

SHBG CHILDRENS' PLAYGROUND PROJECT

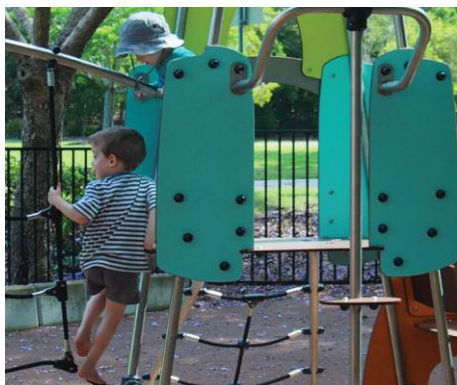


Illustration from the manufacturer's proposal.
Photo courtesy of Proludic.



Photo by Charlotte Webb

Children love botanic gardens. We see that every time we have an event at SHBG. They run, they jump, they play in the mud.

We want them to enjoy SHBG and we want their parents to come to our gardens and to use this splendid open space. It's a community garden, to be used by the community.

A playground, with structures intended for able and less able children, has been included in the initial TCL sketch design – it's to be just inside the entry and close to the proposed parterre garden. You'll see the location on the landscape plan that's displayed at our current entry. The Board thinks it's time to do something about the children's playground and we're applying for a NSW grant under the My Community Project. This year, the My Community Project invites your vote for projects that you support. More about that in a month or so. Meanwhile, we want to tell you about the playground.

The immediate goal is a playground with equipment suitable for pre-school children, placed in the area just west of the crab-apple bed, towards the space we often use as a carpark. That may not be the final site, so we plan to buy equipment that can be moved as other elements of the garden are constructed.

Our goal is to have high-quality equipment that is stimulating for children, where they can climb, take shelter, play alone or in a group, take risks and be challenged. And, of course, where parents can watch or participate. There will be adult seating nearby. Much of the play area will be covered with a shade sail.

This playground gives parents and grandparents a very desirable venue to take their small charges; an exciting, modern and inclusive playground; easy walking distance for those living nearby and good parking for others. A professional playground provider will take the lead role in design and installation.

The proposed location is not far from the amenity block and the proposed Education Centre. Our parking space is nearby too, so we hope for lots of visitors from the neighbourhood.

Chris Blaxland

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The gardens are approaching another small milestone. They have been regularly open three days a week since February. Commencing 1st July, the gardens will be open all weekdays and once the playground is installed the garden will be open 7 days a week. To help us achieve this commitment to our visitors we are calling for volunteers to help with the regular opening and closing of the gates.

We have been pleased over the past couple of months to welcome students from Bowral High back to the gardens. As part of their commitment to community involvement, students from years 7 & 8 volunteer in the gardens helping planting out, mulching and this month – dividing and propagating plants for the nursery.

Having been successful with our grant application and some donations from generous individuals, the shed has been transformed into a properly equipped office. The effects of this can be seen in the improvement of nursery signs, where all plants in the nursery are now labelled and groups identified with permanent picture labels. Through a kind donation, new filing cabinets were added today to help manage our office storage.

You will be hearing from us shortly about how you can support our application for the children's playground which opens for voting in mid-July for 4 weeks. Fingers crossed we will be able to establish a new venue for our young visitors.

Charlotte Webb OAM

Autumn Garden Weekend and Plant Fair 2019 Report



Bangala



Gowan Brae



Rotherwood



Timbarra



Wirreanda

Our ninth annual event saw a mix of outstanding gardens with a blend of small and large urban gardens, plant collectors gardens, a vast rural homestead garden and of course there was our revamped Plant Fair as well. It really was a year of something for everyone so blessed with perfect Autumn weather over 3500 visitors made their way to our 5 open gardens and Plant Fair.

All five gardens had benefited from the good March rain which had not only made the gardens flourish but had lifted the spirits of the garden owners who were feeling a little desperate with the previous severe, dry and hot conditions.

The feedback from the garden visitors was overwhelmingly positive and the garden owners spent most of the weekend answering a bewildering array of questions from the curious visitors.

At 'Rotherwood', the added bonus of wine for sale was very well supported as a constant stream into the cellar door and Ken Coopers smile would attest.

It was with some trepidation that we launched our new Plant Fair format in April. We needn't have worried. The Plant Fair was a resounding success with several of the Victorian nurseries going home with no left over stock and huge smiles on their faces. Their feedback was overwhelmingly 'we will be back' which vindicated our decision to open the Plant Fair up to external nurseries and lessen the demand on our own plant growers. Interestingly we still managed to sell around 2500 plants from our own SHBG stalls which was a better result than expected. Jenny Simons sold a staggering \$600 worth of seeds which at \$2.50 a packet was an amazing result.

We distributed questionnaires over the weekend and the most frequently recurring comments were in regard to how fantastic our volunteers were, so welcoming, happy and helpful..... and the wheelbarrows.

The wheelbarrows really stole the show at the Plant Fair and were not only a visual delight but a huge help to all the would be shoppers moving their purchased plants around.

The figures for the weekend were actually better than the previous year with a gross income of around. \$103,000 and a nett figure of \$89,500.

An outstanding result which could not have been achieved without the generous support of our 150 volunteers, the tireless work of the SHBG Friends Committee and the SHBG Plant Growers Group.

