



**eNewsletter
No. 31
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Northern NSW Branch

**Newsletters are sent out monthly
except for December and January**

Larger images are available from the editor on request

***Juniperus scopulorum* 'Blue Arrow'**

'Blue Arrow' is a cultivar of a juniper native to North America. It is an elegant pencil pine with beautiful blue foliage which is often used as a vertical accent in garden beds, as a screen or hedge, or as a specimen plant.

It is a low-maintenance plant that is drought-tolerant and can thrive in a variety of soil types and growing conditions. It is also resistant to many common pests and diseases that can affect other species of juniper.

As a very slow growing form, it will only have reached 3-4 m in height and 50cm in width after 10 years. It is very popular because of its steel blue foliage and is ideal as a medium height screening plant, as a specimen with other conifers, in an avenue or as an entrance plant in a concrete pot. Mulch around the base to keep it consistently moist during summer. This will keep the plant healthy and help with retaining the deep blue color. It also benefits from feeding twice a year.

Ref: https://www.onlineplants.com.au/products/juniperus-blue-arrow?srsId=AfmBOoqMcxPn528esAZfHy1CrVm8J_VDaY33K2OZHdAtj4DbDdL13Hj7



Juniperus scopulorum 'Blue Arrow'
Image: <https://clarenbridgегardencentre.ie>

Join AGHS Northern NSW Branch

<https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/membership/>

Send articles & photos to: Reports/Newsletter Editor Maria Hitchcock
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From the Chair:

With Autumn making its way towards us, it's lovely to see the light changing and the morning temperatures beginning to fall. It won't be long until we're complaining about the frosts, but before then we'll have a couple of beautiful, colourful New England months to enjoy.

Our next Branch event is our general meeting on Sunday 6 April at 4.00pm, preceded by a committee meeting at 3.15pm. We have booked the U3A rooms on the corner of Markham and Barney Streets again as it has easy access and good facilities. You will have already received the agenda and previous meeting Minutes via email, so please bring along any questions you may have or comments to contribute. After the meetings, Liz and Marilyn will give us a presentation on the AGHS Oral History program which has gathered momentum nationally.

As is usual, we will have dinner together afterwards, with a booking being made at the Grand Hotel for 6.00pm. Please let me know if you can join us for an evening of good company and a Sunday evening of no cooking or clearing up.

A resolution has been reached with the National Trust in relation to the hand over of the Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez Homestead. My letter to Debbie Mills, CEO of the National Trust NSW, and her reply, will be tabled at our meeting.

I'm eagerly anticipating our weekend trip to Moree in the middle of April. Our itinerary can be found elsewhere in this newsletter, and as you will see, Fran has gathered together a most enjoyable program for us. We have bookings from a number of AGHS visitors from other branches and a very entertaining and sociable weekend will be had by all.

Bill and I leave for Europe on Anzac Day for just over five weeks. We have a French farmhouse booked for two weeks with a group of our friends from University days. We're then off to Kythera (an island of many spellings) to celebrate a family birthday. The connections between Kythera and the New England are plentiful, with many of us being able to remember our friendly local Greek cafe from our childhood. I'm very much looking forward to a relaxing holiday after some less than wonderful recent months. We promise to take lots of holiday snaps to share with you.

Kind regards,
Helen Oates
Chair | Northern NSW Branch
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On the Road to Glen Innes

9th February 2025

Text and images: Maria Hitchcock



Historian Graham Wilson informs the group about the war history of Glen Innes in Anzac Park. The parklands are very extensive being located along the banks of Rocky Ponds Creek which floods periodically.

GLEN INNES is situated on the Northern Tablelands of NSW 98kms north of Armidale. It lies at the intersection of the New England and Gwydir Highways. In 2021 the population was 8,880. The first inhabitants were the Ngarabal people, who named the area Gindaaydjin, meaning "plenty of big round stones on clear plains" referring to the granite outcrops in the area. Descendants of the Ngarabal people continue to live in the area. In about 1838, Scottish barrister Archibald Boyd registered the first run in the district with help from two stockmen known as the 'Beardies'. With long flowing beards, John Duval and William Chandler roamed the vast, untamed New England plateau. Their names live on in Glen Innes Highlands' folk museum, in the Land of the Beardies History House, Beardy Waters and Beardy Plains parish. Glen Innes flourished from the 1840s and later with the opening of the Great Northern Railway in 1884 which prompted more construction. The main street is lined with more than 30 heritage-listed buildings.

