

Inflorescence

September 2018



From the Chair

The National Conference is getting closer . . . it's been such a busy time for the committee and we will all be delighted when Christmas comes!

I am so pleased that everyone enjoyed the AGM and lectures last month. We have had some lovely feedback from our members. St Jude's Hall proved to be a popular venue and to have a technician on duty all day was a great bonus. It was a shame that many of you weren't able to attend because you missed a treat. All the committee members were eligible to continue as no terms of office had been completed—so the committee remains the same as last year.



The new Patron for the Australian Garden History Society is Professor Tim Entwisle. (And no, we haven't made a mistake in the spelling of his name—it's one of the vagaries of English heritage that spelling wasn't at the forefront of concern as language evolved, incorporating elements of French, Latin and Scandinavian languages. The name—with Anglo-Saxon roots—comes from Lancashire, where a variety of spellings of the name developed.) Professor Entwisle took up the role of Director and Chief Executive of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria in March 2013, following two years in a senior role at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, and eight years as Executive Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust in Sydney. An Honorary Professorial Fellow in the School of Botany at The University of Melbourne, Tim has been a Visiting Professor in the School of Biological and Biomedical Science, Durham University. We are delighted that he has agreed to open the Conference in October and to be the Guest Speaker at the dinner, where we will also have the opportunity to meet his wife, Lynda.

While the committee's main focus has been on the National Conference, plans are well advanced for two tours next year, thanks to the indefatigable Ray Bradley. The Events team is also planning the Christmas party, the Jazz Picnic and winter activities. Laurel Cheetham continues the good fight on Heritage issues and the Friends of Bowral group is working hard behind the scenes.

Enjoy the spring weather in your own gardens as well as the open gardens throughout the Tulip Time period.

Meg Probyn

megprobyn@bigpond.com

Just a Few Spaces Left

The 39th AGHS National Conference in the Southern Highlands starts with a series of lectures at Mittagong RSL on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 October 2018. There are just a few spaces left for members interested in booking seats at these lectures. Please go to the Events and Conferences page at <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/>.

AGHS Annual General Meeting 25 August 2018

Beyond Exploration; Illustrating the Scientific Legacy of Ludwig Leichardt.

Tanya Hoolihan, our morning guest speaker at the AGM, took us on her journey of adventure and discovery. After graduating with a Bachelor of Natural History Illustration degree (Honours) from the University of Newcastle she needed a subject for her Ph. D research. Various incidents; including a special guided walk around the Sydney Botanic Gardens, and extensive reading led her to her subject; the plants that Leichardt found and recorded. Tanya researched Leichardt's plant specimens using the Sydney and Melbourne Herbariums, and this research she married with references taken from Leichardt's diaries, written in High German and only recently translated into English and published.



Susie Monckton and Tanya Hoolihan



Lyn Barrett, Jenny Simons, Allan and Lyn Morehen

Tanya identified each plant mentioned, its location and the date Leichardt found the specimen. Tanya has created an electronic database of over 3000 of these plants correlating the diary and herbarium collections. Her own field work also took her on journeys that Leichardt himself took over 170 years ago. This has led her to identify threatened and extinct species. This meticulous work is beautifully enhanced by 17 botanical illustrations which members were able to look at, explore and admire the fine detail.

Lyn Morehen



Chris Blaxland, Sandy Alsop and Barbara McKay at the AGM

AGHS Annual General Meeting 25 August 2018

Experiences at a week-long symposium: “The Art of Gardening” at Great Dixter, East Sussex, England

Following a delicious lunch we settled in to hear Susan Hand and Colin Blanch chat about the week they spent at Great Dixter. The conversation topics were led by Ralph Suters, Susan’s partner, and were accompanied by his superb slides of the particular topic under discussion.

Susan commenced by describing Great Dixter – in the early 1900s Lutyens combined an existing mid-15th century house with a similar structure brought from Kent – the combination has the appearance of a medieval manor. The garden was then developed by Christopher Lloyd over 40 years and is currently managed by Fergus Garrett who worked with Lloyd as Head Gardener and whose knowledge and humour played a large part in the week’s success.

On the first day, we saw the group of twelve walking through the wild flower meadow. This stirred the audience to comment on the possibility of snakes - Colin commented that it would be impossible to have such a meadow with similar plants under Australian conditions.

Of special mention were workshops on succession planting, soil improvement, composting, staking and tying, nursery propagation and a day at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show. Delicious home grown food rated highly.

Susan closed the chat by commenting on her total enjoyment of the week – however when asked if she would return replied “no” as another experience might not reach her expectations. Whereas Colin returns each year as he says there is always more to learn.



