

## COLLECTOR'S PLANT STALL



AMSONIA ORIENTALIS



ANGELICAGIGAS



CARYOPTERIS PINK



CLEMATIS TANGUTICAS



DEINANTHE BIFIDAS



DIANANTHUS PRIMADONNA



FUCHSIA BOLIVIANA ALBA



ZAUSCHNERIA

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Spring has sprung in the gardens! After the early spring blossoms the 'Tony Davis' daffodils have been putting on quite a show.

Just budding up ready to burst out in the next week or so are the Dogwoods, which will continue to flower almost up to Christmas. Great excitement - this year we will have flowers on a Horse Chestnut for the first time! As each sponsored tree has been coming into bud or flower, we have contacted the sponsor to let them know. Hopefully some will be able to come in and visit their trees.

The upcoming projects in the gardens will significantly extend the planted areas. The first 'spring' garden will be planted over the coming months with some of the species lilac collection. The eastern precinct will look very different in a few weeks when native planting of Shale woodland trees and shrubs commences.

Hopefully by early next year we will have extended our path network to the northern side of the site, opening up the area for planting in the next few years.

Let's hope the wonderful rain we have had over winter continues.

Charlotte Webb OAM

Join us on Saturday 31 October for a Collector's plant stall.

Due to no stall by SHBG for our April plant fair, we will be offering a treasure trove of Collectable & Hard-to-Find plants grown by the Friends of SHBG.

From *Amsonia* to *Zauschneria* there will be something for everyone.

The plant stall will operate in conjunction with our normal retail nursery **from 9am to 3pm.**





## GET READY FOR THE TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC!



To welcome back our hugely popular teddy bear trail in the botanic Gardens (and the arrival of Spring!), we are having a wonderful Teddy Bear's Picnic.

On Saturday 26th September 2020 from 9am to 4pm in the Gardens. Bring your own picnic – morning tea, lunch or afternoon tea. We will have a coffee cart and a craft & honey stall to celebrate.

“Big Teddy” will be visiting us and distributing small goodie gifts to the children.

There is also a great colouring activity for under 6's & under 12's. To enter just download the teddy drawing from the website <https://shbg.com.au/event-calendar/teddy-bear-picnic/>, get the little ones to colour it in and then bring it along for display on the day for a chance to win. Draws will be run at 11am & 1pm.

There will also be a giant teddy raffle. And of course, the teddy bear trail will be reopened, to allow our keen teddy bear spotters to wander the Gardens and discover our 16 hidden teddies.

So, pack your picnic blanket, include something sweet to eat, bring your very own teddy and come and share a wonderful Spring Picnic in the Gardens!

Please make sure you and your guests adhere to Covid guidelines when visiting the Gardens.

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## LILAC (SYRINGA SP.) COLLECTION

Perhaps one of the all time favourite spring flowering plants is the sweetly perfumed lilac. A well known and loved plant in many of our heritage gardens, the many cultivars of *Syringa vulgaris* in their many shades of white, pink and purple are a great asset in the spring garden.

*Syringa sp.* belong to the olive family, *Oleaceae*, which perhaps in part explains their robust and hardy ability to withstand drought, heat, cold and a variety of soil types. What are less well known are the 20-25 species and hybrids which are equally hardy and all display the same traits of hardiness and fragrance.

Over the coming year the SHBG will be concentrating on establishing a national collection of the *Syringa* species which fortuitously two of our Friends have already begun collecting.

At the moment we have material of *Syringa afghanica*, *S. josikaea*, *S. meyeri* 'Palabin', *S. oblata*, *S. reticulata*, *S. wolfii* and the hybrid *Syringa x persica*.

Interestingly many of the cultivars of lilac are grafted onto the rootstock of its closely related cousin, privet (*Ligustrum sp.*). This explains that in many older gardens the privet rootstock is seen to take over the lilac bed!!

Chris Webb



Bricks give scale to height of this fully grown *Syringa meyeri* 'Palabin'

## EXCITING NEWS FOR EDUCATION & THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BOTANIC GARDENS

Our primary school excursion program is ready to roll out and we are now able to offer local schools the opportunity to undertake a unique and engaging learning experience in the Gardens! Starting in 2021 we already have two local primary schools expressing interest and hope to have all local schools participating in the next year.

