

INFLORESCENCE

FEBRUARY 2019



Next event

'Jazz in the Garden at Greenbrier Park'
(see below for more information about the stunning property)

Sunday 10 March 2019: 4 – 7 pm

1171 Old South Road, Mittagong NSW 2575

The popular *Next on the List* Jazz band will entertain us.

Members \$25: Non-members \$35

Children are most welcome – at no charge!

Please bring your own picnic and drinks, chairs or rugs. There will be a marquee for all weather conditions.

Guided tours round the garden with the Owner and Head Gardener.

If you haven't already booked, please book urgently. Booking form is on page 8.

Other Coming Events

Horse Island

Wednesday 3 to Friday 5 April 2019: Currently booked out but there is a waiting list. Contact Ray Bradley (phone) 02 4861 4090

Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers: Amended Tour Itinerary

The Committee has revised the tour itinerary to the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers due to organisational issues and will now depart on Thursday 19 September and return Thursday 26 or Friday 27 September. After flying to Brisbane, five days will be in Toowoomba and surrounding area and then two days in Murwillumbah for the Margaret Olley exhibition at the Tweed Regional Gallery. It is anticipated the full itinerary will be released in the near future.

Expressions of Interest can be lodged with Ray Bradley (phone) 02 4861 4090 or (Email) aghs.sh.info@gmail.com.

Greenbrier Park

This beautiful country garden was created in 1988 on three hectares after the owners purchased 115 acres of undeveloped land. The first problem facing the owners was where to place the house and they sought advice from Howard Tanner AM (architect and a founding member of

AHGS). He knew just where it should sit—overlooking Mittagong and commanding beautiful views of the Nattai Valley and the Blue Mountains.



The house positioned perfectly in the landscape (photo: P. Taylor)

It's a gorgeous garden with wonderful meandering garden paths leading the visitor to unexpected garden rooms and vistas. There is even an old cottage 'ruin' folly. We were very grateful that Robert and Janet Constable allowed us to 'show' the garden to the delegates at the National Conference last October and we are doubly grateful that they agreed to hold our jazz picnic event this year. There will be a marquee in case of inclement weather. The property is 750 metres above sea level and set in an old Australian eucalyptus woodland.



Looking across to Mount Gibraltar (photo: R. Constable)

The garden incorporates an English-style design with Australian native shrubs and trees. The rich basalt soils and protection from harsh winds have stimulated remarkable growth. Many of us envy the amazing

progress of the Wollemi pines—the best examples, arguably, in the Southern Highlands.

Robert Constable wrote the following description: “Through the gate and along the granite path, past a very old *Eucalyptus elata* (River peppermint), is the formal garden where you will find a lake surrounded by *Iris pseudacormus*. To the right is the native/exotic garden planted up the hill with many species, dominated by *May* bushes, *Guelder roses*, *Escallonia*, *Leucodendron*, *Japonica*, *Spiraea*, *Grevillia*, *Acacia* and *Hebe*. To the left, a creek built in 1994, joins two ponds and now forms a ‘natural’ watercourse.

An extensive herbaceous/perennial garden has been established and within the four walls of the old cottage ‘ruin’ there are clematis and rambling roses. Through the gazebo, planted with *Wisteria longissima*, there is the bulb garden surrounded by a *Laurel* and *Camellia sasanqua* hedge. The perennial garden in front of the house, the lawns, streams and ponds, statues, fountains, vistas and a large variety of shrubs and trees—all result in a beautiful all-season garden.”



The house in the evening light (photo: A Murray)



The formal garden at the rear of the house (photo: P. Taylor)

Remembrance Driveway Berrima

You may have recently heard about the kerfuffle over the proposal to move the plaques from the Berrima Remembrance Driveway to Mittagong. The AGHS branch committee is now in discussion with Council and the

State’s Remembrance Driveway Committee as there has been no community consultation. The notion that the plaques can be removed from the Berrima Remembrance Driveway without a huge outcry from the families and friends is incomprehensible. The plaques should remain where they are and new trees planted where necessary.



