

Inflorescence

January 2023

The Newsletter of the Southern Highlands Branch of the AGHS



Events for 2023

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

22 February self-drive to see Berry and Gardens

29 March visit to Tavistock Exeter

5 April one day coach tour to Markdale

26 April garden visit to Upper Woodlands

Report from the Chair

I hope everyone enjoyed Christmas and New Year with family and friends and had an opportunity to spend time relaxing after another eventful year with Covid.

Despite the challenges of gathering together during this past year, many new members have joined our branch. We now number 182 members vs 166 the previous year, an increase of 9.6%. Our branch covers a large geography so we welcome those who live some distance away and hope you can attend some of our events this year. We'd love to meet you and learn about your area and potentially create visits to new and interesting locations for our membership.

We were finally able to gather for our Annual Christmas drinks on 1 December at Hopewood House and Gardens. The event was enjoyed by all so hopefully we'll be able to come together more frequently in 2023. Covid is still amongst us so please take appropriate precautions when in large gatherings especially if you have underlying health conditions.

The AGHS Committee has planned some interesting events and site visits this year which we hope will appeal to the diverse interests of our members. Our first event is a self-drive to Berry and surrounding areas to enjoy some of the beautiful old gardens and history of houses in the area. The tour has been created by Hazel King OAM, a long term resident of Berry and a significant contributor to the garden and history of the community.

As promised a trip report on the AGHS National Conference held in Hobart on 11-13 November is included in this issue. The 3-day post conference tour 15-17 November to the Launceston area is also included.

We are seeking support from members of the AGHS-SHB to assist with traffic, setting up tables, serving afternoon teas etc. for events during the year. This does not necessarily mean joining the committee, although you are very welcome to do so if you wish. We have only six members on the committee and sometimes committee members are unable to attend specific events due to personal commitments. We would therefore like to be able to call on individuals to help with the management of an event on the day. Please let Eleanor Dartnall (0418 693 839 or eleanor@dartnallestatematters.com) or me know if this is of interest to you.

On 26 January 2023, Australia Day, the Berrima District Museum was open and a record 250 people attended over the day. Our joint exhibition with the Berrima Historical and Family History Society Gardens and Landscapes of the Southern Highlands continues to be popular with visitors.

Looking forward to seeing all again this year.

Best wishes,

Ruth Bailey

AGHS-SHB Committee

Chair and Secretary	Ruth Bailey
Events Coordinator	Eleanor Dartnall
Treasurer	Lynda Cowley
IT Coordinator/Research	Jenny Woodwell
Editor/Research	Bud Townsing
General Member	Chris O'Brien

Associate Members

Tours	Ray Bradley
NMC Representative	Lyn Barrett
WSC Heritage Representative	Laurel Cheetham

42nd AGHS National Conference

11-13 November 2022

Landscape on the Edge Challenge and Opportunity

By Jenny Woodwell and Ruth Bailey

Delegates from all states enjoyed the comfort and views of the Wrest Point Casino at Sandy Bay for the 3-day AGHS conference last November. Each day of the conference, there were presentations in the morning and garden visits in the afternoon, and Day 4 was an optional day trip to Bruny Island. Trisha Dixon took pre conference and post conference tours to some wonderful Tasmanian gardens.

The conference addressed the issues of climate change impacts and how colonialism in Tasmania, being on the edge of Australian society, with unique geology, shaped a landscape.

Day 1 FRIDAY AM

After Welcome to Country by Trish Hodge, the delegates were welcomed by the Conference Convener Prue Slatyer.

In the beginning

Prior to the arrival of the British in 1803, Tasmania was inhabited by people from nine Aboriginal nations. For them, Tasmania has been and continues to be known as *lutruwita*.

