Tourism Southern Highlands

News Release

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TOWN AND COUNTRY OPEN GARDENS SUCCESS

Last weekend saw the Friends of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens co-ordinate the opening of six local gardens from Burradoo to Burrawang which brought almost 1500 people into the district from far afield following extensive publicity in metropolitan and regional areas including Canberra, Sydney and the South Coast.

"Although there was rain it certainly did not dampen the enthusiasm of visitors", said Ted Duncan, Chairman of the Friends group. "We were delighted to see so many people enjoy these beautiful gardens that the owners had generously opened to others following months of preparation" he continued.

A huge plant stall numbering 2000 different species was a huge success with visitors taking the opportunity to purchase unusual and well established plant specimens that had been propagated by the Friends Group over a long period.

The event raised $25,000 towards the establishment of the Southern Highlands Botanic Garden to be located at the corner of Old South Rd and Kangaloon Rd Bowral.

"We are indebted to the Friends who have supported the Botanic Garden concept and this initiative that has resulted in such a wonderful financial outcome for SHBG" said President, Charlotte Webb.

"We are now pushing forward with the next phase of the development that will include fencing and the professional design of the site together with the infrastructure to bring the site to fruition" said Charlotte Webb.

Wingecarribee Shire Council has recently approved the Plan of Management to allow further stages to now commence and following the dedication of the site by Her Excellency The Hon Professor Marie Bashir last September.

"The completed site promises to be an integral part of the visitor tourist's list of things to see in the Highlands and will provide an ideal eastern gateway to Bowral" said Charlotte Webb.

It is planned that future Open Garden Weekends will be a feature in ongoing planning by the Friends of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens which promises to be a draw card for the Highlands.

Steve Rosa, Executive Manager, Tourism Southern Highlands explained "this inaugural event is the perfect partner to our expanding event strategy and existing open garden days." He continued "the Southern Highlands has always held a fascination for garden enthusiasts and the creation of this annual event will compliment and enhance the Autumn visitor experience to the Southern Highlands".

For further information please contact Ross Stone – phone: 02 4860 4004

1. Graham Flemming from Canberra with Maureen Purtell, Burradoo. Maureen was the organiser of the plan sale which brought in over $10,000

2. Janet Laverty (from Exeter) with her son & family from Bungendore Martin & Fiona Laverty, Robert in stroller, William is the Eskimo

3. Graham Campbell, Jenny Simons, Maureen Purtell, Joan Dubois, Noel Dubois, Joy Wiseman, Lynette Lamb, Sally Gaudry, Tony Davis

4. Chris Webb, Committee member of Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Inc & Merryleigh Brindley, owner of Carisbrook garden, Bowral. One of the Town gardens which also showcased the floral art of the Highlands Garden Society

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MEDIA INTERVIEWS & IMAGES

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