



Australian Institute of Horticulture Inc.

'Promoting Horticulture - the Profession of the 21st Century'

Green Thumbs & Rooted Cuttings AIH NSW e-Newsletter, October 2009

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to this month's newsletter. It's been another busy month in the garden with the dry, warm weather.

Many gardeners and enthusiasts are planting vegetable and herb gardens. Canberra's Floriade picked up on this trend and included a vegetable garden in its displays this year.

I am in the process of creating two herb gardens for clients and discovered on a visit to one of my local nurseries how popular the trend is becoming. Visit your nursery prior to the weekend or the stock may not be available!!!

Happy horticulturing and I hope to meet many of you at our AGM at the end of the month in the Wollongong Botanic Gardens.

The next State Council Meeting is on 29 October, 7.00pm, Acacia Building, Ryde TAFE.

Richard May
AIH NSW President
presnsw@aih.org.au

AIH NSW AGM

The AGM will be held at the Wollongong Botanic Gardens, in the Discovery Centre on Saturday 31 October 2009 at 12 noon.

Lunch after will be catered by the AIH, with tea and coffee provided by the Friends of the Wollongong Botanic Gardens. A guided tour of the gardens will then follow.

All welcome.

Go to <http://botanicgarden.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/contactus.asp> for directions and details of the gardens.

Please RSVP no later than 24th October to nsweoadmin@aih.org.au for catering purposes.

AIH NSW CHRISTMAS PARTY

We will be throwing our Christmas party in Sydney's newest, picturesque open space – Ballast Point Park - Walama at the end of Wharf Rd, Birchgrove on Saturday 28 November at 5pm.

Designed by Landscape Architects, McGregor Coxall, Landscape Solutions were responsible for the landscape construction. Tim Buckle from Landscape Solutions will join us for our Christmas Barbie and will tell us about the project.

BYO food, drinks provided.

Go to <http://mcgregorcoxall.com/#/projects/30> to look at some artistic photos of the lovely park.

Please RSVP no later than 20 November to nsweoadmin@aih.org.au for catering purposes.

YHOY

October 14 will be the date when the Young Horticulturist of the Year is announced. Watch this space!

AIH NSW ARCHIVES

The AIH NSW has obtained boxes of archival material dating back to 1939. Minute & Membership Secretary, Caryl Wiggins has arranged for these to be stored for safe keeping by the Mitchell Library of NSW.

These archives contain papers and photographs including council minutes in bound books, council correspondence, brochures, logos, the Code of Ethics Chart and the Establishment of State Councils folder. Interested people can peruse these at the Mitchell Library.



Amongst the photographs (mostly unlabelled) was this one labelled 'Official opening Ryde School of Horticulture'.

Long-standing MAIH, Lesley Saddington comments on her memory of the occasion:

'It wasn't the opening of the original Ryde School of Horticulture but of the refurbished campus in 1987. (The first

graduation class commenced in 1938). Ryde campus was purchased in the 1950's & was only horticulture until '87 when the Catering College began. The name Ryde School of Horticulture ceased to exist & from then on the campus was known as the Ryde College of TAFE. The two divisions of catering & horticulture were both on the same campus & sadly Catering was given precedence over Horticulture (personally I'd have fought for Horticulture to have that right having been there first!), which made the Principal of Catering the College Principal & the Principal of Horticulture the Assistant College Principal.

Re the photo:

From Left to Right: Neil Black, Head of Division, Horticulture, School of Rural Studies; Ruth Mitchell, Assistant Principal of Ryde campus, Horticulture section; man in light suit ? - possibly a ministerial minder; man in dark suit looking down ? - possibly also govt. ministerial; tall man with black hair, Dr. Terry Metherill, NSW Minister of Education; lady with light hair & glasses, probably Ryde College Director (catering) Marlene Berell.'

**WELCOME TO THE NEW AIH NSW COUNCILLOR -
Virginia Armstrong**

Virginia is originally from Sydney but fell in love with all things horticultural while living and working in the UK for four years.

When she returned to Australia she decided to swap city life for a 25 acre property in a place called Numbugga, north of Bega NSW. Her main goal was to establish the garden, have some chooks and grow her own fruit and vegetables, so she decided to study horticulture.



