

# Inflorescence

November 2021

The Newsletter of the Southern Highlands Branch of the AGHS



## Events for 2021

Friday 3 December	Christmas Party at Quindalup.
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## Tours

Given Covid uncertainty we do not plan to look at tours until January or February next year, with the exception of a Millthorpe Garden Tour in November 2022 and, a Long Lunch at Centennial Vineyard on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 12pm.

We will let you know the details on the Long Lunch shortly.

## Report from the Chair

We are slowly emerging from Covid lockdown and will have our first gathering for our Christmas Party on Friday 3 December at Quindalup. You must be double-vaccinated to attend. Please see the last page for the registration sheet. I have also sent an email to everyone and there is an attachment to the email where you can sign up as well. It will be so enjoyable to see many familiar faces again and to meet those who are new to us all on the committee. The Committee has created a very interesting event calendar for 2022 and we plan to make this available to all at the Christmas Party.

If you walk from Bendooley Street to the Bowral Library you will notice some changes to the garden on the western fence. Old shrubs and their large roots have been removed and some plantings have taken place by the council. Heritage camellias have been delivered to the council and these have been planted, and a board describing the history of these plantings is currently being created. We'll include photographs in a future *Inflorescence* when the signage is installed. Lyn Barrett and Leonie and James Furber have been tireless in ensuring this much needed refresh of these gardens has taken place and that the AGHS be acknowledged as the driving force behind this refurbishment.

The Berrima Museum project of Southern Highlands Gardens is well advanced under the tireless leadership of Bud Townsing. He has worked very hard in creating several slide presentations, as has Jenny Woodwell, and has developed an excellent working relationship with the Berrima District Historical & Family History Society (BDHS) who have also created interesting slide presentations.

The Bowral Character Study is now finished and will be made available to the Wingecarribee Shire Council. Thank you Laurel Cheetham and Lyn Barrett for providing additional information.

Our historical house and garden featured this month is Jeanne Villani's home Highdown. Bud has shown some photographic comparisons over many years which will be of interest to all. Photography is Bud's passion!

Many of our historic homes and gardens have stories to tell. Sue Whitehouse has highlighted a story about the original head gardener at Hopewood. Well done Sue!

Regards Ruth Bailey

## Advocacy

We wrote a letter to the General Manager at Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC) concerning our objection to the Frensham DA as it is currently defined.

Another letter was sent to the General Manager WSC outlining our objections to the proposed Lot 5 Earl Street subdivision.

During the month WSC announced that Yarrabin at 32 Kangaloon is now part of the Bowral Conservation Area and Yarrabin is heritage listed. WSC has played an important and timely role in the saving of Yarrabin.

We emailed all our members in relation to the impact of the new Low Rise Housing Diversity Code which may result in the demolition of an Alf Stephens built house, replacing it with three terrace houses in Myrtle Street Bowral, all without the need for WSC approval due to the statewide Low Rise Housing Diversity Code.

## Projects



On 28 October, Jenny Woodwell (on right) provided a \$500 Wariapendi gift certificate to Elizabeth Atkin, the President of the Balmoral Village Association on behalf of the AGHS Southern Highlands Branch. These funds will help homeowners establish gardens destroyed in the 2020 fires. A tree to be placed near the tennis court at the Community centre will also be provided by the AGHS once the final selection has been made. A plaque will be placed in the tennis building to acknowledge our contribution to fire recovery in Balmoral. These funds are the proceeds of the online book sale run by Jenny.

## Proposed Sale of Berrima Gaol

The State Government on 18 October 2021 announced Berrima Gaol has been listed for sale via an expression of interest campaign run by Colliers. Expressions of interest close on 26 November 2021 and after that the selected tenderers will be invited to submit offers to purchase the freehold.

