



Inflorescence

*Newsletter of the Southern Highlands Branch
Australian Garden History Society*

From The Chair

Dear Members,

A change has occurred in our Committee since our Annual General Meeting in August. Eleanor Dartnall has stepped down from the Chair after steering the Branch very successfully through the last three years.

These three years have been a period of activity in familiar and new directions for the Branch, and there have been many challenges for Eleanor and her Committee. This newsletter gives me the opportunity and great pleasure to thank Eleanor, on your behalf, for her wonderful contribution to the Branch, and to the Society. She has provided strong leadership, wisdom, enthusiasm and support to the Committee, the activities they planned and the many Branch Members she came in contact with. But Eleanor has not left us – she has elected to stay on the Committee and we will continue to have the benefit of her wonderful experience and wise counsel.

This brings me to the decisions that have been made by your new Committee at the recent Planning Day. As you know if you attended the AGM, the Committee has shrunk from nine to seven. We would, of course, love to increase its size, because, at seven, we will find it very difficult to provide the Branch with the range of activities we could when we were nine (or eleven, as we were in 2009).

*Summer Issue
November 2011*

Contents

From The Chair	1 & 2
Your Committee	1
Stop Press and What's On	2
'Bolwarra' Unique Garden Visit	3 & 4
Crowes' Plants - Guaranteed for Life	5
A Summer Evening Picnic at Sutton Forest	6
Andrew Chatto's Research	7
Plans for 2012 and Podcasts	8

Christmas Party 'Quindalup'



Attachments

'The Harp' Summer Evening Picnic

Your Southern Highlands Branch Committee

Laurel Cheetham	Chair	4861 7132
Jane Clifford	Treasurer	4862 5505
Lyn Esdaile	Secretary/Editor	4887 7122
Jennifer Carroll		4862 4847
Eleanor Dartnall		4869 1825
Clive Probyn		4871 3134
Fran Turland		4887 7694

STOP PRESS

A grant of \$4,000 through the NSW Heritage Grants 2011-2012 'Caring for our Heritage' programme has been approved by the Royal Australian Historical Society towards the progression of the Crowe Nursery project being undertaken by our Southern Highlands Branch.

What's On - 2011/12

Dates for your Diary

- ❖ **Friday November 25**
Christmas Party at Quindalup, home and former cold climate nursery of Deidre Hill
4.30 - 7.30 pm
- ❖ **Saturday February 25, 2012**
Summer Evening picnic in the garden of 'The Harp', Sutton Forest
Bring your own food, wine provided
4.30 - 7.30 pm
- ❖ **Sunday March 18**
Marulan self drive day
Garden tour, lunch, historic village walk, 'Glenrock' and more
- ❖ **April - date to be advised**
Heritage Week
Walk around historic gardens and sites of Burradoo

Information Lyn Esdaile 4887 7122

We would therefore love anyone who feels they would like to join our happy band to let one of the Committee know. Although we all have a strong sense of commitment to meeting the Branch's expectations, we recognise that we all have other lives and we are volunteers. There will be no pressure to take on more than you feel comfortable with.

Lyn Esdaile will continue as Secretary and Editor of Inflorescence as well as Events Organiser. She will be assisted by Jennifer Carroll in the management of events. Jane Clifford will continue as Treasurer. Eleanor Dartnall will take on a new role which we feel is becoming increasingly important in our community - that of marketing and communications. Eleanor will also continue to work closely with Helen Gates on the Cookbook Project. Clive Probyn, our only male - how he would like some male company on the Committee, is the Commissariat. Fran Turland is taking on the role of Minutes Secretary. I will continue in my advocacy and project management roles, with a subcommittee of four looking after the Crowe Project.

At our Planning Day we mapped out an exciting range of events for 2012. Lyn is busy confirming the details for a number of these with property owners, and potential speakers. You will read elsewhere in this newsletter of what we have planned and confirmed.

I look forward to hearing from members about what they like/don't like about the Society and our Branch. I would also welcome ideas on how we can better meet the aims of the Society, which are to "preserve Australia's gardening heritage, horticulture, landscape design, and architecture."