After completing Cert 3 earlier this year she achieved first in course. 'I was so pleased to be awarded with a student membership with the Australian Institute of Horticulture. I believe it is a great opportunity for me and I am very keen to be more involved with the AIH and hope to use it to the best of my ability to help me and others to develop and grow a horticultural career'.

Her background is customer service and administration, mostly in the wine industry where she has been involved with promotional activities such as food and wine fairs and exhibitions and also the delivery of information technology training sessions for the industry Australia wide, including writing and compiling training content and materials. She has worked in Local and Federal Government and is currently working part time to keep the dollars rolling in so she can continue her growing passion.

Virginia will start Cert 4 in January '10 with OTEN and can't wait! She is working on setting up a production area so she can get more serious about growing. 'I continue to try new things in my vegetable patch, I'm growing old fashioned English cooking apples, collecting seeds and propagating them and really just trying keep my garden alive with what little rain water I manage to harvest. I am devoted to growing plants ideally suited to my area, and happy to share any triumphs with those around me struggling with our current quite difficult conditions.'

HORTICULTURAL WANDERERS PROGRAM

Expand your contact base and meet like-minded people when you travel regionally or interstate by joining the Horticultural Wanderers Program. Get together with other horticulturists for a drink or coffee, check out nurseries and gardens, discover what is happening horticulturally in other areas

Send your details as outlined below to your state representative to be forwarded to a relevant member:

Name:

Horticultural Role/Area of expertise:

From:

Destination:

Date of travel:

Free time:

Interests: e.g. Guide/friendly face/ Nurseries/ Drinks/coffee/anything! I want to meet other horticulturists from other areas

Contact details - Tel/Email:

Other information:

This is a free service offered to all members of the AIH. For more information, contact marianhammond@netspace.net.au

PLANT OF THE MONTH - *Senecio sempervivus*

Peter Nixon, designer and convener of the Designer Growers Network (DGN) digs up tough and interesting plants from independent growers of non-general lines:



Unlike most succulent plants, *Senecio sempervivus* has the distinction of being both semi-shade tolerant and able to withstand challenging root-ridden soil beneath mature trees without becoming stretched or prey to dry foliage attack from pests such as red spider mite. It also grows well in full sun where lack of significant flowers is made up for in orange-pink leaf margins that brighten in cooler winter nights, from coastal areas to further inland down to zero once established. Rubbery and compact up to around 400m, it makes an excellent high contrast, static alternative evergreen to *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy', planted against ultra fine flowing textures like *Poa* 'Eskdale' or the taller P. 'Suggen Buggen' in quite average, unirrigated sandy soils. Dwarf, self forming hedges or mass planted - it even does well within the needle fall of coniferous trees like cyprus where most other plants struggle to compete.

Plants can be sourced from Ruth & Peter Donnelly of Coachwood Nursery at Somersby: Tel 4372 1770, Ruth 0437 399 896, Peter 0432 590 754 coachnsy@coachwoodnurseries.com.au
www.coachwoodnurseries.com.au

Ruth and Peter found the original plant of this Senecio interstate 5 years ago. They now have built up plenty of stock and will have hundreds ready for sale again in late Spring. They trial all their new releases at the various garden shows to accurately test the response from the average gardener. They had a great response from the public this year as they had a wonderful display plant that had mostly pink foliage from the exposure to sun and winter cold. The potential of this plant can be seen as it thrives in sun or shade, but just can't tolerate a decent frost. It is on par with the frost hardiness of most Kalanchoes.

You can find more DGN plants at www.peternixon.com.au/DGNblog
info@peternixon.com.au www.peternixon.com.au Tel 9698 1547

SOME TREE TRIVIA, courtesy of Jonathan Garner

- Trees create 99 percent of their living parts from scratch each year.
- Water going up tree trunks can travel up to 150 feet per hour.
- A single tree can provide the same cooling effect as ten room-sized air conditioners working 24 hours per day. For example, a 45-foot eucalyptus tree will transpire (give off) over 80 gallons of water per day. Compare that with a willow tree that transpires 5,000 gallons of water per day.
- One tree can remove 10kg of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere annually, equalling 17,500 kilometres of car emissions. Landscape plants, such as shrubs and turf, remove smoke, dust, and other pollutants from the air. One study showed that 1 acre of trees has the ability to remove 13 tons of particles and gases annually.

