

Inflorescence

March 2024

The Newsletter of the Southern Highlands Branch of the AGHS



Events for 2024

<p>Berrima District Museum 1 (A) Market Place Berrima</p> <p>Now open Friday, Saturday and Sundays</p>	<p>Come and see Gardens and Landscapes in the Southern Highlands Then and Now</p>
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Upcoming Tours and Events 2024

17 April Garden Visit to Upper Woodlands

**27 and 28 April Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens
Autumn Fair**

7, 8 & 9 May coach tour to NSW South Coast

Report from the Chair

By the number of members who attended the Empire Cinema showing of *The Gardener* in late February which AGHS-SHB sponsored with the National Trust, it seems such an event is a popular one. We hope to repeat this next year with yet another engaging movie!

We are always interested in new places to visit both within our branch geography and outside (especially one day coach tours) as this still falls with the mission of the AGHS. We promote knowledge of historic gardens, significant landscapes and research into their history. We aim to examine gardens and gardening in their widest social, historic, literary, artistic and scientific context. So the scope is wide so please let us know of places you feel would be of interest to our branch members.

As we are expanding our membership every few months the Committee has decided to place red dots on the badges of new members or those who have joined in the last 6-12 months. Please let us know if you would like a red dot on your badge as it's a talking point when you meet longer term members. I'm sure they would be happy to help you feel welcome to the SH Branch.

An important reminder! Please register for the National Conference in Bunbury WA (then tours to Margaret River Valley) on 8 April if you would like to attend. These registrations are always in high demand with only 200 places available. Registration will fill in 1-2 days so don't delay!

We are hoping to broaden the exposure of the AGHS in our community especially with those who don't know anyone in the society. We are making copies available of

the AGHS Journal which can be borrowed from the Bowral Library. Copies will also be held in the Local Studies Library.

Bud has been busy yet again providing historical as well as current articles which should be of interest to everyone. Trish Arbib has written a wonderful history of The Bundanoon Village Nursery, which many of you may have frequented in times gone by; Dr. Conni Lord (an Egyptologist) who volunteers at the BDHS Museum in Berrima, has elegantly described the gardens and plants of Ancient Egypt and showed how we in the Southern Highlands have an affinity with the ancient Egyptians!

While we understand there is pressure on housing availability because of current high immigration, the latest housing "reforms" of the NSW Labor Government to encourage high and medium density development will effectively "turn off" heritage and environmental protection in 43 local government areas where land is close to railway stations and town centres. This applies to Greater Sydney, from the Hunter to the Shoalhaven and out to the Blue Mountains. It will potentially impact on two thirds of NSW's heritage listed items. At this stage it does not apply to Wingecarribee. The National Trust has penned a strong submission to the Government (see the link in this newsletter) advocating for a commonsense approach where heritage is protected as part of a better planned solution to increase housing supply rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. Disturbing reading for those who love the heritage sites and the cultural landscapes in this State.

AGHS-SHB was pleased to learn that the Land and Environment Court dismissed the appeal to a deemed refusal by WSC for a dual occupancy construction and subdivision at 33 Boolwey St in the Glebe area of Bowral. Cross functional teamwork by multiple groups allowed this decision to be made and we are thrilled with the outcome. The link to the final decision is contained with the newsletter.

We bid farewell to Jeanne Villani on 3 March at a memorial service on what would have been her 90th birthday. Jeanne was a strong member of the Sydney AGHS Branch followed by AGHS-SHB for over 20 years hosting many events at Waterfall Cottage and at Highdown. Her amazing life has been documented by Stuart Reid and is a fabulous acknowledgement of the impact Jeanne had on many different communities.

Best wishes,

Ruth

Bundanoon Village Nursery History 1982 to 2010

The multi facets of an old fashioned nursery

By Trisha Arbib

From a tiny terrace house in Sydney's Taylor Square to a 2 acre property in Bundanoon. From being a farmer, a cook and a literary agent (Howard Nicholson), and an education researcher (me) to being nursery people. Part time work in local nurseries and a 3 year part time Horticulture certificate at Wollongong TAFE followed for me.

Our house was built in 1915 or 1918 and had been a guest house Benachie in the 1930's.

In 1982 we opened Bundanoon Herb Farm at weekends, selling mostly culinary herbs at a time when many people were not confident about cooking with fresh home grown herbs.

To make a living, in 1991 we extended the nursery size, and the range of plants to scented and cottage garden plants and unusual vegetables and fruit trees. A specialist nursery, not a small general nursery and it became Bundanoon Village Nursery. We styled ourselves "an old fashioned nursery in a garden setting".