The full details including 15 images of the Gaol are set out at <https://www.colliers.com.au/en-au/properties/berrima-correctional-centre-%E2%80%93-the-first-time-ever-offered/aus-berrima-correctional-centre-24-old-hume-highway-berrima-nsw-2577/aus66014817>



The Gaol is on 1.9 hectares of land outlined by the white line in the above Collier's photograph.

The Berrima Gaol is State Heritage listed and the State Heritage Inventory Report Statement of Significance states: "Berrima Gaol is one of the few remaining compounds dating from pre-1840. It is an early example of the application of model prison layouts. Associated with the development, and the adjacent Courthouse, the Gaol is significant for its phases of use."



Berrima Gaol in November 2021. Bud Townsing photograph.

We need to view Berrima Gaol, in the unique location of Berrima Village and opposite the Berrima Courthouse, in the same light as one of the **Australian Convict Sites**.

On 31 July 2010 the **Australian Convict Sites** became Australia's 18th World Heritage listed place. The **Australian Convict Sites** comprises 11 sites across the continent of Australia. The sites are representative of the global phenomenon of convictism and its association with global developments in the punishment of crime in the modern era. The 11 sites are the pre-eminent examples of Australia's rich

convict history with more than 3,000 convict sites remaining around Australia.

The sites are: Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (Norfolk Island); Old Government House and Domain (New South Wales); Hyde Park Barracks (New South Wales); Brickendon-Woolmers Estates (Tasmania); Darlington Probation Station, (Tasmania); Old Great North Road (New South Wales); Cascades Female Factory (Tasmania); Port Arthur Historic Site (Tasmania); Coal Mines Historic Site (Tasmania); Cockatoo Island Convict Site (New South Wales); and Fremantle Prison (Western Australia).

The **Australian Convict Sites** was nominated for its outstanding universal significance as:

- An exceptional example of the forced migration of convicts - an important stage of human history (criterion iv); and
- An extraordinary example of global ideas and developments associated with the punishment and reform of the criminal elements of humanity during the Age of Enlightenment and the modern era (criterion vi).

The **Australian Convict Sites** have a high level of integrity and authenticity and fully meet the requirements of the UNESCO Operational Guidelines to the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention. A world class management system, entitled the **Australian Convict Sites** strategic management framework (2008), will ensure the full protection and conservation of the property. The framework comprises a ministerial agreement which incorporates legislation, conservation management plans, community engagement and a range of policies covering each of the convict sites across three levels of government. Each of the 11 sites is listed on national and State or Territory heritage registers which ensure their protection under the various laws and policies. The framework will ensure the preservation, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the heritage significance of the **Australian Convict Sites**.

It is logical from the long-term perspective of Berrima and the Southern Highlands to bring the Berrima Gaol under the same strategic management framework as the **Australian Convict Sites** and that Berrima Gaol should be treated defacto as if it were part of the eleven in respect of its ongoing conservation management plans.

This will mean:

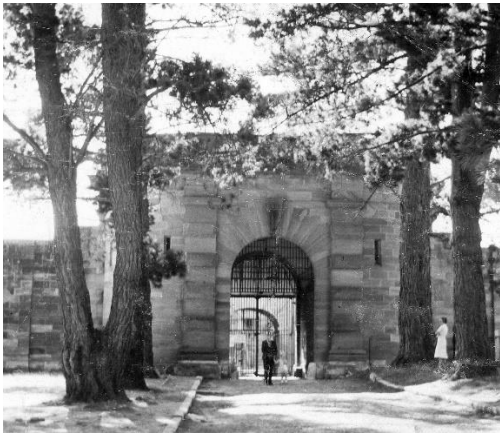
- Maintaining the integrity of the current site – no subdivision of the site such as selling off the Governor's House.
- The existing buildings need to maintain their current integrity as a Gaol and not be turned for example into a boutique hotel.

Given the significance of this site and the need for best possible management it is logical for it to be retained in government ownership, State or Local, or as a minimum owned by a non-profit community group with strong controls in place. We know the State Government wants out, so this leaves the latter two options.





The main entrance to Berrima Gaol, November 2021 Bud Townsing photograph.