Tasmania is often described as being on the edge of the world due to its location on the southern tip of the Australian continent, with vast oceans to the east, south and west. Despite its remoteness, Tasmania was one of the first areas in Australia colonised by Europeans and has a long landscape and garden history. Cut off from the mainland some 12,000 years ago, Tasmania has a landscape that in parts is distinctly different from the rest of Australia.

Dr Penny Jones, University of Tasmania environmental scientist, described the earliest geological history of *lutruwita* which is recorded in rocks from over 1.27 billion years ago. The island's oldest rocks seem to have originated when that part of the island was attached to western North America. These minerals, strongly resemble those found in Montana, Idaho and southern British Columbia. This was prior to the formation of Gondwana about 550 million years ago. Gondwana was a large landmass that began to break up about 180 million years ago.

Dr Tonia Cochran, managing director of Inala Jurassic Garden on Bruny Island explained how *Auricaria* trees such as the Norfolk Island pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*), monkey puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*) and Bunya-Bunya (*Araucaria bidwillii*) found in *lutruwita*, NZ, Australia, South Africa and South America are strikingly similar when leaves and flowers and now genes have been compared indicating that these land masses were likely connected at some point in time. Her ongoing research along with others around the world is demonstrating the Gondwana connections of a range of living plant families and demonstrates how these species have evolved in isolation on the contemporary southern landmasses since their separation from Gondwana.

Trish Hodge, is a proud palawa woman who is an Aboriginal educator. Her company is called nita Education (<https://nita.education>). Tasmania/*lutruwita* has a human history stretching back more than 40,000 years, spanning at least two ice ages and more than 2000 generations. Today's palawa and pakana people continue to practice many cultural traditions. Her company proudly shares their history and heritage with all people from all ages. Trish described the

names of many Tasmanian plants and their traditional uses for medicine, food and craft. She currently has 300 plants listed and continues to collect more and would like to publish her collection.

Day 1 FRIDAY PM - Gardens Visits

Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, Hobart

Tasmania's botanical gardens were established in 1818 and are the second oldest in Australia after Sydney's. Thirty per cent of the plant collection is Tasmanian plants, including the world's only sub-antarctic plant house with the flora of Macquarie Island. Regionally part of Oceania and politically a part of Tasmania since 1900, Macquarie Island became a Tasmanian State Reserve in 1978 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997.

The Botanical Gardens also hold the largest collection of mature conifers in the southern hemisphere and are adjacent to Government House. The Gardens' oldest tree is a cork oak, *Quercus suber*, planted in 1844.



Cork Oak, *Quercus suber*, courtesy National Trust

We arrived at the Botanic Gardens hoping that it wouldn't rain. It bucketed down, so after attempting a tour with a guide everyone retreated to the administration building and gift shop for afternoon tea! Finally, after the rain stopped, we were able to visit the Government House Garden next door.

Government House Garden, Hobart

We were very excited to be able to visit Tasmanian Government House and garden. It really looks like a wonderful Scottish Castle. The house and garden at Government House were established in 1857. The gardens are part estate with paddocks and grazing cattle, part ornamental gardens and part productive gardens. The productive vegie garden was very impressive and the produce from the garden is used in the Government House kitchen. There was also a winery on site, the product of which we tasted at the reception.

Tasmania's Government House is today regarded as one of the best Vice-Regal residences in the Commonwealth. Designed by colonial architect William Porden Kay, it is a fine example of neo-Gothic style and is one of the largest of its type in Australia. Outstanding exterior features of the house include exceptional stonework, individually carved sandstone chimney pots and bas-relief sculptures.



Government House Tasmania courtesy Government House

After a guided tour of the beautiful gardens with breathtaking views across the Derwent River, our late afternoon reception with Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC was held in the reception hall. All attendees were invited to taste the Government House wine and tour the ground floor to view the many valuable art works and artefacts.

Day 2 SATURDAY AM

The day's presentations examined the landscape first encountered by Europeans, from French explorers who documented the indigenous flora and created the island's first European garden, to colonial settlers (including artist John Glover), who from 1803 shaped modern Tasmania. We look at how they responded to this land on the edge of the known world.

