



Southern Highlands Branch
tour to the
**Hunter Valley and
Hunter Valley Gardens Christmas Lights**

Tuesday 19 – Thursday 21 November 2024

Departing Mittagong RSL at 7.30 am

Tour Cost and Conditions

- **Cost** - \$685.00 per person if sharing (**single room** supplement \$180.00 per person for total \$865) – includes coach travel, admission charges, all meals (*except lunch Thursday*) and accommodation.
- **Bookings** are to be made on the enclosed booking form.
- **Deposit** of \$250 per passenger must be made at time of booking - bookings will be confirmed by email on receipt of the booking form and deposit.
- **Final payment** – no later than **Monday 4 November**.
- **No refund** will be given for cancellations **after Monday 4 November** unless the booking can be resold.
- Due to limited accommodation availability passengers are encouraged to share with a friend if possible - the tour is limited to a maximum of 35 passengers.
- The Committee reserves the right to amend the itinerary without notice.
- All tour participants must travel on the coach.
- 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.
- **Enquiries/bookings** - Ray Bradley (E) rbb1945@bigpond.net.au (M) 0416 191 905 (T) 4861 4090

Please note:

- Some venues may have steps and/or slopes, unsealed and/or uneven pathways and grassed areas and may require a reasonable amount of walking due to the size of the venue. Please ensure you wear suitable footwear and that you are capable of walking and standing for a period of time.

Itinerary

Day 1 - Tuesday 19 November

Morning Tea - Brooklyn



Lunch and Hunter Region Botanic Gardens which cover an area of more than 130 hectares much of which has been preserved as natural bushland. Australian and introduced species are laid out in themed areas and include acacias, banksias, myrtaceae, grevillias, ferns, bushtucker plants, succulents and palms. Rare and endangered Australian species are also cultivated. The orchid houses are a popular attraction. Easy walking trails provide access to the natural bushland with its mature blackbutt, angophoras and swamp mahogany forests and its understorey of more than 150 native plants. The forests are a natural habitat of goannas, wallabies, lizards, brushtail and ringtail possums, sugar gliders, bats, a small group of resident koalas and many birds.

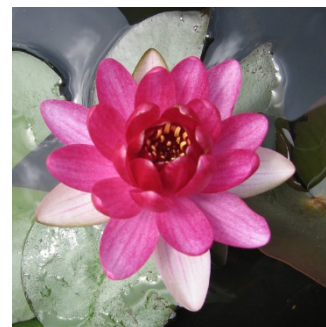
Dinner and Overnight - Mercure Resort Hunter Valley Gardens, 2090 Broke Road, Pokolbin (2 nights)

Day 2 - Wednesday 20 November



This morning we will have a guided tour of the **murals at Kurri Kurri** depicting historical information and personal stories showcasing the history and heritage of the region. The murals provide a visual journey, telling the stories of the people, events and places that shaped the area's unique character, culture and heritage. An image of a kookaburra, the emblem of Kurri Kurri, is contained in each mural. With sixty murals Kurri Kurri now claims the largest outdoor display of its kind in mainland Australia.

Morning Tea and **Wallis Creek Water Garden** which includes extensive ornamental gardens with many examples of pond landscaping, water plants and many other interesting plants. The range of plants includes over 200 different varieties that thrive in and around the water, and over 100 varieties of water lily. Landscaped gardens with many display ponds featuring many waterplants surround the nursery which also includes a small gallery with works by local artists and various water lily and lotus related products. Throughout the gardens you will also find various ornamental sculptures and other works on display.



Lunch - Taste of the Country, Pokolbin

Hunter Valley Gardens was opened to the public in 2003 spanning 14 hectares encompassing ten internationally themed gardens to explore. Eight kilometres of pathways lead you to spectacular vistas including a 10 m high waterfall, topiary displays, man-made ponds, statues, murals and beautiful architectural structures. The Gardens include 6,000 trees, 600,000 shrubs and over 1 million ground covers from Australia and around the world.



Hunter Valley Gardens Shopping Village, located just outside the entrance to the Hunter Valley Gardens is surrounded by their own beautiful gardens and offers a unique collection of bespoke shops offering everything from coffee and wine to stunning glassware and

unique clothing.

Dinner – Mercure Hotel

Hunter Valley Gardens Christmas Lights

- enter a glowing wonderland with over four million lights creating lasting memories as you stroll through magical themed light displays as you wander through a White Christmas scene complete with a snow cave and white topped Christmas trees creating lasting memories.



Day 3 - Thursday 21 November



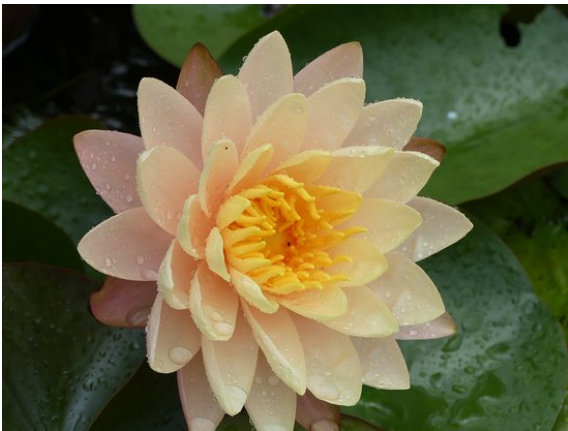
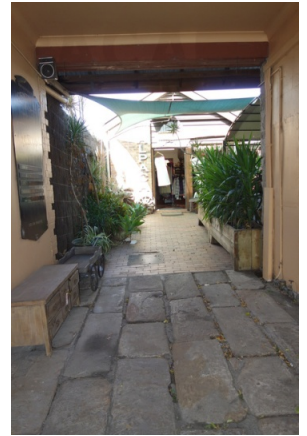
Morning Tea and **Grossman House** a rare historic restored Victorian property built in 1870-71 and thought to have been designed by local architect William White. Marvel at the Victorian-era décor, see exquisite 19th century textiles, and enjoy stunning heritage roses in a 50 year old heritage rose garden. A history filled house which tells the story of local Maitland life and industry in the 19th century. Heritage details include gas lighting, Victorian-era wallpaper, bell pulls and butler's pantry.

Morpeth is a living museum, classified by the National Trust, with a rich heritage, beautifully preserved buildings, uneven cobble stone paths and unique walkways. Instrumental in the development of the entire

Hunter Valley Morpeth was one of the most important river ports in New South Wales beginning in the 1820s under the instruction of the Colonial Secretary. With the development of Queens Wharf in 1833 opening the trade route with Sydney, the town soon became a major industrial and agricultural hub. While no longer famous for its primary industry, Morpeth today continues to thrive catering for food connoisseurs, fashion and jewellery lovers, art collectors and hand crafted one off pieces.

Lunch - Morpeth – *at own expense*

Traffic and weather permitting we should return to Mittagong at approximately 6.00 pm





Australian Garden History Society (Southern Highlands Branch) tour

Hunter Valley and Hunter Valley Gardens Christmas Lights

Tuesday 19 – Thursday 21 November 2024

Passenger/s Booking Form

to be completed and returned to Hunter Valley Gardens Tour, PO Box 2327, Bowral 2576.

Deposit \$250 per passenger due at time of booking
Final payment – 4 November 2024

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) rbb1945@bigpond.net.au (M) 0416 191 905 (T) 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:
Hunter Valley Gardens 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 **19 November and your surname**. Email your name and phone number to rbb1945@bigpond.net.au to advise the deposit has been made.