



# INFLORESCENCE

MAY 2020

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH OF THE AGHS

## Events 2020—for your diary:

We're not going to mention the pandemic (or anything nasty in the woodshed), but we are sorry that the Canberra Tour planned for 8<sup>th</sup> May had to be cancelled. The good news is that although we thought we'd have to cancel the Winter seminar, Georgina Reid has agreed to meet us all via Zoom. We are keeping our fingers crossed for the AGM event but we will inform you in the July edition of *Inflorescence* about how that meeting will run. Keep safe and stay healthy!

<b>Sunday 21 June</b> 2.30 pm in your home	ZOOM Winter seminar with Georgina Reid (see below & p. 8 for further information)
<b>Sunday 23 August</b>	AGM Lunch and Speakers: Stuart Read and Dr John Pickard
<b>September—Date to be advised</b>	Opening of the Harpers Mansion Colonial Camellia Walk. Free event for AGHS Members
<b>September—Date to be advised</b>	Opening of the Berrima District Museum Exhibition. Free event for AGHS Members.
<b>October 23– 26</b>	AGHS National Conference: Sydney
<b>31 October to 2 November</b>	Millthorpe Garden Ramble and Carcoar Tour
<b>Friday 4 December</b> 4.30 to 7.00 pm	Christmas Party

## Sunday 21 June: Winter Seminar via Zoom or Nothing!!

Unfortunately we won't be able to hold the Winter Seminar in the old format as it doesn't meet the social distancing guidelines. But we know that our members would like to keep in touch. So we thought we'd do something a bit more modern! One idea gaining popular acceptance in Australia (and Internationally) is to use Zoom, a digital communication platform for your computer, tablet or phone (with internet capability). You do not have to have a Zoom account to attend a Zoom meeting. You will be prompted to download the software once you have clicked on to the link which will be provided by Jenny Woodwell. She will send out an invitation for the meeting to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> June at 2:30 pm which will provide a direct link to Zoom.

**To register your interest, please contact Jenny Woodwell by email: [woodwell@optusnet.com.au](mailto:woodwell@optusnet.com.au).**

For those unfamiliar with Zoom and interested to participate we are willing to hold small practice sessions to ensure that you are comfortable with the new communication process. If your computer doesn't have a camera you can still participate through audio.

For those who don't have a computer we will investigate whether it might be possible for you to visit an AGHS friend

with Zoom access and view the session in a very small group. It is quite exciting to learn a new skill and new ways of communicating. A number of people have already been using Zoom to keep in contact with their families.

For further details about the speaker, Georgina Reid, turn to page 8 below.

## Southdown

*[Those of us with homes and gardens have found immense solace during these self-isolation weeks. To cheer us all up, Margaret and Peter Chadwick have written this first article about their home—one of Bowral's most beautiful and fascinating gardens: Southdown, Moss Vale Road, Burradoo. Editor]*



*The house nestling in the garden*

The original crown grant was given to James Sheppard, a Berrima farmer, constituting 335 acres, bounded by Moss Vale Road (Government Road), Burradoo Road (Spring Street), Werrington Street, Sullivan and Riversdale Roads (the then Oxley boundary). The *Southdown* residence was built c1857 and extended in the 1860s. The cottage (bunkhouse) and the stable were also built around this time.

In 1887 the Hon. John Lackey MLA acquired the property, cutting up much of the land into smaller acreages to form the whole of Burradoo west of Moss Vale Road, so that *Southdown* was reduced then to only 35 acres. In 1922, a Queensland pastoralist purchased *Southdown* as a summer retreat. After his untimely death shortly after purchase, his widow leased the property to Mrs Fitzharding, who, for over 30 years spanning the Depression and Second World War, ran a riding school and guest house. In 1959 the land was further subdivided reducing the land to 12 acres, and after further subdivision, only 3.5 acres remained.

We bought the property in 1996 and two years later were able to purchase the 'old piggery', an adjacent vacant block of 2.5



acres to build *Southdown* up to a holding of six acres. Working with the remnants of the 'old garden' and trees on the block, we started to rejuvenate the garden introducing rose and cottage gardens, lawn plantings of spring bulbs and more exotic trees. The 'old piggery' has been laid out anew—parterre, potager, rose, cottage and vegetable gardens, an orchard and a small Shakespeare inspired formal garden.

