

INFLORESCENCE

JANUARY 2020



Events 2020—for your diary:

Sunday 23 February 11.15 am to 4.00 pm	Long Sunday Lunch at The Stables, Bendooley Estate: Meet at Book Barn carpark for private tour. See booking form on page 5.
PLEASE NOTE:	if you have already booked and have dietary requirements, please let Lyn Barrett know (4862 3442).
Sunday 22 March 2.30 am to 4.30 pm	40 th Anniversary Party and Tree Planting at SHBG. Free event for AGHS Members. See booking form on page 6.
18 & 19 April	SHBG (Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens): Open Gardens and Plant Fair Weekend
3 May	Helping Hands picnic <i>Tirranna Homestead</i> , Goulburn
21 June	Winter seminar
23 August	AGM Lunch and Speakers
September—Date to be advised	Opening of the Harpers Mansion Colonial Camellia Walk. Free event for AGHS Members
September—Date to be advised	Opening of the Berrima District Museum Exhibition. Free event for AGHS Members.
October 25 – 27	AGHS National Conference: Sydney
31 October to 2 November	Millthorpe Garden Ramble and Carcoar Tour
Friday 4 December 4.30 to 7.00 pm	Christmas Party

Letter from the National Management Committee Chairs

Dear Branch Chairs and NMC,

What a stressful and sad beginning to 2020. No state or territory appears to have been untouched by the enduring drought and now destructive fires and choking smoke. Thank you for the way in which you are supporting each other and in particular, owners and caretakers of historic gardens and our cultural landscapes. At our upcoming National Management Committee in February we will be asking your branch representatives to report on how your region has been affected and the most appropriate ways the Society can support and respond.

As we look forward to beginning our 40th Anniversary celebrations at our Virtual Garden Parties in March, we will be taking this opportunity to reflect on the lessons we have learnt in the last 40 years and how we can apply these optimistically in the future.

With our best wishes for 2020

Stuart Read and Bronwyn Blake

Fires—message from Lyn Barrett

This has been a terrible start to 2020. So far since spring, too many lives have been lost culminating in the tragic deaths of the American firefighters last week. The fires have impacted on several of our members. First and foremost, lives (human and wildlife) matter, property is secondary, but it is horrifying that NSW has lost 5 million acres to fires and we have another two months of the fire season to go. One beautiful garden that was devastated by the fire in Bundanoon belongs to Del and Derwood Cooley. Called *Jean Flora*, the garden has been admired over the years by many people and we sympathise with their loss. If you know of any garden that has been damaged by the fires, please let one of the committee members know— aghs.sh.info@gmail.com—or telephone Lyn at 4862 3442.

Congratulations Chris Webb OAM

Congratulations 2020 Australia Day Honours recipient Chris Webb OAM, Chairman of the SHBG Friends Committee and SHBG board Director—for his contribution to horticulture and the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens.

He has been a longstanding member of AGHS, joining the society in the early 1980s; he was elected to the Southern Highlands branch committee in 2001; and was chair from 2003 until after the annual conference held in the Southern Highlands in 2008. He served on the National Management Committee as NSW representative from 2005-2008. We are delighted that his considerable contribution to our community has been recognised.



Chris Webb

In the firing line

My grandfather built our house in 1902 and soon after, began planting the fruit trees he was very passionate about and which are now dotted around our garden.

We have spent the last few months watering furiously as the drought has bitten deeper and deeper and being adjacent to the Meryla State Forest, which hasn't been burnt for at least the last 40 years, it has been a little like living next to a time bomb. A ring of green lawn surrounding our home, garden beds full of nonflammable perennials, shrubs and many deciduous trees including our old fruit trees were really some of our best fire protection.

I have lived through a number of bad fire years. 1968, 1979, 1991, 2002 but nothing prepared us for this year. Since 1880 my family have seen bushfires rage past to the south, on their West to East trajectory. Only once have bush fires been seen around our home and that was in 1903 when a stray spark from a steam train in Werai started a fire which was to burn all the way to Kangaloon. When the Pyrocumulonimbus cloud formed on the 4th January we were unaware of the devastation it would unleash as it collapsed and the southerly roared in and spread the fire front all the way to Meryla, Bundanoon and Exeter. A previously unseen and unheard of event. The fire had come from the South!!