Colin Blanch

Jo de Beaujeu



Janet Fingleton and Jennifer Swan with Hazel King at the AGM



Our thanks to **The Source Bulk Foods Bowral** for generous sponsorship of our AGM, including a Healthy Hamper for the lucky door prize and the donation of a 15% discount voucher to each attendee. Please say thank you to The Source when you present your voucher at 302-306 Bong Bong Street Bowral.

Australian Garden History Society (Southern Highlands Branch) Tour

Horse Island and the South Coast

Wednesday 3 – Friday 5 April 2019

Day 1 - Wednesday 3 April 2019

The tour will commence with a visit to Oke's Camellia Garden - a plant collector's garden. Graeme has travelled to China and Vietnam where he collected many different specimens. The property has trees dating from the 1860's and Camellia trees moved from Bomaderry to Broughton Vale 41 years ago. There is about 4 acres of garden to explore.

After morning tea at Oke's Camellia Garden we will visit *Avia Hortus* the garden belonging to well known AGHS member, local gardening identity and plant collector Hazel King. Features of this garden include the diversity and intensity of plantings which are both interesting and unusual.

Lunch - Merribee Gardens



After lunch we will have a guided tour of **Merribee's garden** which spans seven acres and features 2km of pathways. Wander through formal garden rooms, including the Rose Garden, the hedged Potager, the walled Snow Pear Garden, the Cottage Garden, Crepe Myrtle Walk, the Herb Garden, the Lavender Paddock, the Bunya Bunya Copse and finish up at the adjoining hedging, topiary and rose nursery. Birdlife is vibrant in the garden. In the orchard edible fruit ranges from mango, guava and apple to pomegranate, passionfruit and avocados. The garden is also home to beehives that yield Merribee honey.

Overnight and Dinner – Lincoln Downs Resort,
11683 Princes Highway, Batemans Bay
(T) 02 4478 9200 (2 nights)



Day 2 - Thursday 4 April 2019



To-day we will visit picturesque Horse Island which sits in Tuross Lake bounded on one side by the narrow Brices Creek which allowed the construction of an old hardwood bridge and vehicular access. The island is a natural formation of a horseshoe shaped landmass around Horse Island Bay. The garden is extensive covering around 20 acres. We will have the opportunity to see the area which includes the surrounds of the main buildings including the main house at the northern end and two cottages on either side of the road "guarding" the southern entry.

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To the northeast, across the lake, a distant line of Norfolk Island pines alludes to the beachfront at Tuross Head, and the ocean beyond. To the northwest the vista across a wide body of water is to dense eucalypt forest and the majestic misty mountains of the Deua National Park.

The garden was developed from Australian native plants as the east coast Australian landscapes provided an understated parkland with drifts of native grasses between clumped trees. It was recognised that a balance would need to be achieved with controlled landscapes near the buildings easing into informal patterns of planting merging with the bush. As the garden evolved a dam was turned into an elegant water feature. The immediate environs of the main house are formally planned with a rill, circular pond, curving colonnade and lushly planted border recalling great English prototypes but created from Australian native plants.



Lunch - Picnic lunch at Horse Island

Returning to Batemans Bay we will make a stop at Mogo which, since the 1980's, has become home to a small group of artists and craftspeople. The town's architectural heritage has been maintained with shops and dwellings being built to compliment the surviving miners' cottages. These buildings are now galleries and speciality shops brimming with traditional and modern art, exotic and unusual artefacts, and, ceramics, collectables, antiques and cafes.

Dinner - Lincoln Downs Resort

Day 3 - Friday 5 April 2019

This morning we will visit **Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens** a site of approximately 42 hectares (*about 100 acres*) and part of Mogo State Forest, adjacent to Deep Creek Dam. The site had not been logged since the early years of the twentieth century. About 10 hectares was cleared and excavated providing fill for the dam wall. That degraded area provided an excellent site for the buildings and display gardens of Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens. The remaining 32 hectares of natural forest vegetation provided an ideal environment for walking tracks.

Lunch - River Cruise on the Clyde River (Batemans Bay)



The Clyde River (Bhundoo to the local Aboriginal people), begins its journey 125 km from Batemans Bay in rugged mountain areas to the north. The Clyde River, which is sometimes merely a trickle in the upper reaches, passes through pristine forest areas and National Parks delivering water that is very pure. As the river nears Batemans Bay it becomes much wider and deeper with the last 35km from Shallow Crossing to the Tollgate Islands at the entrance to Batemans Bay being navigable to large watercraft. Its sources are almost entirely contained in protected, uninhabited lands (primarily National Parks)

with only 5% of its catchment being cleared. It is one of the last major rivers in Eastern Australia to remain un-dammed. A short stop is made at Nelligen with time to visit local historical sites including where the notorious Clarke Brothers were held waiting shipment to Sydney

Traffic and weather permitting we should return to the Southern Highlands at approximately 5.30pm.