SNIPPETS...

Garden Guide on Nintendo!

A guide to gardening entitled 'How to Get Green Fingers' has been developed by Koch Media, Mindscape and the Royal Horticultural Society. Played on Nintendo DS consoles, players are lead through the guide by virtual Gardener Paul. The guide has advice on gardening, a quiz, information on 400 plants and a calendar of gardening tasks. Available from www.rhs.org.uk

Mount Usher Gardens, Ireland

Whatever the season there will always be something to see at these gardens. However, if you want to see the hankerchief tree, *Davidia involucrata*, for which the gardens are famous then you need to be there around May. See www.mountushergardens.ie

Vale Norman Borlaug (1914 – 2009)

Reputed to have saved more lives than anyone, the 1970 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize died recently at the age of 95. A central figure in the 'green revolution', Norman Borlaug worked on improving strains of wheat. In 1944 he accepted an appointment as geneticist and plant pathologist assigned the task of organising and directing the Cooperative Wheat Research and Production Program in Mexico. This program, a joint undertaking by the Mexican government and the Rockefeller Foundation, involved scientific research in genetics, plant breeding, plant pathology, entomology, agronomy, soil science, and cereal technology. Within twenty years he was spectacularly successful in finding a high-yielding short-



strawed, disease-resistant wheat. To his scientific goal he soon added that of the practical humanitarian: arranging to put the new cereal strains into extensive production in order to feed the hungry people of the world - and thus providing, as he says, "a temporary success in man's war against hunger and deprivation," a breathing space in which to deal with the "Population Monster" and the subsequent environmental and social ills that too often lead to conflict between men and between nations.

FOXGROUND RAINFOREST WORKSHOP

Sunday 22 November, 10.00 am – 2.30 pm

AIH NSW members are invited to join the Friends of The Gardens at Ann and Geoffrey Long's rainforest property in the Illawarra Ranges behind Berry to learn about sub-tropical and warm temperate rainforest species.



Marsdenia suaveolens photo by Hugh Nicholson

Ecological and environmental consultant, Dr Kevin Mills will lead an interpretative walk in virgin rainforest. Please note that the walking paths are rough bush tracks so wear sensible walking shoes. Copies of Kevin's book *Rainforests of the Illawarra District* will be available for purchase.

Practise your keying-out skills and identify climbing plants using *Rainforest Climbing Plants. A field guide to their identification* by Gwen Harden, Bill McDonald & John Williams.

More information about rainforest plants can be found at Gwen Harden's site www.rainforests.net.au and Hugh and Nan Nicholson's site www.rainforestpublishing.com.au

Cost is \$35 for AIH members and Friends of The Gardens (non-members \$45), includes morning tea at 10.00 am. Bring a picnic lunch. Details will be provided with booking confirmation. Numbers are limited.

Bookings are essential and can be made through the Friends of The Gardens: 9231 8182 (please provide your AIH membership number).

PLACES TO BE, THINGS TO DO....

Treasures of Southern Italy – Sicily & Puglia Tour Talk

**Friday 2 October, 10.30 am – 12 noon
Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens**

The Friends will venture to parts of southern Italy almost unknown to tourists in mid May next year. Enjoy an illustrated presentation about this exciting tour from organiser Andrea Cruickshank, the Australian representative for Anfithrion Tours in Italy. \$15, Friends \$10, includes morning tea at 10.30 am

Bookings Essential Tel 9231 8182 or friends@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au



