

FINE DAYS BLESSED THE PLANT FAIR WEEKEND



Finally inside! The crowds were lining up waiting for the magic hour of nine for the gates to open



Never too young to start plant hunting



Charlotte spruiking the delights of her "Collectables"



How clever to have snared this fabulous *Salvia Leucrantha*

Driving along Kangaloon Road during the days leading up to the Autumn Garden Weekend and Plant Fair, the Garden looked like it had been populated with a tent city.

All the white, peaked tents were lined up along each side of the new pathway and as the days went by, they were filled with loads of lovely potted plants. What a display!

On the big day, there was a tent for every kind of plant and they were so well sign-posted to guide the purchasers. The trouble was, there were so many choices that people couldn't stop picking up another pot on the way to their destination tent.

The gates were opened by Ann Prendegast, general manager of WSC, at 9am on Saturday to let in the line of patient garden enthusiasts. We were doing a count-down with everyone having a different time on their watch. We settled on 'Mr Google' being the authority on when the clock struck 9 o'clock.

It was a perfect autumn day and working at the check-out, as I was, there were so many people queuing up with trolley loads of plants to buy. One chap asked if we had a credit card facility – which we did – and when we had tallied up his purchases, I told him that it was just as well he brought his credit card. Some people just came for a day out to see what all the fuss was all about. I met one woman with a trolley of plants, she was so happy as she was here for the weekend from Sydney and didn't know anything about the Plant Fair until she was driving along Kangaloon Road and when she saw all the cars, she couldn't resist coming in to see what the attraction was.

The coffee bar was very busy, and people were lining up to buy a coffee and something to eat and then sit under the shade sail on Pioneer Square to observe what was going on. Very relaxing.

There were so many volunteers at the Plant Fair, all doing something important and enjoying themselves. The day was very busy and the new path worked like a dream, with a constant human traffic flow. A really fun day all round.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

To add to the collections in the gardens, John MacKenzie from Exeter Designer Plants, has kindly donated several different *Hamamelis* (witch-hazel) to SHBG. They will become a major feature in our winter garden when the fragrant, spider-like flowers unfurl. Adding to their beauty are the stunning orange, yellow and red autumn colours. Thank you John.

The weather may have cooled down with the onset of winter, but not our activities. SHBG will be hosting 3 major events over winter, including a hedgelaying workshop at Oldbury, Sutton Forest hosted by 'The Australian School of Gardening'; dinner at Bendooley Estate with guest speaker Charlie Albone, winner of 2 silver gilt medals at the Chelsea Flower Show; and a kite making workshop in the Gardens in August.

Over recent months there have been some changes in the SHBG company, with the retirement of Barry Barford from the Board and Chris Blaxland from the Friends Committee. Both Barry and Chris have been invaluable to the development of the company and the Gardens. Although Chris has retired from the Friends' committee he remains a Director of the company and chairman of the fundraising Committee. I would like to welcome our new Directors, Christine Hawkins and Gregory Freckmann to the SHBG board. Both Christine and Gregory have strong backgrounds in finance, accounting and governance.



KIDS IN THE GARDEN

There is no doubt that a place brightens up with lots of kids around.

We were so excited at having the Bowral High School years 7 and 8 students visit the garden each Wednesday afternoon during the first and second school terms this year. Their history and PT teacher, Adam Miller, had the brain wave to get the kids involved in outdoor activities and community work.

Adam's plan is to have the kids participate in a number of community activities. The Botanic Gardens is one, Cherry Tree Walk is another, and helping with Tulip Time is a third. There is also a 'problem' garden at the High School that Adam wants the kids to do up and Welby will assist with this garden activity.

The first day the kids arrived, all 25 of them, they were a bit nervous and felt out of place. But, after a very warm welcome from Carolyn Dwyer, we soon had jobs for them to do. They planted irises and a few other perennials. Then the next week, Tony Davis was brave enough to let them loose (with strict supervision) on planting his prize daffodils. The funniest thing is to watch some of these kids

using a spade for the first time - or trying to use one. Until properly instructed, they seemed to think it was a large spoon and were scooping the ground...