*Pinus radiata* are a feature of the old *Southdown* garden and, despite increasingly human-inflicted casualties outside *Southdown*, they majestically trace the boundaries from earlier times. All the trees on *Southdown* are listed on Wingecarribee Shire Council's Significant Tree Register. The house, cottages and garden are all heritage listed by Council.

In the 25 years since coming to *Southdown* we have retained, conserved and enhanced the original plantings. After great endeavour we lost the only remaining old apple tree behind the Stable after a few years. It died of old age and was a great loss.

### The Old Garden



*Part of the old garden with copse of English Elm*

It is interesting to imagine what the 35-acre house block (surviving from the original 335-acre grant) looked like in the years 1887 to 1922. The house (probably built in its first stage c1857) became a grander home a few years later. Certainly it had a beautiful stable and blacksmith area attached. It was a farm of 35 acres and had productive animals and fruit trees. What remains of early formal and informal gardens remains a mystery as no photographs from that period have been located. However, the extensive brick garden guttering lining the entrance from Moss Vale Road, and continuing to the circular garden in front of the house, outline a garden landscape conceived for the entrance and approach to the house, which have survived previous owners and shape today's vista from the front verandah.

The original 3½ acre property we purchased had been turned into a park-like garden with sweeping lawns and Mexican Pines planted along some boundaries. Thankfully the many old radiatas survived but there were no formal gardens as such.

Amongst the significant plantings are *Pinus Radiata*, *Cupressus Torulosa*, and *Casuarinas* which form the upper storey. In addition there are twenty-six English elms and a few indigenous gums and black wattles. There is also a pear tree surviving from the original orchard. We have had a rare *Keteleeria* growing unnoticed among the elms and radiata,

identified recently by Stuart Read, which may date back to the 1880s. As well, there are a surviving hawthorn hedge forming the front boundary, English laurels (and a few remaining Portuguese laurels) and *Viburnum Tinus* in the old garden. At ground level agapanthus, various violets, periwinkle and ivy thrive, forming pathway edging, garden and wall covers. All of these have been encouraged and extended to retain and revive the sense and feeling of a simple country and small farm property garden which *Southdown* might have been in Victorian times.



*The entrance and driveway*

Since the 1960s previous owners planted many deciduous trees—ash, maple, oak, spruce, deodar, Mexican pines, gums, wattles and two remaining mature camellias.

### The New Garden



*The new garden with the *Pinus radiata* in the background showing the tracery of the old paddock boundaries*

The additional 2½ acre adjoining property we purchased in 1998 was a bare horse paddock and was the original 'Piggery' and orchard. The original entrance driveway into the original *Southdown* property was from Burradoo Road (formerly



known as Spring Street) where the original gate house and small stables still stand on a neighbouring property.

As nothing remained except two gums, a hawthorn hedge and two hawthorns grown into trees, Margaret had a blank canvas on which to create and set out new gardens to complement the old garden. We cleared the blackberry and Margaret designed and laid out garden rooms. These rooms are hedged, variously, with buxus, lonicera, escallonia, and English laurel. The gardens featured are parterre, potager, Shakespeare, French ('Josephine'), rose, cottage, rondel, vegetable and peony, and after 20 or so years, have now settled into maturity and harmony with the old garden. Over the years many bulbs, perennials, shrubs, old and new roses, camellias, a formal pond, other ponds and a duck pond have been added. Many varieties of trees—conifers, deciduous, fruit, and gums (indigenous to the area)—have grown sturdily. The entrance driveway to the new garden is bounded by a long orchard and punctuated by recently planted *Pinus Pinea*. Further down is a driveway through tall *Cupressus Leylandii* (which have taken on the appearance of Italian Cyprus seemingly because of the clay soil base).



*Moss Vale Road driveway through the orchard on the new block: when purchased this was covered with blackberry and little else*



*Another view of the new garden*

Chris Betteridge recommends in *AGHS Journal* Vol 31 April 2020: "Owners [should] strike a balance between conserving what is significant and allowing fresh expression of new ideas". This has been our endeavour and contribution to the evolving history of *Southdown*.