The SHBG Education program embeds the NSW Education curriculum into each lesson in the fields of science, maths, geography, art and English. Students will visit the gardens in their year groups for a day excursion and participate in hands on sessions such as soil properties, pollinators, the life cycle of flowering plants and symmetry and patterning in nature. Developing richer language in writing and communication is a further aim, which will also build confidence and familiarity with the natural environment.

The program introduces the Gardens to our youngest locals as a special place in our Southern Highlands Community. One where we can all share in appreciating plants and their biological communities; where students can learn about biodiversity, plant conservation and the environment; and be surprised and delighted by the beauty of plants and trees.

One especially pertinent learning module in the program encompasses our own Southern Highlands threatened *Eucalyptus Macarthurii*, or Paddy's River Gum (pictured right). Students will investigate both the preferred habitat of the species as well as aspects of human intervention which have led to its endangerment. Conservation methods will also be explored with students then able to recognise the importance of their role in preserving our own endemic species.

Overall, we are pleased to offer a comprehensive, exciting and practical experience for our primary school students and invite all local schools to become a part of our program.



*Eucalyptus Macarthurii*

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### GARDENS IN THE HIGHLANDS

Jenny Simons, one of our staunchest volunteers, started the mammoth task of indexing all the gardens featured in *Highlife* – throughout the history of that magazine. Jenny is the perfect person to undertake this job; as a botanist, she has been a major contributor to *Highlife* over many years, writing articles on gardens and all subjects botanical – a job now done by her daughter Frances Simons.

Jeanne Villani, our volunteer editor of *Operculum*, has stepped forward to give Jenny a hand in coordinating and completing this huge task. The lockdown period was the opportune time to get the job finished and Jenny and Jeanne worked together as a perfect team.

The task itself comprised not only looking through all the magazines and cataloguing them appropriately but tracking down any missing issues so nothing was missed. The first magazine was published in July 1998 and sourcing all issues since then has been assisted by others who responded to call outs, including Australian Garden History Society, Southern Highlands Branch. You might ask 'why go to this trouble?'. The Southern Highlands is well known as a garden mecca and *Highlife* is a magazine that documents exactly why this is the case, showcasing the beautiful gardens in the area. Many of those gardens have also participated in the SHBG Autumn Garden Weekend over the past 10 years. The magazine has subscribers living outside the Highlands. I subscribed to *Highlife* for some years prior to moving to the Highlands.

Documentation of all the stunning gardens in the Highlands is beneficial from a historical perspective and for research going forward. For SHBG, such a catalogue is a valuable resource and fits perfectly with SHBG's vision, as a botanic garden, of advancing the knowledge of horticulture to the wider community.

Now, the task is finished – or is it? As new issues of *Highlife* are published, Jeanne will continue indexing the featured gardens to ensure there is no risk of gaps in the future. So, a huge thank you to both Jenny and Jeanne for undertaking this immense job.

For information about the index & perusal of the relevant magazine contact Jeanne - 0418 412 822



## OUR NEW PLAYGROUND



A visit to the playground by NSW Government officials on a very cold day.

The construction of the playground, funded by the NSW Government, began during the first week of the COVID lock down in March. It was an eerie feeling doing construction in an uncertain period of this scary virus. Construction went very smoothly and was completed in mid June – finished within 6 months of funding. NSW Government officials visited in mid July on a bitterly cold day to see how the government funds were being spent on the playground. They are happy, we are happy and the young children are very happy, even during the winter months. The playground will be officially opened by MP, Nathaniel Smith, on Saturday, 26 September at 11am.

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## PICNIC SHELTER



Volunteers doing some landscaping around the picnic setting.

With the assistance of some funding from Veolia Mulwaree Trust, we have completed a new picnic shelter in the Garden located beyond the Rondel and has a wheelchair friendly picnic table with benches and a roof. Representatives from Veolia Mulwaree Trust will come to the Garden on Tuesday, 27th October at 11am to officially open the shelter

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## SOME POSITIVE ACTIVITIES, DESPITE COVID

Successful grants have meant we have been able to make progress with some major work in the garden. Apart from the construction of the playground and the picnic shelter, preparation is now underway for two more pieces of development.