According to the stonemason we’ve talked to, it would be impossible to remove this plaque off the rock without damaging the plaque

Wingecarribee Shire Council Weekly Circular, 15 February 2019 Page 6 of 8 noted: The Remembrance Driveway, as described at monumentaustralia.org.au is: “...a series of tree plantings and, more recently rest stops (dedicated to Victoria Cross recipients), from Sydney to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra in honour of those who served their country in time of war.

Memorial stones are set in garden areas at different parts of the Driveway in the Southern Highlands, and each has a bronze plaque attached. Many of the plaques have the sponsoring company’s crest as well as the dedicatory text. The memorial stones are on the old Hume Highway just south of Berrima and the Illawarra Highway between Moss Vale and Sutton Forest. A similar stone is on Remembrance Drive (the Bowral Road), on the northern edge of Mittagong township.”

Please note: it’s the plantings and sites that are the memorial not the plaques. A consultative meeting is now planned to be held with Wingecarribee Shire Council, representatives including AGHS, the Berrima Residents Association. Friends of Bowral and the State’s Remembrance Driveway Committee.

Bangala—link to the Great War

[Susan Hand and Ralph Suter graciously opened their garden on the evening of 25 October 2018 for a pre-conference party for the AGHS National Management Committee and the SH Branch Conference Committee. It was a delightful evening and Ralph’s welcoming speech surprised us all—including Susan, who hadn’t realised the research he’d been doing the previous month relating to their own home’s history.]

Welcome to our home, and welcome to spring in the Southern Highlands. We hope you enjoy this evening and the next few days at the Annual Conference. The theme of this year’s conference is *Gardens in Time of Peace and Conflict*. It is easy to find places that make the obvious link between “war” and a “memorial gardens”.

Like most Australian towns, Bowral has a War Memorial. But there are two other memorial gardens only a few

hundred metres from here. One is the Remembrance Driveway that provides a living memorial of trees along the old Hume Highway— Route 31—linking Sydney and Canberra. You will hear more about that tomorrow. Another is the more recently planted *Cherry Tree Walk* with one tree for each of the 526 Australian lives lost in the Vietnam war.

But I would like to take a few minutes to tell a more personal story that makes us believe that having you here tonight may be a very appropriate setting for the start of this conference.

In a few weeks we will mark the centenary of the end of the Great War—the “war to end all wars”. With the outbreak of war in 1914, England called on the Empire for help and the call was heeded. Australians and New Zealanders particularly remember the contribution by the ANZACs at Gallipoli in 1915 and, later, on the Western Front in Northern France.

One of the many people to lose his life on the Western Front was Lieutenant Guy Davenport. He was a 26-year-old solicitor from Darling Point in Sydney. He was awarded the Military Cross ‘(Pozières) for consistent gallantry and devotion to duty’ but was killed on the 10th April 1917.

Lieutenant Davenport now lies in the Vaulx Hill Cemetery about half way between Calais and Paris. He is buried there with 109 other Australians and a total of almost 900 fallen Commonwealth comrades.

Shortly after the end of the war, Guy Davenport’s father Frank Davenport, also a lawyer, and Frank’s wife Ethel, built this house. Perhaps the house and its garden served as a refuge after the loss of their son. Perhaps this was their way of finding peace after a period of conflict and personal tragedy.



Bangala (Photo R. Suter)

This house has been here for almost all the 100 years since the end of the Great War. We bought it just over 10 years ago and undertook extensive repairs to the house. We have also done a lot of work in the garden—although we are now working with just under an acre rather than the original three acres.

We hope we have delivered an interesting and peaceful garden, even knowing the historical link that this house

has with a terrible conflict. But life does go on and gardens can provide inspiration.

I’m sure this will be a very successful conference with an interesting mix of speakers and subjects—plus an opportunity to visit some of the magnificent gardens in the Southern Highlands. Congratulations to Meg and her team for putting it all together. Please enjoy your visit to the Southern Highlands and your evening here in our garden.

Ralph Suter

Editor’s Note: Bangala garden will be open for the SHBG Autumn Gardens Weekend 27-28 April 2019 (see notice on page 7).