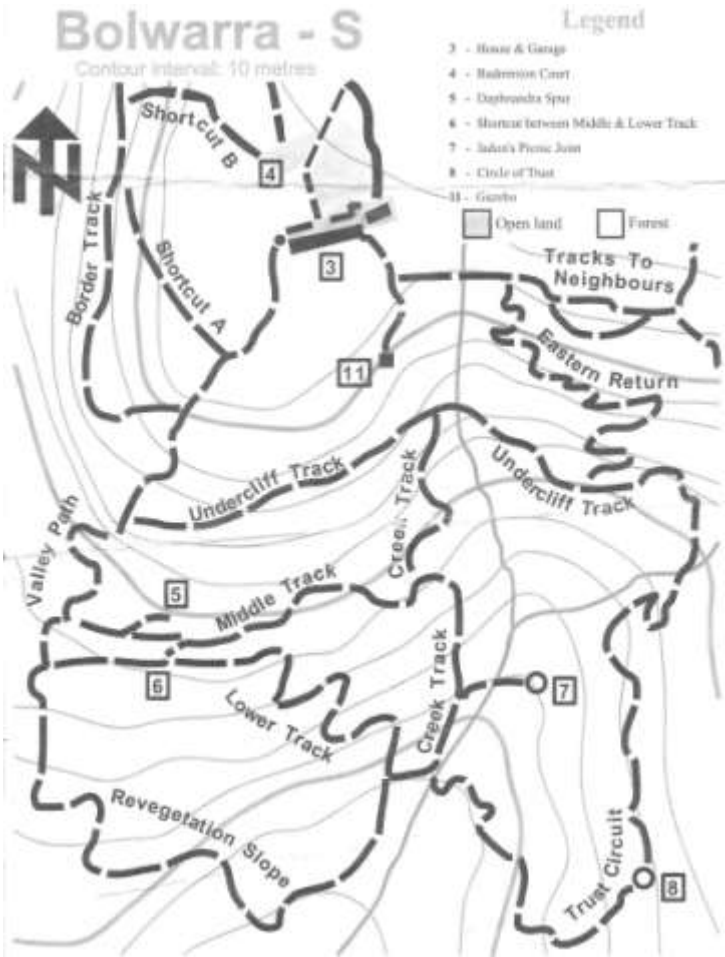
Kind Regards
Laurel Cheetham

Visit to 'Bolwarra' Foxground – A Unique Garden

On Saturday 11th September 30 members and friends enjoyed the 12kms drive up into the Illawarra rainforest behind Foxground near Berry and Gerringong. At the end of the narrow winding road a unique native rainforest 'garden' has been created by the owners Drs. Geoffrey and Anne Long. Their home since 1997 is named 'Bolwarra' after a native shrub which grows on the property Eupomatia laurina originating from Australia and New Guinea, providing a sweet, edible pulp akin to a guava in flavour and spicy seeds for drying. At an elevation of 300m there are beautiful views over Foxground and beyond to Seven Mile Beach, Shoalhaven Bight and on the horizon Beecroft Head near Jervis Bay.

AGHS provided the morning tea which was followed by talks by Geoffrey and Ann detailing the origins of their unique 'garden' restoration. The energy levels of the Longs and their helpers are incredible and they are recreating the rainforest 'as Captain Cook would have seen it in 1770' as Geoffrey puts it. We were then led along the bush paths that have been carved out into the rainforest and deep down into the valley below the Long's house (see maps.) Over 300 native species have been identified and catalogued at 'Bolwarra' which is a completely self contained property situated as it is at the foot of the Barren Grounds escarpment. After the 'healthy' 2 hour walks we sat down to our lunches and leisurely chats with the Longs. A most interesting and informative day for all who attended.





THE CROWES' PLANTS - GUARANTEED FOR LIFE

by Laurel Cheetham

Claude and Isobel Crowe were very careful about making sure their stock would grow, and, if it didn't they would replace it for you.

A number of people told me about being quizzed about where they were intending to plant a tree or shrub. It appeared that Claude knew every street, and most back yards in the Southern Highlands, as he would often suggest an alternative location to the place you intended the plant to go. He would also offer free advice on how to care for it once planted, and, in many cases, actually plant the stock himself, if he thought it would help you out and the plant to thrive.

I remember one day when I wanted a particular rhododendron. I phoned the nursery from where I was working in Campbelltown. Mrs Crowe, before answering my enquiry about whether they had the rhododendron in stock, asked me where I was calling from. To my reply "Campbelltown", she exclaimed "Oh my dear, you won't be able to grow that rhododendron in Campbelltown!". I quickly explained I was planning to plant it in Burradoo, and she then informed me that I would be able to purchase the rhododendron from her.

Claude kept an eye on the trees he planted, and offered free advice to the owners. Anne McKenzie (Mt Murray Nursery), told me a story told her by a newcomer to the Southern Highlands who had purchased a property in Burradoo Road. "One misty morning there was a knock at the front door. When opened, a small elderly man in a white cloth hat explained that he had planted a particular tree in the front of the house in 1945. He had watched over it ever since, and it was now looking rather sickly and in need of attention. He told the new owner what to do to bring it back to health."

Can you help us?

