

Inflorescence

December 2018



From the Chair



I am pleased to introduce the AGHS Southern Highlands Branch Committee until our next AGM in August 2019:

Lyn Barrett (Chair)
Elisabeth Heard (Secretary)
John Biffin (Treasurer)

Pamela Bennett
Annabel Murray
Ray Bradley

A most sincere thank you to Meg Probyn and Jane Clifford who have retired post conference and to Conference Committee members Jenny Carroll, Laurel Cheetham and Merryleigh Brindley. The informative Symposium, exceptional conference speakers and very generous garden owners combined to deliver a memorable and enlightening conference. The

speakers' papers will be on the AGHS website in 2019.

The feedback from delegates has been extremely positive and attention to detail has been a constant positive in reviews. Well done Meg and the team.

Our first event for 2019 will be **Berrima Talk and Walk** on Sunday 17 February 2019. I hope that you will be able to join us.

Photographs from our Christmas Party at *Timbarra* are in this newsletter. Our heartfelt thanks to Laurel and Richard Cheetham for hosting this event.



The Southern Highlands Branch covers a large area from Shoalhaven to Illawarra and Camden to Goulburn, we hope to hold events visiting some of these shires. While the general aim of AGHS is to "promote awareness and conservation of significant gardens and cultural landscapes" your committee aims to provide entertainment and forums for friendship in interesting gardens and landscapes, and to provide opportunities to exchange knowledge and insights into the history and significant landscape we are so lucky to inhabit.

Our branch membership is approximately 180. An aim for 2019 is to increase membership so our advocacy projects have increased support from like-minded people. Please look at the AGHS website and view the *Landscapes at Risk* Register, there is some interesting and surprising reading. If you have knowledge to share please let me know. If you are aware of landscapes or historically significant gardens in need of restoration please let me know. We have some funds available for such projects.

2020 is the 40th anniversary of AGHS and we look forward to planning special events and projects in 2019 to mark this milestone.

Please take the time to read *Inflorescence*, and please put event dates in your new 2019 diary.

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer taking time to enjoy a garden with family and friends.

Happy Christmas

Lyn Barrett

Phone: 48623442

Hume Coal

Members will be aware that the NSW Department of Planning and Environment has referred the Hume Coal project, and the associated Berrima Rail project, to the Independent Planning Commission, with a recommendation that the projects are not in the public interest and should not be approved.

The Department's Media Release includes: "The Department considers there is currently considerable scientific uncertainty about the level of environmental damage to both groundwater and surface water resources. The predicted drawdown impacts on the ground water aquifer would be the most significant for any mining project that has ever been assessed in NSW."

The independent Planning Commission is likely to hold its public hearing early in 2019, and will seek the community's input.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/News/2018/Department-refers-Hume-Coal-and-Berrima-Rail-projects>.

Editor

By All Accounts

By all accounts, the recent AGHS National Conference held in the Southern Highlands was a resounding success. The committee was delighted to be able to provide such a high quality conference and at the same time produce a financial surplus.

The local branch receives the surplus from the Optional Day and the balances from the other days are retained by Head Office. The surplus from the Optional Day is now confirmed as \$5,277.27.

This surplus will be added to our existing funds and we plan to investigate making a donation to a worthy organisation or project. An example of this is the stone bench we recently presented to the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens. The presentation was made by Meg Probyn at a reception for Conference delegates held at SHBG.

John Biffin
Treasurer



Meg Probyn with AGHS Patron Tim Entwisle and AGHS Chair Richard Heathcote

2018 Christmas Party at Timbarra



*Merryleigh Brindley, Ulli Tuisk. Annette O'Donnell, Judy Foy,
Tom Carroll, Ray Bradley, Sue Tuisk*



*Suzie Ward, Jo de Beaujeu and
Margaret Buckland*



Thanks to hosts Richard and Laurel Cheetham from Lyn Barrett



Frances and Jenny Simons



Stuart Read, Annabel Murray and Jeanne Villani



Tim and Beverly Webb



Thanks to Meg and Jane



Brian the Barman

Advocacy

'Gardens in times of peace and conflict' as a conference theme was challenging yet fascinating. Our Pre-conference Symposium explored the space between conflicting narratives of 'gardening' in the broader landscape of the Southern Highlands. This calls for a moment of reflection before looking ahead.

In Gundungurra Country, west of Berrima, which extends to the Blue Mountains, we descended to the evocative valley location of the Symposium, the State Heritage listed Joadja, former Kerosene and Shale Oil mining town and now Whisky Distillery owned by the Jimenez family. Melissa Wiya provided an Acknowledgment of Country, and five panellists offered diverse perspectives: reflecting on indigenous peoples' Connection to Country (Djon Mundine, OAM); resisting the mechanical mindset (Dr Charles Massy OAM); understanding the landscape (Craig Burton); detecting resilient narratives (Caroline Grant); and pondering how this cultural landscape (Dr Helen Armstrong AM) could have been different.