Long may it last as somewhat of a reminder of the Southern Highlands in Victorian times.

*Margaret and Peter Chadwick*

## Membership dues

Our branch committee asked the National Management Committee whether it was possible to extend membership expiry deadlines and whether they would consider requests to lower the rate of the membership dues. This is the response from Stuart Read who is the chair of the NMC:

*I took the request to the NMC Executive who discussed it and recognise that, with things as they are, it's fine to ask. People are likely to be reconsidering expenditure, given investment and superannuation income dips, the economic outlook ... Some are out of work and likely to be struggling, we acknowledge this.*

*Of course, half the pleasure of membership is attending group events (talks, walks, visits, conference, for example). For now, such gatherings are clearly 'out' or tricky. That won't be a permanent situation, but it makes the immediate short-term seem bleak.*

*As it stands, AGHS like many community not-for-profit organisations providing 'quality of life', needs membership renewal income more than ever, now - to stay afloat and continue to offer what we do, into the future. We're hoping not to have to cancel the 2020 Sydney conference, given the mountain of work the committee has already done. This is our major annual income!*

*What may be less widely understood is what AGHS memberships, conference and tours income, pay for, i.e. what the operation 'is' and 'does'. We are, despite most members' experience of AGHS activities being branch events, a national body, delivering services Australia-wide. And, since 1980! If you include members' tours we occasionally offer overseas, we can be international. Not bad for a small non-profit business with c1500 members, mostly run by volunteers!*

*While membership income isn't our major 'chunk', it plays a vital part in our budget, to fund:*

- *a part-time national executive officer and office in Melbourne (who does way-more than we pay her for, I'd add);*
- *a part-time membership officer "ditto above " ;*
- *third party insurance coverage for members on all events, which include working bees, visits, tours;*
- *modest travel subsidies to help national management committee meet face-to-face, twice a year (but likely once, for 2020);*
- *regular website manager input, uploading/ editing/ maintenance;*
- *four magnificent journals a year, produced by a paid editor (now editors, though 2 for 1 in terms of price (\$30k), plus paid designer, printers, postage (not cheap) —members have consistently told us they love the journal, and see it as 'the' best benefit;*
- *monthly, hopefully soon fortnightly E-news, with the help of a recent volunteer to assist;*



- the satisfaction of knowing AGHS can and has made grants to garden owners to conserve, record and sustain historic gardens;
- periodic other publications, such as the Oral History Project online and other booklets, touring exhibitions & catalogues.

With E-news, you'll have noticed we are 'ramping up' their interactive content as a direct effort to lift and clarify 'what we offer' members, even if we can't meet in groups, for now. There are plenty of benefits of a digital and remote kind to be enjoying... A special E-news will be coming out on ANZAC Day, for instance.

One such is access, free, to digitised past AGH journals, off the website, which members can download – for non-members we charge \$10 for this. Not bad! The search window under 'journals' allows any member to search for articles on their pet subject, find the issues, read online and, if wanted, download and keep.

Another is past conference papers and talks, that are filmed and available digitally. NMC decided on 6 April to start releasing, one at a time, papers filmed at our first offshore conference held in Wellington, last October. These will be provided via the web.

We are putting feelers out for 'virtual garden visits' via short videos by garden owners, gardeners and managers, to load online. We hope that perhaps knowing this, members might feel inclined to show support by rejoining to help ensure AGHS continues. Thus, we respectfully decline the request to extend membership expiry deadlines and will decline requests to lower the rate.

We hope members understand and some might consider whether they could better support AGHS, through making a (tax-deductible, through the National Trust of Australia) donation, volunteering some time on a project, or in some other way.

I hope this is of help and explains the NMC executive's thinking. The next NMC meeting will have a report noting this, as I'm sure members (e.g. other Branch Chairs and representatives) around the country will start fielding similar requests.

Stuart Read and Bronwyn Blake, Co-Chairs; and AGHS



Autumn greetings from Harper's Mansion

## Urgent Help for the Committee

Is there anyone willing and able to assist the committee with administrative skills? Our Secretary is very busy with family commitments and would dearly like some help for the next few months. If you would like to help, please contact Lyn Barrett on 0475 356 084.