Berrima Gaol in the mid 1930's.



The above photograph is of a young Peg South (nee Murchie), a well-known resident of Moss Vale, on a family visit to the Berrima Gaol in the mid 1930's. The Gaol was a tourist attraction in the 1920's and 1930's and admission was sixpence for adults and threepence for children. Peg can remember visiting the Gaol in the late 1930's and still recalls the eerie clank of the big gates as they closed behind you! (Conversation with Bud Townsing 11 November 2021, photograph courtesy Peg South possibly taken by her grandfather Martin Moore).



The Governor's residence at Berrima Gaol November 2021, Bud Townsing photograph.



In April 1897 Alf Stephens Snr. had his tender for £1,273 accepted for "Residence for gaoler at Berrima Gaol", we believe it was for the Governor's residence. Photograph courtesy BDHS.



The Deputy-Governor's residence we think completed in 1901 by Moss Vale builder John Hines. Bud Townsing photograph November 2021.



## Friedrich Machotka and the Gardens at Hopewood

By Sue Whitehouse

Ben Marshall Osborne, son of Henry Osborne, built a large house in Bowral in 1884, naming the property Hopewood after his first son, Hamilton Hope Osborne. Legend has it Hope was born in 1869 on board the *Hawkesbury* enroute from England as it rounded the Cape of Good Hope.

Ben's wife Lucy (nee Throsby) created a long driveway up to the house ending in a circular carriageway surrounding formal garden beds edged with tiles and paving bricks and a sunken garden. A pool, fountain and statues decorated the gardens to the side of the house.

Ben Osborne died in 1912 and Hopewood was purchased by Lebbeus Hordern, younger brother of Anthony Hordern (Milton Park) and Sir Samuel Hordern Jnr. (Retford Park). These three were sons of Samuel Hordern Snr. who in 1886 became the sole owner of Anthony Hordern & Sons Limited. Under Samuel Hordern Snr. the business continued to expand as did his personal wealth.

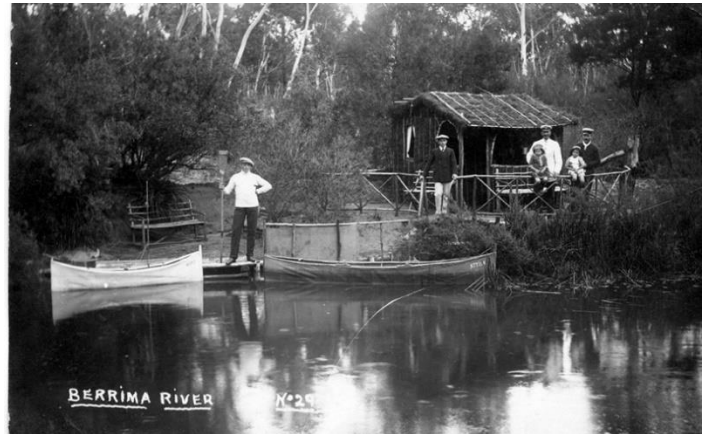


Friedrich Machotka courtesy BDHS.

In November 1919, just before Lebbeus Hordern's return from WWI, Friedrich Machotka, interned with the German mariners (although neither a German nor a mariner) at Berrima Gaol, was appointed Head Gardener at Hopewood. This followed his extraordinary success as an agriculturalist and gardener, establishing fruit and vegetable gardens, together with other internees, along the banks of the Wingecarribee River at Berrima. Of all the Australian WWI internment camps, Berrima was the only one not to confine internees within the camp perimeter, i.e. the gaol, and they were permitted to leave daily from 6am and return by 6.30pm to be locked up. Between 1915 and 1919 more than 300 internees developed a vibrant community along the banks of the river at Berrima.