Oral History:

A small book of nineteen excerpts from the AGHS Oral History Collection was published for the 2018 Conference. Those of you who attended the conference will have received a copy but for those of you who didn’t attend, below is the entry on Chris Betteridge, who was interviewed by Roslyn Burge on 20 March 2007 in Sydney.

Chris Betteridge



Chris was the original landscape and environmental specialist in the Heritage and Conservation Branch of the NSW Department of Planning from 1978 and over the next decade that position provided him with the opportunity to pursue a strong interest in the protection of historic gardens and cultural landscapes generally. It was a stimulating time ... *all levels of government have worked to educate the public to appreciate cultural and natural heritage. I mean if you look at what has happened in the last twenty or thirty years there has been a huge amount of information put out on all the media about heritage and the value of things ...* However, Chris finds the current development pressures on many of our significant historic cultural landscapes very demoralising and spends much of his working life assessing the heritage impacts of growth area subdivisions and infrastructure proposals on these important sites.

In the 1970s the National Survey of Historic Gardens (funded by the Commonwealth) was being undertaken. Chris recalled James Broadbent was engaged ... *to carry out the survey in New South Wales and I was the liaison officer to oversee the funding of that project ... a group of*

us went down to Tasmania to look at some major historic gardens in Northern Tasmania. At a workshop in Launceston in 1979, the establishment of an Australian garden history society was discussed and Chris presented a paper on legislative protection for historic gardens at the First Garden History Conference in Melbourne in March 1980.

As a foundation member of the AGHS and a member of its Interim Committee, Chris felt *very strongly that the Society should be a garden history society rather than a horticultural society—with a stronger academic emphasis on the history of gardens and garden design in Australia—* assisting the development of the Society were the increasing influence of the National Trust, the establishment of the Australian Heritage Commission and the Register of the National Estate, the introduction of heritage councils in most states and *a greater appreciation of Australian gardens and people wanting to know ... how they developed.*

In 1996 Chris presented a paper titled *Historic Gardens of the Southern Highlands: An Introduction*, to the Australia ICOMOS Cultural Landscapes Conference held at Ranelagh House, Robertson. In 1998 Chris provided the National Trust with a heritage impact assessment of the proposal by the then tenant to install a hedge maze and other plantings at Harpers Mansion, Berrima. While the works eventually carried out posed certain impacts on the landscape setting of the house, they have increased the visitor appeal of the property and the income which the Trust can put to the ongoing conservation of this significant building.

I grew up in a flat in Parramatta but it was a fairly generous flat ... built for the owners of the property and so it had its own little garden and my parents were both keen gardeners. My mother had been the daughter of a minister, she had moved around various church properties including some very lovely properties so she had very strong memories of the gardens in those places and she often talked about those and we had our little patch at Parramatta to look after.

But in the early 1950s my parents bought a property at Blackheath in the Blue Mountains and they engaged Paul Sorensen, a Danish landscape designer to design the garden ...so he put in a rockery of Blue Mountain' ironstone and he planted a conifer hedge and a row of silver birches and he introduced a lot of Alpine plants—Alpine phlox and aubretia and things like that.

My earliest memories are going with my parents to Sorensen's Nursery at Leura and walking around the nursery and I remember talking to Howard Tanner not so long ago and some of his earliest memories are also going with his parents to Sorensen's. Howard tells a funny story about being there one day with his parents and someone came into look at plants and asked Paul Sorensen how much something cost and Paul turned to Howard's parents and said, 'If they have to ask they can't afford it'. Sorensen wasn't cheap either as a landscape designer or nurseryman but he provided very high-quality material.

Chris enjoys collecting books on landscape and interesting plants: *I always loved frangipanis and recently there have been a lot of new cultivars developed. While I still love the original creamy-yellow ones I have always wanted to grow the evergreen white frangipani, Plumeria obtusa.* Even in Sydney's relatively mild climate, this has proved quite a challenge so far but Chris still hopes for success.

