



# Operculum

The Southern Highlands Botanic  
Gardens Inc

Newsletter No. 5 February 2011

## ***Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens***

Last year (26 November 2010) six members of the Wingecarribee Shire Council Botanic Gardens Working Group travelled to Bateman's Bay to visit the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens (ERBG). The purpose of this visit was to collect information on the way in which this 20-year-old Botanic Gardens was structured, financed and managed, and to hear at first hand the potential issues which may face the SHBG.



*Chris Webb, Frank Iacono, Mark Pepping,  
Charlotte Webb and Jenny Kenna*

Although the total size of ERBG is over 100 acres the actual planted area is only 38 acres, which is quite similar to the SHBG. Interestingly, the whole garden is funded by the Eurobodalla Council with their Friends providing only a small part of the annual budget through fundraising.

The Friends and Volunteers are, however, the backbone of the operation and carry out most, if not all, of the maintenance and construction under the supervision of the fulltime curator and one permanent gardener.

The curator of the Garden, John Knight, and the chairman of the Friends, Harry Phillips, hosted our visit and, following a very informative round table discussion, led us on a guided tour of this native garden. The establishment of the ERBG has not been without incident: the entire garden was destroyed in a bushfire two years after the original establishment. The curator commented that if you are contemplating setting up a Botanic Garden in a bush setting, don't!

The Working Group came away from this visit with the understanding that careful initial planning, long term financial support and an active Friends and Volunteers group are going to be the key to the success of the SHBG.

**Chris Webb (WSC SHBG Working Group)**



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

***Venue: Bowral, Burradoo, Moss Vale, Wildes Meadow***

This is a major fund-raising function for the SHBG Inc. and we encourage all Friends (and their friends and neighbours) to participate. It is a peak time for viewing autumn colour in the Highlands as well as enjoying the displays of floral art, sculpture and botanical art.

A huge plant stall will be another attraction. The weekend will be widely advertised and full details of the gardens to be opened will be available soon. Be sure to put this weekend in your diary – Saturday/Sunday 16/17 April, 2011. Further details of the gardens will be available on the SHBG website as soon as they are finalized ([www.shbg.com.au](http://www.shbg.com.au)).

Don't forget that Maureen Purtell is coordinating the plant stall and she would be delighted if you would provide some plants for the stall. All proceeds will go to the SHBG. Please contact her on 4861 4493.

***Donations***

We are grateful to all those who have already made donations to the Gardens. They help to defray the costs of planning, administration, printing, stationery, and are vital in our efforts to seek Grants to cover the initial development and landscaping works.

Donations may be forwarded to:

The Secretary, Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Inc, PO Box 707, Moss Vale, NSW 2577

***Stephen Jones plants a tree***

As announced in the previous newsletter, Stephen Jones, MP for Throsby, finally planted his tree on 4 November 2010. Apart from a light misty rain, the weather was quite pleasant—at least it wasn't as windy and cold as that experienced by the Governor of NSW at the official launch in September.



*Stephen Jones in action*



*Tony Davis, Maureen Purtell, Kevin Wellins and Jonquil Temple enjoy the refreshments*

## ***Swing Supper Club Saturday 13 November 2010***

The Swing Supper Club held on Saturday 13 November 2010 at the Centennial Vineyards Restaurant, Bowral, was a huge success—and great fun. The profit was nearly \$25,000, so financially it was an excellent result. Congratulations to the organisers and many thanks to the Centennial Vineyards and all those who donated prizes.



*'All The Nice Girls Love A Sailor!' (From left to right, Ross Stone, Sue Hoffman and Chris Webb)*



*Henry & Rebecca Reid, winners of the best-dressed prize*

## ***Friends of the SHBG Committee***

We are pleased to announce that Ted Duncan has taken over the role of Chair of the Friends of SHBG. In the interim, Judy Keast acted in that capacity and we are very grateful for all her work. The committee now comprises:

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

## ***Profile of the New Chair of the Friends' Committee***

My wife Wendy and I retired to Bowral thirteen years ago and developed a large garden at *Willow Brae* on Oxley Drive. We have recently moved to Burradoo. My interest in gardening led me to membership of the Society for Growing Australian Plants, where I held the offices of President of NSW Region and Editor of *Native Plants of NSW*.

I was also a member of the Committee which started and later managed the Kur-rin-gai Wildflower Garden at St. Ives on Sydney's North Shore. Since moving to the Highlands I have been active with the Highland Garden Society and have served as President and Editor of their monthly Bulletin. I now look forward to helping in these early stages of development of the SHBG. Contact phone: 4862-3163 or e-mail: [wdu51587@bigpond.com](mailto:wdu51587@bigpond.com)

*Ted Duncan, Chair*

## ***Operculum's* New Editor**

Clive and I came to the Southern Highlands from Melbourne in August 2008. Apart from being nearer to family, the great attraction for us was the availability of homes with large gardens and a cool climate. Keen gardeners all our married life, we even created a garden in the heat of northern Nigeria from 1978 to 1980, with a pool and working fountain in the sand of the Sahel.

We are members of two garden societies as well as the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens and the Australian Garden History Society. Before I took early retirement, I was employed as the Assistant Director (Academic) at the Victorian College of Agriculture and Horticulture, where I worked for eleven years. Of the six campuses comprising the college my favourite was always Burnley where horticulture has been taught since 1891. It was at Burnley that Edna Walling (1896–1973) enrolled in 1915 and completed a two-year certificate.

The Burnley Gardens were originally controlled by the Horticultural Society of Victoria, the official opening in January 1863 being marked by the planting of a beautiful Californian Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), now a magnificent tree—it's well worth a visit if you are in Melbourne.

If you would like to write an article for the *Operculum*, or provide appropriate photos, I would be delighted to hear from you ([probyn44@bigpond.com](mailto:probyn44@bigpond.com)) or phone 4871 3134.

*Meg Probyn*

## ***Plan of Management***

The draft Plan of Management is on public exhibition from Monday 17 January to Monday 14 February 2011 and may be viewed on the internet through the Council website, or at the following locations during normal business hours:

- Wingecarribee Council Civic Centre, Elizabeth Street, Moss Vale;
- The Libraries at Bowral, Mittagong and Moss Vale;
- Scottish Arms Inn, 69 Boardman Road, East Bowral.

Submissions on the Plan are invited from the community and will be received from the date of the commencement of the exhibition until close of the submission period, no later than 4:30pm on Monday 28 February 2011.

**Contact details:** Strategic and Community Development (ph. 4868 0761) (fax. 4869 1203) or [wscmail@wsc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wscmail@wsc.nsw.gov.au)

## ***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

## **Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Incorporated**

ABN 68 635 660 218  
Incorporated in NSW under the *Associations  
Incorporation Act, 1984*  
No. INC 9879536 (7 April 2003)