

INFLORESCENCE

JULY 2019

Forthcoming events 2019— for your diary:

July 28 (Sunday)	Recording Gardens Workshop 10–3pm
August 18 (Sunday)	AGM 2 pm to 4.30 pm
September 19-26	Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers:
October 25 - 27	AGHS National Conference: Wellington New Zealand
October 27	Harper's Mansion Plant Fair AGHS promotion stand
November 6	Full Day Bus trip—guided tour of the Arboretum in Canberra. (Further details will be in the next newsletter.)
December 6	Christmas Party: 4.30 to 6.30 pm

Recording Gardens Workshop

Sunday 28 July 2019:

Previously advertised in the May Inflorescence. Contact Annabel Murray if you haven't already booked and would like to attend. Her email is annabel_murray@me.com or (T) 0427 273 302

Bookings will close on 23rd July.

Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers

September 19 - 26

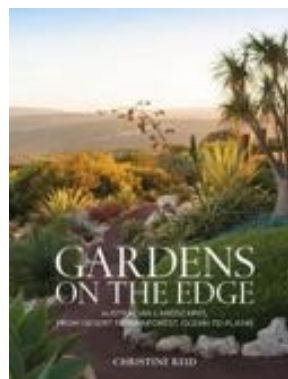
Seats are still available – no bookings can be accepted after 25 July—contact Ray Bradley urgently if you would like to join this tour. (E) aghs.sh.info@gmail.com or (T) 4861 4090.

AGM

Sunday 18 August 2019: 2 pm - 4.30 pm

East Bowral Community Centre, 71 Boardman Rd (behind the Scottish Arms), East Bowral NSW 2576

We are delighted to announce the three speakers for this event: Christine Reid, Dr Narelle Bownern and Geoff Goodfellow.



Christine Reid will talk on her new book: *Gardens on the Edge: A journey through Australian landscapes*

"In breath-taking images and insightful essays, Gardens on the Edge explores 18 Australian gardens that are defined by extraordinary horizons. Each of the featured landscapes—from every state and territory, from outback to city – is situated on the edge

of a natural frontier: rainforest, desert, bushland, river, mountain range, volcanic crater lake, coast, harbour, saltbush plains.

In another sense, Australian gardens and their owners are always 'on the edge' in dealing with the endless vagaries of nature, from drought to dust, fires to flood. In telling the stories of these gardens, Christine Reid reveals the diversity and character of the Australian continent—and celebrates the imagination and resilience of those who have met the challenges of creating, reconstructing or restoring their 'vision' splendid' in an ancient and often-unforgiving land."



As a garden writer with a wide-ranging background in newspapers and magazines, Christine's principal interest is the social and cultural history of gardens and designed landscapes, historic and contemporary.

Her extensive writings on gardens appear in major lifestyle magazines in both Australia and the UK. She has been the Australian contributor

to the English publication *Gardens Illustrated* since 1998.

Christine has also been writer and consulting editor for many international garden books, including *The Oxford Companion to the Garden* (Oxford University Press, 2006) and *The Gardeners' Garden* (Phaidon, 2014).

Dr Narelle Bown is a local historian. After a career in Medical Research and Public Health, she now researches



Southern Highlands history. Past projects have included a history of Koyong School, Moss Vale Road Names, The Doctors and Hospitals of Moss Vale, and

a listing of the plants and trees used in Claude Crowe's garden designs. She is currently researching the origin of local placenames. Recently she published an article on the subject of her talk—**Aboriginal People of the Southern Highlands**.

"When Europeans first came to settle in the Southern Highlands, it was already inhabited by Aboriginal people the Europeans called 'The Bong Bong Tribe'. Who were they, what was their language, and what happened to them? This talk is about the known history of the Bong Bong area, and the people who inhabited it from 1820 to about 1860."

The third talk is on **Old Bong Bong Township** and the

speaker is **Geoff Goodfellow**—he grew up on the family sheep grazing property at Bullio near the Wollondilly River, west of Mittagong, before going off to boarding school for six years, then began working for Wingecarribee Shire Council in 1970. Geoff left there 40 years later, after a fulfilling local government career,



to join the ranks of people enjoying retirement in the Southern Highlands.

Geoff was the Council's customer service and media manager and has a genuine interest in both local Highlands history and the future of what was once known as the Berrima District. His interests also run to travel and gardening, with a productive food garden as a backyard in Moss Vale.

