

**THE UNSW STAFF SOCIAL CLUB**  
**ROBERTSON SPRING GARDENS**  
**Sunday 8 October 2017**

The Village of Robertson sits above Macquarie Pass and the Illawarra Escarpment. As such, it is very different from the rest of the Wingecarribee Shire. Known locally as the “Green Heart of the Highlands”, it is ideally situated at the intersection of three major regions, giving residents and visitors alike convenient access to the coastal areas of the Shoalhaven, the forests of the Illawarra, and the shops, restaurants and amenities of inland towns such as Bowral and Berrima. Robertson, beautiful at any time of year, is a great place to live and play, with forests and waterfalls to walk and ride through and to, charming restaurants and shops, a variety of accommodation options, a thriving art community, a friendly and unpretentious "working village" atmosphere and events all year round to keep grownups and kids alike entertained.

Approximate Itinerary

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 8.00        | Leave UNSW (just inside Gate 14, Barker St)                      |
| 9.30-10.15  | Morning tea at McDonalds, Albion Park (own expense)              |
| 11.00—11.45 | Free time at The Robertson Cheese Factory Complex                |
| 12.00-12.45 | Visit to Spring Garden/s – free time*                            |
| 12.45-1.45  | Lunch at Robertson Bowling Club (main meal, dessert, tea/coffee) |
| 2.00-3.30   | Visit to Spring Garden – free time*                              |
| 5.30approx  | Arrive UNSW  |

\*The number of gardens to be visited on the day will depend on time.

The Robertson Cheese Factory Complex:



The Old Robertson Cheese factory truly is a contemporary taste of rich highlands history! The Complex has a Dairy Store, Café, Gelateria and Emporium. Visitors can also enjoy stunning views of Robertson's green rolling hills from the Factory Café.

Rising above the picturesque village of Robertson in the NSW Southern Highlands is the Old Robertson Cheese Factory established in 1936 by the local dairy farming community.

Today the factory remains a Southern Highlands icon, maintaining all its original charm and character. It houses a variety of specialty stores including clothing, homewares, toys and sweets, plus a delicious range of gelatos made onsite. The factory cheese shop offers Australian 'off the farm' cheeses, plus a range of complementary gourmet products such as olives, jams, pickles, relishes and much more. The Cheese Factory also has a selection of old-fashioned boiled sweets, fudge and chocolates.

Visit the Cool Room Emporium, an interesting and varied collection of vintage and new clothes, homewares, and great gift ideas.

### **SPRING GARDENS IN ROBERTSON:**

We will visit few of the gardens listed below. A final list will be provided on the day.



#### **The Kaya NEW**

The Kaya is 5 acre garden of a horticulturist and a botanical artist. When this property was purchased 7 years ago, the owners set about making the garden their own by incorporating evergreen structure and extending the garden beyond the immediate house area into the surrounding 5 acres. It has become an outstanding garden of exceptional design and breathtaking plant combinations including glorious summer flowering perennials. The gravelled parterre showcases purple and grey foliage plants including arches of trimmed 'Crimson Sentry' maples and wisteria covered pergolas. Another gravelled area is planted with iris, interesting ground cover plants and cloud pruned shrubs. There are meadow-like mown grass paths leading past dramatic plantings of ornamental grasses, hydrangeas and exuberant groupings of moisture-tolerant plants. This is a true plantsman's garden. Also at The Kaya is the working studio of an international award winning botanical artist. The building, which has been converted from a horse stable, is surrounded by the garden from which she collects much of her subject matter. The artist works in watercolour and in graphite and on display will be a number of original paintings as well as limited edition prints and greeting cards.



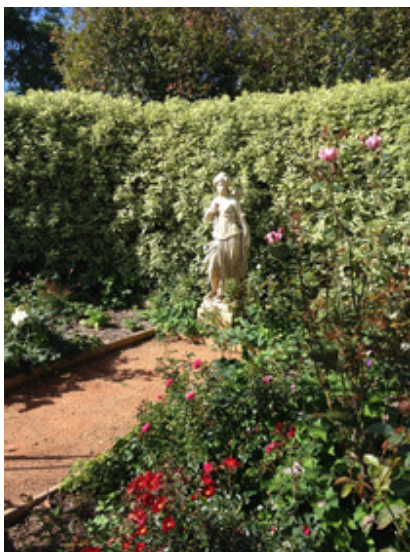
#### **The Secret Garden**

The Secret Garden is a hidden treasure nestled in the beautiful rural surrounds of Wildes Meadow. Owned and managed by local horticulturist Kathy Finigan, the garden has been gradually developed over the past 23 years. With a passion for gardening and creating beautiful spaces, Kathy wanted to open her garden and share it with like-minded individuals through private events and exclusive open garden tours. The Secret Garden is a quintessential, large Australian country garden of 2 hectares (5 acres) with several garden rooms of both formal and more relaxed styles. There is the fountain garden, a memorial garden, a Birch walk and a relaxed informal cottage garden surrounding the owners home. It also features large expanses of lush green lawn, a cherry blossom walk, banks of Rhododendrons and Azaleas, a gazebo overlooking an ornamental lake, a 20-meter long wisteria covered arbour, natural woodland, several quaint bridges spanning a number of small creeks on the property and probably the best display of alpine phlox in the district. Within the one space, you can experience a range of different themed gardens, creating a truly unique experience. A feature of the garden is an extensive kitchen garden, orchard and cutting garden full of seasonal flowers. This area of the garden is the inspiration and motivation for Kathy's other business, My Productive Backyard - a horticultural consultancy service, website and Facebook page dedicated to helping people grow their own organic food.