They soon got into the swing of things as the weeks went past. They planted advanced trees, the new native entry garden and a stand of the endangered Paddy's River Box. They re-potted and labelled plants that were to be included in the Plant Fair, moved mulch, put up the banners for the Plant Fair, planted more perennials and hosed each other down when watering in the new plantings. Adam was on the shovel, yelling at them that they had to focus and learn so they could do the school garden.

It was great fun for all and the kids really warmed to the garden and took ownership of their work. A really big thanks goes to the 8 or 10 volunteers who helped supervise each week, including Jenny Simons, Carolyn Dwyer, Sandy Alsop and heaps of others. We all needed a Working With Children Check to assist with school activities, so it was a volunteer role that was a bit out of the normal, but well worth it as it is really important that this younger generation be introduced to the Garden..

EUCALYPTUS MACARTHURII

This autumn the first grove of Australian trees, *Eucalyptus macarthurii*, was planted near the southern entry to the Gardens. The selection of *E. macarthurii*, Paddy's River Box, was an excellent choice, as this tree is endemic to the Central Tablelands and also endangered. A fine example may be seen in Eridge Park Road, at the junction with Moss Vale Road. (see photograph). One of the important roles of a botanic garden is to demonstrate and help conserve endangered species. Another is to display endemic (local-growing) plants.

While Paddy's River Box continues to grow in its native habitat, this is shrinking. The area involved is now described as Endangered Shale Woodland and this includes our local area. Wingecarribee Council is conserving *E. macarthurii* with plantings along the river on the walking track between Burradoo and Moss Vale.

The tree is impressive, growing to 40 metres. Its trunk and larger branches are covered with persistent fibrous bark, grey-brown in colour. Like all eucalypts, it first grows juvenile leaves. These are opposite, stem-clasping and quite wide. The mature leaves are alternate, narrower, hang down gracefully and have an unusual fruity smell, unlike other eucalypts. Paddy's River Box prefers to grow near water in grassy woodlands and on broad, cold flats, so should do well in our habitat.

The tree was named in 1899 after Sir William Macarthur (son of Captain John Macarthur) who was a horticulturalist in the Camden area, hence the alternate popular name, Camden Woollybutt. As the new plantings are outside the fenced area of the Gardens, they can be viewed by walking along the path on the southern edge of the Gardens, heading towards the Chain o' Ponds.

Jenny Simons



A SPECTACULAR EARTH HOUR EVENING



A picnic while waiting for darkness to fall



The kid's lantern making workshop plus some big kids too!

Over 500 people joined us on the evening of 24th March to celebrate Earth Hour and to see the wonderful artistic installation of the *Vessels of Change*.

The whole evening was fun-filled with picnickers lolling around listening to the music provided by local bands, including the Moss Vale High School band. The workshop for kids to make solar powered lanterns was absolute chaos. It was run by Heidi McGeoch and some willing helpers. In the end, the parents were also participating in the workshop, so good fun for all. Then the parade of kids carrying their solar lit lanterns after the lights went out was gorgeous.

The number of children having fun and frolicking around

the 'paddock', even after dark, was amazing and lovely to watch. The bar and barbecue were busy for those who didn't bring a picnic and there were many who did bring their own picnic. The new lawn was a very popular spot for people to set up and make themselves at home with their rugs and chairs.

The weather was very kind and, as usual, there were loads of volunteers doing all sorts of jobs and making the place buzz but they still had time to enjoy themselves.

It was a council initiative to use the SHBG site for this event. Because it was so successful and so much fun, we must include this on our list of annual events at the Garden. If you missed it this year, make sure you don't next year.

CROWE CAMELLIA COLLECTION



Isobel & Claude Crowe

After growing on in our SHBG nursery for the last 2 years the Crowe Camellia collection has finally found a home in our Winter Woodland. Claude Crowe came to Berrima in 1942 to work at the new cold climate nursery being established by Andersons of Summerhill in conjunction with Paul Sorensen, at the Old Rectory site. Here they not only grew cold climate trees and shrubs but were also involved in producing seed for the Commonwealth Seeds Program. A program to ensure Australia had adequate vegetable seed reserves during WW2.

