

# Inflorescence

July 2017



**Next Event: Sunday 20 August 2017  
AGM: morning tea, lunch & lectures  
10.30am to 3.30pm**

**PLEASE NOTE THE VENUE: Annesley Ballroom,  
10 Westwood Drive, Bowral**

(See details below of the lectures. The booking form is on page 5).

**Charlotte Webb OAM:** Parsnips to Picturesque: Evolution of gardens in the Southern Highlands  
From colonial times to the present, Charlotte's lecture will explore the development of gardens in the area—all are historically significant, and while some are still thriving, there are others at risk from development. She will share with us the stories of the early settlers and the rich and famous choosing to establish their country retreats in our area.

She first delivered this lecture in 2008 at the National Conference held in the Southern Highlands and it is by special request that she presents it today as many of us were not fortunate enough to hear it.



*The Old Rectory, Berrima*

Charlotte, a landscape designer, is a long-standing member of the AGHS—a stalwart supporter of the SH Branch—and she and her husband, Chris, were instrumental in the last two national conferences held in the Southern Highlands. She was secretary of the 2000 committee and he was chair of the 2008 committee. Together they have worked tirelessly to get the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens from a dream to reality.

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**Dr Greg Johnson:** Write to Garden in Australia: 1888 to 1938

The late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the end of the Victorian era, a more diverse and confident Australia began to emerge. Technology, science, new forms of communication, and robust democracy heralded the start of the modern era. Greg's lecture will explore the publications and the writers in the period from 1888 the Centenary of European settlement of Australia to 1938, 150 years after their arrival. The talk will cover writers and writing during the Federation, Edwardian, WWI and depression periods. The lecture continues on from the AGHS 2015 Lecture *Quill and Spade – Pioneer garden writing in Australia*.

**Greg Johnson** has collected early Australian gardening books for over 30 years. He was gardening correspondent for the sub-tropics for *Your Garden* magazine from 1989 to 1995, and with his wife Lesley Watt, wrote about growing vegetables in a warm climate.

He is a plant pathologist and a great-great grandson of John Mann, gardener and fruit seller, a Chinese indentured laborer who came to Queensland before the gold rushes. Most of Greg's schooling was done in Bundaberg and he had his own garden from the age of nine. His interest in gardening led to him studying agricultural science majoring in plant breeding and plant pathology at the University of Queensland.

From 1974 to 1986 he worked with the then Queensland Department of Primary Industries on disease of vegetables, tobacco and peanuts. He was gardening correspondent for the subtropics with *Your Garden* magazine.

In 1995 the family moved to Canberra for Greg to work with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and, since leaving the centre in 2006, he has helped implement the Australia-Pakistan Agriculture Sector Linkages Program managed by ACIAR.

**Last Event: Winter Seminar 8 July**

**Article and photographs by Pamela Bennett**

Bradman Theatre in Bowral was the popular venue for the AGHS SH branch Winter Seminar.

On a glorious wintry Saturday in July, Southern Highlands Branch Deputy Chair Meg Probyn opened the event and welcomed members and guests, including many familiar faces.



*Meg Probyn and Richard Heathcote*

Clive Probyn introduced Richard Heathcote, Chair of the AGHS National Management Committee. In his delightful raconteur style, Richard spoke about *Pets and Plants fit for a French Empress' garden*, with his

selection of accompanying images, both personal and researched, highlighting the collection at Malmaison.

Following afternoon tea, Clive Probyn introduced AGHS National Management Committee member Stuart Read. Stuart recently attended a conference in England to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Lancelot "Capability" Brown. His talk, *Brown, green, other colours and players -a tercentenary odyssey* covered the conference as well as a range of English gardens, estates and countryside.

Two enjoyable presentations.



*Ian and Maisy Stapleton and Francis de Beaujeu*



*Catherine Stewart, Stuart Read and Ellie Scott*



*Diana Rankin and Deirdre Hill*



*Richard Heathcote and Margaret Buckland*



*Pam Tallents and John Biffin*



*Stuart Read with Merryleigh Brindley and Meg Probyn*

### Committee Vacancies

Please consider putting your name forward as a committee member for our AGHS branch. Jennifer Carroll and Jo de Beaujeu have both come to the end of their terms of office this August and we need more people to join this active committee. The National Conference will be taking place in the Southern Highlands in October 2018—so your assistance would be most appreciated. Nomination form is on the last page.



## Update on Station Street, Bowral

*This article is by one of our members, Alan Olsen—Public Officer of Highlands Matters Incorporated.*

<http://www.highlandsmatters.org.au/> If you would like to join the Highlands Matters mailing list, please go to the website. The easiest way to respond is to click on the envelope in the top right-hand corner of the home page.