Geoff Goodfellow says, "Did you know that the very first European township in the Southern Highlands wasn't Mittagong, Bowral, Moss Vale or even Berrima, but Bong Bong beside the Wingecarribee River north of Moss Vale." He will tell us about the 'Old Bong Bong Township', which was established by Governor Macquarie in 1822. Geoff is the deputy chair of the Bong Bong Common Management Committee and he probably qualifies as a local, with his great-grandparents resting peacefully under the trees beside the beautiful old Bong Bong Church.

Boral Cement Works: Tree Management Plan

On 24 May 2019, Chris and Charlotte Webb presented the Boral Cement Works at New Berrima with a tree management plan (funded by the AGHS Southern Highlands branch) for the Sorensen garden.

The Boral Cement Works project was first discussed in 2015 when the AGHS National Management Committee requested all the branches to prepare a list of 'Landscapes at Risk' as part of the Society's mission to promote awareness and conservation of significant gardens and cultural landscapes through engagement, research, advocacy and activities.

The criteria for 'at risk' are:

- Active current threat (development approved/ lack of heritage listing or consideration of landscape heritage, lack of protection during development);
- Potential future threat (development, neglect, poor management);
- Lack of champions (community protest, unaware, Council/manager uninterested).

The Southern Highlands branch decided that the areas of concern in our area were the plantings at the Boral Cement works—the garden designed in the 1930s by Paul Sorensen—and Sutton Forest landscape.

Sorensen Industrial Landscape: Berrima 1930s

On Tuesday 13 October 2015, eight members of the society participated in the site assessment and tree inventory.

The following report was written by Jo de Beaujeu and Laurel Cheetham (*Inflorescence* December 2015).

"The morning commenced with a mandatory site induction. After which we were issued with a Plant Access Permit, given an orange high visibility vest and hardhat to wear before returning to our cars and driving back to the site in Berrima Road. The site position can be viewed from Berrima Road, lying between the road and the rail crossing on the Moss Vale side, identified by a white fence, which now blocks the original entrance to the cement works.

Site assessment Over the next three hours we slowly covered the site, walking through long grass while attempting to avoid the numerous rabbit warrens. Laurel Cheetham volunteered for the task of plotting the position of each tree and, led by Charlotte and Chris Webb, the majority of the trees were identified, their state of health (some surrounded by a dense growth of suckers, others obviously badly affected by accumulated dust from the plant and neglect) and approximate height were recorded.



The site assessment 2015 (photos Charlotte Webb)

We found the majority of trees had survived particularly well considering their age, having been planted over seventy years ago.



Examining the trees on site 2015

THE SORENSON GARDEN was designed to provide a formal, landscaped main entrance to the cement works and the surroundings of the original administration building (now demolished).

Most of the trees and many of the shrubs remain today and in our recording we noted the avenues of flowering pink *Prunus serrulata* along the driveway entrances, the copper beeches (*Fagus sylvatica* Purpurea Group), crab apples (*Malus* sp) and Japanese maples in the triangle between these driveways and the building site, and the stands of copper beech, desert ash (*Fraxinus angustifolius*), pin oak (*Quercus palustris*), sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*), and cedar (*Cedrus* sp) around it.

Approaching the entrance from the south, the view of "the works" is shielded by a row of cypress (*Taxodium distictum*) with weeping ash (*Fraxinus excelsior Aurea Pendula*), weeping elm (*Ulmus glabra Pendula*), golden elm and elm planted further up on the southern side of the southern driveway.

The northern side is more open with a copper beech and a very large golden weeping ash close to the fence. Further back on this side are groupings of *Prunus*, hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp), strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*), crab apples and pin oaks. In the centre behind (and above) the building site are groupings of conifers and pines such as blue spruce (*Picea pungens Glauca*), *Abies* sp, Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and *Cupressus torulosa*, while other conifers identified elsewhere include golden Chinese juniper (*Juniperus chinensis 'Aurea'*), golden *Thuja* sp, *Cupressus macrocarpa* and *C. arizonica*. Privets of various varieties, cotoneaster, hibiscus, eucalypts and liquidambar (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) were also recorded around the building site and to the north and south of it."

Subsequently a great deal of work was done checking the accuracy of the notes—by Laurel Cheetham and John Barrett—and then the Webbs took the project over. We are delighted that the report *Boral New Berrima Sorensen Garden Tree Management Plan and Tree identification Plan* was completed this year.