## AGHS 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Tree planted



Laurel Cheetham admiring the *Carpinus betulus* in its new home  
(photo Charlotte Webb)

The AGHS party planned for 22<sup>nd</sup> March as part of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations had to be cancelled. The tree we had chosen to plant in the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens couldn't wait any longer in a pot, it was planted in a prominent position overlooking the watercourse and beside the current spine path through the developed part of the Gardens. It is a majestic tree—*Carpinus betulus*, commonly known as the European or common hornbeam, native to Western Asia and central, eastern, and southern Europe, including southern England—and will become a landmark in the Gardens in the future.

The Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Project was initiated in 1999. Already there has been substantial progress on the site, with a Federation Walk, a crab apple walk, Oak Rondel, Chain of Ponds, Bird Habitat for the internationally protected Latham Snipe, native garden, winter garden, birch grove, autumn garden and plant nursery, and a number of sculptures including "Leaping Frog" by John Olsen. It includes a National collection of *Betula* (Birch) (23 different types), and a National collection of *Buxus* ((Boxwood) (18 different types). The dogwood and Tony Davis daffodil collections are under consideration as National collections.

For those of you in self-isolation but keen to have a walk, why not make your destination the SHBG and enjoy the beautiful plantings—see for yourself all the work the volunteers have continued to do throughout this period. A huge thanks particularly to Charlotte and Chris Webb for all their leadership and dedication.



## Berrima Remembrance Grove

At the 39<sup>th</sup> AGHS Annual Conference in October 2018, **Wing-Commander Ian Scott**, President of the Remembrance Driveway (RD) Committee and **Greg Jackson**, Roads and Maritime Services representative on the committee gave a paper—*The Remembrance Driveway in its Seventh Decade*. Held in the Mittagong RSL, their paper caused a bit of a stir with local AGHS members and Berrima residents. The RD committee had been worrying about the future of the Berrima Remembrance Grove and how it was to be maintained in the future.

*“With the bypassed sections of corridor being established as Remembrance Driveway, the committee resolved that it could not maintain responsibility for the bypassed plantations with their care and responsibility passing to local authorities and historical societies. Their previous association with the Remembrance Driveway has not been entirely lost, and the committee will still advocate for the best way to manage the former driveway assets in consultation with their current managers and stakeholders, with the contribution of the plantation to the heritage of remembrance as the prime consideration. . .*

*Particularly with the former corridor at Berrima, many of the original plantations are established in private property as shown in Figure 10, limiting the ability of public authorities to undertake necessary maintenance work. Many of the philanthropic former owners and institutions who sponsored the original plantations are no longer in existence. These factors cumulatively diminish the commemorative value of the plantations, which will only exacerbate as they are at an age where senescence is demonstrated in many of the individual specimens within them.*

*Without an obvious solution to these factors the committee is looking for a way to honour the value the plantations have collectively provided over the years. A park in Mittagong located on the bypassed alignment exists with a commemorative focus and an upgrade of the site is imminent. The committee believes it is appropriate that the plaques from the plantations are relocated to that site, in a suitable setting with appropriate interpretative signs which describes their history and importance.”*

As Ian Scott and Greg Jackson reminded everyone at the conference: “The Remembrance Driveway, linking Sydney with Canberra along the Hume and Federal Highways, is distinguished by groves of trees, memorial plantings and rest areas that provide a living memorial to Australians who have served in the defence of the nation in the Second World War and subsequent conflicts and peacekeeping missions.

The idea for the national memorial highway was the inspiration of the late Margaret Davis MBE, OAM, Founding President of the Garden Club of Australia. She had observed the impact of similar gardening clubs in the United States of America on enhancing landscapes in the public domain – and their contribution to the creation of the Blue Star Highway across America. It took the idea of the ‘avenues of honour’ that had been created in many regional Australian towns following World War I to a national level.”

The thought of the nine plaques being removed from Berima to Mittagong caused some consternation in Berrima and the Berrima Residents Association (BRA) decided to take action. The BRA is now the legal custodian of the renamed Berrima Remembrance Grove following the signing of the MOU with the NSW Remembrance Driveway Council on 19 December 2019. A major clean up took place in Feb 2020 by Ginkgo Abor jointly funded by the BRA and a WSC Heritage Grant.



