

OPERCULUM DECEMBER 2015



*Season's greetings to
all the Friends of the
SHBG*

The Visit from the Designer

There was such a buzz of friendship and bonhomie at Annesley on Wednesday 2 December when ninety people enjoyed the dinner to meet Kate Cullity. Kate's illustrated talk brought to life her ambitious plans for the development of the gardens. A director of Taylor Cullity Lethlean (TCL), the firm hired by SHBG Ltd to design the gardens, Kate gave context to the vision that many in the audience had only seen previously in the form of concept or sketch plans.

She noted that her firm's plan for the SHBG is not only a thematic journey through the landscape of the Southern Highlands, but also an opportunity to celebrate the district's natural, horticultural and gardening heritage. Kate believes the result will be a standout garden with an architecturally significant visitors' centre that will become a landmark in itself.



Kate Cullity speaking at the dinner

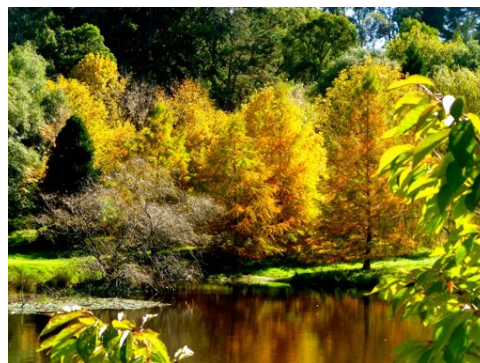
SHBG chairman Charlotte Webb said that the vision was now one step closer to reality. "Guests were able to see and hear for themselves how TCL's interpretation of our plans will result in a truly world-class botanic garden right here in the Southern Highlands," she said. "It is now up to us and our supporters to make it happen."

We were delighted that John Siemon (Curator Manager of the Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan) and his wife, Fran, and also Greg Bourne (Curator Manager at the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah) were able to attend the dinner. They were both very pleased to meet Kate Cullity and the SHBG Board.

As most of you will be aware, TCL is an internationally acclaimed firm of landscape architects and urban designers and the winner in two consecutive years of the World Architecture Festival – Landscape of the Year Award, 2013 for the Australian Garden at Cranbourne (Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne) and 2014 the National Arboretum in Canberra. This year they won, among many other awards, the AILA SA Medal for Landscape Architecture for its design of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens Wetlands.

The Friends Committee expresses its thanks to the donors of the raffle prizes, which were won by Grant Blanchard, Tony and Ann Emmett, and Margaret Roberts. The dinner and raffle raised over \$2,500, which will be put towards the cost of new pathways.

Autumn Gardens Weekend: 23-24 April 2016



Across the lake at Eastdene

The Friends Committee is delighted to announce that there will be six beautiful gardens open for the Autumn Gardens weekend in April next year:

Greenbrier Park — 1171 Old South Road, Mittagong
(Owners: Robert & Janet Constable)

The Garden House — 62 Burradoo Road, Burradoo
(Owners: Tony Davis & Maureen Purtell)

Sutton Tops — 2 Greenhills Road, Sutton Forest
(Owners: Geoff & Lyn Macbean)

Whare-tau — 2 Exeter Road, Exeter
(Owners: Dr David & Bernadette Smith)

Eastdene — 38-40 Church Street, Bundanoon
(Owners: Dr Al & Barbara McKay)

Arden — 5 Amos Lane, Bundanoon
(Owners: David and Suzy Dowsett)

As our major fund-raising activity, we greatly appreciate the generosity of the owners of the gardens and we thank them in advance for all the support they give to the Southern Highlands Botanic

Gardens. Many of the Friends assist on the weekend and without all our willing volunteers we would not be able to organise this weekend.

Autumn Gardens Plant Fair at the SHBG Site: 23-24 April

While the six gardens are open, the plant fair will be held on the SHBG site (corner of Kangaloon and Old South Roads). The SHBG Plant Growers Group continues to work very hard propagating a vast array of rare, unusual and hard-to-find plants, which will be available for purchase, including: plants for shade, succulents, climbers, ground covers, trees, shrubs, bulbs, natives, collectables and featuring an array of *Clematis*, *Salvia*, *Hydrangea*, *Hosta* and *Fuchsia*.

Our group raised a little over \$5,500 at the Harper's Mansion Plant sale on 1 November 2015 and then increased the profit when they held a special sale at the working bee on 3 November. Congratulations to all involved.

Next Working Bee – Tuesday 2 February 2016



Come along at 10.00 am to join in the fun of the working bee. This month we will be repotting for the plant sale in April, continuing the weeding and maintenance of the new beds and the native planting area on the northern portion of the site. Don't forget the added attraction of a delicious morning tea.