24 May 2019 Under the canopy of the *Taxodium distichum* (Swamp Cypress), Chris and Charlotte Webb, Rob Zervos (Boral representative), Lyn Barrett (Chair of the AGHS SH branch)

At Harper's Mansion

The Heritage Camellia Collection at Harper's Mansion is being sponsored by AGHS (Southern Highlands branch) and our branch has given a donation to cover the cost of the first fifteen botanical labels.



Presenting the cheque to the Harper's Mansion garden management team.

Standing: Lyn Barrett, Chris Thompson, Keith Walker-Smith, Tina Burgess. Sitting: Eric Savage, Anthea Walker-Smith, Clive West

Great News from the National Trust!



National Trust (NSW) has listed the landscape at the northern entrance to Bowral—the listed landscape includes the avenue of pin oaks (*Quercus palustris*) that welcome residents and visitors to Bowral, the camellias and trachyte terracing between the railway station car park and Station Street, and

the War Memorial Park between Bong Bong Street and Station Street.

The pin oaks were planted in 1937 by children from local schools, the Girl Guides and the Boy Scouts to commemorate the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth as King and Queen of the United Kingdom and the then Dominions of the British Commonwealth, and as the then Emperor and Empress of India.

The Statement of Significance states that “Station Street has rarity as an intact example of early to mid-20th century town planning. It also has historic associations with people who were instrumental in the development of Bowral including Lady Hordern and nurserymen Claude Crowe and PLC Shepherd and is also demonstrative of the civic response to the Great Depression through Council-sponsored Relief Work.”

It was noted that the four-level dry-stone trachyte wall terrace built in 1936, the four street lamps installed in 1935 and the planted camellias are all integral to the heritage landscape—they were constructed/ planted together by local relief workers funded by a NSW State Government grant with the work managed by Bowral Council.

The present camellias along Station Street form a unique camellia collection representing an important part of garden history in the Southern Highlands including NSW colonial heritage cultivars. Contained within this historic collection is one extremely rare and endangered specimen of NSW colonial garden heritage, the *Camellia japonica* ‘Jourvan’, developed by prominent NSW nursery pioneer Michael Guilfoyle (1808-1884) of Guilfoyle’s Exotic Nursery of Double Bay. Other camellia plantings include a rare formal double ‘Orandako’ 1739, Japan and the well known ‘Aspasia Macarthur’ 1848 from the Camden Park Estate.

Editor’s note: More research is currently being undertaken—

- *which were the original camellias planted and are any of them still there?*
- *when were replacement/additional plantings of camellias made, and by whom?*
- *what was Claude Crowe’s role in the camellia plantings and their nurturing?*

Thanks to Margaret Chadwick, Linda Emery, Laurel Cheetham, Nick Corbett and Stephen Utick.

Report from the AILA Landscape Heritage Group

Professor Emeritus Helen Armstrong AM FAILA, Craig Burton FAILA, Oi Choong FAILA, Matthew Taylor FAILA, Annabel Murray

Outstanding public places are increasingly subjected to development pressure. What is needed is ‘big picture thinking’ to reflect how people value landscape; including intangible qualities such as; Connection to Country, interconnected systems, cultural diversity and biodiversity, human health and wellbeing and regenerative land management. Places artfully modified by people, tested by time, have been proactively identified in a recent study, generously supported by NSW Heritage, and guided by the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA)(NSW) Landscape Heritage Group, to underpin conservation efforts.

The study, prepared by Christine Hay, Colleen Morris and James Quoye, The AILA (NSW) Landscape Heritage Report by Hay, Morris and Quoye was awarded Winner, Conservation: Landscape. Congratulations to all involved. It is now available on the AILA website. The study begins a collaborative process, in a shift to whole of landscape thinking, commencing at bioregional scale and beginning with the Sydney Basin. The ‘landscape lens’ methodology “successfully broadens long-held limitations defining curtilage beyond cadastral boundaries to visual and water catchments” (National Trust Award Citation).

