

OPERCULUM OCTOBER 2015

Invitation to Dine with the Designer



Kate Cullity

Kate Cullity will be the guest speaker at the SHBG dinner to be held on Wednesday 2 December 2015 at 6.30pm in the Ballroom at Annesley. The cost will be \$70 per person (includes drinks, main course, dessert, coffee/tea and chocolates). She will be talking about the plan for the SHBG.

Kate Cullity (Director of Taylor Cullity Lethlean) is a noted landscape architect and environmental artist and her particular skills are in the integration of public art with landscape and urban design. We were delighted when her company agreed to design our botanic gardens. From 1986 she has worked on a wide range of landscape projects varying from small-scale courtyard designs to large-scale masterplans. Exceptionally well qualified—BSc Botany, DipEd University of WA, PhD RMIT—she is currently an Associate Adjunct Professor at the University of Adelaide. She is a registered member of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects.

Seating will be limited so please contact Meg Probyn as soon as possible if you would like to reserve seat/s (see booking form on page 4). Early payment would be appreciated and the booking form gives details of how the payment can be made.

Next Working Bee – Tuesday 3 November



Forget about the Melbourne Cup and come along at 10.00am to join in the fun of the working bee. This month we will be starting to propagate for the plant sale in April, planting out new beds, starting on the native plantings on the northern portion of the site—and of course, there's always a delicious morning tea.

Garden and Plant Fair - 1st November

The National Trust will be holding a Garden and Plant Fair at Harper's Mansion (9 Wilkinson Street, Berrima) on Sunday 1 November from morning until late afternoon. The SHBG plant growers group will be there in force selling rare and interesting plants—a great opportunity for those of you who are looking for some special or elusive plants for your own gardens. Last year the SHBG PGG raised \$3,500 for the Botanic gardens and, with everyone's help, they want to increase that total. Please come and buy!



Les Musgrave preparing cuttings

Changes to the SHBG Board

SHBG Ltd is very pleased to announce a positive reshuffle of its Board. With the recent retirement from the Board of Frank Nevill after two year's

service, and the imminent loss of our long-term and highly valued Secretary Jacqui Page, it was time to review the top-level structure of our company. With garden development plans going full steam ahead following the recent signing of our 21-year lease with Council, it was apparent that we needed to strengthen the governing component of our company. Accordingly, we are delighted to announce the following changes and new appointments to our Board:

Long-term Friend of the gardens and key member of the Friends' committee, **Chris Blaxland**, has been appointed to the Board. Chris has been a stalwart of the organising committee for the Autumn Gardens weekends for several years now and before that had a distinguished career in the pharmaceutical industry, working in a number of senior positions in numerous international locations.

Lyn Collingridge has been appointed as an additional member of the Board. A former legal practitioner, Lyn has extensive board experience as general counsel and company secretary, as well as considerable financial responsibility for major State Government enterprises.

Peter Rowe is another new member of the Board. Peter is also a lawyer and is an experienced director and chairman. A former partner in Herbert Smith Freehills, he has extensive finance and risk management expertise, together with Asia-Pacific experience both as a director and a solicitor.

Existing director **Barry Barford** takes on the additional responsibility of Company Secretary to meet the requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and becomes the Chief Administrative Officer of the company.

SHBG Chairman Charlotte Webb said the company is now poised not only to show its credentials as the developer of a local but world-class botanic garden, but to demonstrate that it can fulfil the governance and regulatory requirements of a modern and progressive company.

SHBG Board requires a Minutes Secretary/ Admin Assistant

The Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Limited (SHBG) is seeking a Minutes Secretary/ Admin Assistant to support the Board as it drives the company forward into the next stage of its development. The position is a voluntary one and the board members themselves are all volunteers.

The successful applicant will be required to manage the business of a monthly board meeting—agenda, correspondence, and the taking and distribution of minutes. Between meetings the position holder can be as involved or uninvolved as he or she wishes.

Previous experience as a board or committee secretary is preferred, but consideration will be given to anyone who is confident they have the eye for detail and accuracy necessary. Knowledge of corporations law and the regulatory requirements of

the ACNC would be highly regarded but are not essential.

SHBG chairman Charlotte Webb said this was an opportunity for an administrator who takes pride in their work to get in on the ground floor of a dynamic local enterprise. "The position will suit someone who is passionate about the local community and is keen to play a role in the development of its facilities," she said. "The successful applicant will support a board of professional but friendly locals and, in addition to their secretarial duties, will have the opportunity to take part in a number of prestigious events throughout the year," Ms Webb said.

Applications must be in writing, stating qualifications and experience, and may be emailed to secretary@shbg.com.au or mailed to PO Box 707, Moss Vale NSW 2577. Further information about the botanic gardens is available at www.shbg.com.au

Applications close 15 November 2015



How we will miss our effervescent Jacqui Page who has retired from the Board and is off to Queensland!