[An email from Chris Betteridge 30 July 2018:

My wife Margaret and I met Chris Thompson at Harpers Mansion on 19 July and I ran through what I could remember of my commission from the National Trust of Australia (NSW) to assess the heritage impacts of the hedge maze and other plantings by the then tenant on the landscape setting of the house. Chris Thompson advised that while the Trust might take a different course now, the maze and the other plantings between the house and the old Hume Highway have increased visitation considerably. In the late 1990s they only got 1000 to 2000 visitors a year at Harpers Mansion, even though Berrima was getting nearly half a million visitors annually at that time.]

Berrima Talk and Walk:

Sunday 17 February 2019

This two-part event started off in the Berrima Anglican Church Hall with speakers: Eric Savage, Clive West, Colleen Morris, Stuart Read, Frances Simons.



The speakers: Frances Simons, Stuart Read, Eric Savage, Colleen Morris and Clive West (Photos by Annabel Murray)

The perfect weather in Berrima set the scene for a most enjoyable day with AGHS members and friends. It was such a popular event that some people weren't able to participate—book early to avoid disappointment in future!

(From the ICOMOS Australia Burra Charter) Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects.

In two separate talks Eric Savage and Clive West set the scene about the cultural significance of Berrima—one of the few intact villages in NSW which demonstrates the characteristics of 19th century town development from the period of convict settlement to the end of the Victorian era. Because of the vagaries of development and downturns in the economy, Berrima did not become a 'grand town' as first envisaged. The original layout (with

its wide streets and town limits) is largely intact and the impressive Court and Gaol provide evidence of the role of Berrima as an early administrative centre.

Colleen Morris talked about the *Berrima, Sutton Forest and Exeter Cultural Landscape Assessment* which she and Christine Hay completed two years ago. The Berrima Residents Association commissioned the study in 2017, which was funded equally by *Battle for Berrima* and the *Southern Highlands Foundation*. Its primary purpose was to investigate the significance of the landscape for inclusion on State and/or local heritage registers, and to define the boundary of areas to be included in the revised Berrima landscape conservation area (local), the Berrima landscape conservation area (new state listing), and the Sutton Forest Exeter landscape conservation area (new local listing).

Colleen and Christine Hay were awarded the National Trust Heritage Award in the Landscape category at the 2018 Awards ceremony in Sydney. Cultural landscapes across NSW are under threat from mining, infrastructure and urban development. Communities are faced with radical proposals to transform the landscapes they value in the face of powerful economic arguments by powerful corporations.

Stuart Read spoke about Berrima's native trees and key planted trees such as the Market Place park which has mature specimens of *Pinus radiata*, *Cedrus* and *Cupressus* species that provide a strong focal point for the village. Stands of mature *Cupressus* behind the Surveyor General Inn and edging the river, help to define the edge of the village. The appearance of the village and its setting is enhanced by a diversity of mature tree plantings which vary in colour and texture providing a contrast with the rural surrounds.



Welcoming committee: Ray Bradley, Lyn Barrett and John Biffin

Frances Simons gave a talk about the First World War prisoners' camp in Berrima and the huts and gardens prisoners created on the bank of the Wingecarribee river. Unfortunately the gardens have now disappeared but the surviving photographs of the area they called 'New Pommerania' are on display in the Berrima Museum and are a testimony to their resourcefulness throughout their internment.

After the talks people took guided walks into Berrima and along the river.



Stuart explains pine tree identification



The old school house opposite the former Berrima Bridge Nursery



Margaret and Peter Chadwick



Water dragon at the River Wingecarribee. (Photo L. Cheatham)

Invitation to Join the Committee!

Pamela Bennet, who has been an active member of the AGHS for some years, both in Sydney and in the Southern Highlands, has stepped down from her position on the Branch Committee. Pamela joined the Committee in 2016 and took on the role as Events Coordinator and then Editor of *Inflorescence*. We thank her for her years of contribution and wish her all the best for the future.