Following on from our Chair's remarks noting our very small committee, we are seeking those with special skills to be on a Casual Helpers' list for us to call on from time to time. At this stage we are particularly seeking those who would be prepared to bake slices for our various events, those to assist with parking duties, and people to help with floral arrangements ideally with their own flowers and foliage. We urgently need some more strong bodies to assist our only male committee member with parking, positioning of parking signs and setting up tables, carrying and setting up urns. If you can help please contact: Lyn Esdaile - Secretary
Ph 48877122 or email: garlynar@bigpond.com

Great Christmas Presents

We have a number of AGHS satchels for sale, with a strong strap, suitable for carrying files or papers. These were produced for the AGHS Conference held some years ago in the Southern Highlands. They are light fawn and marked with the AGHS insignia and are very smart @\$20 each. We also have sets of AGHS blank cards and envelopes with photographs of wonderful trees, (8) and non crush sun hats in sage and black. Cards \$20 per set and hats \$36 each.

Please contact Clive Probyn if you wish to buy.
Ph 4871 3134 or email: probyn44@bigpond.com

A SUMMER EVENING PICNIC AT 'THE HARP' ILLAWARRA HIGHWAY, SUTTON FOREST

Saturday 25th February, 2012

4.00pm – 7.30pm



Sutton Forest is more recently known for Southern Highlands Winery and vineyards but the history of the village and its surroundings is more impressive than the current size of the settlement would suggest.

The first European party to investigate the district was that of ex-convict John Wilson in 1798. John Price, from the party, recorded that it was 'most beautiful country, having nothing but fine large meadows with ponds of water in them, fine green hills but very thin of trees'. They climbed Gingenbullen Mountain to the north-west and Price wrote: 'we had a most delightful prospect of the country and in my opinion one of the finest in the world'.

The Hume brothers investigated the area in 1814 and with pastures around Sydney becoming scarce John Oxley drove some cattle into the area the following year. Visiting the construction site of the village in November 1820 Governor Macquarie was much impressed with the beauty of the area and the quality of the soil and named the settlement after Charles Manners Sutton, the speaker of the British House of Commons. Buildings began to slowly accumulate around an Anglican chapel which was erected in 1829. At the time it was the only church south of the Cow Pastures at Camden. A Church of England school was established as early as 1826 and a small township began to grow up around three inns which lined the road - the Talbot 1833, renamed the Royal in 1866, the Red Cow built on George Sewell's land grant in 1834 and the Harp next door also in 1834. These 3 inns remain and are recognised of significant heritage in the Wingecarribee Heritage Inventory contained in the Environmental Plan 2010.

It is to "The Harp" we have been invited for a Summer Evening picnic by the current owners and AGHS members Peter and Jan Marsh. We appreciate the generosity of the Marshes in sharing their garden with us at very short notice. Please bring your friends and own picnic supper. We shall provide the drinks. So do join us from 4.00 - 7.30pm for a delightful afternoon amongst the old conifers and a recently developed Michael Bligh garden. Parking will be along Illawarra Highway, but we are aiming to organise off - road parking as well. Please follow the parking signs. The Harp is located next door to Red Cow Farm.

Andrew Chatto's Research



Many of you will have visited the Beth Chatto gardens in Elmstead Market near Colchester in Essex, UK. Beth is famous for the creation of her wet and dry garden in gravelly Essex, and the many books she has written about it. The most well known are "The Wet Garden", 'The Dry Garden' and 'The Gravel Garden'.

Beth created her garden based on her late husband Andrew's research developed over his lifetime, the underlying principle being 'Right Plant, Right Place'.

Andrew's research is now available on line at <http://www.bethchatto.co.uk/andrew.html>

Andrew Chatto's lifelong interest in ecology began when, as a boy of 14 he went with his parents to live near his mother's brother who had an orange farm at Laguna Beach, California. Seeing *Ceanothus* and *Eschscholzia* (Californian Poppy) all around - he recognised these plants from his parents' garden in Radlett, Hertfordshire – he wondered "How did they get there from England?" The answer was that they were wild in California, as blackberries and elderberries are in England. Thus a seed was sown in his mind to wonder where all garden plants come from, where were their native homes, and what were the conditions to which they had become adapted.

It was the beginning of a lifetime's research into the natural homes of garden plants, the right plant for the right place. He and Beth farmed together until it was clear that the future lay in Beth's nursery business. By 1970 he had retired and, although limited physically by ill health, he concentrated on his records into plant ecology until he was 90 years old.

The body of work presented in his papers published for the first time, is the most comprehensive single source of information on the links between plants and their natural habitats. Primarily written for gardeners and horticulture professionals who wish to understand more about the natural origins of the plants they grow and therefore gain a better understanding of the conditions in which they might thrive in cultivation, the Andrew Chatto Papers should be just as valuable for anyone studying or interested in natural vegetation. Those travelling to a corner of the earth new to them now have the opportunity to prepare themselves for what they will see growing in the land they are about to visit, whilst those who need background information about particular species at home now have the opportunity to discover their context, both in terms of habitat conditions but also their partners in plant communities.