Photo taken from the Webb's verandah—pyrocumulonimbus cloud—looking out over the Meryla State Forest. One of Chris Webb's grandfather's pear trees in the bottom left corner. (Photo C. Webb)

We returned home on the 5th January after our unceremonious evacuation, in a light drizzle, we found everything intact although covered with a fine black ash and many whole burnt Eucalypt leaves. Now after a few days of rain the paddocks have greened, the birds and insects have returned and our garden and old fruit trees have breathed a sigh of relief. How resilient is nature?

Chris Webb OAM

Photos from the Christmas Party

Members and guests enjoyed a wonderful party in Jeanne Villani's Bowral home and garden on Friday 6 December 2019. The weather was perfect—the garden looked beautiful (recently redesigned by Chris Webb) with the new beds filled with all sorts of lovely plants, and the old trees provided a welcome canopy.



Jeanne Villani (photos M. Probyn)



Stuart Read (new co-chair of the AGHS National Mangament Committee)



Lyn Barrett



Annette Lane and Charlotte Webb



Pamela Tallents and Roslyn Burge



Pamela Bennett and Michelle Earl



Simon Grant, Stuart Read and Mariese Grant

Unique street planting of 18 *Camellia japonicas* in Bowral

The Southern Highlands Branch wants to know of any similar plantings as it wants to nominate this street planting for listing on the NSW State Heritage Register.

The camellias in Station Street Bowral are at risk because Wingecarribee Shire Council proposes to realign Station Street and the camellias are in the way.

The camellias are part of a recent landscape listing by the National Trust. They have been described by Dr Stephen Utick, Chair of the International Camellia Society Committee for Historic Camellia Conservation as 'a unique 19th century collection representing an important part of Garden History in the Southern Highlands.'¹ They include some rare cultivars such as 'Jouvan'.

The Southern Highlands Branch believes that the collection may have significance at State level because of the rarity of the use of camellias for a municipal street planting. If members are aware of any other examples of camellias being planted as street trees could they please contact the Southern Highlands Branch Chair, Lynette Barrett (phone 0248633442, email jb39802@hotmail.com, or Laurel Cheetham phone 0407907622, email laurelcheetham@gmail.com).

Station St Camellia Working Bee

We are planning to hold a working bee to tend to the camellias at Station Street. Peter and Margaret Chadwick have been watching over them throughout this summer—you may even have seen Peter with his ute watering them. Margaret rang Wingecarribee Shire Council and asked if Council could water them during the heatwave conditions and an officer replied, 'They are on Railway land and I needed to contact the railway or you could put some buckets on them.' Margaret wrote to us and said: "Peter and I have been so so concerned since 2018 for the survival of this Historic Collection that we could not let them die. Peter went at 6am several mornings and watered them all

¹ Utick, Dr. S, *Inflorescence*, December 2016.

with the solo bin and very large bucket. He was approached by a railway employer early one morning and Peter asked him if we could have a hose from the railway but was told they are only able to use a bucket due to water restrictions.”



Peter Chadwick and his watering device (photo P. Chadwick)



Peter Chadwick . . .

Neither Council nor the Railway will accept responsibility for the plants. We believe the camellias are on Council land, but WSC says it's Railway land—we need permission to carry out our proposed work—weeding,

mulching. We will keep you informed of our plans and would much appreciate if you would volunteer to help.

Long Sunday Lunch: The Stables, Bendooley Estate

The first event for 2020 will be a **Long Sunday Lunch** on 23 February 2020 at The Stables, Bendooley Estate 3020 Old Hume Hwy, Berrima NSW 2577. We will be meeting at the Book Barn at 11.15 am for a private tour of the old Bendooley homestead garden before moving to The Stables for lunch.

David Stuart and John Swainston are our two speakers. David is a former Ambassador to Austria who will tell the story of Ferdinand Bauer and his journey with Matthew Flinders. John will explain how to get the best photographs from our cameras.

Please book as early as possible —booking form Page 5

Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens

Support for Wingecarribee Shire Rural Fire Services



As a local community organisation we know how supportive and generous this community is in supporting others. The bushfire emergency has affected us all and our local Rural Fire Service needs our help.