Claude worked here for several years prior to establishing his own nursery 'Berrima Bridge Nursery' in Jellore St. Berrima. He became well known as a producer of a wide range of nursery lines and also as a landscape

builder and a garden designer. The nursery grounds became the home of many of his stock plants and in particular to a collection of camellias which had propagated from cuttings taken at 'Camden Park', the home of camellias in Australia. In 2004 it came to our attention that Claude's personal papers and records were under threat from their storage conditions and that they needed to be removed from the nursery, not only for conservation reasons but also so that could be available for research. The head librarian at the Caroline Simpson Library, Megan Martin, kindly agreed to accept and conserve all the material.

The significance of Claude Crowe's career and the nursery were recognised by the AGHS and the Southern

Highlands Branch engaged Charlotte and I to prepare a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the *Berrima Bridge Nursery* site. As part of the CMP we attempted to identify and propagate most of the remnant plants, including the camellias which had come from *Camden Park*. On further investigation it was found that in fact many of these *Camellia* cultivars were lost from the *Camden Park* Collection and were actually rare in current cultivation, camellias such as *Camellia japonica* 'Orlando Ko', *C. japonica* 'Prince Eugene Napoleon', *C. japonica* 'Harriet Beecher Sheather', *C. japonica* 'Orlando Ko', *C. japonica* 'Chandlerii' and *C. japonica* 'Odoratissima'.



Harriet Beecher Sheather & Orlando Ko

The Crowe Camellia collection was born.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS AT THE GARDEN

It has been a busy time in the Gardens over the last few months, in particular with the help provided by the Bowral High students. The students have really helped us push ahead with our planting in the native area. They have planted out our raised garden bed with an array of small native plants, all of which are great examples of plants suitable for the suburban garden. Also included in the bed planting was a *Brachychiton populneus* subsp. *trilobus* (Kurrajong) which was donated by Meg and Ron Hemmings from seed they collected on a trip to Lake Eyre. The students also planted 10 *Eucalyptus macarthurii* (Paddy's River Box), our most endangered endemic Eucalypt, in a grove at the southern entrance into the Gardens. There have been significant plantings in the Winter Woodland with the Crowe camellia collection and a collection of daphne all be planted over the last few months. In the next few weeks there will be a new collection of *Hamamelis* planted which have been donated by John and Ann McKenzie. A true Winter performer! The retail nursery development continues on with the shade sail being installed (see photograph to the right). We expect new benches will be delivered in the coming month.



HELPING WITH CHILDREN

We are calling for Volunteers to help with the children visiting and working at the Garden.

If you would like to become involved with these new enthusiastic supporters, you will need to get a **Working With Children Check** which is **free** and then register the number with SHBG.

It is easy to register.
Log on to the website:

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-working-children-check>

and follow the links to apply.

Then go to the Service NSW office in Mittagong to show your photo ID and your Notification will come through in a couple of hours.

Forward the approval number and your date of birth to info@SHBG.com.au. for the register

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun. 22nd July. Canapes, dinner & wine at Bendooley Estate with guest speaker Charlie Albone (winner of successive Chelsea Flower Shows) \$95pp. Bookings 4871 2888



Sat. July 21st Hedge Laying Workshop 10am - 3pm at Oldbury Cottage, Sutton Forest \$75 inc.lunch & morn. tea hosted by 'The Australian School of Gardening' All proceeds to SHBG



Sun 19th August Kite Making/Flying Workshop 11am-1pm Sausage sizzle. BYO picnic.



Sat/Sun 20/21st October Open garden & plant sale - \$10 10am - 4pm 68 Cleary's Lane, Wildes Meadow



Sun 8th December - Christmas Picnic & Hydrangea & other plants sale 5 - 7pm in the Gardens



Working Bees

1st Tuesday of every month
10am - noon
&

2nd Saturday of every month
1pm - 3pm

Wear comfortable clothes, hat & gloves
Enjoy a friendly chat over a cup of tea.
Thank you in advance for your support
- it is always appreciated



Theory & practical workshop on the traditional art of hedge laying by James Boxhall who has been laying hedges in Australia for the past 14 years. James learnt the craft from expert Karl Liebscher, a professional hedge layer from UK.

Workshop hosted by 'The Australian School of Gardening' \$75 Lunch & morning tea included. All proceeds go to SHBG
Book at:
info@shbg.com.au
Limited numbers.

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