Would you like to be involved in the busy life of the AGHS? We need your help in a number of ways. Involvement doesn't mean being on the Committee unless you would like to join us. We will welcome your company and assistance in any way you wish. We need help with:

- *Preparation and publication of Inflorescence*—the newsletter is published bimonthly and is sent to members and friends. It includes articles about recent and future events and application forms for forthcoming events. The *Inflorescence* Editor is supported by input from the Chair, the Events Coordinator and the Tours Manager;
- *Co-ordinating our events*—several events are traditionally offered throughout each year: the Jazz picnic, Winter seminar, Branch AGM and guest speakers, Christmas party—and they are complemented by opportunities as they arise. The events coordinator liaises with venue managers and caterers and is supported by the Secretary and Treasurer;
- *Researching projects*—in our advocacy role, the AGHS may find itself involved in interesting projects which need to be researched;
- *Cataloguing our library books*—there are several boxes of books currently in storage which require to be checked and catalogued.
- *Providing advice and IT support*—this would involve liaising with guest speakers and venue managers to ensure that presentations are compatible with the IT equipment available and also on an ad hoc basis for Committee members as the need arises.

For more information please contact Elisabeth Heard (0417 247 213) or Lyn Barrett (4862 3442) or write to us on aghs.sh.info@gmail.com

A warm welcome to 8 new members:

Margaret and Peter Chadwick

Ruth Chittick

Kristine Gow

Virginia Kidd

Glenys Lilliendal

Pamela Mildwater

Sarah Oliver

Events in the area

(Don't forget to look at the AGHS website to see more details of branch activities in Canberra and Sydney.)



Oldbury Cocktails

Fundraiser to launch the Building Appeal for the new Education Centre at SHBG:

3 March 2019 4-6 pm

Join others at this unique event in one of the most beautiful gardens in the Southern Highlands as the last rays of Summer—and the first rays of Autumn—cast light across the sweeping lawns of this historic property.

Enjoy the company of others, good food and drinks as the Botanic Gardens Building Appeal is launched in the company of Australia's Chelsea Flower Show garden designer Charlie Albone—who wrote: "*The development of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens is a project I fully support and it continues to grow with the exciting new education centre...*"

Enquiries: ross.stone@shbg.com.au

Bookings close 24 February 2019:

Cost \$50 per person.

ACT Monaro Riverina Branch

Ramble: History in Nature—Plantings at the Australian War Memorial

Thursday 21 March: 2.15 - 3.30 pm (with refreshments to follow)

This guided tour of the grounds of the Australian War Memorial will commence at the main entrance to the War Memorial at 2.30 pm. Trees and shrubs and terracing have been important right from the designing of the Memorial as evidenced in early paintings and plans by architect Emil Sodersten in 1930s. We all know of the significance of the Lone Pine and poppies but join the tour to hear about the significance of other plantings in the Memorial's grounds.

\$15 Members, \$20 non-members—including refreshments nearby at 53 Euree Street, Reid

Meet at 2.15 pm in the main entrance of the Memorial for a 2.30 pm start.

Booking: Through TryBooking,
<https://www.trybooking.com/BAJDB>.

You may pay by debit or credit card.

(After 16 February) contact Wendy Dodd
 wendydodd@hotmail.com, 0408 637 990

Celebrate Your Convict Ancestry

Heritage Festival: 13 April - 19 May 2019

Harper's Mansion



Bonnet stitched in memory of convict Deborah Ellam

Harper's Mansion, the National Trust property in Berrima, invites you to visit and celebrate your convict ancestry. From 13 April we will be inviting visitors to write the names of their convict ancestor, their year of arrival and the name of the ship on a plaque and fasten it to our convict tree.

You can also record their details in our Convict Muster Book. Margaret Morgan and William Harper, James' parents, will be recorded as will Mary, his wife, who arrived in 1826. Mary's brother, Benjamin Robinson will be there, too. Did a letter from Mary telling him how wonderful life was in Berrima encourage him to forsake his life working a canal boat in Birmingham, steal a coat and gain a free passage?

To accompany this event there will be an exhibition in the house of memorial convict bonnets, kindly lent by the local chapter of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, plus convict bricks, leg irons, clay pipes etc. and a showcase of stories about the convicts and ex-convicts who established Berrima in the 1830s—the time Harper's Mansion was built. To support the Irish Festival being held at the Berrima Public School on Saturday 13 April we will also highlight the exploits of the likes of publicans Michael Doyle and Bryan McMahan, storekeeper James Jerome Higgins, the McCurdys and several others from the Emerald Isle.