Ref: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glen_Innes,_New_South_Wales

The AGHS group in the park which has a wonderful collection of deciduous trees and is well maintained.

Image: Lynne Walker





Anzac Park has many interesting memorials such as this one dedicated to women in the Great War.

Most towns have Honour Rolls of those who fell in all the wars. World War 1 in particular affected many country families and we remember the horses which were not permitted to return. Memorial rotundas are common in parks. The Honour Roll below is the World War 2 memorial.



The soldier and plaque stands at the end of a memorial walk lined with 36 Juniper Blue Arrow conifers.

We all admired this metal seat.





These impressive memorial gates honoured the fallen in World War 1



The group has a rest in front of the town hall. Note the historic background facades, most of which are over a century old and enhance the character of the Glen Innes CBD.



Above: Looking across the pond to the homestead.

Below: One of the magnificent elms.
 Images: Brian Thomas



This bedroom features a stand alone bath. Deborah is a professional designer with a keen eye for beautiful furniture and fittings. She has been collecting for many years.

WATERLOO STATION HOMESTEAD, circa 1908, crowns this 4,000 acre working historical property in the heart of the New England. The house and outbuildings set in Deborah’s personal gardens with century old English elm trees provide insights into times past.

Waterloo Station was founded by Alexander Campbell in 1837 and then settled by the McIntyres of the Hunter Valley. Campbell secured his prize in a fist fight with another explorer who also claimed possession, thus the name Waterloo. The original cattle grazing run comprised 118,000 acres (48,000 ha) on both sides of Waterloo creek. John Sinclair who purchased Waterloo in 1896 commissioned the homestead of 22 rooms in 1908. It was designed by Herbert Ross of Sydney in the mid 19th C. British Arts and Crafts style using local natural materials. The Station has been held by five families in 180 years. Current owners, Don and Deborah Anderson have beautifully restored all major buildings from near derelict to their current grandeur aiming to maintain the historical integrity of the property. It now offers luxury farmstay accommodation.

Ref: <https://www.waterloostationnsw.com.au/history>





Waterloo Homestead features many interesting rooms. Deborah took us on a tour explaining the history of the homestead and how she set out to restore the building which had fallen into major disrepair and had been modernised in parts by previous owners. Each room featured wonderful pieces of furniture and antiques which added charm and an atmosphere of days gone by.

Following the homestead tour the group gathered for lunch on the enclosed verandah at the end of the shearers' quarters below. This was the first building to be restored following a request from the Sapphire Wind Farm for accommodation for some of their workers.



On the Road to Moree PROGRAM

FRIDAY 11 April 2025

9.00am – depart Armidale. Those who choose so, meet at Armidale Tourist Information Centre to drive as a group to Inverell (possible rest break and coffee at Bundarra about 10am).

11.00am – arrive Inverell.

12.00 noon – group lunch at the [Riverside Restaurant, Inverell Tourist Information Centre](#) off the menu self-order and pay. Please indicate attendance when you register so we can arrange tables.

1.00pm – depart Inverell for Pallamallawa.

2.00pm – Pallamallawa War Memorial Hall for background to the Hall and local history from Pallamallawa local Col Pring and colleague. Plus notes from Graham Wilson on the Memorial.

3.00pm – visit Sarah & Paul Kelly's nearby Pallamallawa garden 'Nooktoo' for viewing and afternoon tea. For catering, please indicate planned attendance.

4.15pm – depart for Moree, check in to accommodation and free time.

5.30pm or so – convene for drinks at the [Moree Services Club](#) pulse-point of the town.

6.30pm Dinner – Moree Services Club Bistro, group tables, menu order and self-pay.

