



*Southern Highlands Branch*  
*tour to the*  
*Blue Mountains and Mayfield Garden*

*Tuesday 8 - Thursday 10 April 2025*

*Departing Mittagong RSL at 7.30 am*

**Tour Cost and Conditions**

- **Cost** - \$795.00 per person if sharing (**single room** supplement \$140.00 per person with a total tour cost of \$935) – includes coach travel, admission charges, all meals and accommodation.
- **Bookings** are to be made on the enclosed booking form.
- **Deposit** of \$250 per passenger must be made at the time of booking which will be confirmed by email on receipt of the booking form and deposit.
- **Final payment** – no later than **Monday 24 March**.
- **No refund** will be given for cancellations **after Monday 24 March** unless the booking can be resold.
- 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.
- Please wear your name badge.
- **Enquiries/bookings** - Ray Bradley (E) rbb1945@bigpond.net.au (M) 0416 191 905

**Please note:**

- If feeling unwell please do not travel.
- Some venues will 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 8 April**

*The Secret Garden, Richmond* a not-for-profit 'Community Hub' managed by North West Disability Services (NWDS) using facilities to bring the community into an environment that supports a range of programs for people with a disability, school children, aged members of the community, students, volunteers and the whole community. Visitors are welcome in the beautiful gardens, say hi to the resident chickens, guinea pigs, ducks and goats or select plants from the extensive plant nursery. Many of the plants for sale have been propagated on-site by volunteers and program participants.



*Morning Tea* - The Secret Garden

*Windyridge Garden* located in the historic village of Mt Wilson is a five acre private garden and regarded as one of Australia's most beautiful gardens. At an altitude of 1050m above sea level the garden showcases an extensive range of cool climate plants including many deciduous trees and plants which include Oaks, Japanese Maples, camellias, azaleas and hydrangeas alongside a waterfall and rainforest, a European style Parterre Garden, sculpture garden with art works of bronze statues and ceramics and an onsite nursery – all connected by a beautiful walkway



*Lunch* - picnic lunch - Windyridge Garden

*Nooroo* means 'shady place' and was built and planted in 1880 by William Hay whose original work gives the garden its air of maturity. The Valder family owned the property from 1917 to 1992 and during their time, an old tennis court was converted into a world-famous wisteria garden containing a collection of 28 standard wisterias ranging in colour from white to deep purple. Since 1992, the Barrett family have maintained the existing garden and created large new garden rooms sympathetic to the original garden. The garden boasts amazing Autumn colour from the original oaks, chestnuts and ash (*some of which are over 140 years old*) augmented by a wide variety of maples and other deciduous trees.



*Dinner and Overnight* – Bushman's Motor Inn, 526 Great Western Highway, Marrangaroo (2 nights)

**Day 2 - Wednesday 9 April**

*Gory'u Japanese Gardens and Maple Springs Nursery* with over 8.5 acres of nursery and gardens containing the major elements of a true Japanese Garden. Experience a little piece of Japan in the picturesque Hartley Valley at the foothills of the Blue Mountains. Gory'u garden is a Kaiyushiki teien stroll garden. This dry Karesansui landscape offers the elements of a Japanese garden including stunning views up to the escarpment and across lake Shoji surrounded by beautiful Zen gardens, a Shinto garden complete with Torii gate, numerous bridges, stone lanterns, shrines and pagodas, full moon bridge and dragon stream. The garden offers wonderful Japanese maples, flowering cherries, structured black pines and dwarf spruce representing the cedars of Japan.



*Everglades House and Garden* - a stunning heritage residence surrounded by Paul Sorensen designed gardens featuring scenic walks, expansive garden terraces and magnificent dry-stone walls, a tranquil grotto and reflection pool and views across the Jamison valley to Mount Solitary. The 1930's Van de Velde designed Art Deco house incorporates a sweeping staircase and Art Deco features.





*Lunch* - Picnic Lunch in the garden at Everglades.

*Coach Tour of Lithgow* - Founded in 1824 Lithgow was named for former state auditor-general William Lithgow becoming a municipality in 1889 and a city in 1945. In 1977 it was amalgamated with Blaxland Shire to form the City of Greater Lithgow. Lying at the heart of the western coalfield (*most of the mines in the Lithgow Valley have been worked out*), extending from the Grose River valley to Kandos and Ulan. In 1858 that coal was used to power local woolen and flour mills, and was also the basis for the founding in the late 19th century of refining industries for iron, steel, and copper. Lithgow's enterprises have included the Lithgow Small Arms Factory (*opened in 1912 and still operating in the early 21st century although its activities were greatly reduced in scale*), woolen and flour mills, and the manufacture of textiles and ceramics.

At the conclusion of the tour a stop will be made at the *Hoskins Memorial Church* surrounded by landscaped gardens designed by Paul Sorensen in 1938 and now regarded as one of the most beautiful in Lithgow.

*Dinner* – Bushman's Motor Inn

**Day 3 - Thursday 10 April**

*Mayfield Garden* - located at Oberon - is a cool climate garden and is regarded as one of



Australia's most significant horticultural destinations and one of the world's largest privately owned cool climate gardens. Inspired by the gardens of Europe, Mayfield features vast greenery vistas, an avenue of trees, seasonal colours and ornamental flowering. It also encompasses the Water Garden, a prominent stone cascade, a large collection of maples and a collection of Hydrangeas. Shaped like a valley, the *Valley of the Five Ponds* contains a woodland collection of deciduous oaks, maples, birch and beech, with a shrub groundcover of viburnum, Rhododendron and winter-

flowering Hellebore and summer-flowering heuchera. The area also contains a summer-blooming meadow of wildflowers and hostas. A stone water trough weaves through the valley and links the five ponds.

The Hawkins' Family Garden features the second largest maze of its kind in Australia and many plant species such as dahlias, zinnias, poppies, delphiniums, lilies, hollyhocks and lupins. The area also includes an introduced pine forest with an understory of rhododendrons and ferns, a chicken coop, a rose garden with David Austin and hybrid tea roses, wisteria and climbing hydrangea.



Upon arrival at Mayfield, a guide will escort the group to the Chapel located at the highest point within the garden, provide a 90 minute walking tour explaining the history of the garden and answer any questions. At the conclusion of the tour time will be available to explore the garden at your leisure.

*Lunch* - Mayfield Garden - after lunch we will depart Mayfield Garden for Mittagong travelling via Taralga and Goulburn.

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

Australian Garden History Society (Southern Highlands Branch) tour  
*Blue Mountains and Mayfield Garden*

*Tuesday 8 - Thursday 10 April 2025*

## Passenger/s Booking Form

to be completed and returned by email to rbb1945@bigpond.net.au or post to Blue Mountains Tour  
PO Box 2327, Bowral 2576.

**Deposit \$250 per passenger due at time of booking**  
**Final payment – 24 March 2025**

*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 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 **8 April and your surname**. Email your name and phone number to rbb1945@bigpond.net.au to advise the deposit has been made.