You can access all the material on the web following this link.

<http://www.bethchatto.co.uk/andrew.html>

Plans for 2012

In September 2011 your small committee spent a day planning the Southern Highlands Branch events for 2012. We have tried to vary our activities from month to month taking into account members' known interests, and trying to avoid clashes with the numerous garden societies and other groups which our members belong to in the Highlands.

Please read our 'What's On' carefully so you don't miss an event. In 2012 we have planned self-drive trips to historic and new gardens that will become part of our garden history, village walks, winter talks, and excellent speakers. We do hope you take advantage of these monthly activities which are all organised by our volunteer Committee. Some events will be very popular and numbers will be limited. Our policy is first in with payments, either direct credit via internet banking to our ANZ bank account or via cheque to our Events Secretary. Direct credit ensures your place. We look forward to meeting you in 2012.

Do you know about podcasts?

Here is a good link

<http://www.gardensillustrated.com/podcasts>

BBC Gardens Illustrated Magazine - Fergus Garrett and Anna Pavord in conversation

Celebrating the life of the late Christopher Lloyd and the garden at Great Dixter. Fergus gardened alongside Christo for 20 years as his head gardener, while Anna was one of his many friends and a regular visitor to Great Dixter. The two recall an entertaining selection of anecdotes about the great man.

BBC Gardens Illustrated: Alan Titchmarsh in conversation with Beth Chatto (part 1)

Iconic gardener Beth Chatto chats with Alan about her approach to gardening through the years.

Gardens Illustrated Lecture 2011 – In conversation with Andy Sturgeon, Dan Pearson and Cleve West

Gardens Illustrated's annual lecture takes place during Chelsea Flower Show week. This year, Vista hosts Noël Kingsbury and Tim Richardson were joined by designers Andy Sturgeon, Dan Pearson and Cleve West (hot from his 'Best in Show' win at Chelsea) to discuss the current trends in planting and design.

Inflorescence via email

Please consider receiving your AGHS correspondence by email. It saves the trees and significantly reduces our expenditure on administration which leaves us more dollars to put toward special projects, conservation and maintenance of our garden history. So far approximately half our membership has switched to email- please join them and advise our secretary of your decision
Lyn Esdaile - Secretary ph 48877122, email: garlynar@bigpond.com



Southern Highlands Branch



Photo courtesy of Peter Kabaila 2006

**Summer Evening Picnic at The Harp, Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest NSW 2577
(parking information in next issue of Inflorescence)**

Saturday 25th February, 2012 Time: 4.30pm - 7.30pm

Cost: \$20 per person members and guests

Your name:

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Number of places you require:

Names of guests:

Total Payment:

Payment options

1. Cheques payable to the **Australian Garden History Society, NSW Branch**. Please return the form and cheque to: **The Treasurer**, AGHS PO Box 2327, Bowral NSW 2576 to reach us by **Friday, February 17, 2012**

2. **Direct Credit** to ANZ Bank:

Account name: **Australian Garden History Society (NSW Branch)**

BSB: 012 547, Account no: 237 514 077.

Please make sure you include the following reference information:

25 Feb and your surname.

Enquiries: Lyn Esdaile, ph 48877122 garlynar@bigpond.com or

Jennifer Carroll, carroll.jennifer747@gmail.com

You will be notified if this event is sold out for the 25 February

Photographic protocol

Prior to a visit we do obtain permission from owners for photographs to be taken in the garden. When owners are kind enough to show us their home our protocol is that we do not permit photographs in private houses.



Southern Highlands Branch

**Christmas Party in Deidre Hill's Garden
'Quindalup', 180 Sproule's Lane, Bowral NSW 2576**

Friday, November 25, 2011 4.30pm - 7.30pm

Cost: \$36 per person members and guests

Your name:

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Number of places you require:

Names of guests:

Total Payment:

Payment options

1. Cheques payable to the **Australian Garden History Society, NSW Branch**. Please return the form and cheque to: **The Treasurer**, AGHS PO Box 2327, Bowral NSW 2576 to reach us by **Friday, November 18, 2011**

2. Direct Credit to ANZ Bank:

Account name: **Australian Garden History Society (NSW Branch)**

BSB: 012 547, Account no: 237 514 077.

Please make sure you include the following reference information:

25 Nov and your surname.

Enquiries: Lyn Esdaile, ph 48877122, garlynar@bigpond.com or

Jennifer Carroll, carroll.jennifer747@gmail.com

You will be notified if this event is sold out for the 25 November

Photographic protocol

Prior to a visit we do obtain permission from owners for photographs to be taken in the garden. When owners are kind enough to show us their home our protocol is that we do not permit photographs in private houses.