Other than tourists and curious locals, visitors to Joadja include the diaspora of the preliminary Scottish migrant workforce. Descendants continue to travel to Joadja from the UK to learn more about the self-sufficient existence of their ancestors. On this remote road winding through industrial ruins, the stories are palpable. Without the diligent, persistent work of Laurel Cheetham, Charlotte Webb, Leonie Knapman and Dennis McManus, this remarkable heritage conservation project may not have been as comprehensively restored, interpreted nor accessible. Thanks to this valuable work, we gain an understanding of this place through time and envisage future management, in ways that are sustainable and meaningful for its current or future owners and visitors.

The ongoing care of historic places is fundamental to the character of the whole environment. Conference lectures and visits reminded us of the significance of places we experience every day; the stately grounds of dignitaries' estates, the Berrima commemorative plantings and at Bowral, an AGHS initiative - the student designed gateway parks - Lions Park and its complement, Maynard Park - by Fiona Armstrong. Importantly, it is the people who act as custodians who ensure they flourish through time.



*The Terrace at University of Wollongong
Moss Vale Campus*

Social media is connecting people who advocate for significant places. *Friends of Bowral* is one of many formed in response to local issues or to raise awareness of community events. New initiatives to garner student engagement with AGHS are underway with University of Wollongong Moss Vale Campus Manager, Stephen Lowe, and with universities in Sydney, to embed garden history projects in the 2019 curriculum.

AGHS branch events continue to be a vital way to connect with each other and enjoy the beautiful gardens for which the Southern

Highlands is renown. How do you feel about the changing landscape? What do you care about most? Tell us about the success stories and how we might ensure meaningful places are enjoyed by future generations.

Inflorescence offers AGHS Southern Highlands members regular communication about some of these narratives. We welcome your contributions and suggested topics and themes. Please do get in touch by email.

Annabel Murray

Camellias in the Southern Highlands



Stephen Utick in camellia vest at Bradman in June

Stephen Utick dug up some ground breaking, earth shattering discoveries about camellias in the Southern Highlands while he was here in October, and has shared his research findings with Inflorescence.

Dr Utick is an Australian Director for the International Camellia Society (ICS), the inaugural Chair of the ICS Committee of Historic Camellia Preservation and the founder of Camellia Ark Australia. Previously, Stephen has identified a number of the camellias under threat in Station Street Bowral, a Landscape at Risk listed by AGHS.

He has shared with Inflorescence the following finds.

(1) Bowral Station Street camellias. "Finally have the last two on the southern end. Last one is 'Rosa Mundi Rosea' (a duplicate of plant No 7 in the row). And, having examined the dark veining, I believe that we do have a rare NSW Guilfoyle camellia in 'Jouvan' (1866) as the second last one in the row."

(2) Retford Park. "Right hand corner of the house. Three huge magnificent specimens: Great Western (UK. Veitch catalogue 1856), Fra Arnaldo da Bresci (Italy 1851), and Prince Frederick William (NSW, Sheather, 1872)."

(3) The one white camellia left adjacent at Oldbury Farm. "Perhaps the most amazing find: Planipetala (Italy, 1951). The incurved petal arrangement gives an important clue (there is nothing else in that period to match it - we also have matching 19th Century prints)."

Subsequently, Stephen writes: "I have had further information from Professor Motta of the International Camellia Society in Italy.

The National Trust has a valuable 'living antique' living at Retford Park in the Fra Arnaldo da Brescia camellia, right hand side of the house entrance. It is of global historic significance and very rare. It was named after a medieval Italian priest of Brescia who spoke out against the Pope and was hanged in 1155. The figure became a symbolic hero celebrated by the Italian radicals in the early years of the campaign for the unification of Italy against the Pope during the mid nineteenth century. Hence the naming of the flower which dates back to 1851 and survives in just a few historical estates, one being the Villa Giulia in Naples.



Professor Motta has supplied a photo (left) of this cultivar in Villa Giulia and I have added my photo (right) of the Retford Park specimen.



At its best, this formal double exhibits a beautiful large centre cone in the corolla arrangement.

The late Professor Waterhouse had one specimen growing at Eryldene.

This and some of the other historic camellias at Retford Park could be an immense garden attraction for the National Trust property.