*Threatened Pin oaks (Quercus palustris) in Station Street*

The Wingecarribee Shire Council website tells us that Council is embarking on the upgrade of Station Street, Bowral to include two lanes in each direction between Bundaroo Street and Bowral Street, new roundabouts at Bong Bong Street and Bowral Street and improved parking facilities and access to town centre businesses.

The proposal is that Station Street will become a four-lane thoroughfare and clearway, through what is currently the car park at Bowral Station, down to Harris Farm.

Pin oaks in Bowral's own Avenue of Honour, planted by Bowral Girl Guides in the 1940s, are at considerable risk, the camellias will go.

Previously the Station Street Upgrade was known as the Bowral Bypass, until Council itself concluded that "the notion of a bypass is now known not to be the primary benefit of the road". Traffic studies showed that 75% of the traffic that approaches Bowral is coming to Bowral, not bypassing Bowral.

For several months now, Highlands Matters has been asking Council to explain the need for the Station Street Upgrade, to outline the plan and to indicate the timing for the removal of 110 car spaces from Bowral Station, the likely first step in the Station Street

upgrade, and the associated cutting down of pin oaks and camellias.

Highlands Matters wants to provide the opportunity for WSC to inform and consult the Bowral community about the Station Street Upgrade, and wants to give the Bowral community the opportunity to ask Council about the Station Street Upgrade.

Consultation may be imminent. Mayor Ken Halstead wrote to Highlands Matters in June 2017: "I will be only too happy to attend a meeting of your group when the Council is in receipt of a 'Concept' Plan. It is likely that there will be strong debate in the Council Chamber on this matter."

The community is watching and waiting.

But, for now, let's dream for a moment . . .

*It's 2040. The car park at Bowral Station has not been used for months, as Southern Highlands commuters, none of whom actually own vehicles, are transported by uber-like driverless cars to connect to the very fast train.*

*Wingecarribee City Council has resolved to convert the desolate former car park into a new Northern Entry to Bowral.*

*Planners are searching Inflorescence archives, looking for images in an attempt to replicate the pin oaks and camellias, so controversially bulldozed despite widespread opposition in 2017.*

Alan Olsen

### 2017 Conference in Melbourne

Places are quickly filling for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Melbourne, so if you are interested in attending, please contact AGHS Head Office: (03 9650 5043 -Tollfree 1800 678 446)

The title of the conference is 'Marvellous Melbourne: The Challenge of Change' and will be held in the State Library of Victoria from 27-29 October 2017.

### HISTORY IN THE MAKING:

#### Design for the visitor centre: Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens



*The design for the entry to the SHBG*

The winner of the design competition for a new Visitor Centre for the SHBG was announced at Annesley, Bowral, on Friday, 30 June 2017—and the winner is a Melbourne architectural firm, founded in

1986 by John Wardle. The practice undertakes a broad range of project types and scales, across three Australian states with a portfolio including single houses, apartment towers, university campus buildings and commercial towers.



*The building is described as the Bowral Conservatory*

The competition jury, comprising eminent members of the architectural profession, a landscape architect and SHBG board members, selected the winning design.

Subject to funding, construction of the centre will begin in 2018/19. John Wardle Architects will work closely with SHBG's renowned landscape architects, Taylor Cullity Lethlean.

The professional adviser for the competition was Annabelle Pegrum AM, who collaborated with SHBG to prepare the design brief and managed the competition.

## **ADVANCE NOTICE**

### **THE BEAUTY OF TASMANIA:**

#### **Garden Tour March 2018**

Ray Bradley has already booked gardens, hotels and places for us to dine for the Tasmanian tour he is planning. The tour starts in Launceston on Monday 12 March 2018 where we will stay for four nights, visiting a range of gardens in the area, including 'Home Hill' at Devonport, 'Woolmers Estate and Heritage Rose Garden' and 'Brickendon Heritage Garden' both at Longford ... and many other places.

On day five (16 March) we will travel south to Hobart where we will stay for five nights. So many beautiful gardens and places to visit, including 'Runnymede', the Royal Botanic Gardens, Huon Valley gardens, Bruny Island, and 'The Wall in the Wilderness'. There will be free time to visit Salamanca Market, MONA, Port Arthur and all the museums and art galleries.

Those of us who travelled on the Victorian tour this year know how well Ray organises his trips. If you are interested in joining this tour, please let Ray know (email: [aghs.sh.info@gmail.com](mailto:aghs.sh.info@gmail.com) or telephone 02 4861 4090).