Deborah Wace, botanical artist and researcher, presented Tasmanian botany as documented by the French explorers

Tara Edmondson, head gardener at Government House, presented the French Garden of Felix Delahaye.

Alison Alexander, author and historian spoke of the cultural landscape of Van Dieman's Land

Carol Westmore, Patterdale near Evandale, spoke of the running repairs and 2019 restoration of her property once owned by the famous landscape artist John Glover. The farmhouse, southeast of Launceston, was restored in 2019 and with 400 ha (990 acres) of surrounding land, often featured in Glover's work, was Tasmanian heritage listed as 'Patterdale and Nile Farm'.

Day 2 SATURDAY PM : Garden visits



High Peak, Neika courtesy Federation Home

High Peak, at Neika is 400m above sea level on the slopes of Mt Wellington/kunanyi and the magnificent Victorian Tudor Style house was built as a mountain retreat in 1891 with extensive gardens established at the same time. The gardens are laid out with hedges of English box and pittosporum, hydrangeas and rhododendrons. There are many large old trees, including araucarias (Norfolk Island Pines), sequoias, spruce, cedar, cypress, yew and yellow holly. This significant garden thrives in Neika's rich volcanic soil and high rainfall, which is twice that of Hobart.

Crawleighwood, Nicholls Rivulet

A delightful 3.5ha garden featuring rhododendrons, maple woodlands, Gondwana rainforest species, rare and unusual plants. Brilliant spring and autumn colours.



Conference Dinner at Glen Albyn

During dinner at this wonderful bayside location, there was an interesting presentation by Dr Malcolm Ward titled "Love under the bower. A ramble in George Meredith's Garden".

Day 3 SUNDAY AM : AGHS AGM

The AGM kicked off at 7.45 am with almost a full house. Each delegate received the Annual Report 2021/2022, which was an overview of the year that was, once again, complicated by Covid.

The report included the Co-chairs' report, the end of year Treasurers report and Branch reports. There have been some interesting Branch activities throughout the year, and the Branch committee members were thanked for their time, expertise and passion. I think you can agree the Southern Highlands Branch committee provides informative, fun and interesting activities for our members throughout the year.

The election for the National Management Committee (NMC) and Chair took place. The AGHS is governed by the NMC made up of Office bearers, elected members and Branch Representatives.

NMC ELECTED MEMBERS:

Chair: Lynne Walker

Treasurer: Stephen Hathway

Secretary: Helen Oates

Public Officer: Lyn Barrett

Members: Annabel Murray, Anna Long, Prue Slatyer, Dot Evans

BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES:

ACT Anne Claoue-Long; QLD Ann Wegener;

Northern NSW Helen Oates; Sydney Stephen Halliday

Southern Highlands NSW Lyn Barrett; SA Dr Patricia Michell;

TAS: Rosie MacKinnon

VIC: Michaela Hill; WA: Patsy Vizents

After the election of the new NMC, delegates were asked to contribute to a discussion about attracting members – especially younger members, who may guide the Society through the next decade, with exciting ideas about sustainability, landscape preservation and climate change.

While an aim of the Society is to attract younger membership, it could mean the Society would have more family events, more fun events and more free events.

Younger people may be too busy to join so a suggestion was to perhaps focus on younger retirees, who are coming through and are much more tech savvy than the older members.

It was suggested that an effort should be made to reach out and help the older members cope with technology, especially around zoom presentations, and the also the excellent content of the AGHS website.

A suggestion was made that the word Garden in the AGHS name might be expanded to include Landscapes, reflecting the importance of a broader focus on landscape, which is inclusive of gardens.

Members were encouraged to give memberships as a present.

One suggestion was to encourage the selection of presenters from the younger generation, so that there may be interest from their contemporaries about landscapes, history, sustainability and the production of food for their own tables. Facebook and Instagram are important links to the younger generation and should be used. Advocacy may also help to attract interested people, so it continues to play an important role.

