekend**

This visit will explore early settlement of the area around Swansea and will investigate the Quaker influence on gardening and settlement in Tasmania. Particular emphasis will be placed on the Meredith and Amos families. A rare opportunity will be provided to visit and hear about the properties associated with these pioneering families.

The Booking form for this exciting event has been mailed separately, if you have any queries please contact Ivan Saltmarsh.

**September 23**

### **Open garden and plant stall at 'Marlbrook'**

Mary and Richard Darcey have offered their beautiful garden at Marlbrook as the venue for our garden stall / fundraising day, it has been held at Marlbrook in the past with great success.

We need many helpers to set up the stall, man the gate, prepare tea & coffee and serve the customers, and of course at the end of the day everything has to be packed up. For those unable to help on the day, maybe you can help with setting up on the day before. Included in this Newsletter is a form to fill in to give times when people are available to help, we are asking all our members to commit to some time and help make this a fun and financially successful day. Please keep the dates in mind and start potting and preparing items for sale.

**November 11-12**

### **A weekend in the Historic Chudleigh Valley**

Includes a lecture and conducted tour by John Hawkins 'The History of European settlement from Deloraine westward as a result of the Van Diemen's Land Company Grant at Woolnorth in 1826.'

Visits have been arranged to:

- Old Wesley Dale. A unique fortified farm complex of circa 1830
- The Alum Cliffs
- Wychwood Nursery
- Bentley. The first landscape listed under the auspices of the Heritage Council of Tasmania in 2005
- A privately owned native garden high on the Western Tiers

**December**

**Christmas Party:-** to celebrate 25 years of the Australian Garden History Society.

Date for the party will be advised in our next newsletter



*Eucalyptus globus. A line illustration by Marion Westmacott.*