Natural Sequence Farming

Saturday 3 October, 1pm to 2pm

Earthcare Centre, cnr Science Rd & Campus Drive

University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury Campus, Richmond NSW

www.earthcare.org.au

Julia McKay, Secretary of the national body of the Natural Sequence Association (NSA), is a lawyer, a farmer and a Natural Sequence Farming (NSF) practitioner. Julia is also doing her PhD at Fenner School at the Australian National University on Peter Andrews' NSF. Julia's talk will cover sustainable land and water issues and also the viability of establishing a local chapter of NSA. Natural Sequence Farming was founded by Peter Andrews who has featured on ABC's Australian Story and also ABC's Catalyst. NSF attempts to rebuild the natural systems that originally operated within the Australian landscape.

www.naturalsequencefarming.com and www.naturalsequenceassociation.org.au

Bookings essential. Contact Ray Kennedy rayken@optusnet.com.au or Marianne McMillan Tel 02 4731 1114

Leura Gardens Festival 3 to 11 October

It's blossom time in the Blue Mountains. Up to 10 private gardens are open, including the National Trust Garden *Everglades*. An 'All Gardens' ticket costs \$18, single garden \$5.

www.leuragardensfestival.com.au

Book Sale



Friday 9 & Saturday 10 October, Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens

On sale will be pre-loved books on horticulture, the environment, garden design and for the first time cookery and craft books will be available. We welcome your donation of books. Please deliver books for sale to the Friends' Cottage by Wednesday, 7 October. The Growing Friends nursery will be open on Saturday from 9am to 4pm. **Entry is free.**

The Bilpin Spring Garden Weekend

Saturday 10 October and Sunday 11 October

The Bilpin Garden Club's 49th Annual Spring Flower Show will be held in the Bilpin Community Hall, Bells Line of Road, Bilpin – 1pm to 5pm on Saturday and 10am to 4pm on Sunday. There will be a display of over 600 cool climate, native and exotic plants. Several local nurseries will be selling plants. There will also be stalls featuring local artists and craftspeople. Refreshments provided by the Mount Tomah Rural Fire Service. Three Bilpin gardens will be open for viewing both days from 10am to 4.30pm: *Woodgreen*, 27 Powells Road, *Kookaburra Gardens*, 86 Powells Road and *Perfick*, 10 Powells Road

Entry to the Spring Flower Show is \$4, children under 12 free

Open Gardens \$6 at each gate

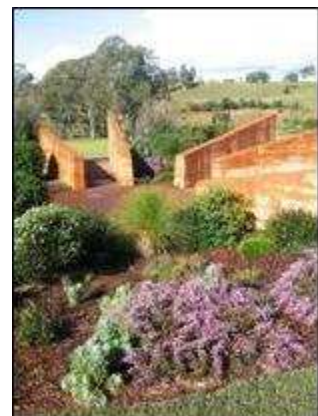
Discount ticket \$15, includes entry to the Spring Flower Show and gardens

For more information contact Tina Brauer tbrauer@bigpond.net.au or 0413 307 111

Coach Tour to Mount Annan Botanic Garden

Wednesday 14 October, 9.30am – approx 3.30pm

Come celebrate Mount Annan Botanic Garden's 21st Birthday. Enjoy a viewing of a special commemorative Exhibition with morning tea, an informative drive around the Garden, lunch in The Gardens Restaurant and some free time to explore the Terrace, the Fruit Loop and the Gardens Shop and Nursery. The coach will depart



from and return to Central Railway. Full itinerary and details with booking confirmation. \$65, Friends \$55, includes coach travel, exhibition viewing, morning tea, lunch, guided tour and entry to the Gardens for non-members.

Bookings Essential Tel 9231 8182 or friends@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

2009 National Landscaping Conference & Awards: *Changing Lifestyles*

Thursday 15 to Saturday 17 October

National Wine Centre, Adelaide, South Australia

The conference addresses the issues the industry faces nationally with change brought about by climate, governments, technology, fashion and people. Speakers include Julian Burton, Dr Tim Moore, David Stevens, Sophie Thomson, Josh Byrne and Adam Wright with visits to Jeffries Compost Recycling, Maggie Beer's Pheasant Farm and three wineries. Enquiries should be directed to the Landscape Association of South Australia, Mr Rob Martin. Phone: (08) 8210 5229, Fax: (08) 8231 4173

rmartin@adelaideshowground.com.au www.lasa.org.au

The Iris Society of Australia - NSW 2009 Iris Show

Saturday 24 October, 11am to 4.30pm, and

Sunday 25 October, 9am to 4pm

Community Hall, Great Western Highway, Blackheath

(opposite the Railway Station)

Potted iris, rhizomes, seeds, craft items, cottage plants on sale; culture information. Lunch and teas available.

