

# Operculum

Volume I, Issue I

December 2006

## Successful Public Meeting

More than 120 enthusiastic supporters of the proposed Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens (SHBG) attended an information evening on 30 October 2006 in the Uniting Church Hall, Bowral.

An overview of the entire Botanic Gardens proposal was presented by **Charlotte Webb**, SHBG Vice-President.

The proposal is to establish a cold climate garden on the Bong Bong Common and Suttor Road Reserve sites to the south of the Briars. These two sites will link to the

Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve on the eastern side of Moss Vale Road, providing a greenspace area of approximately 200 acres (80 ha).

The proposed Botanic Gardens will maintain the separation between Moss Vale and Bowral, while incorporating the existing walking track, Centenary of Federation trees and the landcare plantings along Wingecarribee River.

The heritage assets on the site, from the original Bong Bong Settlement of 1821, will also feature in the gardens.

**Jim Osborne**, SHBG Secretary/treasurer outlined the proposed Botanic Gardens financial and management structure.

Deputy Mayor **Nick Campbell Jones**, National Parks and Wildlife Services manager of education **Pat Hall**, Challenge Southern Highlands Chairman **Martin Laverty** and Southern Highlands Business Chamber President **Terry Oakes-Ash** were among those who spoke in favour of the Botanic Gardens.



The proposed site for the Botanic Gardens on Bong Bong Common

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## Council support delayed

Although Wingecarribee Shire Council **Mayor Gordon Lewis** has thrown his support behind the proposed Botanic Gardens, delays will now be incurred.

In October Cr Lewis agreed to open debate with Council that a commitment be made to grant a lease for Bong Bong Common and Suttor Rd Reserve at a nominal rent.

However at a recent meeting

between the SHBG, the Mayor and General Manager **Mike Hyde**, the General Manager asked to delay the Council debate until after the completion of the Conservation Management Plan and Plan of Management.

The consultant preparing these plans is not expected to be appointed until late December at the earliest, with plans expected to be finalised by September 2007.

## Business Plan Underway



**Committee Members** (L-R) David Ross, Charlotte Webb, Tony Davis, Jim Osborne, Ann Emmett and Maureen Purtell

The SHBG committee is now hard at work preparing the business plan for the Botanic Gardens.

The business plan will be an integral part of the lease for the site, along with the application to the Aust. Tax Office for Deductible Gift Recipient and Charitable status

## Friends Numbers Explode

The newly established “Friends” of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens is increasing rapidly.

It is an astounding show of support that

over 130 members have joined the group for a **proposed** Botanic Garden that does not yet even have a home!

Imagine the public

support once we can finally sign the lease with Wingecarribee Shire Council.

*Over 130 Friends  
and growing fast*

# Aero Club Supports Gardens

The Southern Highlands Model Aero Club recently voiced their support for the proposed development of a Botanic Garden on the Bong Bong Common Site.

Club secretary **Phil Deacon** said he was aware of the mounting safety issues facing the club with the increased use of the walking track.

*“Although we will be disappointed to leave after 18 years at Bong Bong Common, members were in favour of the proposed Botanic Gardens.*

*Our Club has had a long association with Bong Bong Common, a wonderful community*

*asset, and its future as a Botanic Garden will see it become an even more important part of our local area” said Phil Deacon.*<sup>1</sup>

Over the past few years flight restrictions placed on the site has limited the Aero Club’s ability to grow and teach new members to operate

model planes.

SHBG committee have offered to work with the Model Aero Club and Wingecarribee Council to find an alternate site.

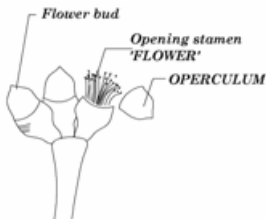
If you have any suggestions for a potential site, please contact Tony Davis on 48614493

<sup>1</sup> Southern Highlands News 3/11/06



## CAN YOU HELP?

Calling all **Botanical Artists**. We would like to incorporate a line drawing compatible with the name of our newsletter. If you feel you could help with a design please contact Jim Osborne on 48613690 or email [shbg@cwebb.com.au](mailto:shbg@cwebb.com.au)



## Why Operculum?

(pronounced Opēr'cūl | um)

You may be wondering why our newsletter is named Operculum.

An operculum is the little cap in a Eucalypt flower bud which is formed from the fused petals and sepals. When the cap comes off the

'flower' appears with the unfurling of the stamen.

Like the operculum, this newsletter will reveal News and activities of the Botanic Gardens as they unfold.

## CONTACT DETAILS

The Secretary  
PO Box 707  
MOSS VALE NSW 2577  
Phone: 02 48614899  
Fax: 02 48614599  
Email shbg@cwebb.com.au  
www.cwebb.com.au/shbg.htm

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Executive

President Tony Davis  
Vice President Charlotte Webb  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Jim Osborne

### Committee

Ann Emmett Tony Emmett  
Martin Laverty Maureen Purtell  
David Ross Chris Webb

**EDITOR** Charlotte

**SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BOTANIC  
GARDENS INCORPORATED**  
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incorporated in NSW under the  
Associations Incorporation Act, 1984.  
No. INC9879536 (7 April 2003)

## Thank you

The SHBG Committee would like to thank all those members and Friends who helped make our first public meeting such an outstanding success.

**Maureen Purtell, Ann Emmett, Margaret Osborne** and their willing team of helpers worked marvels with the catering.

Thanks also to **David and Helen Tranter, Jeanette Schofield and John & Ann McKenzie** from **Mt Murray Nursery** for providing and arranging the wonderful plant displays.

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A special thankyou to the garden owners who donated the proceeds from their spring garden opening to the SHBG, including **Deidre Hill, Tony Davis and Maureen Purtell, John and Merryleigh Brindley, Ted and Wendy Duncan, Denis and Margot Hughes and Noel and Joan Dubois.**

The recent visit by the Chinese delegates from Kaifeng City, Henan Province, toured the future Botanic Gardens Site on Bong Bong Common.

At the request of the Wingecarribee Shire Council's Economic Development Officer **Carl Pemberton**, Charlotte Webb and Tony Davis showed the Chinese delegation, **Clr Jim Maugher** and **Clr Penny George** the potential future site as a central Botanic Gardens for Wingecarribee Shire.

This followed a guided walk by **Pat Hall** (National Parks & Wildlife Services) around Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve and a short stroll along the Wingecarribee River, including seeing first hand (alive & in the wild) a blue wren, a copper head snake, and a platypus.

## Chinese Delegates visit Botanic Gardens Site



Chinese delegates discuss the future Botanic Gardens plans with Charlotte Webb on Bong Bong Common