### **The Garden**

The framework of this garden was created in 1974 by the original owners of the block bought by them when the subdivision was first done. It was apparently an empty block and they planted it fully with a wide variety of plants and trees - Rhododendrons, Camellias, Azaleas, Roses, Maples and a large number of conifers which were to serve as hedges. When the current owners bought the block in 2001, the garden was not just established but heavily overgrown. The conifer hedges had not been hedged and in fact dwarfed most of the other plants. The front hedge of cyprus pines were huge with little vegetation on them. After a substantial cull it was found that many of the plants that had been dwarfed had survived albeit in need of a lot of care. A new Camellia Sasanqua hedge was planted in the front with over 60 plants in 4 inch pots. They looked more like a hair transplant but in the 13 years they have been in they have blossomed into a wonderful hedge.



### **Deirdre's Garden**

A beautiful formal garden originally planned by the previous owner who was employed as a horticulturist at Wollongong Botanical Gardens. The front garden is bordered by a clipped box hedge and beautiful deciduous maple trees. There are also fir trees, magnolia and waratahs making a stunning first impression. Through the side gate there is a formal rose garden screened by a 2 metre variegated pittosporum hedge. Here there are many varieties of rose as well as many perennials to add to the variety.

Wander past the perennial border filled with camellias, rhododendron and hydrangea to the outdoor entertainment area sheltered by ornamental cherry trees and Japanese maple. Across the lawn surrounded by magnolias, hydrangeas and camellias is a native garden with kangaroo paws and waratahs sheltered by gums and native shrubs. Follow the path through the forest garden past ferns, clivias, rhododendrons and camellias. Through the arch there is a beautiful elm surrounded by violets, hellebores and azaleas.

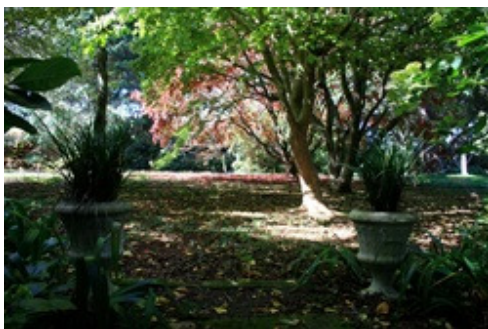
Hidden behind the azaleas is the chicken coop shaded by a beautiful banksia. Next is the vegetable garden with citrus and a raised enclosed vegetable garden.





### **Dragon Farm**

This beautiful country garden has wonderful views of the surrounding country side. Entering the garden through an avenue of mature ash trees and plane trees the garden opens out before you. The dry garden on the left contains clipped lavender en masse with lower gardens planted with sasanqua camellias, roses and mixed perennials and bulbs. A looping gravel path leads to a statue. This mixed planting continues on the left towards the house in a shadier garden with shade loving plants under large shrubs and trees. To the right of the driveway, a tennis court displays climbing roses on the fences. In front of the tennis pavilion beyond the tennis court is a beautiful parterre knot garden with hedges of boxus, surrounding roses and perennials. Large trees take pride of place on the lawn including two chestnut trees which provide wonderful shade in the summer and a birch grove. From the top of the hill there is a fabulous view to the lake with a beautiful Celtic knot garden laid out on the sloping hill. Buxus is used as the hedging, surrounding White Meidiland roses within the spaces and white gravel paths.



### **The Willows**

The Willows is a 5 acre property with extensive established gardens. Mature trees include maples, crabapples, cherries, ginkgo and a Davidia under planted with camellias, azaleas, pieris and kalmia. The rear garden contains a Japanese style conifer island, plus a mini arboretum of rare and unusual trees. A large bonsai collection greenhouse with orchids, tuberous begonias and streptocarpus. There will be nursery stock for sale especially plants suitable for bonsai and a horticulturist will be on hand to answer your questions.



### **The Moorings**

The Moorings is a 100 acre farm with a 4 acre garden surrounding a restored/ rebuilt 1870's house. The present garden is basically a foliage garden with specific areas dedicated to conifers, azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons amidst three lawn areas. Many trees and shrubs are close clipped in a variety of shapes. A rose garden, a hydrangea garden, a vegetable garden, and a small orchard are also featured as well as a summer house and a small "lake". Everywhere in the garden presents spectacular views of the countryside. Throughout the garden beautiful sculptures can be seen.

Robertson Bowling Club (lunch)

A 2 course alternate meal (main and dessert) plus tea/coffee will be served.

Cost including: transportation from and to UNSW, Visit to The Robertson Cheese Factory Complex, Free time at Robertson Spring Gardens and Lunch:

Members: \$60 each (and one guest at \$50 – i.e. max. 2 each at \$50 per head)

School age Children : \$25 each

Guests: \$60 each

Sorry no telephone bookings and no refunds. For any enquiries: please contact Nadia Withers, 0410669567 or n.withers@unsw.edu.au . Deadline: Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2017

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To : Nadia Withers, 63 Jennings St., Matraville 2036

Deadline: Wednesday 20/9/2017

Robertson Spring Gardens

Name : -----

Address. ----- Extn No. -----

Email Address: ----- Mobile No./Home No.: -----

Dietary Requirements (if any) -----

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| ----- places at \$50 each (max. 2 each at \$50) | \$----- |
| ----- places at \$25 each (school age children) | \$----- |
| ----- places at \$60 each                       | \$----- |

|              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| <u>Total</u> | <u>\$-----</u> |
|--------------|----------------|

A cheque for \$----- made payable to The UNSW Staff Social Club is enclosed.  
Bank Deposit OK – ask Nadia for details.