The pots were around our home. A big appeal of the nursery was that customers could wander around our garden to see how plants grew and to get ideas. And that we were always available to give advice, even to pulling out books for them to consult at our kitchen table. We enjoyed giving advice. We believe that we were the only nursery to offer a glass of sloe gin to customers considering buying a sloe tree!

Another good thing about having the nursery around our home was that you could even have friends for lunch as long as you were prepared to pop out as needed.

We sold fragrant rugosa roses, many rare flowering perennials, yellow raspberries, damsons, and heritage apples. Salad plants included the less usual lettuces, plus mizuna, mitsuba, chicories and rocket. This at a time when salad meant iceberg lettuce, cucumber and tomato, and rocket was not yet on the radar.



We took cuttings and seed and plant divisions from the garden as well as buying in plants. It wasn't a pristine garden centre, and there was no shop or allied products. Plants were displayed simply. Howard got big loads of pallets from Collins at Moss Vale. It amused him that they may have once supported piles of *Mills and Boon*. And we used Telecom cables which we felt had a sort of cute pixy look. This sort of old fashioned nursery is a real lifestyle and not just a job, and it is not a way to get rich.

Spring and autumn were the best seasons for selling, but winter was also an incredibly busy time of the year – for potting up and propagating. Perennials in our garden were dug up and divided, bare rooted trees, old fashioned roses, berries, rhubarb and asparagus, and bare rooted perennials came mostly from Victoria. All needed potting up.

We also had other activities allied to the nursery and our interest in edible plants. Each day was busy but we couldn't imagine anything we'd rather do.

For many years we ran one day classes, 10 to 12 people in our country kitchen and nursery garden; advertising in the SMH, with participants both local and from Sydney. As well as the herb class we had periodic classes on making jams; making citrus preserves including salted Moroccan lemons; chutneys, pickles and oven dried tomatoes; and one on pot pourri. A few classes for a Canberra foodie group, Taste Australia, and the local Slow Food convivium, and occasional visits from garden clubs.

**One day Course at
BUNDANOON VILLAGE NURSERY**

**Growing and Cooking
with HERBS, FLOWERS
exotic vegetables
and UNUSUAL SALADS**

of **Wednesday 13th March**
Saturday 16th March
of **Tuesday 19th March**

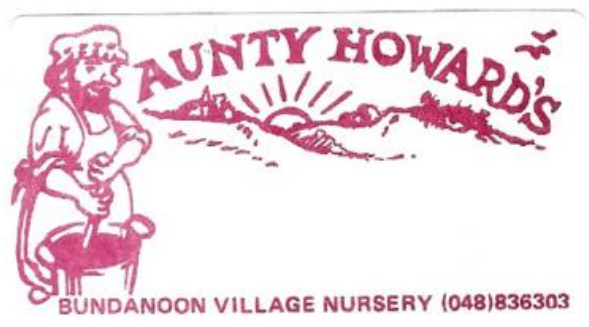
10am. to 4pm

Small classes
Talks, Demonstrations, Tastes
Printed Notes

Morning tea and lunch provided
\$50 for the day all inclusive
Sorry No Children

Enquiries to Trisha Arbib or Howard Nicholson
Bundanoon Village Nursery, 71 Penrose Rd. Bundanoon
N.S.W. 2578 Phone (048) 836303
Booking Essential

Howard was a very good jam and chutney maker. Aunty Howard's preserves sold well at our classes and nursery, in a Manuka Canberra deli and locally.



Howard picked a salad mix for some Southern Highland restaurants and for Scarlett's greengrocer at Burrawang.



There could be up to 60 different varieties in the mix including edible flowers and weeds, buckwheat flowers and leaves, at least 6 different chicories, herbs and lettuces. And every Saturday, for 3 or 4 months either Howard or I promoted a vegetable for David

Scarlett outside his greengrocer, giving tastes of 3 dishes and providing recipes.

Howard brought back a funny pearly white spiral vegetable called a Chinese artichoke, *Stachys tubifera*, from his trip to China in 1992 with Bob Cherry, a modern day plant collector. It had been in Australia in the 1960's but had since disappeared. After being quarantined and having built up the numbers, we sold it by mail order during the winter as well as in pots all year round. We also mailed out another tuber, the pink New Zealand yam or oca, *Oxalis tuberosa*.

And for a few years we sold our own seeds, collected from ornamental and edible plants in our garden.

