

AGHS Tasmanian Branch Christmas Function

On 26 November 2016, members of the Tasmanian branch of the AHGS enjoyed a visit to the *Jolly Farmer* at Perth, followed by a delicious Christmas lunch at *Tahara*, Deloraine.

Members and visitors wandered through the beautiful garden at the *Jolly Farmer*, admiring lush sweeping lawns surrounded by glorious pastel borders featuring iris, aquilegia, lupins, delphiniums, peonies, roses and clematis. A delightful bower has been created by four weeping elms, a perfect spot to hide away with a book. Other notable trees include a tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), a ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*), an enormous liquidamber (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), an Indian chestnut (*Aesculus indica*) and variegated elm (*Ulmus minor* 'Variegata'). The current garden surrounds an intriguing one and a half storey brick house dating back to 1826 which for many years served as a coaching inn, one of many on the busy Launceston to Hobart route.

Lunch was served at *Tahara*, near Deloraine. Members and guests strolled through expansive park-like surrounds before settling down to an impressive repast laid out in the main dining room. The stately home was built in 1889 for Major Caleb John Lee Smith (1849-1916), who was a resident of the Deloraine district for 50 years and a prominent figure in the public affairs of the community. The grounds at *Tahara* feature many stately trees, including specimens of chestnut (*Castanea* sp.), laurel (*Laurus nobilis*), oak (*Quercus* sp.), liquidamber, copper beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), as well as rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas and extensive plantings of roses.

– Carol Bacon