



Operculum

The Southern Highlands Botanic
Gardens Inc

Newsletter No. 6

March 2011

Plan of Management Adopted

At the Wingecarribee Shire Council meeting on Wednesday 23 March 2011 the Plan of Management for the SHBG was formally adopted. The name of the site will now change from 'The old skin shed' to the 'Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens'. The adoption of the Plan of Management paves the way for the physical development of the SHBG to begin.

A Development Application was lodged on 24 March for the erection of a fence and signage on our site. A fence is essential to provide security for our new plantings and the signage will at last, in a very obvious way, give the SHBG a public face and identity. Sincere thanks to everyone who has helped to get us to this exciting stage.

Film Night Special- Russian Ark

Friends of the SHBG invite you to a special screening on Thursday 26 May 2011 at the Empire Cinema of the acclaimed film 'Russian Ark'—a unique journey through time and Russian history—filmed entirely in St Petersburg at the State Hermitage Museum in one, uninterrupted take.

This outstanding film was directed by Aleksandr Sokurov and stars Sergei Dontsov, Mariya Kuznetsova and Leonid Mozgovoy.

Time: 5pm for 5.30pm

Cost: \$20 (refreshments are included).

Tickets are available from the Empire Cinema.

Classic Southern Highlands Town and Country Garden Ramble 16 - 17 April 2011

Six beautiful Southern Highlands Gardens will be open for the weekend 16/17 April 2011 from 10am to 4pm. Tickets will be available at each of the gardens. Entry for all six gardens is \$20 per person valid for the weekend. Entry for each individual garden is \$5 per person (no charge for school-age children).

These strikingly varied gardens are open to raise funds for the establishment of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens on the recently dedicated site, on the corner of Old South and Kangaloon Roads, Bowral. There are three town and three country gardens with displays of floral art, botanical art and sculpture as well as a large plant stall with many rare and unusual varieties for sale.

1. '*Carisbrooke*', 16 Myosotis Street, Bowral (owners John and Merryleigh Brindley). This garden reflects memories of a country homestead garden including a woodland of unusual trees, a rose garden, a borrowed view of the golf course beyond the croquet lawn and a trio of summer houses, one of which will be the setting for a floral art display by the Highlands Garden Society, Bowral, Floral Art Group.

2. '*Linden Cottage*', 3 St Clair Street, Bowral (owners Peter and Carol Scott). The garden has evolved over the years to be picturesque during all four seasons. Featured trees include a massive crabapple, a large ginkgo, nyssas, dogwoods, conifers and numerous Japanese maples under-planted with rhododendrons, azaleas, hydrangeas and other shrubs. A *Cedrus*

atlanticus v *horizontalis* is an extraordinary sight. A large pond features numerous plantings of iris, waterlilies, maples and grasses.

3. **'Vine Cottage'**, 126 Osborne Road, Burradoo (owners Tony and Ann Emmett). In 2004 the original *'Woodgreen'* garden was downsized to 1.75 acres and *'Vine Cottage'* was fitted into the silver birch grove. Entering the driveway the many sculptures, the avenue of plane trees and the diversity of colours make this a garden for all seasons. See the woodland, vegetable garden, cork oak, Lebanon cedar and *Cornus controversa*. The painting and sculpture studios are an added interest.

4. **'Quindalup'**, 180 Sproules Lane, Bowral (owner Deidre Hill). This garden previously included the well-known Quindalup Nursery for rare plants, and is part of a large farm property. The garden has expanded to ten acres of parkland and woodland featuring a wonderful collection of rare trees and shrubs as well as beds of smaller perennials and ground covers. Don't miss the plant stall (see below) with rare and interesting plants for sale including species of *Daphne*, maples which are not commercially available in Australia, and bags of daffodil bulbs. Picnics on the lawn are welcome (no barbecues) and toilet facilities are available.

5. **'Yarrawa'**, Region Street, Burrawang (owner Bruce Rosenberg). *'Yarrawa'* has developed from an empty paddock in 1994 into a wonderful, rambling country garden of over four acres. Set in the rolling hills of Burrawang, it enjoys wide views of the countryside to the south and east. A native forest windbreak was the first development, followed by large beds of shrubs and trees linked by flowing lawn areas. There is a large pond and many original sculptures which have been well integrated into the garden.

6. **'Prittlewell'**, Bodycotts Lane, Fitzroy Falls (owners Tim and Patricia Copes). This property comprises eight acres of garden and park. It

features a picturesque lake, Japanese garden and pavilion, a bog garden, ponds, waterfall and rill. There is a rose and herb garden, a lush fernery and a woodland—all set amongst extensive sweeping lawns. *'Prittlewell'* will also be hosting an exhibition of botanical art this weekend.

A coloured brochure with maps and details for all of the gardens will be available from the Visitor Information Centre at Mittagong as from the gardens and numerous shops and businesses throughout the Shire.