Farewell to Jacqui Page

On Wednesday evening SHBG Ltd joined the Rotary Club of Berrima District to farewell Jacqui Page, who has been Secretary for both organisations for many years and also a director of SHBG. Jacqui is moving to Brisbane and many of her friends and colleagues gathered at Mittagong RSL Club to give her a send-off.



SHBG chairman Charlotte Webb presents Jacqui Page with a farewell gift of a pair of locally crafted silver earrings.

SHBG chairman Charlotte Webb said that without Jacqui the company would not be where it is today. Her title did not do justice to the many tasks she undertook and in the five years Jacqui had been with the gardens she had helped the former association evolve into a company, had secured grants vital for the gardens' development and tackled many issues

that delayed the negotiation of a lease with Council, finally resulting in a signed lease this year.

Charlotte said that Jacqui had been a source of great support to her personally as chairman and that she would be sorely missed.

Directors and staff appointments for Board

SHBG Ltd chairman Charlotte Webb announced the appointment of Grant Blanchard as a director of the Board, which brings the number of board members to the desired full complement of seven with herself as Chairman, Barry Barford as Company Secretary and five members: Chris Webb, Chris Blaxland, Linda Collingridge, Peter Rowe and Grant Blanchard.

Grant Blanchard, who joined the board in November, served in the Royal New Zealand Navy and then began a career in publishing, which included a period as newspaper owner.



Grant Blanchard

He has launched several businesses, including one that became a global leader in the digital transmission of advertising between agencies and newspapers and magazines. He has been a director and owner of businesses for more than 20 years including periods in software development and as the owner and developer of a boutique accommodation and retreat centre in the Southern Highlands.

The company has also appointed **Margaret Clarke** as its Board Secretary to manage the business of board meetings. Margaret has extensive experience of administration and meeting procedures and currently works as an administrative officer in the School of Medicine at a Sydney University.



Margaret Clarke

Previously she has worked as personal assistant to both academic staff and administrators at universities. She is a professional secretary qualified in Pitman's shorthand. She lives in Bowral.

Visit from Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens



John Bentley and Barry Barford

John Bentley, President of the Friends of Melton Botanic Garden visited SHBG this weekend and met Barry Barford and Chris Blaxland. Melton Botanic Garden is a 12-year old garden situated 40km west of Melbourne and presenting a flora very different from SHBG.

Their collections include a Eucalyptus Arboretum and a South African Garden, with emphasis on dryland plants.

New Editor sought for Operculum

If anyone is interested to take on the role of Editor of *Operculum*, please contact Chris Webb. Meg Probyn, who has been the Editor since 2010, has requested that she might be relieved of this task. This will be the 24th edition—it's time for new ideas!

Personalised Pavers

There has been considerable interest from Friends about the opportunity to buy more personalised pavers. The opportunity has arisen with the new pathways planned for the next stage of the development. There will probably be enough space for about 125 inscribed pavers in the 'headers' of the pathways—that is, the edging bricks which surround the centre patterned section.



'Header' course

The paths and ramps will be a T-shaped pattern leading from the shade house area onto the veranda of the shed and to the toilets. The ramps will allow

wheelchair access. Every second brick may be inscribed in the pathways, which will be built with grant money (\$5,000) and additional monies raised by the Friends. The final design of the paths has not yet been decided but it is likely to be a basket weave as in the photo.

If you would like to buy a personalised brick, please complete the form on page 4 and follow the instructions for payment.

Friends of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens

Membership form for new members

Please note: you will be notified when your renewal of membership is due.

(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	1YEAR 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

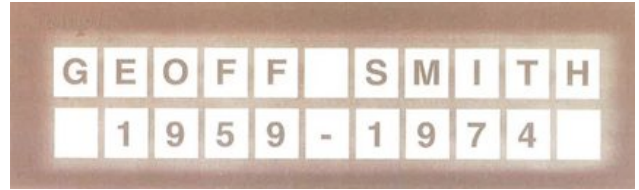
BSB: 802-101 A/c no.: 350489 Ref: Your name

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

Personally Inscribed Brick Pavers

SHBG is offering the opportunity to put your connections to the garden into the pathways.

- Brick price \$50.00 per paver
- All letters in upper case
- Numbering is available (for dates)
- Pavers measure: 230mm x 115mm x 50mm (Nominal)
- Maximum number of characters = 11 per line
- Maximum numbers of lines = 3 (three)
- Pavers are available in single, double or triple line formats
- Please copy this form and fill out one per ordered paver
- Please note that spaces are considered as a letter



Your details:

First Name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

_____ Post Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Paver Details:

Line 1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Payment details:

Payment may be made by Direct Deposit to BDCU: BSB 802-101 Acct 350489

Please add your name + Paver as the reference.

Or by cheque to SHBG Paver, mailed to SHBG Ltd PO Box 77 Moss Vale NSW 2577

The Board of SHBG:

Chairman: Charlotte Webb OAM

Company Secretary: Barry Barford

Members: Grant Blanchard

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

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