After the elections, MC Prof Tim Entwisle introduced three interesting speakers, each addressing the subject of Climate Change, how climate change is likely to impact our landscape and strategies and practical solutions for reducing carbon emissions, adapting to a changed climate and restoring the land.

- James Wood, Manager, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Seedbank, gave a talk about the Seed Bank and the role the Botanical Gardens plays in its consideration of climate change and caring for threatened species.
- Dr Tonia Cochran spoke about her Inala Jurassic Garden on Bruny Island. Her presentation was entitled “A Noah’s Ark for Endangered Plants”. Those of us who joined the Bruny Island tour visited this spectacular collection on Monday.
- Marcus Ragus, head horticulturalist of Spring Bay Mill, spoke about how the Triabunna woodchip mill on the East Coast, was successfully converted to a sustainable resort. The slides showed the amazing step by step conversion of the woodchip mill to an amazing resort experience.

Prof Entwisle then spoke on managing a heritage garden in a climate changing world, and launched the “AGHS Position statement on Responding to Climate Change”. See the AGHS website for more details.

There was a Q&A session and the Conference was formally closed, with the announcement that Ipswich will be hosting the 2023 Conference., and WA branch will be hosting the 2024 Conference.

Day 3 SUNDAY PM : Garden visits

After lunch, delegates boarded buses for a very wet visit to the house and vast gardens of Valleyfield which fronts the Derwent River at New Norfolk. Valleyfield is a beautiful heritage house, which has a coach house originally built as an inn in the 1830’s.

We then visited the Salmon Ponds at Plenty established around 1861, and the oldest Trout hatchery in the Southern Hemisphere, which has avenues of extremely old Cedar, Douglas Fir, and Monterey Cypress trees, some of which are over 140 years old, and as such are registered with the National Trust as significant trees.

Day 4 MONDAY: Day trip to Bruny Island

Once on Bruny Island, an hour south of Hobart, we began our Bruny Island tour with a visit to Inala, the garden built and owned By Dr Tonia Cochran – a Noah’s Ark for endangered plants. Wandering through her garden one can see more than 750 species from more than 50 families, arranged in family groupings. There was also a museum featuring shells, fossils and gemstones, illustrating Gondwana history.



Inala Jurassic Garden courtesy Blooming Tasmania



Our group climbing to the lookout at The Neck on Bruny Island

The second garden was Sprokkelwood owned and designed by artists Keith and Grietje combining art with gardening, featuring long vistas and spaces defined by trees and shrubs.



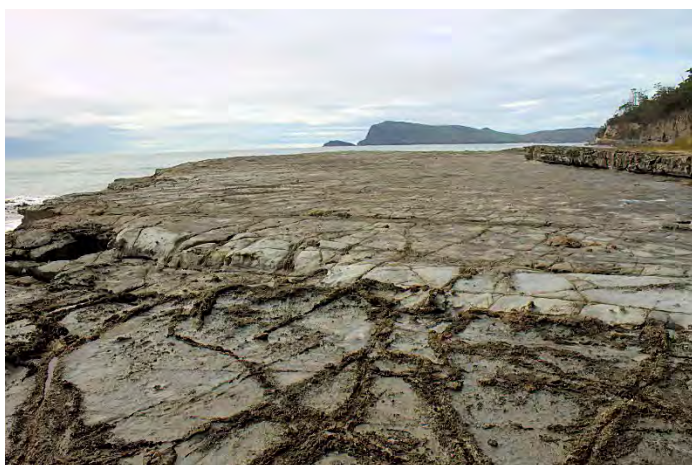
Sprokkelwood Garden courtesy Blooming Tasmania

We were served a lovely lunch by the local CWA ladies at Alonnah Hall, a little town with a beautiful coastal view.