Admission \$4, children under 16 free

For enquiries and show schedules contact Di Cox 02 4784 2727, dicoxiris@bigpond.com

Artisans in the Gardens 2009

24 October to 1 November, 10am to 4pm daily

& late until 7pm on Wednesday 28 October

Lion Gate Lodge, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney

The annual Artisans in the Gardens exhibition features the extraordinary work of 28 of Australia's finest artisans, FREE ENTRY, ALL WORKS FOR SALE

For information contact Friends of The Gardens on 02 9231 8182 or visit

www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/friends

Bathurst Spring Spectacular Garden Weekend

Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 October, 10am to 4.30pm

Ten gardens open. Tickets \$15, concession \$10. www.bathurstspringspectacular.com

Inspiration from Avians

Tuesday 27 October, 10.00am – 11.00am

Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens



Exhibiting artisan Indiana James will talk about how an increasingly detailed knowledge of birds has affected his evolving sculptural practice. His deepening artistic and scientific involvement with these creatures parallels the historic human fascination with bird life. 'I feel compelled to share some of my more sensational insights into animals that fly' he says. His appealing pelicans, herons, wrens and many other birds inspire us to know more about their way of life and their habitat.

\$18, Friends \$12, includes refreshments at The Artisans in The Gardens exhibition at Lion Gate Lodge after the talk. Indiana's talk will commence at 10am

Bookings Essential Tel 9231 8182 or friends@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Urban Landscape Rehabilitation

Sunday 8 November, 10.30 am – 12 noon

Bowden Centre, Mount Annan Botanic Garden



In days gone by, as the urban sprawl encroached on bushland, native vegetation was cleared and creeks were converted to concrete gutters. Nowadays, landscapers have a more sympathetic approach. Dean Boone of Distinctive Gardens & Interiors is in the business of landscape rehabilitation: as he says 'Landscape design isn't just about beautiful gardens, rolling green lawns and cascading flowers'. Dean will give an illustrated presentation describing the work his group has been undertaking in the Mount Annan area to rehabilitate creeklines using native plants and to create model sites for other landscapers to

emulate. \$18, Friends \$12, includes morning tea at 10.30 am. **Bookings Essential Tel 9231 8182 or friends@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au**

Intermediate Level Photography Workshop with Jaime Plaza

Friday 13 and Saturday 14 November, 9.30am – 4pm

Friends' Cottage, Royal Botanic Gardens

Jaime Plaza has been employed since 1989 as photographer at the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney contributing to many important and interesting projects including The Flora of New South Wales, Vegetation Classification of New South Wales, Wollemi Pine research, countless exhibitions and many scientific, educational, promotional and coffee table books. In this workshop Jaime



will discuss light, composition and how to best use a digital SLR camera. Venture on a photographic safari in the Gardens to practise different exposure modes, photographic techniques, composition concepts, lenses and how to take advantage of RAW files. After downloading files to a computer the photographs will be processed, analysed and discussed. It is essential to bring a digital SLR or an advanced digital camera with a manual function, a tripod and an empty memory card. \$266, Friends \$240, includes morning tea and lunch. If you're interested in a beginner's workshop contact the Friends' office.

Bookings Essential Tel 9231 8182 or friends@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Rainforest Plants for Sydney Gardens

Saturday 14 November, 10.30 am – 12 noon

Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens

Peter Nixon of Paradisus Garden Design and Convener of the Designer Growers Network will discuss species of rainforest plants suitable for Sydney gardens sourced from Brazil, Uruguay, Southern China, Mexico, Madagascar and our own east coast Australian natives. The Growing Friends Nursery will be open from 9am and after Peter's talk with rainforest plants available. \$18, Friends \$12, includes morning tea at 10.30 am. **Bookings**

Essential Tel 9231 8182 or friends@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au