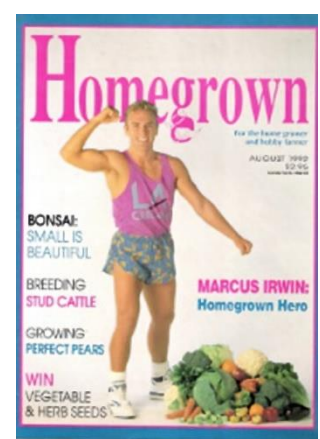


In conjunction with the nursery, Howard had a small internet book business, Cabbage Tree Books.

CABBAGE TREE BOOKS
BOOKS ON FOOD AND GARDENING
MOSTLY OLD AND OUT OF PRINT

Howard Nicholson
P.O. BOX 83, BUNDANOON 2578
PHONE (048) 836 303

Inspection by appointment only



From time to time we wrote for garden magazines, mostly on growing and cooking food. These included Homegrown, Grass Roots, Greenhouse Living, the Journal of the Australian Garden History, the Useful Garden, and our own JCG.

Journalists were intrigued by this sort of nursery and lifestyle. So that we also had articles written about us and the nursery in *Your Garden*, *High Life*, *Country Looks*, *Country Style*, *Vogue Entertaining*, *Australian Horticulture* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*.



Country Looks' story on our preserves.

TV's ABC Gardening Australia did three pieces on us with Mary Moody as presenter. Filming is shown here with the producer in the foreground, and with Howard cooking chicken and New Zealand yams (oca).



One ABC program was on Howard's collection of books on the early plant hunters in Asia, another on Chinese artichokes and New Zealand yams, and another on pickling vegetables. Each six minute segment took all day to film with a four person team of producer, presenter, cameraman and soundman.

We also had Channel 7's Sydney Weekender here filming me running a herb class.



Vogue Entertaining. One of three pages on our unusual vegetable/salad plants.



Looking back a few things stand out. This was a good way to live our lives: We were passionate about the plants, we were working together (for 26 years), we had variety in our working lives, and were meeting nice people. Some especially good friends were made through the nursery.

PLANTED WITH EVERY PLEASANT TREE: The Gardens and Plants of Ancient Egypt

By Conni Lord

Dr Conni Lord is an Egyptologist, who grew up playing, hiding and climbing the trees in the garden of her childhood home, Bidura (Merrigang St, Bowral). This was the beginning of her love of the gardens, especially those in the Southern Highlands and she was thrilled to find that the BDHS Museum in Berrima, where she is a volunteer, features a digital exhibition on this very subject albeit some years later in time!

This article brings together two of her favourite things, gardens and the beautiful material culture that the ancient Egyptians left behind.



Image of the garden of Nebamun from his tomb in Thebes.

When you think of ancient Egypt, it usually the hot, dry desert and the treasures that have been found beneath it that fill your mind. However, much as we do today, the ancient Egyptians loved lush colourful gardens that were made possible by the mighty Nile River running through the middle of the country. These gardens provided nourishment, relief from the brutal sun and were a place for lovers to meet.

Gardens in ancient Egypt were obviously important in a purely functional sense, producing the food needed for life and most houses, no matter where the owners stood in the social hierarchy, would have had a vegetable garden attached. Attached to temples, palaces and within the villas of the wealthy, gardens were for pleasure, with avenues of trees, pools of water, pretty herbaceous borders and pavilions for rest and contemplation. These gardens were formal in design and demonstrate the ancient Egyptian effort to domesticate, control and improve the natural world. Their layout changed very little throughout the over 2700 years of the pharaonic

period and were the frontrunners for gardens later in the Near East and Europe.

Gardens were so important to the ancient Egyptians that many of them were determined to enjoy them in death as well. As plants were strongly connected to the God of the Netherworld, Osiris, it makes sense that gardens remained a significant concept, even after death. We are fortunate that the ancient Egyptians left behind a great deal of evidence that enables us to see what plants were favoured and to reconstruct the some of these gardens of history. This evidence includes furniture inlays, amulets and jewellery, images on tomb and temple walls, as well as the botanical remains themselves, such as the beautifully preserved garlands and bouquets left in the tombs.