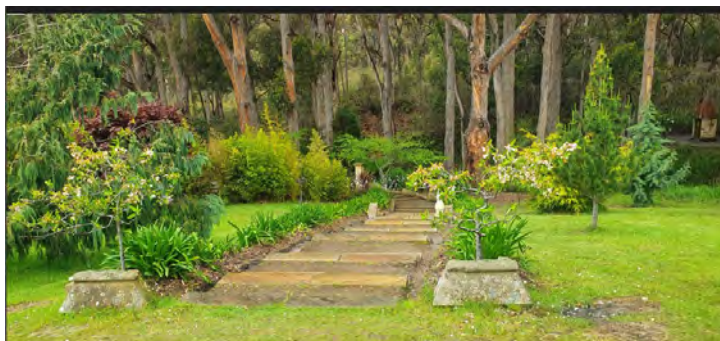


CWA lunch, a respite from the rain, at Alonnah Hall.

Our last garden visit was to Hiba which is set right on the coast. It is said that Captain Bligh pulled ashore on the rock platform we could see from the bottom of the garden. This garden is beautifully designed with many structures and follies, a lake and lake house, formal gardens and hedges, woodlands, rhododendrons, azaleas and many other various species covering the 10 hectares.



Tessalated pavement at Adventure Bay accessible from Hiba



A walkway taking you into the surrounding bushland at Hiba



The lake at HIBA, looking toward the rugged coastline.



One of the wonderful garden sculptures at Hiba

The Post Conference Tour 15-17 November 2022

(Based on notes provided by tour leader Trisha Dixon)

Woodbine Cottage, Oatlands - Nick and Sophie Weeding



Woodbine Cottage is constructed of sandstone and was built circa 1830s. All gardens have been a work in progress since 2014 and aim towards a relaxed country openness with formal elements of topiary and hedging. Gently curving garden beds along the driveway, and paths match the rural setting. Box and lavender hedges and a row of ornamental pears accentuate the drive. The garden features many perennials such as hebe, teucrium, viburnum and lavender. Mediterranean plants such as rosemary, bay, cardoon and thyme have been planted as they grow well in the dry climate and cool winters. This young garden is challenged by the roaring forties winds which blow for days on end and sometimes a week without let up. Late spring frost are also treacherous for new buds and blooms.



The garden at Woodbine Cottage Oatlands

Trefusis, Ross - Georgie and Hamish Wallace



Trefusis was first granted to William Bunster in the 1830's who built the middle part of the current homestead.

In the 1920's Georgie Wallace's grandfather Alec McEwen bought Trefusis and started to build up a flock of Saxon Superfine Merino's. Her father Jim McEwen took over the property at the age of 18 after his father's death. Over his lifetime he developed the property, turning it into one of the major Superfine Wool producing properties in Australia. The garden has evolved over the years with the original oak trees and walnut tree likely planted in the 1830's. A stone wall was added and a path now leads to the bottom of this garden opening up a view to the hills over the river. The tennis court (photo below) is now a lawn surrounded by beautiful perennial borders after a renovation in 2011.



Culzean, Westbury - Dinah Fitzgerald

Culzean is pronounced Cull-ane so has a silent 'z'. It is Gaelic, named after Culzean Castle in the east of Scotland. First settled in 1840 by Edward Martin whose brother resided at Exton House nearby. The family lived here for 30 years and many of the tree plantings can be attributed to the Martins and nearby Quamby, as the estate had a tree nursery at the time. The main drive down to the house is known as 'The Avenue' including a *Sequoiadendron giganteum* which dominates the wedding lawn. The most significant gardener to live at Culzean was Dr. Harry Laker. He purchased the farm in 1965 and created the lake and the irrigation dam. Many of the trees and shrubs were planted by Harry including the camellias and conifers which now form this mature woodland garden. There hasn't been any formal design of the garden, it has grown and developed as a family property over 176 years fortunately being tended and nurtured by passionate gardeners.