Progress Report on the Site:

- The bird fence is complete and all new gates are now in place.
- In recent weeks pipes have been laid to take the runoff from the roof of our now expanded buildings and discharge it further down the slope. The works have allowed for future installation of a storage tank to hold the roof water and to be able to pump it back for watering the gardens and shade house.

- The problem with seepage from the surroundings of the shade house has also been resolved—proper drains have been installed, with agricultural pipes taking the water further down the hill.
- All PC items for amenities block have been donated by Home Hardware's suppliers.
- Grant application (State Government's Building Communities program) has been submitted for \$45,000 to complete concrete path, extension of gravel road network and shade cover for Pioneer Square.
- New gravel pathway to be laid by next April.
- Storage shed to be fitted out soon.

The Plant Stall in April 2016

A meeting was held on 29 September 2015 to discuss the Plant Stall for next the Autumn Gardens Weekend in April 2016. Instead of it being held at 'Quindalup', plants will be sold on the SHBG site where ten or twelve huge tents will be erected.

Each tent will house about 350 specific plants divided up into categories such as—shade plants, succulents, salvias, natives, clematis and climbers, hydrangeas and hostas, trees and shrubs, bulbs, fuchsias and ferns, etc.

There will also be a tent selling SHBG merchandise, a coffee truck and probably a sausage sizzle.

We extend our warmest thanks to Deidre Hill who has generously allowed us to use her old nursery site on her property for the plant sale over the years. She is, of course, still an active member of the plant growers group.

If you would like to be involved with the Plant Growers Group either as a propagator, a grower or an adviser, please contact Di Grant on burradox@gmail.com.

Generous donation of Organic Life

Through the Bowral Co-operative, the SHBG has received a pallet of *Organic Life* fertiliser. As you can imagine, we use a considerable amount of fertiliser on the gardens and also for propagating plants for the sales. So if it seems a little smelly round the site, thank *Organic Life*! It's a wonderful gift for the gardens.

Photos from the Working Bees



There's always time for a drink and a chat



Lyn Barrett always has her hands full



The bird fence keeping the Latham Snipe safe for their summer residence



One of the coldest days in winter when John Barrett was supervising the installation of the drains

The Board of SHBG:

Chairman: Charlotte Webb OAM
 Company Secretary: Barry Barford
 Members: Chris Blaxland, Lyn Collingridge
 Peter Rowe, Chris Webb

Committee of Friends of SHBG

Chair: Chris Webb (4861 4899)
 (Email: friends@shbg.com.au)
 Judy Barford, Lyn Barrett, Chris Blaxland,
 Ian Dwyer, Shandra Egan, Judy Keast
 Meg Probyn, Peter Scott

Contact details for Newsletter

Editor: Meg Probyn (02) 4871 3134
probyn44@bigpond.com

Friends of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens

Renewal of Membership

If you haven't already paid your Friends' membership for June 2015 to June 2016, please complete this form or the one on the website.

Please note that if you joined after 1 April 2015 your membership is paid until June 2016.

(Don't forget to include your email address to help us reduce mailing costs.)

TITLE & NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

PHONE HOME

PHONE MOBILE

EMAIL

DATE:

MEMBERSHIP	1 YEAR Valid to 30/6/2016	3 YEAR Valid to 30/6/2018
Individual	\$20	\$60
Household	\$35	\$105
Single Concession	\$15	\$45
Household Concession	\$25	\$75
Clubs/ Groups	\$50	\$150
Corporate	\$200	\$600
Donation	\$ _____	\$ _____
Cheque enclosed	\$ _____	\$ _____

Please list any particular interest, qualification or skill you have that may be of help to the SHBG

Details for direct deposit

BSB: 802-101 A/c no.: 350489 Ref: Your name

Or cheques payable to **Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Ltd.** and return cheque and completed form to **SHBG, PO Box 707, Moss Vale, 2577**

Friends of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens

Booking form for the Dinner with Kate Cullity Annesley Ballroom, Bowral Wednesday 2 December 2015

Time: 6.30pm

Cost: \$70 per person

Your name/s: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Number of places you require: _____

Names of guests:

Total payment: \$ _____

Payment options

1. Cheques payable to **Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Ltd.** and return cheque and completed form to **SHBG, PO Box 707, Moss Vale, 2577**

OR

2 Direct credit — Account name: **Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Ltd.**
BSB: 802-101 A/c no.: 350489

Please make sure you include the following reference information:

2Dec followed by your surname.

Email your phone number and names of your guests AND ANY DIETARY REQUIREMENTS to megprobyn@bigpond.com

ENQUIRIES: — Meg Probyn 4871 3134
Or email: megprobyn@bigpond.com

**BOOKINGS CLOSE:
Monday 9 November 2015**