Friedrich Machotka was born in Bohemia (now the Czech Republic) in 1882 and became a farmer and qualified horticulturalist and for several generations his family had leased (but could not own) and farmed land, and owned a health resort and sanatorium in the Bohemian mountains. After graduating with an agricultural degree Friedrich read of the abundant opportunities available for farmers in Australia and resolved to

emigrate. In the meantime, he left on a working tour of the US, returning home to Bohemia a year later, after marrying Edna Chapin, the daughter of the L.A. farming family for whom he worked.



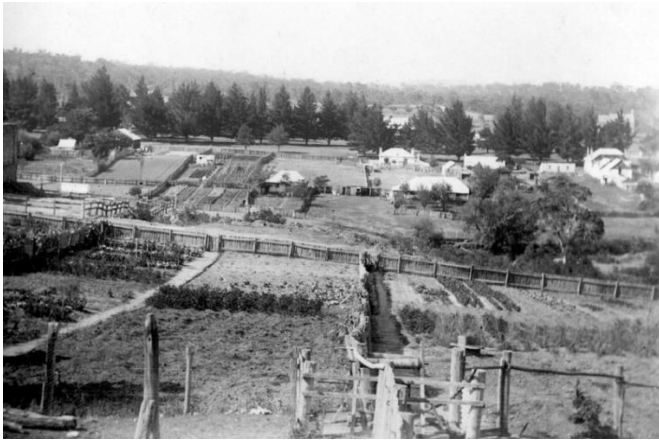
Friedrich with daughters Carmen and Eva at the Internment Camp courtesy BDHS.

In 1913 Friedrich and his wife and 2 children set sail for Australia, with the expectation of receiving a share of the sale proceeds of the family spa and sanatorium business. Unfortunately a cable awaited him, advising the proposed sale had fallen through and the almost penniless couple spent the next 16 months struggling to survive on what casual work he could find, and Edna giving piano lessons.

The outbreak of War in 1914 resulted in Friedrich being classified an enemy alien and required to report regularly to Victoria Barracks, Sydney. Unfortunately on one such visit in 1915 he happened to be wearing a peaked cap which resembled those worn by German and Austrian merchant seamen. Despite his protestations he was directed to join the first contingent of internees to be sent to Berrima. Although the mistake was discovered the next day he was interned at Holsworthy, and it would be a year before he rejoined his wife, who had by then settled in Berrima and opened an Afternoon Tea Shop in part of her house.



Lebbeus Hordern 1918, courtesy Imperial War Museum.



Internee gardens from Oxley to Jellore Streets taken from the back verandah of Machotka house, courtesy BDHS.



Bush christening – Friedrich & Edna Machotka, in the centre, courtesy BDHS.

With an apparent change of fortune, upon his appointment to the Hopewood Estate, Friedrich and his young family happily moved into the Head Gardener's cottage, with its electric lights, bathtub and flush toilet.

A strong friendship and respect quickly formed between Friedrich and Lebbeus Hordern (himself a colourful character) and the gardens developed and flourished. Unfortunately, towards the end of 1920, following public hostility and publication of anonymous letters in the local newspaper expressing antipathy at his employment of a "Hun", Lebbeus was forced to accept Friedrich's resignation. However, as a mark of respect for Friedrich, Lebbeus gave him £5,000 to enable him to buy land and stock to develop a farm. A final misfortune struck less than a year later, when, on 1 July 1921, 39 year-old Friedrich went out into a winter storm to check on some recently purchased stock, suffered a severe chill and died within a few hours. Two days later he was laid to rest in Berrima cemetery, as Edna his wife, wrote, "in the kindly Australian earth he had come so far to seek". Following subsequent exhumations at the Cemetery, Friedrich's remains the only existing grave of an inmate of the WWI German Detention Camp at Berrima.

To continue the history of the gardens at Hopewood, Lebbeus Hordern retained the property until his death in 1928 from an overdose of sedatives.