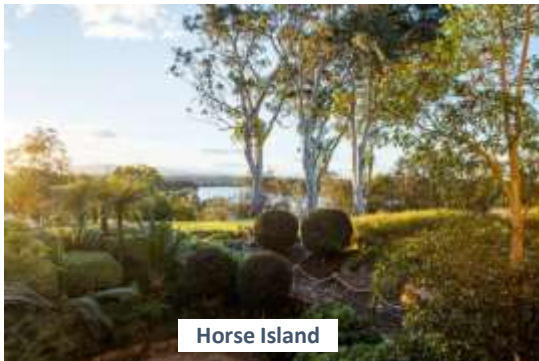
Horse Island and the South Coast

Wednesday 3 – Friday 5 April 2019

Tour Cost and Conditions

- Cost - 35-40 passengers \$520; 30-34 passengers \$540; 25-29 passengers \$570 per person (single supplement \$100 per person) – includes coach travel, all admission charges, two morning teas, all meals; and accommodation.
- **Deposit** - \$250 per passenger at time of booking **Final payment** – Wednesday 20 February 2019.
- **No refund** will be given for cancellations **within 6 weeks of departure** unless the booking can be resold.
- Bookings are to be made on the enclosed booking form.
- The tour is limited to a maximum of 40 passengers and a minimum of 25 passengers.
- The Committee reserves the right to change the itinerary without notice.
- Due to weight constraints passenger luggage must be limited to 23 Kilograms.
- Please ensure all **luggage is clearly identified** with your name and contact details.
- **Travel insurance is strongly recommended and is the sole responsibility of the passenger.**
- *Enquiries and bookings* - Ray Bradley (E) aghs.sh.info@gmail.com; (T) 02 4861 4090 or PO Box 2327 Bowral 2576.

Please note:



- Horse Island is a large garden with slopes and significant walking capacity is required.
- Other venues may have steps and/or slopes, unsealed and/or uneven pathways and grassed areas and may also require a reasonable amount of walking. Please ensure you wear suitable footwear and that you are capable of walking and standing for a period of time.
- Due to the limited access to Horse Island all tour participants must travel on the coach.



**Australian Garden History Society
(Southern Highlands Branch) tour
Horse Island and the South Coast**

Wednesday 3 – Friday 5 April 2019

Passenger/s Booking Form

to be completed and returned to Ray Bradley, PO Box 2327, Bowral 2576.

Deposit \$250 per passenger at time of booking

Final payment – Wednesday 20 February 2019

Please print clearly.

Tour Passenger/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* _____

Passenger Requirements

Room Type: Double Single Supplement Ground Floor

Twin Share Willing To Share With: _____

Dietary / Medical Requirements you believe we should be aware of. (e.g. - diabetic, vegetarian, gluten free)

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS:-

1: Name:Phone:

2: Name:Phone:

I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the tour conditions specified within the itinerary.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Enquiries/bookings - Ray Bradley (E) aghs.sh.info@gmail.com (T) 02 4861 4090 PO Box 2327, Bowral 2576

Payment options (please indicate)

- Cheque payable to **Australian Garden History Society, NSW Branch** returned with this form to:
The South Coast Tour, AGHS, PO Box 2327, Bowral 2576
OR
- Direct credit to ANZ Bank - Account name: **Australian Garden History Society (NSW Branch)** BSB: 012 547 Account no: 237 514 077 - please include the following reference **3 April and your surname. Email your name and phone number to aghs.sh.info@gmail.com** to advise the deposit has been made.

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Save the Date

25 to 29 October 2018 39th AGHS National Conference **Gardens in Times of Peace and Conflict**

Friday 7 December 2018 AGHS Southern Highlands Christmas Party

Sunday 10 March 2019 Jazz Picnic

Wednesday 3 to Friday 5 April 2019 Horse Island and the South Coast

And don't forget to Save the Date

for an 11-12 day tour to the

Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers

departing **18 September 2019** travelling north through Tamworth and Armidale to Toowoomba for five days of horticultural beauty. The tour will return via Murwillumbah visiting the Margaret Olley Art Centre and the North Coast Regional Botanic Garden at Coffs Harbour. Planning for the tour is well underway and details should be available by November for distribution to members and friends. Expressions of Interest can be lodged with Ray Bradley (T) 02 4861 4090 or (E) aghs.sh.info@gmail.com.



About Inflorescence

Inflorescence is the newsletter of the Southern Highlands Branch of the Australian Garden History Society.

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