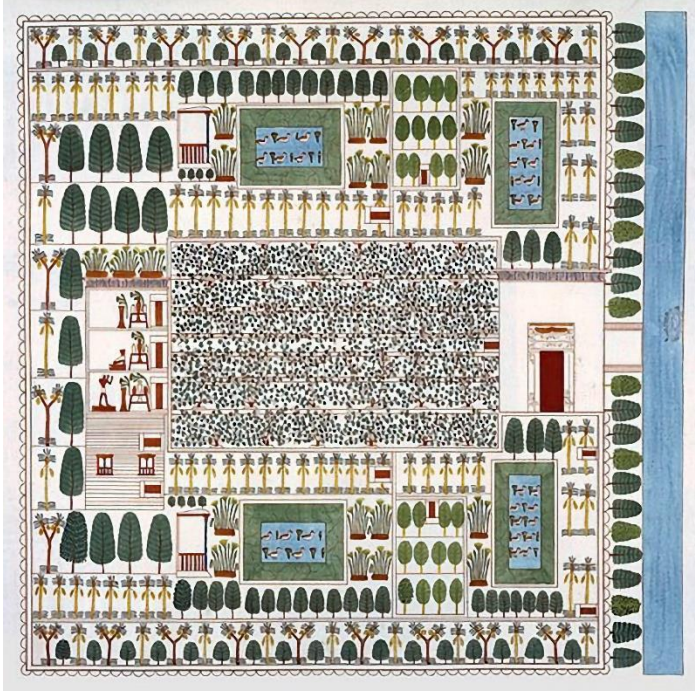
Image of bouquet from tomb of Tutankhamun – it is around 1.8m and was probably used in the funerary procession for the young king.

We also have information about the people who were responsible for the care of the large gardens connected to the temples and palaces. One such individual was a man called Sennefer who owns a stunning tomb in Thebes, famous for its painted grapevine ceiling.



Image of Sennefer's tomb ceiling.

Sennefer was an important high official during the reign of the Pharaoh Amenhotep II (1427-1400 BCE), who, among his many titles, was 'the Overseer of the Gardens of the god, Amun'. Sennefer was obviously proud of this role as, on the walls of his tomb, he included a detailed plan of the temple's garden.



Plan of the garden attached to the Temple of Amun.

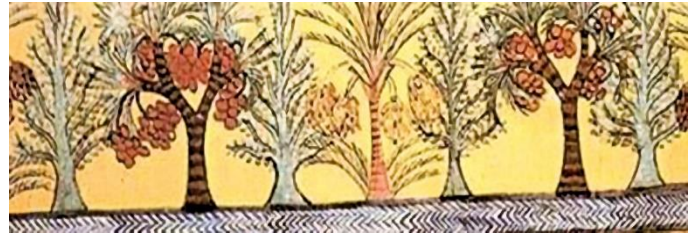
This plan displays the many important and repeated elements required within an ancient Egyptian garden, albeit in a much larger and grander fashion than most. Firstly, we can see that the entrance gate is beside the Nile River and arrival would be by boat. The garden is surrounded by a solid wall, keeping it hidden from view. There are four ponds with clumps of papyrus surrounding them; two of the ponds have shade pavilions beside them. In the heart of the garden, spread over a large area, was the god's vineyard, with grapes trained on railings and supports, making cool, shady tunnels.

The garden was divided into sections by walls, gates and avenues of trees, giving it a feeling of intimacy, rather than splendour. This garden was attached to one of the largest and most important temples in ancient Egypt, and while most gardens would not have been of this size or complexity, they would, however, contain the same important design elements, such as walls, pavilions, pools of water and avenues of trees for shade.

The choice of plants in ancient Egyptian gardens was not random but included a selection of trees and flowers that were not only beautiful and/or fruit bearer but also had spiritual significance.

Trees were the most important plants in the Egyptian landscape, they provided shade, food and building materials. There was a wide range of fruiting trees depicted in tombs and within the botanical remains, however the three most important trees appear to have been the date palm, the doum palm and the sycamore fig.

Other trees that were popular in Egypt have been identified as persea, tamarisk and olive, although this did not arrive until the New Kingdom (1550-1069 BCE), imported from Syria and Greece.



Sycamore fig, date palms and doum palms depicted in the tomb of Sennedjem.

The orchards of some officials must have been quite wonderful: in a list found in the tomb of the architect Ineni (1550-1295 BCE), he proudly lists all the trees in his garden that he made 'while on earth'. These included 73 sycamores, 170 date palms, 120 doum palms, as well as many persea, pomegranate, tamarisk, willow, carob and grapevines, all together the count was 459 trees.

Colourful herbaceous borders were also a common feature in ancient Egyptian gardens and, as with depictions of trees, there are three species of flowers that were shown again and again: poppies, cornflowers and mandrakes.



Poppies, mandrakes and cornflowers depicted in the tomb of Sennedjem.