A workshop was conducted to identify significant places for listing. The nominations derived from the workshop findings included landscape places in Sydney Harbour, linked together as a ‘Green Necklace’ of potential State Heritage significance, on a list usually dominated by objects and buildings. Ten nominations were submitted for State Heritage Register (SHR) listing in December 2018, based on the findings of the study;

1. Greater Royal National Park
2. Berry Island Reserve
3. Wollstonecraft Foreshore Reserves
4. Balls Head Reserve
5. Berrys Bay Precinct - Carradah Park
6. Ballast Point Park
7. Yurulbin
8. Gladesville Hospital Landscape
9. Lang Park
10. Elizabeth Bay House and Landscape Setting

Informing the study is a list of significant places, compiled by Professor Craig Burton, adapted from his four decades of University teaching—including a quarter of a century teaching the History of Australian Landscape Design.



AILA NSW LANDSCAPE HERITAGE REPORT • VOLUMES 1 & 2

TEN STATE HERITAGE REGISTER NOMINATIONS
CASE STUDY: SYDNEY HARBOUR

Christine Hay Colleen Morris James Quoye

11 June 2018

The status of these SHR nominations is currently uncertain. AILA Landscape Heritage Group holds grave concern for the future of landscape heritage protection in New South Wales. The power of State Significant Projects to override heritage value, the weakening of the E P & A Act, changes to the Crown Lands Act, and allowances for land clearing in bush fire prone areas have all contributed to devastating impacts on heritage landscapes such as the loss of the iconic fig trees

along the route of the new Light Rail project throughout Randwick and urban sprawl on the Cumberland Plain.

City of Sydney Councillor, Architect, Urban Designer and co-author of *Public Sydney: Drawing the City*, Professor Philip Thalys referred to these losses in his address to the 25th Annual National Trust Awards. This can be found under 'news' on the National Trust website. The *AILA (NSW) Landscape Heritage Report* by Hay, Morris and Quoye was awarded Winner, Conservation: Landscape—unknown to Thalys at the time of writing. This recognition of how people value landscape and understand heritage has now caught the attention of The Honorable Don Harwin MLC, Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts.

As development pressure and land value increases, AILA Landscape Heritage Group implores the NSW Government to ensure all Ministers are briefed on the significance of landscape heritage and ensure its protection for future generations. The benefits of protecting heritage landscapes build triple bottom line resilience into the future: attractiveness for tourism around a world class city with integrated open space, active recreation and transportation, cooling the urban heat-island effect, supporting healthy ecosystems, mitigating flooding, increasing evapo-transpiration, fostering liveability, facilitating social cohesion and promoting wellbeing. AILA Landscape Heritage Group urges all levels of Government to allocate capital expenditure towards integrating an understanding of landscape heritage across all levels of planning processes such as the Greater Sydney Commission and its Green, Blue and Ochre Grids, 'big picture' thinking that can be applied in rural, regional and peri-urban places.

Matthew Taylor, Chair of AILA Landscape Heritage Group, congratulates the consultant team, Christine Hay, Colleen Morris and James Quoye, "The award reflects much time, energy, interest and dedication in the pursuit of excellence and the study will form an integral part of the further recognition of landscape architecture as an important and vital profession." All three of the authors and two of the AILA Landscape Heritage Group are actively involved in The Australian Garden History Society, further promoting awareness of significant gardens and cultural landscapes.



Robert Boulton, Christine Hay, Colleen Morris, Margaret Betteridge, James Quoye at the National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards in May.

Garden Plans

Attention all garden owners!! Have you had plans drawn up for your garden and would you be willing to provide a copy to be used for research and exhibition purposes? We are hoping to collect a data source for an exhibition of Southern Highlands Gardens as part of our 40th Anniversary. The idea is to have the original plans and photos, and then a digital drone over the garden to see the development.

Supporting Walling

Our branch is currently supporting a student writing a paper on Edna Walling and the property *Markdale* at Crookwell. There is always so much interest in Edna Walling (1895-1973)—arguably Australia's best-known and most influential landscape designer. Born in England, her family first migrated to New Zealand and thence to Victoria, where Walling began her career in 1919 after graduating from Burnley Horticultural College.

She developed a passion for Australian plants—evident when we visited Bickleigh Vale village during the Victoria tour organised by Ray Bradley. Her focus was to ensure that there was a unity between house and garden, and although her style changed very little throughout her career (her use of stone, for example, especially in low fences or walls, her love of pergolas, steps and paths) each garden is unique.