Samuel Edward Sibley, a Director of Mauri Brothers and Thompson, purchased Hopewood in 1930. Although his family used it as a weekender, he set about restoring the gardens and had thousands of tulips planted. His gardener also planted and tended a large vegetable patch and also grew grasses for fodder, as Sibley pursued his interest in blood lines in stock, particularly with the dairy and piggery, and the family show ponies.

In 1944 Hopewood passed to Leslie Owen Bailey who owned it until 1967. At that time the property consisted of 746 acres, a fine residence, 7 cottages, large brick stables, dairy, piggery barns, silos and outhouses.

Following WWII Bailey established the Australian Youth & Health Foundation at Hopewood, housing 86 destitute babies, and the growing of fresh fruit and vegetables for the children took precedence over flower beds.

Leslie Bailey died in 1966 and in 1967 Hopewood was willed to the Society of St. Gerard Majella. The property was used as a youth centre and retreat house, and they continued to restore Hopewood and tend the gardens themselves. In 1988 there was a large porte-cochere opposite the front door and a turning circle, in the centre of which was a round lawn with crossing gravel paths and a central flower bed. On the southern side of the house was a similar round bed with a white gravel path and a steep flight of steps down to a lily pond.

In May 1997 Barry and Lynne Anstee purchased Hopewood, and 10 years later, in 2007 Michael and Suzanne Anderson purchased the property for use as their family home and to continue a commercial use for The Pavilion. During this period Simon Brandon was employed as Head Gardener.

In October 2012 Hopewood was sold to the current owners, artist Tim Storrier and his wife Janet.



Hopewood today, Bud Townsing photograph.

This article is based, to a large extent, on *Prisoners in Arcady* by John Simons published by the Berrima District Historical Society in 1999.



# Highdown Revisited

In 2019 we, the AGHS Southern Highlands Branch, held our Christmas Party at Jeanne Villani's wonderful garden at Highdown in Bowral. Jeanne was then just two years into the rejuvenation of the garden with guidance from Chris and Charlotte Webb.

On the 9 October 2021 Ruth Bailey and Bud Townsing could not resist a visit to Highdown to see the garden nearly two years later in its spring glory.



Ebb Davis. Nott's Hill, Bowral. (Copyright), Bowral, N.S.W.

Above is a view of Nott's Hill with Highdown on the right taken in about 1907. Randolph Nott bought 21 acres from Jacob Ward in 1884 and built the above houses including Highdown in 1885.



The above photographs are some we took of Jeanne's garden - an amazing place and a great achievement by Jeanne.





## Gardens of Stone

NSW Environment Minister, Matt Kean, has officially declared a new 28,000 hectare State Conservation Area covering the globally significant rock pagodas, canyons and endangered swamps of the Gardens of Stone region near Lithgow. After almost nine decades of campaigning, Myles Dunphy's 1932 vision for the Blue Mountains has now been completed and the Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area is the last piece of the proposed "Greater Blue Mountains National Park" that Myles Dunphy envisaged 89 years ago.

## Heritage Conservation Areas and Heritage Listing

AGHS Southern Highlands Branch continues to advocate for the maintenance of the character of the Southern Highlands.

The most recent controversy is Karingal at 26 Elizabeth Street Moss Vale. Karingal is the subject of a development applications for 6 new town houses on the site of a beautiful Alf Stephens built house and formal garden. We are writing to the Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC) in an effort to save this home from such proposed encroachment.

Karingal is one of 251 sites deferred by WSC from recommended heritage listing in 2012.

The deferral of 251 sites in 2012 has caused the loss of heritage items and unnecessary angst over many other sites. In May 2020 WSC began a thorough Heritage Review as a basis to further protect heritage sites and to extend Conservation Areas.

The Heritage Review has been a major volunteer, professional quality exercise, carried out with WSC's Heritage Officer by WSC Heritage Advisory Committee members with the assistance of 11 local history researchers.

The Heritage Review has recommended the heritage listing of over 400 sites and of several new conservation areas. Karingal has been recommended for LEP heritage listing in the Review.