Editor

**Berrima Talk and Walk:
Sunday 17 February 2019
9.45 am for 10 am Start
Holy Trinity Church Hall**

Corner of Argyle Street and Old Hume Highway, Berrima

The Australian Garden History Society Southern Highlands Branch promotes awareness and conservation of significant gardens and cultural landscapes through engagement, research, advocacy and activities.

For the Southern Highlands, Berrima is a living museum in our own backyard. Berrima is the last remaining intact Colonial Town on the mainland, a complete Georgian Village with Gaol, Courthouse, and 16 buildings on the Register of the National Estate.

We are fortunate to have the opportunity to hear from local experts sharing their knowledge of Berrima in a series of talks, then leading us on history walks around Berrima.



Program: Sunday 17 February 2019

9.45 am for 10am	Holy Trinity Church Hall, easy parking outside the hall
10am -10.40am	Berrima in Perspective – Timelines: Clive West
10.40am -10.55am	Morning tea
10.55am-11.35am	Berrima's Heritage Significance: Eric Savage
11.35am-11.45am	Comfort break
11.45am-12-15pm	Berrima's Landscape and Key Plantings: Stuart Read

LUNCH bring your own to have on the Village Green or buy at your favourite café



1.30pm Group A The Village, its Buildings and Plantings:
Chris Thompson / Stuart Read

Group B Prisoners of The River:
Frances Simons

2.30pm Group A Prisoners of The River:
Frances Simons

Group B the Village, its Buildings and Plantings:
Chris Thompson / Stuart Read

If you do not wish to walk, Berrima District Museum (entry fee \$7) and Berrima Courthouse (no entry fee) are both open 10 am to 4 pm.

Price: AGHS Members \$10, non-members \$25, lunch not included.

Limited to 50 people.

Please see the attached Booking Form, and members please book early to avoid disappointment.

Tours Update

Horse Island and South Coast (Wednesday 3 – Friday 5 April 2019) - this tour is fully booked with a short waiting list. If you have not booked but are still interested in travelling on this very popular tour please let me know and I will include your name/s on the waiting list. Tour cancellations sometimes occur and the Committee likes to have a full complement of passengers if possible.

Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers

(Tuesday 17 – Saturday 28 September 2019) - it had been hoped to finalise this itinerary for release before Christmas. Next year is the 70th anniversary of the Carnival and planning is still underway by the organisers in Toowoomba. I now hope to have the itinerary finalised by the end of January and will release the details as soon as practical. This will be an 11 night tour - one night at Tamworth; one night at Glen Innes; six nights at Toowoomba; two nights in the Tweed Heads / Murwillumbah area to visit the Margaret Olley Exhibition at Murwillumbah, and one night at Port Macquarie.



The Committee has agreed to a tour to *Adelaide* and this is being investigated. Whilst a final date has not been determined the tour will probably occur in March of 2020. Tour planning will commence when the Toowoomba itinerary is finalised. In the meantime enquiries are being made through AGHS and the Rose Society in South Australia regarding gardens and other venues which may be included. It is intended to include Carrick Hill, Australia's most intact twentieth-century heritage house museum and garden and where the Australian Museum of Gardening is being established. Also planned to be included is Sophie's Patch, (*the garden of Sophie Thompson a TV presenter on the ABC's Gardening Australia*) a three-acre property in the Adelaide Hills, where over the last five years a remarkable garden has been created around the old stone cottage on what was once a bare paddock.

Ray Bradley

Save the Date

Sunday 17 February Berrima Talk and Walk

Sunday 10 March 2019 Jazz in the Garden at Greenbrier Park

Wednesday 3 to Friday 5 April 2019 Horse Island and the South Coast

Sunday 2 June 2019 AGHS Southern Highlands Winter Seminar

Tuesday 17 to Saturday 28 September 2019 Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers

Friday 6 December 2019 Christmas Party

About Inflorescence

Inflorescence is the newsletter of the
Southern Highlands Branch of the
Australian Garden History Society

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Booking Form

Berrima Talk and Walk: Sunday 17 February 2019

9.45 am for 10 am Start

Holy Trinity Church Hall

Corner of Argyle Street and Old Hume Highway, Berrima

Your Name: _____

(AGHS members are reminded please to wear name badges to AGHS events)

Names of Guests: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

<i>Event</i>	<i>Cost per person</i>	<i>Numbers Attending</i>	<i>Amount Incl \$</i>
Sunday 17 February 2019	Members of AGHS \$10	_____	_____
Berrima Talk and Walk	Non-members \$25	_____	_____
Bookings Close: Sunday 10 February 2019			
		<i>TOTAL</i>	_____

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

By Cheque: 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 (17Feb) and your surname.*
- Email the above booking details to 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

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 close date.

ENQUIRIES: Lyn Barrett 48623442 or Elisabeth Heard 0417 247 213