



Operculum

The Southern Highlands Botanic
Gardens Inc

Newsletter No. 9

October 2011

The Appointment of Designers for the Botanic Gardens

The Executive Committee is delighted to announce the appointment of the team of Kevin Taylor, Kate Cullity and Perry Lethlean, landscape architects and urban designers, to design the SHBG.

Their completed works of national significance include the Gardens to Celebrate the Centenary of Federation at Centennial Park, Sydney, the stunning Australian Garden for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, and Reconciliation Place, Canberra.

Nationally recognized for the outstanding quality of their designs, their projects have been the subject of numerous awards over the years. Their skill and expertise in researching the historical background and the contemporary context and marrying that research to the site and community aspirations has led to unique designs, enthusiastically received by their clients.

Your first opportunity to discover more about the design will be on 12 November at the Garden Party at *Yokefleet* (see next column) when the designers will reveal their concept plans.

We look forward to working closely with the company - Taylor Cullity Lethlean - a group affiliated with the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects.

Charlotte Webb, President

Saturday 12 November 2011 will be a MEMORABLE day!

The first event is:

The Friends' Picnic and the Launch of the Tree Donation/Sponsorship Program from 11am to 2.00pm

at the Botanic Gardens Site on the corner of Old South and Kangaloon Roads, Bowral. Bring a picnic or (for a small charge) partake of the barbecue being organised by Chris Webb and Berrima District Rotary.

Then there is time for a quick afternoon break before the second event:

The Garden Party at 'Yokefleet', 87 Osborne Rd, Burradoo, at 5pm (Cost \$50 per person)

This beautiful, private three-acre garden, seldom open to view, provides a wonderful setting for the unveiling of the concept design plan by Perry Lethlean, a Director of Taylor Cullity Lethlean.

Drinks and savouries will be provided in this delightful setting. Friends and 'Friends of Friends' are encouraged to join others for a memorable evening.

Christmas Hampers will be available for sale – and donations for hampers will be gratefully received (see page 4).

Unveiling the Sign

The ceremony to unveil the sign for the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens site at the corner of Old South and Kangaloon Roads took place on a typically cool winter's day on Friday 12 August 2011. Ken Halstead, the Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire Council, performed the ceremonial removal of the cloth to reveal the sign.



The Opera Dinner

The Opera Dinner at the Centennial Vineyard Restaurant, which took place on Saturday 20 August, was a great success—raising over \$7000 for the SHBG. Kate Wilmot, Rob Langley and Kate Johnson provided a most entertaining program and the members enjoyed a delicious meal and plenty of wine.



Martin Laverty, Jan Edwards, Charlotte and Chris Webb, Pru Goward, Jacqui Page and Ross Stone

Robertson Waratah Spring Fair

Judy Keast and Shandra Egan (assisted by Ted Duncan) attended the Waratah Spring Fair in Robertson on October 9th where they ran a stall, which not only promoted the SHBG but also sold tea cloths and gardening aprons.

Judy was approached by the Waratah Spring Fair Committee to run a floral art workshop using waratahs, which were provided by David and Helen Tranter. Carolyn Dwyer, who is a member of the Friends' committee, was delighted to win the most popular vote for her beautiful arrangement.



Carolyn's arrangement (photo Judy Keast)

Email Operculum

If you would be willing to receive the *Operculum* via your email it would reduce the cost of postage and help save trees! Please email info@shbg.com.au if you agree. You will also receive an email from the President to confirm the request.

Wilderwood Garden

Nigel Lusk and Rod Barber opened their beautiful garden at 'Wilderwood', 45b Sunninghill Avenue, Burradoo, as part of the *Open Gardens Australia Scheme* on the weekend of 15-16 October and over 250 people visited the garden.



Wilderwood Garden (photo N. Lusk)

For those of you who missed the event, it is a very special Australian water-wise garden with huge eucalypts, deciduous trees, and lovely groves of native and exotic planting. We are very grateful to the owners for opening their garden and for their choice of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens as the charity to support.

Werai Teahouse and Nursery Sculpture Exhibition

This year the money (\$273.10) raised by visitors voting for the sculpture of their choice at the Werai Teahouse Sculpture Exhibition was kindly donated to SHBG. The winning sculpture depicts the Mad Hatter's Tea Party and was created by Jacqui Stone from Wingello who won the \$500 prize.

Last year's theme was 'teapots' (with the donation being given to the local fire

brigade), this year 'cups and saucers', and for 2012 the theme is 'push bikes' (and the charity will be 'Bikes for Humanity'). The garden sculpture competition is now an annual event and open to everyone.



Mandy Smethurst, the co-owner of Werai, standing in front of the winning sculpture (photo Charlotte Webb)

Plant Stall 28-29 April 2012

This is a reminder for your 2012 diary. The Town and Country Gardens weekend will be held on the weekend of 28-29 April 2012. While you are enjoying your gardening this summer don't throw any plants away that could be propagated or potted. If you have any queries about dividing plants or seek advice on the type of plants needed for the stall, please contact the Plant Stall Coordinator, Les Musgrave, on 4886 4050.

Please Note: Change of address for the SHBG and the Webbs

The new physical address for the SHBG (and for Chris and Charlotte Webb's office) is:

443b Moss Vale Road, Bowral, NSW 2576

The mailing address remains the same:

PO Box 707, Moss Vale, NSW 2577

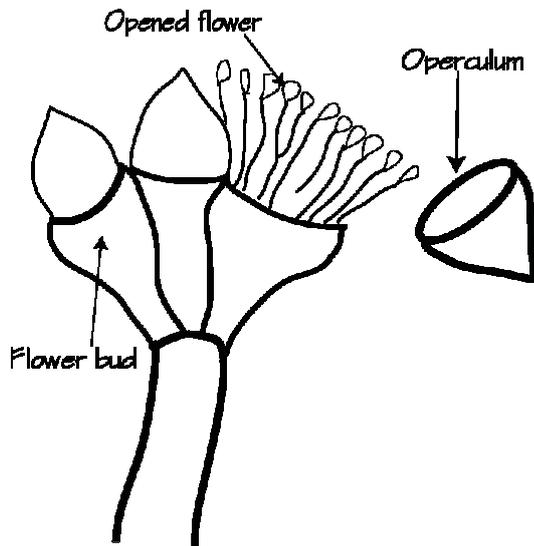
Operculum:

(pronounced *o'perkalum*)

Those of you who have newly joined SHBG may be wondering why the 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.



Donations for Christmas Hampers

Donations of any type of goods would be gratefully received to enable Christmas Hampers to be put together for sale at the Garden Party on 12 November.

Themes for hampers include: Gourmet, Wine, Pet, Boy, Girl, Readers, Gardening, Craft, Sewing, etc. Please leave your donations in a marked bin at BDCU, 411 Bong Bong St, Bowral, by the end of October.

Friends of the SHBG Committee

The committee comprises:

Ted Duncan (Chair) 4862 3163; Graeme Campbell 4868 2375; Ian and Carolyn Dwyer 4871 2667; Shandra Egan 4871 3609; Judy Keast 4862 5444; Noel and Elizabeth Symonds 4862 5173; Rosemary Willis 4861 3732.

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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