Culzean Westbury

Old Wesleydale, Mole Creek - Deb and Scott Wilson

The property is significant for its early Georgian homestead and outbuildings. Henry Reed owned this tract of land in 1836 and developed the homestead and the farm complex. It consisted of a square compound of one measured acre bounded by a massive stone wall, 10 feet high and 2 feet thick. Inside the huge barn, with its gun slot windows, Henry's fine imported cattle were well protected. The old dairy building with its morticed, pegged and fitted exposed beams is where cream and cheese making took place.



A finer walled garden now exists closer to the house. It is filled with a wide variety of perennials and trees.



This heritage garden property can be rented and is about a 60 minute drive to Crater Lake

Iveridge, Cressy - Tim Wallace



This sheep farm is notable for its ponds which have been incorporated into the garden landscape. The house was only constructed in 1977 and was constructed in a sheltered location.

The sheep would tuck in here sheltered from the cold windy weather. The lake was constructed by David Wallace (Tim's father) as there was a natural spring in the same location.



The rhododendron garden is now mature and flourishes down by the creek and provides many seasons of beautiful colour. In 2000, Tim took over the care of the property and garden and changed the drive, extended the garden around the lake, planted Manchurian pears, paved the lake wall and built the vegetable garden.

Richmond Hill, Cressy - Nick and Fiona Moses

James Brumby was granted 100 acres of land in 1809 and built the cottage on Richmond Hill and began the homestead. In 1826 Richmond Hill was purchased from James Brumby by the Cressy Company which was responsible for importing the first Hereford cattle into Australia. James Denton Toosey was the manager and solicitor of the Cressy Company for many years and bought the property from the Cressy Company when it failed. He finished building the house in 1827 when 20 convicts were lent to him for that purpose for a period of 6 months.



The Granary was originally built as an enormous barn from sandstone and brick that was carted by bullock from a property 20 km away. It has had many uses over the years: granary, stable, worker's quarters, shearing shed and very recently host to many Tasmanian visitors. The garden has been created by Fiona and is a work in progress but beautifully designed with perennials and trees able to sustain the cold windy climate.



Richmond Hill Cressy

Patterdale, Deddington - Carol Westmore



Patterdale oil on canvas by John Glover courtesy Art Gallery of S. A.

Patterdale was the home of colonial artist John Glover which features in the above 1835 painting of his house and garden. Glover, at the age of 64, moved to Van Diemen's Land in 1831, and received a land grant on the Nile River at Deddington. Patterdale farm has operated continuously since then and the landscape that Glover painted is largely intact and heritage listed. Owners, Carol and (the late) Rodney Westmore, spent over a decade restoring the house, studio and garden as well as creating a Glover Walk which leads to the spots where Glover painted some of his well-known landscapes. The garden in front of the house has been created to reflect the original painting by Glover and was designed by landscape designer Catherine Shields.



Patterdale photograph taken by Catherine Shields March 2021



Patterdale Art Studio

Clairville, Western Junction - Michael McWilliams and Robert Henley

Clairville originally 700 acres, was granted to John Sinclair in 1825 for his part in the capture of one of Mathew Brady's bushranger gang. Sinclair sold the property to Robert Cameron in 1854 and the property remained in the Cameron family until 2019. The 1820s heritage listed house on 13 acres is now owned by Robert Henley and Michael McWilliams, who previously owned the Jolly Farmer at Perth where they restored the buildings and created a wonderful garden. The Clairville garden features many old deciduous trees, conifers and hawthorn hedges and has an unusual Georgian guard house at the vehicle entry.



Clairville house above and the garden below.



Christmas Drinks at Hopewood



What a wonderful opportunity for many members of the AGHS-SHB and their friends to gather in the beautiful surroundings of Hopewood House and Gardens in Bowral on Thursday 1 December 2022.