To participate in this event visit Harper's Mansion. We're open every Saturday and Sunday 10.30 – 4.00. Adults-\$10, Concession - \$8, Children Free

Contact Chris Thompson: Tel: 4877 1375: Email info@harpersmansion.com.au or visit our web page www.harpersmansion.com.au

SHBG Autumn Gardens Weekend and Plant Fair: 27 & 28 April 2019



Four town gardens *Bangala*, *Gowan Brae*, *Timbarra* and *Wirreanda* (all in Bowral) will be featured as well as the extensive and historic rural garden *Rotherwood* at Sutton Forest. All five gardens are very different. *Bangala* and *Timbarra* are mature plant collectors gardens while *Gowan Brae* is renowned for its perennials and roses. *Wirreanda* is a unique large two-acre town garden surrounding a classic 1960s house abutting farmland.

The Plant Fair this year has been expanded to include external stall holders. Specialist nurseries such as Antique Perennials, Post Office Hellebores, Alamada Homestead Clematis, Moidarts Rare Plants, Bowral Box Hedging, Exeter Designer Plants plus many more will be in attendance along with Garden Tour providers, Garden sculpture and food.

Entry \$10 per garden; \$10 Plant Fair; or \$35 ticket for 5 gardens and Plant Fair



Fungus Workshop: Retford Park, Bowral

Thursday 9 May 2019, 10 am to 4 pm

Earthly Incarnations – An Introduction to the Fungi of Retford Park

What are all those fungi doing out there in the landscape and how do they help ecosystems function?

This workshop presented by **Alison Pouliot** introduces participants to the diversity, ecology and curiosities of the Kingdom Fungi, specific to those found in the region but

also including within wider Australian and global contexts.

Although little known, the roots of almost every plant in every garden are intimately entwined with fungi. These mutually beneficial relationships extend beyond trees to include every orchid and most shrubs and grasses, and are the secret to their success in our highly variable climate and nutrient-deficient soils.

Fungi not only help plants access water and nutrients but also increase their resistance to drought and disease. They build architecture in soils, aerating them and allowing water to gently percolate to deeper horizons. While often maligned by gardeners, fungi in fact are friends, not foes. Fungal specimens from the local area will be displayed, discussed and examined.

Following a delicious morning tea with homemade treats we will partake in an exciting foray through the various habitat types of the magnificent gardens of Retford Park to search for species of interest.

BYO lunch and suitable clothing as the foray will go ahead regardless of weather.

Cost: \$110.00: National Trust Members: \$95.00

2019 Annual National Conference 25 - 27 October 2019

Expanding Horizons Wellington, New Zealand

You should all have received the Conference Registration Brochure when it was mailed out with the recent AGHS Journal. Bookings opened 11 February 2019. This is the first venture by the AGHS into New Zealand and members are encouraged to book early.

AGHS Southern Highlands Branch Committee

Chair & NMC Rep: Lyn Barrett

Treasurer: John Biffin

Secretary: Elisabeth Heard

Committee Members:

Ray Bradley, Annabel Murray

Guest Editor for this issue: Meg Probyn

Email: aghs.sh.info@gmail.com

Booking Form for Jazz in the Garden with *Next on the List* Jazz band

Sunday 10 March 2019: 4 - 7 pm

Your name/s:

Non-members name/s:

.....

Your email:

Your Phone:

Cost per person	Numbers attending	Amount Included \$
AGHS Members \$25		
Non-members \$35 (Children free)		
	TOTAL	

Payment Options:

By Cheque: payable to AGHS, NSW Branch.
Please return this form and cheque to
AGHS Bookings, PO Box 2327, Bowral 2576

By EFT: Account name: AGHS
BSB: 012 547 **Account Number:** 237 514 077

- Include the following reference information
10 March and 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 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 after the booking closing date (3 March).

Enquiries: Lyn Barrett 4862 3442

For AGHS Membership Application
www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au