#### **HGS: Coach Tour Monday 28 August 2017**

The Highlands Garden Society invites you to join them on their coach tour to Bayview on Monday August 28. They will be visiting *Waterfall Cottage*, the magical garden of Jeanne Villani, and another native garden nearby with great views over Pittwater. Cost is \$40 for the day, including morning tea. Lunch is at your own expense at Church Point Cafe, or bring your own picnic. Coach pickup points are Moss Vale (at 7.30am), then Bowral and Mittagong.

For more information or to make a booking, contact Peter Wurfel on 4871 3464 or 0412 260 501.

#### **Bundanoon Garden Ramble: Weekend 21-22 October 2017**

A wonderful weekend with eight private gardens open on Saturday/Sunday 21 and 22 October from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

The gardens will showcase a diversity of plantings and styles, from small to large and those in between, providing inspiration to all who visit. As you wander through these much-loved gardens, feel free to have a chat with the owners. Like most of us who have fun digging in the dirt, we are a friendly bunch who love to share ideas and information.

The Bundanoon History Group will open the doors of the Old Goods Shed which is opposite the Hall. There is always an informative exhibition on the history of Bundanoon, which celebrated its 150th year in 2015. Also, a display of old farm equipment can be viewed in the main street.

Refreshments, provided by the local Lions Club, will be available in one of the open gardens as well as in the cafés in the village.

Tickets will be on sale in the Hall, too. The price for entry into all eight gardens is \$20 per person, valid for Saturday and Sunday, and \$5 for entry to a single garden (children under 16 free).

#### **AGHS Southern Highlands Branch Committee**

**PO Box 2327, Bowral 2576 ([aghs.sh.info@gmail.com](mailto:aghs.sh.info@gmail.com))**

|                         |                                                         |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Jennifer Carroll</b> | <b>Chair (0419 275 402)</b>                             |
| <b>Meg Probyn</b>       | <b>Vice-Chair, Editor,<br/>NSW NMC rep. (4871 3134)</b> |
| <b>Jane Clifford</b>    | <b>Secretary</b>                                        |
| <b>John Biffin</b>      | <b>Treasurer</b>                                        |
| <b>Ray Bradley:</b>     | <b>Tours</b>                                            |
| <b>Events:</b>          |                                                         |

**Lyn Barrett, Pamela Bennett,  
Jo de Beaujeu**

**2018 National Conference committee members:  
Annabel Murray, Laurel Cheetham,  
Merryleigh Brindley**



Southern Highlands  
Branch

# Booking Form

**AGM and Lectures: Sunday 20 August 2017**

**10.30am to 3.00pm**

**VENUE: ANNESLEY BALLROOM**

**10 Westwood Drive, Bowral**

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Names of Guests:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Dietary requirements:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

| <i>Event</i>                                                  | <i>Cost per person</i>                                 | <i>Numbers Attending</i> | <i>Amount Incl \$</i> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Sunday 20 August 2017</b><br>AGM, lectures, lunch and teas | <b>Members of AGHS \$40</b><br><b>Non-members \$45</b> | _____<br>_____           | _____<br>_____        |
| <b>Bookings Close:</b><br>Monday 14 August                    |                                                        |                          |                       |
|                                                               |                                                        | <i>TOTAL</i>             | _____                 |

## Payment Options:

By cheques: payable to Australian Garden History Society, NSW Branch.

- Please return this form and cheque to: Bookings, AGHS, PO Box 2327, Bowral 2576

By EFT: Account name: AGHS BSB: 012 547 Account No: 237 514 077

- Include the following reference information:  
*The date of the event (20Aug) and your surname.*
- Email the above booking details to [aghs.sh.info@gmail.com](mailto:aghs.sh.info@gmail.com)

By direct debit: If paying directly at an ANZ branch, record your phone number as the reference.

- Email the above booking details to [aghs.sh.info@gmail.com](mailto:aghs.sh.info@gmail.com)

ENQUIRIES: Jo de Beaujeu (T) 4862 3532 (E) [aghs.sh.info@gmail.com](mailto:aghs.sh.info@gmail.com)

**PLEASE NOTE: No tickets will be issued. You will be notified if the event is sold out. No refunds can be given for cancellations made after the bookings closed date.**

*Australian Garden History Society*  
*Southern Highlands Branch*

**NOMINATION FORM**

Nomination for the 2017- 2018 Branch Committee



I would like to nominate:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

for the Committee of the Southern Highlands Branch of the  
Australian Garden History Society.

Proposed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Nominator)

Accepted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Nominee)

Please return to: AGHS Secretary  
Southern Highlands Branch  
PO Box 2327  
BOWRAL NSW 2576  
  
(E) [aghs.sh.info@gmail.com](mailto:aghs.sh.info@gmail.com)

By: 10.00am 20 August 2017