

## Become a Friend

Show your support of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens and become a Friend today. To apply simply download the application form from our website [www.cwebb.com.au/shbg](http://www.cwebb.com.au/shbg), or contact the Secretary on 02 48614899

## Update your details

If you have changed your contact details or now have an email address, please let us know so we can update our database.

Send an email to [shbg@cwebb.com.au](mailto:shbg@cwebb.com.au) or telephone Chris Webb on 0248614899

In September 2008 the Wingecarribee Shire Council agreed to support the Southern Highlands Botanic Garden (SHBG) in our approach to the NSW Government to look at **Hillview, Sutton Forest**, as a potential site for the Botanic Gardens.

"Hillview" was purchased by the NSW Government and used as country retreat by 17 Governors from 1882 to 1957 when

## Hillview Update

it passed into private ownership. It was gifted to the people of NSW in 1985 by Mr Edwin Klein.

The 60 hectares (150 acres) site lay idle for nearly 15 years until it was advertised for lease.

After 10 years of renovation, the current tenant is anticipating opening the property as a boutique hotel.

The Committee made an approach to the Minister for Planning, **Ms Kristina Keneally**, to consider establishing a botanic garden on the site.

Unfortunately, the Minister advised the Department is currently in discussions with the existing tenant regarding the future tenure of the property and is unable to discuss the matter further with the SHBG.

## Annual General Meeting 2009

The Annual General Meeting of Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Incorporated (SHBG) was held on 12 October 2009 and the Committee Members elected for 2009/2010 were:

**Chairperson:** Charlotte Webb  
**Vice Chairperson:** David Ross  
**Secretary:** Chris Webb  
**Treasurer:** Jan Edwards

**Committee:** David Cummins, Martin Laverty, Geoff McBean and Ross Stone.

**Members of the Incorporation:** Tony & Ann Emmett, Tony Davis, Maureen Purtell, Jim and Margaret Osborne

## SHBG CONTACT DETAILS

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**Newsletter editors:** Jim Osborne & Charlotte Webb

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BOTANIC GARDENS INCORPORATED

ABN 68 635 660 218  
incorporated in NSW under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984.  
No. INC9879536 (7 April 2003)

# Operculum

NEWSLETTER OF  
THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BOTANIC GARDENS INC

Vol 2 No 1

November 2009

## Council considers New Site for Botanic Gardens

by Jim Osborne

The Southern Highlands Botanic Garden (SHBG) Committee decided to review the suitability of the Old Skin Shed Site, Corner Old South Road and Kangaloon Road, Bowral including the Ponds of Reflection, an area of nearly 30 acres. Charlotte & Chris Webb addressed WSC Councillors at an Information Session in September.

During the meeting Mayor Gair disclosed that he had been working on a plan for a Community Cultural Centre on that site. As a result Charlotte & Chris were asked to prepare a concept botanic garden plan to incorporate the proposed Community Cultural Centre.

On behalf of SHBG, Charlotte and Chris presented a concept plan to Councillors on 14/10/09 and as a result the Mayor tabled a Mayoral Minute to the full Council Meeting on 28/10/09.

In brief, the Mayor's recommendation was:

- The proposal for a concept plan for a Community Cultural Garden be put on public exhibition at the Civic Centre, Moss Vale and on the Council's web site until the end of the year. (A copy of the landscape plan is included in this newsletter)

- Submissions invited from the Wingecarribee community about any aspect of the proposal.

- Further Report to Council to be considered early 2010 incorporating the community input.

- That a funding source be identified for the initial community consultation to develop a Plan of Management for the community land.

The motion was passed by all Councillors. It was also suggested input be sought

from all Council committees.

This is a very positive response. It is now time for the SHBG to demonstrate that the Community will support the concept we have been proposing for eight years.

The site will become a pleasant park with walking tracks, shade trees to rest under in the summer and lawn areas for children to play. It will be a place for everyone to enjoy the four seasons and a community asset resulting in community wellbeing.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Now is the time to commence a magnificent community asset for future generations.

You can help by:

- writing to Council supporting the SHBG to establish a Botanic Garden on the site

- spreading enthusiasm within the community

PLEASE ACT NOW

**PROPOSED BOTANIC GARDEN AND CULTURAL CENTRE  
OLD SKIN SHED SITE KANGALOOON RD  
BOWRAL**



**BOTANIC GARDENS  
DESIGN**

**SEASONAL DISPLAY  
GARDENS**

Featuring the four seasons  
the Southern Highlands

**WOODLAND WALK**

Meandering lawn paths lead  
through selected dense  
plantings creating a cool  
oasis in the hot summer  
months

**SCULPTURE GARDEN**

An area to display the many  
talents of our local artists  
and sculptors. Display areas  
for both permanent and  
temporary exhibitions.

**AMPHITHEATRE**

For outdoor education and  
small functions, including  
wedding ceremonies

**WATERWISE GARDENS**

Will display sustainable  
horticultural practices in our  
changing environment

**SENSORY GARDEN**

Suitable for scented and  
tactile plants selected to  
stimulate the senses

**EAST BOWRAL**

**PROPOSED CULTURAL  
CENTRE BUILDINGS**