*Fallen trees and weedy vegetation had smothered the area*

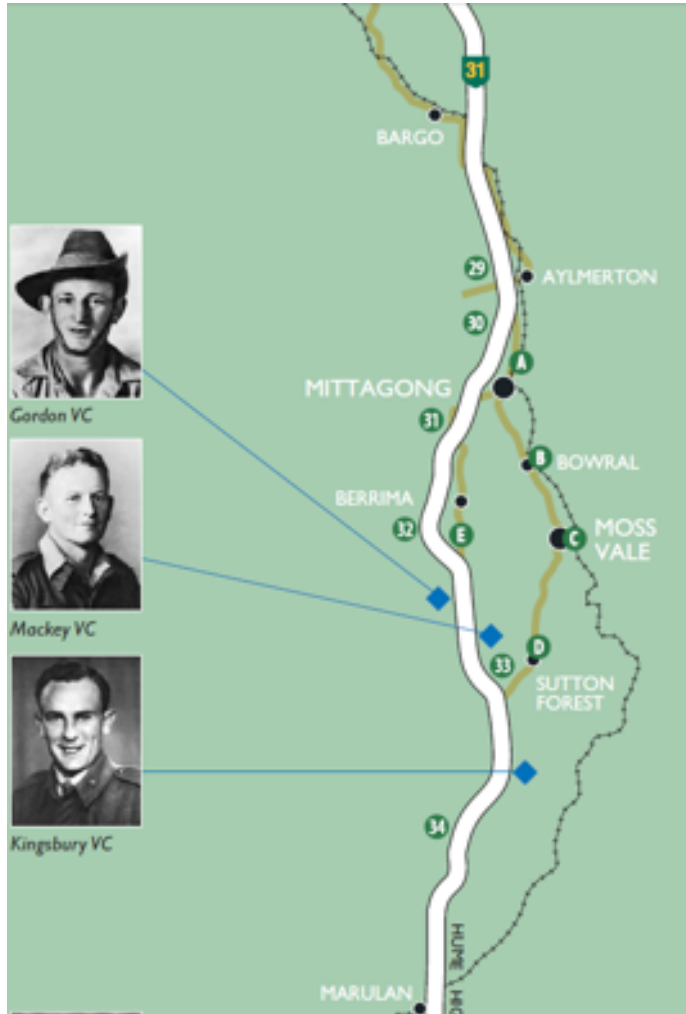


*Bob-cat in action*



The Memorial Driveway stands as a living memorial honouring all those who served in the Australian Defence Forces in World War II and subsequent wars or conflicts.

Below is a diagram from the Roads and Maritime website:



- 30 Mittagong Bypass: 320 box elder, plane, poplar and red oaks planted by the RTA in 1992.
- 31 Mittagong Bypass, Welby: Sir Charles Moses Park established in 1989.
- A Maltings, Mittagong: Plantation of evergreen and deciduous trees on the left as you enter Mittagong. Established by Nattai Shire Council in 1959 on land donated in 1958 by Tooth and Co. Further trees around Mittagong planted from 1961 onwards.
- B Bowral: Mixed grove of deciduous trees planted in 1962 on the right hand side of Mittagong Road as you enter Bowral.
- C Moss Vale, D Sutton Forest.
- E Berrima: Throughout this area there are 15 plantations containing evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs established between 1956 and 1965.
- 32 Berrima Bypass, Greenhills Road: Plantation of 270 cedar, golden oak, plane, poplars and elm.
- 33 Illawarra Highway Interchange: 3000 eucalypts, melaleucas and hakea planted 1989-90.



The mulching work shown in the photos and completed in Feb 2020 was financed 50% from the BRA funds and 50% from a Wingecarribee Council Heritage Grant.



This is one of the nine plaques: The Bank of New South Wales remembering its staff who served in World War II

The BRA has also applied (24 April) for a \$9,000 grant from the NSW Veterans Affairs Community War Memorials Fund 2019/2020 Round 2, to prepare a CMP (Phase 1 Condition) for the site. The Remembrance Driveway Council has already generously provided financial support (\$50k), which will support the work of BRA on the site into the future.