The red (poppy), blue (cornflower) and yellow (mandrake fruit) would have made an eye-catching scene around pools of water, which themselves teamed with fish and bird life.

The most ubiquitous flower in ancient Egyptian floral iconography was, of course, the blue lotus, more correctly, the water lily (*Nymphaea caerulea*), although these terms are used interchangeably in the scholarly literature. The blue lotus/water lily was a potent symbol of the sun and its regenerative qualities, due to its pattern of closing its petals at the end of each day and dipping below the water's surface, much like the sun dips below the horizon at sunset. It would then, like the sun, emerge again in the morning. These flowers were a customary offering to the gods within their temples: one record stating that Ramesses III gave 3,410 bunches of lotus to the god Amun in Thebes.

In fact, the god Amun must have been especially fond of flowers, as the same record says that over a three-year period, Ramesses III presented the god, Amun with 1,975,800 floral bouquets.



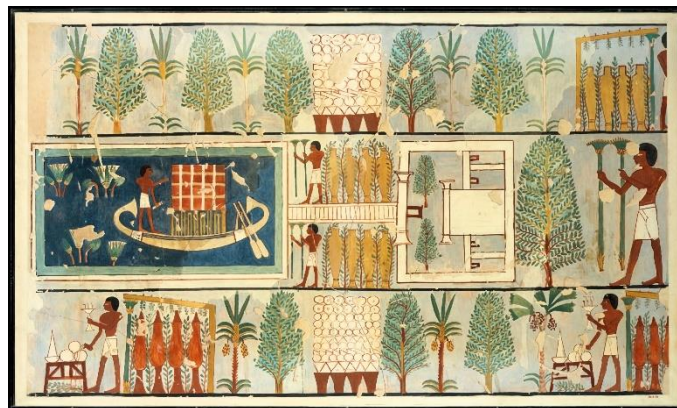
Nymphaea caerulea – known (inaccurately) as the blue lotus.

These complex and sometimes massive bouquets were the responsibility of ancient Egyptian florists, a role held in high esteem. One such florist was a man called Nakht, who demonstrated his pride in his role in his tomb with images of his finest bouquets. The roles of both gardener and florist were hereditary titles and two of Nakht's sons held the same title as their father, while his other two sons were gardeners of the floral offerings.



The Florist, Nakht, with one of his amazing creations.

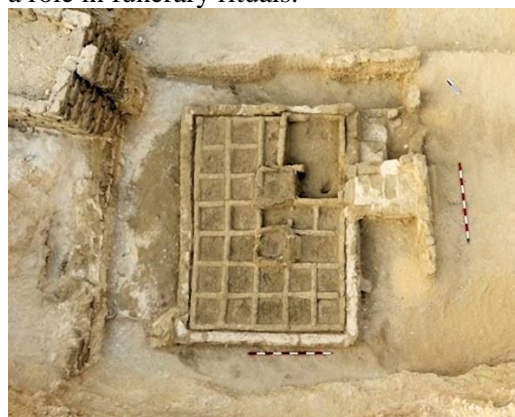
Gardens in ancient Egypt had an important role not just for the living but also for the dead, and even during the transition between the two. Some depictions of gardens show funerary rituals, such as can be seen in the garden of Minnakhte.



Funerary ritual in the garden of Minnakhte.

The garden contains all the important elements, such as the avenues of trees, in this case date palms and sycamore figs, buildings and a large oblong pool of water. It is in this pool, we can see a boat, which carries the statue of the deceased Minnakhte. This is met by men holding papyrus stems. Here, the pavilion is a tomb chapel, which includes a staircase leading to the pool. Around the garden, we see large jars of provisions, either for the funerary procession or for the nourishment of Minnakhte in the Afterlife.

In 2017, the first physical evidence for a funerary garden was found in Thebes (Luxor). Discovered by the Spanish National Research Centre, the garden was attached to a Middle Kingdom tomb (circa 2000 BCE). It measured 3m by 2m, neatly divided into a grid of smaller beds. Two beds in the centre of the grid were set higher than the others, suggesting they may have been for small trees. In one corner of the garden, archaeologists uncovered a tamarisk shrub still standing upright with roots attached. Next to this, they found a basket containing dates and other fruit, possibly there as an offering. The plants in the garden would have had symbolic meaning and played a role in funerary rituals.



Funerary garden attached to a 4000 year-old tomb at Thebes.