SATURDAY 12 April

9.00am – depart Moree and view second garden at 'Rockdale', 261 River Street, Moree.

10.00am – drive to third garden, 'Kooroogamma', 147 Kooroogamma Road, Moree for 10.30am with morning tea kindly provided by the Moree Plains Garden Club.

11.30am – return to Moree, possibly visit Moree Gallery or Bank Art Museum (both close 12.30)

12.30pm – lunch at Café Gali & Yaama Ganu Centre (Aboriginal Art Gallery) – 21 Balo Street. Menu order and self-pay. For arrangements with the Cafe please indicate attendance .

2.00pm – 'Vitonga Homestead' and garden, 133 Vitonga Road, 10 mins north of Moree.

3.00pm – to Carolyn Osmond's [Fork and Spade Nursery](#), 29 Mungindi Rd, Moree.

Afternoon free time. Possible activities include [Self guided Heritage or Memorial Walk](#) (this link includes a download walk with map). Or a relaxing swim at the [Moree Artesian Aquatic Centre](#).

5.30pm or so – Drinks - Services Club or another venue, or place of your choice.

6.30pm – Dinner - Services Club, or another venue, or place of your choice. Please indicate if you envisage dining at the Services Club via our Trybooking registration.

SUNDAY 13 April

9.00am – depart Moree for 9.30am at our fourth garden, Gay Burling's 'Woodcourt West', 1149 Watercourse Road with morning tea kindly provided.

11.00am – drive to Pallamallawa for 12 noon lunch at the 'Pally Pub'. Drivers might like to take the scenic road along the Gwydir River from Moree east to Pallamallawa. Menu order and self pay. For arrangements with Pally Pub please indicate attendance via your Trybooking registration.

Then homeward or on to your next travelling days.

Calendar of Events

| Date | Event | Notes |
|---|---|--|
| April Sunday 6th | 3.15 Committee Meeting 4.00 Branch General Meeting, Speaker/s and dinner to follow at the Grand Hotel. | Venue -U3A Liz Chappell and Marilyn Pidgeon presenting on the AGHS Oral History project. Please let Helen know if you are coming to dinner. helen_oates10@hotmail.com |
| April Friday 11th Saturday 12th Sunday 13th | On the Road to Moree Self drive - please make your own motel bookings for Friday and Saturday nights | Thanks to Fran Webb and the Moree Garden Club. See detailed Program on previous page. Registration: Contribution to AGHS \$40.00 Try booking link: https://www.trybooking.com/CYYHB Please answer questions about your participation. |
| June Sunday 29th | 3.15 Committee Meeting 4.00 Branch General Meeting, Speaker/s and dinner to follow. | Bring a Friend Details to come |
| July Sunday 27th | 'Great Gardens, Your Gardens, Climate Change' Guest speaker: Prof Tim Entwistle. | WINTER SPEAKER PROGRAM TAS Hoskins Centre, 3pm talk, 4.30 pm drinks and nibbles. \$45 per person, \$40 members. Details to come |
| August Sunday 24th | A Day with Camellias' Morning Garden Visit Afternoon - Speaker | Nan and Roy Robertson's Camellia Garden 'Wanderriby' off Kempsey Road, Wollombombi Lunch WINTER SPEAKER PROGRAM Guest speaker: Dr Stephen Utick of Camellia Ark TAS Hoskins Centre Drinks and nibbles to follow |
| September Saturday 13th Sunday 14th | Yulgilbah Trip | Not yet confirmed |
| September Sunday 31st | 3.15 Committee Meeting 4.00 NNSW Branch Annual General Meeting Dinner to follow. | Details to come |
| October 31st - November 2nd | AGHS National Conference Beyond the Garden Fence The Barn, Mount Gambier, S.A. | Bookings open 1st May Optional Day tour Monday 3rd November Pre and post tours will be available The theme this year is <i>Beyond the Garden Fence</i> which means that we will be looking not only at beautiful gardens, but at the geology of the area and at land uses. |
| November Sunday 30th | NNSW Annual Festive Lunch | Details to come |

Inquiries and ideas - please send to Sandra Welsman (Events Co-ordinator)
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