The next project is to redesign the signs to reflect the new name (Berrima Remembrance Grove) and status of the site. Both these changes (the name change and new signage) were conditions of the MOU.

Berrima Residents would be delighted if you would like to visit and take a walk along this area and see the work that has been achieved.

## Highlife Magazine Index

Jenny Simons and Jeanne Villani have been creating an index of all the garden articles in *Highlife* magazine since its inception to be used as a resource available for anyone wanting to do research on a particular topic.

The collection of issues is almost complete with a few exceptions and we are wondering whether anyone has the following issues they would be prepared to donate to the collection. **If you are prepared to donate any of these issues, please drop them into the office at the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens.**

Vol. 1 - issues 3, 4, 5, 6: Vol. 2 and 3 - all issues missing

Vol. 8 - issues 5, 6: Vol. 12 - issue 2

Vol. 17 - issue 1: Vol. 18 - issue 6

## 2018 Conference Report and Papers

The report from the 2018 Annual Conference has been finalised and sent to Head Office for inclusion on the Website. It was sent out to our members last month, but as it is a large document some have not been able to download it. We are awaiting to be informed by Head Office about the website address for the report.

## Brickworks Park, Lake and Bridge proposal

**This is from the Berrima Residents Association website:**

The announced closure of Austral's Bowral Brickworks site on the corner of Kirkham Road and Oxleys Hills Road in the near future creates an exciting new opportunity for a major urban renewal project for the Shire.

The project we are asking Council to support envisages the State government acquiring the Austral Brickworks site to create a 20-hectare urban park and lake. The parkland would incorporate the Austral land as well as the former quarry, currently owned by Bowral Landfill Pty Ltd and used as a land-fill site. Austral's currently active quarry would be re-developed as a lake and, in addition to its recreational use, would provide a body of water available to the RFS in case of a bushfire emergency.

This urban renewal proposal for our Shire is similar in concept to the redevelopment of the former brickworks site in St Peters in inner-city Sydney which created *Sydney Park*, now a 42-hectare recreation area and lake.

The Brickworks and land fill area are currently subject to extensive rehabilitation and clean up provisions under the EPA conditions of consent, which reduces the commercial value of the site. This potential reduction of market value

particularly applies to the present active quarry, which would become a lake.

The kiln building on site could be re-purposed as a facility for community events, exhibitions and performances. We are aware that Council is looking for a new venue for Tulip Time once the present site in Corbett Gardens closes in a couple of years. As the new Brickworks Park is within easy walking distance of the Bowral railway station, it could be a suitable new location for this iconic festival.

At present there is no major public park in the centre of Bowral. The opportunity offered by Austral vacating the site is unique and never to be repeated.

Recreational use of the Park could include a 2km running track, exercise and picnic areas. Access and parking would be off Kirkham Road and additional pedestrian access could be developed from Bowral using the two existing underpasses off Railway Parade.

The proposal also provides for rehabilitation of the riparian vegetation along Mittagong Creek that would run through the Park. This could form part of a nature reserve to protect the native fauna presently using the riparian zone as habitat. The area between the creek and the new lake offers the opportunity to provide a wetland component of the nature reserve.

A Brickworks Park also provides the space to construct a new road bridge crossing over the rail line in the vicinity of Funston Street that would address the issue of serious congestion at the existing rail crossing at Bowral Station. This benefit applies whether or not the Station Street Stage 1 upgrade is completed. This is particularly advantageous for the residents of Berrima to Bowral and all other traffic seeking to access the freeway near Berrima.

It is regrettable that the Council's plan for Stage 1 of the Station Street project does not provide for a second crossing of the railway that would improve access from Bowral to West Bowral, to the industrial zoned land at New Berrima (Boral, and Austral's new brickworks site) and the Hume Motorway at Medway Road.

A second crossing of the rail would also provide better emergency access to the hospital for the residents of West Bowral, Berrima, New Berrima, Medway and like western areas.