The function of an ancient Egypt garden was not dissimilar to our own. The ancient Egyptians enjoyed their shade and produce, picked flowers to adorn their houses and to give as gifts. They even saw their gardens as places they would be happy to spend the afterlife. It is quite wonderful think that although we are separated by millennia and 15,000 kilometres, many of us here in the Southern Highlands have an affinity with the ancient Egyptians in some small way.

Farewell, Jeanne Lilian Villani (1934 – 2024)

By Stuart Reid.



Photograph of Jeanne in 2017 at Waterfall Cottage courtesy Adam Yip.

“AGHS members may be saddened to learn that Jeanne Villani died on 2 February 2024. Aged 90, it was a fine run (if challenging last years) for a Hastings girl who might have been bombed to death in the London Blitz, but for being ‘shipped to the country’. Daughter of a nurseryman and florist, her background was modest, spawning a love of nature and gardens. Working for Australian dentists in Kensington in 1955, she accepted an offhand offer of moving to Australia. To, as it transpired, Goulburn. Far from Kensington! She soon moved to Sydney, seeking brighter lights, fun and action. With forays into 1950s Surfers Paradise as a ‘nanny’...

Shared digs in Kings Cross’ Yellow House and others meant being part of its night life, and contacts through work led her to meet Matt Villani, commercial artist. ‘He had a car’ and she needed to move ... They moved in together in 1958. While there was no 1960 honeymoon, Jeanne and Matt would ship their Holden station wagon to Africa in 1961 and toured South and East Africa, en route to Italy and England. Matt’s paintings of giraffes, elephants and African landscapes became loved mementos.

Together in life and business, they moved into advertising, as an artwork design company. Along with other commercial exploits: ever-conscious of (a past lack of) and good with money, organisation and books, Jeanne’s focus ensured they prospered. Sydney’s first 24hour restaurant, Pancakes at The Rocks, later at Taylor Square and others like City Extra (Parramatta, 1984 – 2016 and at Circular Quay, 1987- 2016 and Rossini at the

Quay – 2013) ‘made pots of money’.

Much of which Jeanne sank into gardening once she found Waterfall Cottage at Bayview. Sounding ‘too good to be true’ or ‘excellent advertising copy’, she found the site amazing, and with a friend, bought it in 1982. A modest fibro cottage and a jungle with little garden, its dramatic sandstone canyon site, with, when it rains, thundering waterfall, was hard to resist. Working bees with friends peeled away reams of lantana and discovered traces of an older garden. Other chums and helpers built bridges, paths and steps making the site easier to navigate.

Joining Katandra Bush Sanctuary at Ingleside, Jeanne helped fundraise for it, by opening her less jungly, still shaggy garden. She would do the same with the nascent Australian Open Garden Scheme, being the first garden to open in Sydney and was on its organising committee (active 1987 – 2015) until as Jeanne recalled with rancour she was ‘sacked by fax’ from Melbourne. Opening Waterfall Cottage helped fund its development, despite the slog, and challenges. Ever generous, Jeanne opened her house too saying, ‘it’s not worth having something, if you don’t share it’ ... and ‘I like to show off’.

Discovering AGHS and joining it in 2002, Jeanne joined the Sydney Branch committee and edited its newsletter, Branch Cuttings, from 2003 – 2017. She often organised catering for its events and generously hosted visits to Waterfall Cottage by the branch (and others), including many a Christmas party and it was one of the garden tours for the AGHS’s 25th national conference in Sydney’. Jeanne (and I) collated and edited the conference booklet, *Browned Off: Old Gardens in a New World*.

At her request, I prepared a local heritage listing of for Waterfall Cottage and garden, which despite dragging out for 8 years, was heritage listed by Pittwater Council in 2014. That year she also commissioned an oral history, *Jeanne Villani – Waterfall Cottage – an oral history of a garden*.

Long fond of Opera and food, Jeanne was a very involved member of catering in particular. She was a member of the Wine & Food Society, which sounded like an enormously enjoyable bunch of people and strings of ‘endless lunch’ events. She relished presenting guest chef cooking classes at Accoutrement in Mosman among other places.

Jeanne sold Waterfall Cottage in 2017 (to her gastroenterologist: a gardener) buying Highdown on Notts Hill, west of Bowral. A prize-winning garden under (re-)creator May Crago with help from friend Claude Crowe from the 1950s-90s, it was neglected but had a Gothic Revival style cottage with later extensions and modern kitchen. Jeanne set about reviving the garden ‘to something May would be pleased with’. She had design and plant input from Chris and Charlotte Webb, gifts, and ideas from friends included photos and records from the Crago family who kept calling. AGHS

Southern Highlands branch enjoyed its 2019 Christmas party there. As ever, Jeanne was generous. Again, she was generous in opening the garden to interested groups and people, enjoying the company and like-minded souls.