Please gather up friends and family to enjoy the award winning “Hidden Figures” from 6pm. Bring your own chair and picnic rug for a catered picnic dinner.

Bar facilities available.

All proceeds to Wingecarribee Shire Rural Fire Services

Donations will be made directly to each of the 19 rural fire brigades in the Wingecarribee Shire, including Alpine, Avoca, Balmoral, Berrima, Bundanoon, Burrawang,

Canyonleigh, Colo Vale, Exeter, Hilltop, Mandemar, Mittagong, Moss Vale, Penrose, Robertson, Wingello, Wollondilly, Woodlands and Yerrinbool.

Facilities will be available on the night to make donations. Although Eftpos facilities will be available, processing fees will apply. Use of donated funds will be at the discretion of each fire brigade.

On Saturday 15 February 2020 at 6:00pm

Venue: Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens, 1 Old South Rd, BOWRAL, NSW 2576

Earth Hour Sculpture in the Gardens

Saturday 28 March @ 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm



Artists, established and aspiring, are invited to enter our inaugural Sculpture in the Garden exhibition and competition. As the centre piece for our Earth Hour event in March 2020, sculptures are to include 80% recycled materials. Prizes offered, including People's choice. So, work on something inspiring, enter the competition and bring your friends to vote on Earth Hour. Heidi McGeogh's work for 2018 Earth Hour is shown in this photo, courtesy of Brian Rapsey.

Venue

Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens
1 Old South Rd, Bowral, NSW 2576
Phone: 02 4861 4899

Welcome to new members

Kathryn Harding, Jennifer McCormac, Joanne McGrath, Lesley Pearl, Robyn Wheeler

AGHS Southern Highlands Branch Committee

Chair & NMC Rep: Lyn Barrett
Treasurer: John Biffin
Secretary: Jennifer McCormac
Tours: Ray Bradley
Research: Ruth Bailey
Guest Editor: Meg Probyn

Email: aghs.sh.info@gmail.com

Booking Form for the Long Sunday Lunch

**at The Stables, Bendooley Estate
3020 Old Hume Hwy, Berrima NSW 2577**

Sunday 23 February 2020: 11.30 - 4.00 pm

Your name/s:

Non-members name/s:

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Your email:

Your Phone:

Cost per person	Numbers attending	Amount Included \$
AGHS Members \$65 Non-members \$70		
Please Note: Drinks are available from the bar at own cost.		
	TOTAL	

Please advise Lyn Barrett of any Dietary Requirements.

Payment Options:

By Cheque: payable to Australian Garden History Society: PLEASE NOTE – USE OUR FULL NAME (Australian Garden History Society).

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
23 February 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 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 bookings close on 17 February 2020.

Enquiries: Lyn Barrett 4862 3442



Happy 40th Anniversary

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Australian Garden History Society an exciting range of events and projects are planned around the theme

People, Plants and Places

One of the highlights of the year will be an Australia-wide Virtual Garden Party when eight regional Branches will host parties. The Southern Highlands Branch party will take place at the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens:

Sunday 22 March 2020
2.30pm - 4:30pm

Several trees will be planted to commemorate the event.
Current AGHS members have free entry.
Non-member entrance fee is \$10.00.

Please book early!!



Booking Form for the 40th Anniversary Party

at The Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens
Corner of Old South Road and Kangaloon Roads Bowral
NSW 2576

Sunday 22 March 2020:

Your name/s:

Non-members name/s:

Your email:

Your Phone:

Cost per person	Numbers attending	Amount Included \$
AGHS Members ***Free		
Non-members \$10		
	TOTAL	

*****For catering purposes, members wishing to attend, please send an email to aghs.sh.info@gmail.com and advise of any dietary requirements.**

Payment Options for Non-members:

By Cheque: payable to Australian Garden History Society: PLEASE NOTE – USE OUR FULL NAME (Australian Garden History Society).

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
22 March 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 booking details to aghs.sh.info@gmail.com

Please Note: No tickets will be issued.

For catering purposes no refunds can be given for cancellations after bookings close on 13 March 2020.

No late bookings accepted.

Enquiries: Ruth Bailey 04 09126718
email: ruthbailey1428@gmail.com