The Heritage Review has sensibly looked at potential heritage sites since the deferred 2012 Review and for example the three Alf Stephens & Sons houses at 2, 4 and 6 Myrtle Street, Bowral are included in a proposed extension of the existing Bowral Heritage Conservation Area. 4 Myrtle Street is currently under threat of demolition.

Not all of the items we would like to see kept can be kept in the manner we would like to see, but good heritage management requires the identification and protection of heritage sites so that informed decision making can be made by owners, developers, the WSC, and the community.

WSC has yet to move on the implementation of the Heritage Review.

Good heritage management is not an easy task at the best of times but until there is proper recognition and protection of heritage sites and logical extensions are made to Conservation Areas problems will continue to arise.

## Online Zoom Seminars

Claire Baddeley has sent us links to a series of on-line Zoom seminars being offered by the Institute of Historical Research, in London, on the movement of garden ideas, styles and plants across the world that may be of interest. All the sessions will take place online and are free, with a number also recorded as podcasts. If so, here is the link below for this:

[History of Gardens and Landscapes Seminar | Institute of Historical Research](#)

There is also a series of YouTube videos produced by the Smithsonian in the USA on 'Women in Garden History', which may be of interest to members as well, which can be accessed here:

[\(222\) Women in Garden History - YouTube](#)

## Congratulations to Annabel Murray of our Branch on her election to the AGHS National Management Committee.



Annabel Murray is a registered landscape architect with a keen interest in landscape heritage developed through her projects, teaching landscape history and work with the AILA Landscape Heritage Group.

On moving to the Southern Highlands from Sydney in 2016, Annabel joined the Committee of the local AGHS branch, working with the talented team behind the 39<sup>th</sup> National Conference in 2018. Inspired by a wide diversity of community relationships and recent study in Climate Change Adaptation, Annabel encourages understanding, enjoyment and resilience of gardens and landscapes through change and for generations to follow.

## AGHS Southern Highlands Branch Committee

Chair, Secretary and Events Co-ordinator	Ruth Bailey
NMC Representative	Lyn Barrett
IT Co-ordinator	Jenny Woodwell
Minutes Secretary	Sue Whitehouse
Treasurer	Lynda Cowley
Tours	Ray Bradley
WSC Heritage Rep	Laurel Cheetham
Editor/Research	Bud Townsing

Contact us by email at: [aghs.sh.info@gmail.com](mailto:aghs.sh.info@gmail.com)

Australian Garden History Society (Southern Highlands Branch)

**Christmas Party**  
**Quindalup, 180 Sproules Lane, Glenquarry**  
**4:00 - 6:30pm - Double Vaccination Required**

**Friday 3 December, 2021**

**Participant/s Booking Form**

**Members and Non-Members no charge**

*Please print clearly.*

**Participant's Details**

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Other \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Other \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: *Please print clearly* \_\_\_\_\_

**New Badge Needed?**      Yes    No (Please circle)

**Enquiries:** Ruth Bailey [ruthbailey1428@gmail.com](mailto:ruthbailey1428@gmail.com) (M) 04 0912 6718

**Bookings:** scan or photograph and attach this completed form to an email and send to  
[aghs.sh.info@gmail.com](mailto:aghs.sh.info@gmail.com)  
 or send a completed form in the mail to **Southern Highlands Christmas Party**, AGHS, PO Box 2327,  
 Bowral 2576

***Payment for badge*** - no later than Monday 22 November, 2021

Payment may be made by:

1. Direct credit to ANZ Bank - Account name: **Australian Garden History Society**  
**BSB: 012 547 Account no: 237 514 077** - please include the following reference **your surname & AGHS Badge**.  
**Email your name and phone number to [aghs.sh.info@gmail.com](mailto:aghs.sh.info@gmail.com) to advise the deposit has been made.**  
 OR
2. Cheque payable to **Australian Garden History Society** returned with this form to:  
**Australian Garden History Society, AGHS, PO Box 2327, Bowral 2576**