For further information see the website (at www.shbg.com.au) or contact either Ted Duncan (phone: 4862 3163 or email: wdu51587@bigpond.com) or Judy Keast (ph: 4862 5444) or email: jjkeast@hinet.net.au

The Plant Stall

The potting shed has closed. It is too late now to pot up plants for sale. We have a tremendous array of plants and loose bulbs at very competitive prices. Some are rare and unusual. Encourage all your friends to come to Quindalup on 17 and 17 April. Unless alternative arrangements have been made please ring first (4861 4493) and deliver your plants to 62 Burradoo Road preferably during the month of March. The last date for receipt of plants is Friday 8 April.

A big thank you to the 35 or so contributors of plants and pots (no more pots now please!) and to the generous inside team who will provide tables, deliveries, muscle, pictorial signs and descriptions, laminating and service on the day.

Look at your garden and consider what you could offer at this time of year in the future!

Maureen Purtell

Daphne

Daphne is a genus of about 50 species primarily from Europe and Asia in habitats varying from low altitude woodland to the alpine regions. Flowers are mainly white,

pink, yellow or lilac. They are mostly evergreen of which *Daphne odora* is clearly the most widely grown species in Australia. However, in my view the deciduous or semi-deciduous species have a great deal to recommend them—in particular *D. mezereum* and *D. bholua* should be rated very highly and I cannot understand why they are not more widely grown.



Daphne collina and *D. retusa*

They all require a relatively good soil, to be kept moist but well drained. (Being on a gently sloping block we thought our garden was well drained but the last year has proven that not to be the case and we have lost six species to root rot.) They also like a bit more sun than most people assume—perhaps an area that gets full morning sun and then shade from mid-afternoon would be ideal. *D. pontica* and *D. laureola*, however, will both tolerate relatively heavy shade if moisture levels are maintained. Regular light pruning is recommended for best results.

Propagation of species is usually successful from seed, providing it is fresh. In our garden we harvest the seed as soon as it is ripe, removing the pulp and planting it the same day. Breaking dormancy can be an issue if seed is allowed to dry completely. Propagation from cuttings is easy for *D. odora*, *D. cneorum* and *D. burkwoodii*. Most others are difficult to very difficult and unless you have specialized equipment they are best layered or grafted.

In Australia more than twenty *Daphne* species/hybrids can be found in garden centres (for the most common) or specialist nurseries for the less common types. Some seed is available overseas but this is hard to find and can be very expensive (more than \$1 per seed). When importing seed, dormancy becomes an issue.

At the forthcoming plant stall, a number of rarer daphnes (which all grow to about one metre) will be available for sale and which I recommend to you as very garden friendly: *D. mezereum alba* an upright deciduous shrub with a flush of white flowers in winter followed by red fruits; *D. laureola* with its dark evergreen foliage with yellowish green flowers in late winter/early spring and black fruit; *D. pontica* evergreen with a profusion of yellowish green fragrant flowers in spring and black berries; *D. tangutica* evergreen with fragrant purple flushed white flowers in spring to the end of summer and red berries.

My personal favourites are *D. bholua* and *D. bholua* 'Jacqueline Postill'. In our garden these are semi-deciduous; they flower from late autumn to early spring and the perfume is definitely one that will 'stop you in your tracks'. Sadly I have none for sale this year but will try to do some grafts in the coming months so we have plants for next year.

Tony Davis

Member profile



Tony Davis and Maureen Purtell

Sixteen years ago Maureen Purtell and her partner Tony Davis moved to Bowral aiming to complete a garden suitable for opening to the public. As both are plant-lovers, the garden, which can be enjoyed from all areas of their house, has developed into a very special mix of common and rare plants.

Maureen and Tony are members of a number of garden related groups: both are life members of the Highlands Garden Society and Tony is also a life member of the Canberra Horticultural Society and the NSW/ACT Daffodil Association.

Tony is best known as the ‘Daffodil Man’ and as someone who is also extremely allergic to all narcissus he spends an inordinate amount of his time hybridizing these to create bulbs better suited to our climatic conditions. (Some of his surplus bulbs are for sale at the plant stall.) It was because of this allergy that he has recently spent more time with daphnes—but he claims to have much to learn in his new interest.

Maureen is a talented propagator and has taken on the task of organizing this year’s plant stall. She and Tony were part of the

initial group set up to get the idea of a Botanic Garden off the ground. Let there be more of them in the Southern Highlands!

Friends of the SHBG Committee

The committee comprises:

Ted Duncan (Chair)
 Graeme Campbell
 Ian and Carolyn Dwyer
 Shandra Egan
 Judy Keast
 Peter Scott,
 Noel and Elizabeth Symonds

Executive Committee of SHBG

President:	Charlotte Webb
Vice-President:	Ross Stone
Secretary:	Jacqui Page
Treasurer:	Jan Edwards
Members:	David Cummins Martin Laverty Geoff MacBean David Ross Chris Webb

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Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Incorporated

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