Markdale

If you think you might have an Edna Walling garden, please let us know. There's probably more information available about Walling than about almost any other designer in Australia:

- P. Watts, *The Gardens of Edna Walling* (Melb, 1981)
- B. Hall and J. Mather, *Australian Women Photographers 1840-1960* (Melb, 1986)
- T. Dixon and J. Churchill, *Gardens in Time: In the Footsteps of Edna Walling* (Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1988)
- T. Dixon and J. Churchill, *The Vision of Edna Walling* (Melb, 1998)
- Richard Aitken and Michael Looker (eds), *The Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens* (Royal Australian Historical Society, 2003)

Gift to SHBG

In lieu of cash payment for the entry fee into the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens for the attendees at the AGHS conference in October 2018, we presented the SHBG with a voucher from Downes Wholesale Nursery (one of our major Conference sponsors). Charlotte and Chris Webb put our voucher towards the purchase of seven *Acer rubrum* 'October Glory', which were planted along the driveway from the current main entrance on 2nd July 2019.

The most popular of the Lipstick range of maples, this very beautiful deciduous tree originates in Canada and has an upright habit. (Its name should probably be changed to 'April Glory' for southern hemisphere gardens.) The colour of the leaves begins with green in the spring, then in autumn turns to a dark pinkish-red, which develops to crimson or dark orange-red. The undersides of the leaves also change from grey in the spring to pinkish in the autumn.

It is usually one of the last to change to its autumn colour and usually holds its leaves longer into the season. It has an oval to rounded shape in its maturity. There are examples of this tree in Bowral (in front of the Library) and it is featured in many of the courtyards in Parliament House in Canberra. (Height 10-12 m and width 7-9 m.)



Chris Webb, Clive Probyn and Charlotte Webb



Plantings on the driveway at the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens with Chris, Charlotte and Clive - 2nd July 2019

Other Coming Events

Kite Flying Workshop 11 August 2019 Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens

Fun for all the family with a workshop building and flying kites. Suitable for all ages—young and old. \$15 per person attending the workshop, including general admission, kite kit, construction & decorating. Refreshments and Sausage sizzle available. Balloon sculpting & Face painting. General Admission \$2: Workshop bookings \$15.

National Wildflower Conference in Albany, Western Australia, 29 Sept – 4 Oct 2019

The Wildflower Society of Western Australia is hosting the Blooming Biodiversity Conference in Albany, Western Australia in 2019. **Blooming Biodiversity** will celebrate the magnificent flora of the South West region of Western Australia. Greg Keighery is the keynote speaker, and Professor Stephen Hopper will deliver the A. J. Swaby Address which is a highlight of the Conference week.

The website address for full Conference details is: www.bloomingbiodiversity.com.au

Is there a Doctor in the House?

As part of our risk assessment for events, the AGHS national office has asked us to identify any personnel within our membership who could provide prompt safe first aid. The branch is applying for a grant from NMO and will go 50/50 in the cost of purchasing any appropriate first aid items.

Events in the area

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

Nominations are sought for Committee

There are only five members on the committee and we really require two new members to join so that we can continue to bring you an appropriate range of events, enabling us to support the work of the AGHS in conserving, maintaining and recording landscapes and gardens in our particular patch.

DON'T FORGET: 2020 is the 40th anniversary of AGHS and volunteers will be needed for special projects like oral history collection, movie-making and whatever may be of interest to you.

Please consider joining the committee—contact Lyn Barrett (4862 3442) if you would like to discuss further.

The Nomination form is on the following page.

AGHS Southern Highlands Branch Committee

Chair & NMC Rep:	Lyn Barrett
Treasurer:	John Biffin
Secretary:	Elisabeth Heard
Tours:	Ray Bradley
Research:	Annabel Murray
Guest Editor:	Meg Probyn
Email: aghs.sh.info@gmail.com	

Booking Form for AGM

Sunday 18 August 2019: 2 – 4 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 \$25		
Non-members \$35 (Children free)		
	TOTAL	

Payment Options:

Trybooking – (plus a 50c booking fee)

Trybooking link: <https://www.trybooking.com/BDVIT>

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

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
18 August 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: Unless you book by Trybooking, 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 13 August.

Enquiries: Lyn Barrett 4862 3442

Nomination Form

For the 2019/2020 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 SH Branch:
PO Box 2317, Bowral NSW 2576

or

aghs.sh.info@gmail.com

by 1.45 pm 18 August 2019

For AGHS Membership Application
www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au