Never one to sit idle, Jeanne busied herself with editing the newsletter of the Southern Highlands Botanic Garden, *Operculum* (2018-19), (with Jenny Simon) sorting and selling seeds to fundraise and, with Jenny, indexing *High Life* magazine (2018-2020) identifying every garden mentioned or profiled in it, and people. This will be a useful research and advice tool into the future. A complete set of High Life magazines was amassed, to be donated to a suitable archive.

Friends nominated Jeanne for an OAM which she received in 2018 for service to the preservation of heritage gardens, via AOGS, AGHS and the Katandra Bush Sanctuary.

As at Bayview, Jeanne asked me to prepare a local heritage listing nomination for Highdown which is part of those recommended for listing in the Wingecarribee Community Heritage Study.

Much as Jeanne hated talking about health, doctors and hospitals, Jeanne might have died in 1981 when she was diagnosed with melanoma and had an eye removed. Various searching for cures included faith healers in the Philippines, a determination to survive, even thrive, meant she lived a long, rich life – well beyond various specialists’ forecasts of doom. Perhaps to spite them all?

A woman of fierce determination, perhaps due to running businesses in many male domains for so long, Jeanne had strong views and high standards, often ruffling feathers. But she grabbed life and lived it vividly – sharing much, generously. Many would feel grateful to have known her.”

A memorial service for Jeanne was held on 3 March 2024 at the Southern Highlands Botanical Gardens.



Highdown in 2021.



Charlotte Webb speaking about Jeanne and the flowers beside her are from Jeanne’s garden Highdown.

Advocacy

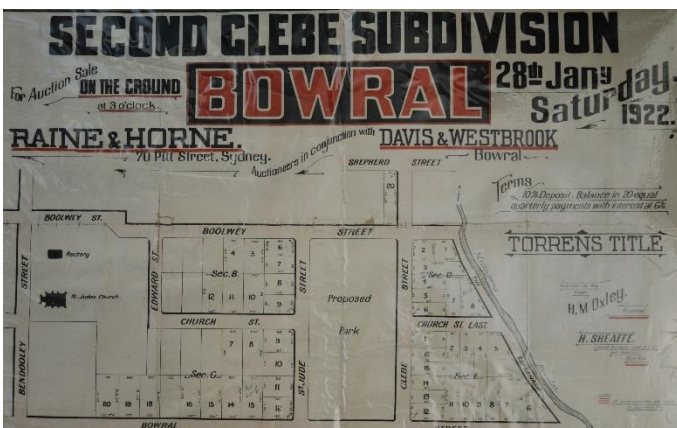
33 Boolwey St also known as 2 Edward St



33 Boolwey is on the corner of Edward and Boolwey Streets.

On 29 January 2024 Bud Townsing, Dennis McManus and Ruth Bailey attended the start of a conciliation conference between the Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC) and the developers with Acting Land and Environment Commissioner, Emma Washington.

We provided current A3 size Nearmap images of the Glebe Estate, a copy of the original 1922 subdivision plan, and a 1928 aerial photograph from the Berrima and District Historical and Family History Society, plus four copies of the 2015 book *A Brief History of Church and Edward Streets*. Our aim was to make sure that all the parties to the appeal were fully aware of the historical context and importance of the Glebe Estate as an intact example of a planned 1920's "garden suburb":



The sales brochure for the sale of the Glebe land in 1922, courtesy BDHS.

The DA at 33 Boolwey St was for an additional new dwelling to be built in front of the existing 1935 Art Deco dwelling, and the land was then to be subdivided thus getting around the minimum lot size restrictions. This is a permitted use, with consent. Our view is that dual occupancy and subdivisions should not be "given consent" in any conservation areas and is certainly not consistent with the original "garden suburb" plan of the Bowral Glebe subdivision.

Conciliation was not reached on 29 January and the matter then became one to determine by Acting Commissioner Washington who on 21 March handed down her decision.

Acting Commissioner Washington **dismissed the appeal by the developers** on the grounds that the development:

- Would disrupt the established settlement pattern of large rectilinear blocks with single dwellings in the area south of Boolwey Street between Edward Street and St Jude Street (the Glebe Estate) and
- Adversely impact the mature landscape of the site, and
- Unnecessarily and unacceptably remove two existing mature Lawson cypress trees.