Chris Webb SHBG Friends Committee Chairman

...and that wonderful fleet of loaned wheelbarrows



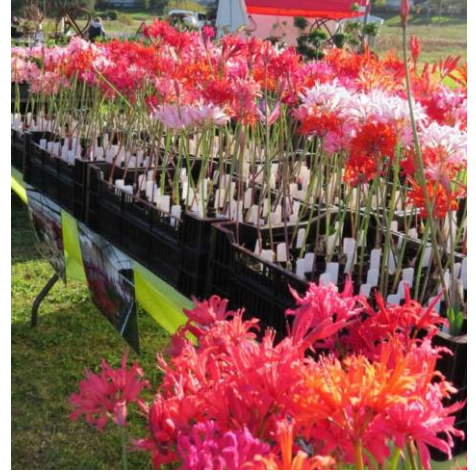
A SELECTION OF THE VISITING SELLERS



Alameda Homestead Clematis



Ironworx



Elite Bulbs with Nerines

...and a very small selection of our wonderful Volunteers & their handywork



Kim Jeffrey manning the barbecue



Val Turnbull, Elaine Lye and Jan Berry at the gate of Rotherford



Barry Barford ready for any questions that would be put to him



Les Musgrave's stunning arrangement

How Great are our Volunteers!

Over 150 volunteers contributed to our successful Autumn Garden weekend & Plant Fair in April. Over the weekend volunteers welcomed visitors to the gardens and plant fair, parked cars, moved trolleys and wheelbarrows, helped unload plant stall trucks, erected tents at each garden, ensured children didn't drown in dams, explained the vision of the Botanic Gardens, sold plants, solved landscape issues to visitors, made name tags, packed seeds, checked volunteers had refreshments etc.

Feedback questionnaires from the garden visitors overwhelmingly commented on our 'warm and welcoming' volunteers. Even the stallholders at the newly revamped Plant Fair commented the volunteers made their experience memorable. Comments included words such as: *helpful, cooperative, eager, and best of all – 'volunteers 10/10'!*

It takes great skill to organise the volunteers, and we appreciate all the work of our volunteer coordinators, Shandra Eagan and Di Grant, who make the weekend appear to just 'happen'! It is impossible to imagine how much work goes on behind the scenes especially those last-minute substitutes to fill a late cancellation. Well done everyone. It was a truly great weekend. Thank you!



KITE FLYING DAY – Save the date

It's on again! Save the date - 11 August for our Kite Flying Day. What a magical sight last year - over 100 kites in the sky over the Botanic Gardens. Let's try for more this year. Some people brought their own but lots were made in our workshops which will be held again this year. If you

would like to join a children's workshop you need to book early – we sold out last year. There will be food and drinks to purchase or bring your own a picnic. Kid's birthday parties are welcome. So, save the date - 11 August, from 10am to 3pm, and enjoy a windy August day in our Botanic Garden. Don't forget to bring a coat!!

Cost: General admission by donation, workshop \$15 includes entry. Bookings: hbg.com.au/events



Styrax obassia



Clematis stans

SEED SAVING

Garden Friends may have noticed that at our autumn plant sale, I sell packets of seed to augment our profits. Pictured are some of the seeds I have for sale from time to time. I acquire the seed from my own garden and the gardens of Friends and would be pleased to have more donations. If you have some ripe seed from flowers or vegetables, please let me have it, in a paper bag, not a plastic bag. You can leave the seeds in my letterbox at 89 Osborne Road, Burradoo, with the name of the seed and your name and phone number. If this is not convenient, ring me and I will arrange to collect the seed. Ring me if you want to discuss seed collecting.



Farfugium giganteum



Scabiosa stellata

Jenny Simons 4861 1767

AN HONOUR - it is!



What wonderful news that one of our board directors was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List. Christine Hawkins was awarded an AM "for significant service to business and commerce and to primary industry".

Christine, as a corporate advisor, was very involved in the wool industry following the crisis that resulted in the large wool stockpile, including as CEO of The Fibre Company, which commercialised a new marketing system developed by Jim Maple-Brown from Goulburn. In 2010, she was appointed as the inaugural Chair of Wheat Quality Australia Limited and also drove the establishment of the (now) Grains and Legumes Nutrition Council, a not-for-profit company that is Australia's knowledge centre for science based evidence on the health and nutritional benefits of including grains, grain-based foods and legumes as part of a balanced diet. Christine also acknowledges Trish Griffiths, also a Bowral resident, as the CEO and critical to this endeavour. Christine, through Cinnabar International, principally provides high level governance advice to boards. SHBG is delighted to congratulate Christine on this award and we are thrilled to have her as an important member of our Board.

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

August 11 Kite Flying Workshop 10.00 am - 3.00 pm
General admission by donation. Workshop \$15
BYO picnic More details see page 3.

Sun. 18 August Corrective Tree Pruning Workshop
with Paul D'Hondt, Arborist. 10 am to 2 pm
\$75 including lunch and morning tea

Friday 27 September Bowral in Bloom \$125
Venue: TBA
Drink on arrival, canapes, two course dinner.
Live music, silent auction, raffle and lots of fun!

Australian Garden History Society event
Recording Gardens Workshop July 28th 10am-3pm
 Henrietta Rose Room, 16 Bendooley St. Bowral
 Member \$45, non-member \$55. Inc. Morning tea & lunch
 Speakers: Chris Betteridge, Craig Burton, Ashley Macevicius & Charlotte Webb. Enquiries: 0427 273 302



Working Bees

Every Tuesday
10am - noon

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

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Next Operculum due to be published in September.
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