The history of the Estate is long - first being first established in 1884 for pastoralist Ben Osborne and his wife Lucy Throsby it was then owned by Lebbeus Horden, of the famous Horden Family until 1929. Horden not only established the stunning gardens but also remodelled the home throughout. This included the gracious wide verandah where we served drinks and canapés as well as the Dutch colonial facade of the house. The estate later was operated as a children's home to 86 babies born out of wedlock from 1942-1951. The children were raised at the Hopewood Estate until the 1970's and this "Hopewood Family" still reunite from all over Australia each year. The current custodians of Hopewood are Australian artist Tim Storrier and his wife Janet. Tim's sculptures feature throughout the garden, which is maintained by Janet and a dedicated team of gardeners (adapted from www.hopewoodhouse.com.au).

We all were delighted to experience some lovely dry and warm weather after all of the rain and cool temperatures. Members and friends (75 in all) came from not only from the Southern Highlands but also from Goulburn, Berry and Sydney. Janet Storrier was a most gracious host making everyone feel very welcome. We were all able to wander the ground floor of the house which was extraordinary. The beautiful interior decoration reflected the period home and all rooms were adorned with Tim Storrier's artwork. This was a rare opportunity to see some of his home collection. The grounds were immaculate however due to the cool weather many plants were not in flower. This didn't deter members from wandering the grounds and enjoying the plantings. Tertini Wines were

savoured by many and the canapés provide by Chef Pascal Timores of Kookabar in Bowral were enjoyed by all.



Ruth Bailey, Janet Storrier and Eleanor Dartnall. Janet has just unwrapped her surprise present of a 1918 portrait of Lebbeus Horden courtesy the Imperial war Museum London.



AGHS-SHB members enjoying themselves on the Hopewood verandah



New Colonial Plants Data Base

Claire Baddeley has informed us of a new Colonial Plants Database of Australian colonial plants and archival material at the new Museum of History NSW (the State Records and Archives Office has now amalgamated with Sydney Living Museums).

The Colonial Plants Database includes more than 11,000 listings of plants known to be available in the colony of NSW prior to the 1870s. The database is compiled from several sources, including Botanic Gardens records, nursery catalogues and manuscript plant lists created by early colonists such as colonial secretary Alexander Macleay. This link should get you there. <https://first.mhnsnsw.au/searchColonialPlants.jsp>

AGHS – Southern Highlands Branch 2023 Calendar

22 February	Our first event is a self drive tour of the Berry/Nowra area which is being planned with Hazel King OAM of Berry for Wednesday 22 February. Please hold this date as we finalise a selection of older homes with beautiful gardens. We will provide more details in the next few weeks
29 March	Visit to Tavistock – a 50 year old garden and home that have been renovated in the past few years. The story of this rejuvenation will enthrall everyone as the owners explain how they had to manage and retain, where possible, old trees and revitalise the soil and gardens through very wet conditions.
5 April	One day coach tour to the Edna Walling garden at Markdale Crookwell
22 & 23 April	Southern Highlands Botanical Gardens Plant Fair – Education Stall
26 April	Garden visit to Upper Woodlands on Woodlands Road, Woodlands
May	Garden visit being planned
6 June	Winter Solstice Talk by Dr. Stephen Utick on National and international focus on conserving camellia collections. Plus another speaker
July	AGHS-SHB online sale of gardening books
27 August	Annual General Meeting at East Bowral Community Hall. Two speakers including Colin Blanch on gardening at Great Dixter plus a 12 month diary he has developed for gardening in the Southern Highlands.
September	Self Drive visit to Camden Park and St Johns Church Camden. Date to be finalised.
24 October	Visit to Trelm at Moss Vale a garden recovered and enlarged by Colin Blanch
22-24 November	Ray Bradley is organising a 3-day tour to the Hunter Valley Gardens Christmas Lights and other Hunter Valley attractions
1 December	Christmas drinks, location to be confirmed