One of the Lawson cypress on the corner of Edward and Boolwey Streets.

Defending Land and Environment Court hearings such as this one, by the time consultants and legal fees are paid, can typically cost Councils of the order of \$100,000 a time.

We thank the WSC for funding this and for the time and effort that it's planning staff, solicitors, heritage advisers and Arborist and Landscape advisers put into successfully defending this appeal.

If you wish to read Acting Commissioner Washington's judgment see:

[Kangaloon Road Holdings Pty Ltd v Wingecarribee Shire Council - NSW Caselaw](#)

Advocacy - NSW Government housing reforms.

The NSW Government has announced two housing “reforms” that will impact on many communities and pose a major threat to the heritage of NSW.

The “reforms” are the Transport Oriented Development program and Changes to Create Low and Mid-Rise Housing policy. These propose zoning changes to land surrounding railway stations and town centres which cover 43 local government areas.

These “reforms” are the biggest threat to heritage since the Heritage Act 1977 and Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 was introduced.

The National Trust (NSW) estimates this will impact on two-thirds of the heritage items listed in NSW. Rezoning these areas for greater density will impact communities from the Hunter, across Greater Sydney to the Shoalhaven, and out to the Blue Mountains.

The “reforms” at this stage do not cover the Wingecarribee Shire but may at some point in time.

The National Trust (NSW) has written an excellent 26 page submission on the “reforms” and we strongly recommend reading it at [NT-Housing-submission.pdf](https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/NT-Housing-submission.pdf) ([nationaltrust.org.au](https://www.nationaltrust.org.au))

In summary the National Trust (NSW):

- Does not support blanket rezonings and non-refusal standards which turn off all existing heritage and environmental controls, allowing for applications that will demolish and/or diminish local-and state-listed heritage items and heritage conservation areas and significantly reduce tree canopy and deep soil planting.
- Points out that some of the highest densities and greatest housing diversity in NSW are within Heritage Conservation Areas.
- Recommends that the NSW Government work with local governments “to deliver planning and land-use reforms that will make housing supply more responsive to demand over time” as required by the National Housing Accord (October 2022).
- Calls on the NSW Government to recognise that heritage is a vital part of their intended desire to create “vibrant, sustainable and liveable communities”.
- Requests that existing heritage controls are maintained to ensure new developments located in or near heritage items or areas, be sensibly planned.

AGHS-SHB Committee

Chair	Ruth Bailey
Secretary	Sue Trudeau
Events Coordinator	Eleanor Dartnall
Treasurer	Lynda Cowley
IT Coordinator/Research	Jenny Woodwell
Editor/Research	Bud Townsing
General Member	Chris O’Brien
General Member	Narelle Bown
Associate Members	
Tours	Ray Bradley
NMC Representative	Lyn Barrett
WSC Heritage Representative	Laurel Cheetham
Oral History	Heather McIntyre

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS AUTUMN GARDENS WEEKEND + Plant Fair

FRI 26, SAT 27 & SUN 28 APRIL 2024 | 9AM-4PM



The Oldbury Farm Estate
will open their gates to visitors in
support of the Southern Highlands
Botanic Gardens.

This has been flagged as the last opportunity to visit this historic property and gardens, including the historic garden at Oldbury, the modern garden at Oldbury Vale, the cottage garden at Oldbury Cottage, and the 8 acre arboretum of collectable, rare and unusual trees.

 Southern Highlands
Botanic Gardens



AGHS –SHB	Events Program for 2024
17 April	Garden Visit to Upper Woodlands Garden 2pm to 4 pm.
27 and 28 April	Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Autumn Fair
7, 8 & 9 May	3 day coach visit to the NSW South Coast
23 June	Winter Solstice Seminar at new Southern Highlands Botanical Gardens Education Centre.
25 July	Guided visit to Caroline Simpson Library – self travel by train to St James Station, 11am to 1 pm, can view The Mint as well, maximum of 20 members.
18 August	AGM and Winter Seminar at East Bowral Community Centre.
13 September	Garden visit to historic home in Moss Vale.
13 October	Day coach tour to Vacluse House and Elizabeth Bay House Sydney.
October – date to be confirmed	A joint event with the Heritage Rose Society to a heritage garden.
18-20 October	National AGHS Conference in Bunbury WA with pre and post conference tours in Margaret River Region.
8 November	Wine and Roses Event at Harpers Mansion Berrima.
19-21 November	3 day coach tour to Hunter Valley
6 December	Christmas Party at Tavistock Exeter