With further development of the Industrial zoned land and the construction of the New Berrima diversion bridge on the rail line between Boral Cement Works and the Ingham's Facility, a second rail crossing at Bowral becomes an essential component of the orderly development of the Shire. We believe that a joint State Government and Council initiative to achieve this crossing is required.

A second crossing, if developed in conjunction with an upgraded role for Kirkham Road and Stage 2 of Council's Station Street project, would provide an alternative route for north and south bound traffic to and from Burradoo and Mittagong. The vehicular roundabouts at each end of the proposed new railway crossing allows vehicles the choice between continuing into Bowral on Station Street or bypassing Bowral using Kirkham Road to the west of the railway line.

If Railway Parade was extended (as provided for in Stage 2 of the Station Street project) and linked with a new rail crossing



near Funston St, and if Kirkham Road were extended south through the Brickworks Park to the new rail crossing, both northbound and south bound traffic would have the option of avoiding Station St between Bowral St and Bundaroo St.

If this alternative traffic route through Bowral were considered sufficient to achieve the Bowral bypass objectives of Stage 1 of the Station Street project, this Stage could be shelved releasing funds that could be redirected to purchasing the Brickworks site, as well as avoiding the loss of commuter parking at Bowral Station and the environmental loss of trees and heritage camellias.

## A warm welcome to new members

Martin Gorrick  
Sandra Hankin  
Lesley Pearl  
Robyn Wheeler

## Sunday 21 June: Winter Seminar via Zoom with Georgina Reid

*Georgina Reid*



You need to register your interest in participating in this session. As previously noted, you don't need a Zoom account. All the work will be done by Jenny Woodwell, our technical expert, who will send out an invitation with a link for the meeting to those who have indicated their interest. **The session will be held on June 21 at 2:30pm.**

This way you can have your own afternoon tea as you watch the presentation on

your computer, phone or tablet by Georgina Reid the gardener and landscape designer, and founder and editor of *The Planthunter* online publication. You don't even need a camera on your computer, as you will be able to participate with just the sound.

Georgina's first book, *The Planthunter: Truth, Beauty, Chaos, and Plants*, was released in Australia by Thames and Hudson in 2018, and in the USA and Canada by Timber Press in 2019.

The publisher wrote: "From street gardens in Los Angeles to grand country estates in Australia, *The Planthunter* is a visceral and immersive exploration of the exceptional and ordinary ways people around the world find purpose and connection through the act of gardening.

All the featured gardeners are committed to the cultivation of the earth and the human spirit. They're landscape architects, artists, garden designers, plant collectors, wanderers, big thinkers, florists, and writers. *The Planthunter* is for the plant curious, the plant killer, the plant lover, and everyone in between. Jam-packed with soulful stories and hundreds of

eye-opening photographs, this must-read will inspire contemplation, curiosity, care, and action."

Georgina Reid is a highly respected Australian garden writer and commentator. With a background in landscape design, horticulture, and journalism, she's the editor and creative director of *The Planthunter* online magazine.

Revered for its insightful, engaging, and inspiring content, *The Planthunter* has grown a broad international audience since launching in 2013. Georgina also contributes to a range of design publications and lectures regularly on the benefits, beauty, and importance of connecting with plants and nature.

This will be a very exciting session and something new for our branch. Please note, we welcome members from other branches in Australia to take part in the session. Just contact Jenny so she has your email address.

**To register your interest, please contact Jenny Woodwell by email: [woodwell@optusnet.com.au](mailto:woodwell@optusnet.com.au).**

### ADVANCE NOTICE

#### 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2020



This year's conference will be held at Luna Park, Milsons Point. Bookings will open May 1 2020. Conference brochures will be sent to you with your April 2020 *AGH Journal*. The Optional Day on Monday 26 October will explore the rural area of Camden.

Stuart Read will lead pre- and post-tours to The Blue Mountains (October 19–21 and October 27–29).

Check the AGHS website for further information.

### AGHS Southern Highlands Branch Committee

Chair & NMC Rep: Lyn Barrett  
Treasurer: John Biffin  
Secretary: Jennifer McCormac  
Tours: Ray Bradley  
Event Co-ordinator: Ruth Bailey  
Editor: Meg Probyn  
WSC Heritage Rep: Laurel Cheetham  
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