One is for the construction of one kilometre of pathway (funded by the NSW Government), which is expected to commence in October. This pathway will open up the garden so that visitors can see and walk around a major part of the site which, until now, has not been easily accessible. Landscaping, seating and informative signage along the pathway will form part of this project. Another smaller grant from the Federal Government will see a significant beginning of the native garden. The focus of this project is on replacing the *Pinus radiata* trees (classified by council as one of the worst environmental weeds in the Southern Highlands) with native plants. Around three hundred plants, including the endangered *Eucalyptus macarthurii*, which would have originally covered the site.

Despite working bees being officially cancelled under COVID restrictions, people kept coming so they could enjoy the outdoors. These many volunteers are keen to work away at safe distances in the garden and, importantly, enjoy the fresh air and morning tea with their like-minded colleagues. As a direct result of this devotion, the garden is looking just magnificent in the early Spring and shows it is well cared for and loved.

## REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS

Following the recent death of our friend Lynette Lamb, her husband, Brian, generously donated her nursery collection to the Botanic Gardens.

Thank you Brian for this gift!

We know it will bring pleasure to many people in our community.

Lynette was involved with both the Highlands Garden Club and the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens for many years.

Her passion for propagating was well known and the plants she grew were regularly donated to both organisations.

She could never pass up a seed and collected them wherever she went.

She had remarkable patience with the plants she nurtured from seed and was willing to wait at least seven years for a peony flower

or an avocado fruit. On one occasion she collected seed from a famous garden and returned sometime later with the plant - admitting her crime and asking for its correct botanical name.

Lynette's love of nature was reflected in many aspects of her life.

The health and wellbeing of the local wildlife was a priority. Burradoo will never be the same.

She had a great talent for embroidery and won many prizes for her exquisite "stumpwork" pictures of plants, birds and bugs. The winning exhibits were given away to many of her friends to celebrate their special Birthdays.

Lynette loved celebrating occasions and sharing presents. She had a quirky sense of humour and always gave musical Birthday cards - usually containing chocolate frogs.

She was a wonderful and generous friend. She will be greatly missed by us all.

Maureen Purtell, Sally Gaudry, Di Grant



Lynette Lamb  
Photo by Pamela Bennett



Sue Kingsford  
Photo: Heritage Roses in Australia

Find Sue Kingsford on Facebook and you will see a beautiful photograph of her receiving an Order of Australia Medal in 2019. This was a special moment that honoured Sue's contribution to the world of roses, both modern and heritage roses.

She loved all roses. It was a pleasure to walk around her garden with her, that improbably large garden of five acres, filled with all kinds of roses, from groundcovers to neat bushes, rangy shrubs, and many, many climbers and watch her progress from plant to plant admiring and loving each rose in turn.

Sue was placed on the Honour Roll of the National Rose Society in 2016. Notice of her death and a tribute to her is recorded on the website of the Heritage Rose Society of Australia.

As a member of these two groups she helped with their administration for many years and assisted in organising many rose conferences around Australia. She was a close friend of many well known rose lovers in all states.

Locally she belonged to two garden clubs, the Highlands Garden Society and the Mittagong Garden Club, also to the Garden History Society and the Friends of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens, with a great many friends in these organisations.

Her rose nursery and consultancy at Fitzroy Falls was appropriately named '*Roses and Friends*' and her property '*Serenity*'.

Jenny Simons



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## Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens proudly sponsored by Terra Firma Fertilisers

**EXERCISE VENUE** Have you considered using the Botanic Gardens for your passive exercise? As a change from walking the street or exercising at home, the Gardens are open every day and provide large grassed areas and roadways where you can meander, walk or jog in the surrounds of a beautiful blooming garden, shrubs and established trees. You can connect to the concrete walkway in the Eastern end of the gardens via Kangaloon Rd and follow that through the planned native garden area into East Bowral. It is a delightful walk that provides a vista at every angle and helps to appreciate the size and growing development of the site. This is your garden so come and use for your exercise.



**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**

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

26th Sept. 11am  
**Playground opening**  
by Nathaniel Smith, MP

26th Sept. 9am-5pm  
**Teddy Bear's Picnic**

27th Oct. 11am  
**Picnic shelter opening**

31st Oct. 9am - 5pm  
**Collectors Plant Stall**

### 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 [admin@SHBG.com.au](mailto:admin@SHBG.com.au) for the register

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