

# Camellia Ark

## Discovery Journal

Journal of Camellia Ark Australia  
(Inc #: 1600171)  
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Saving Australia's rarest camellias as a not-for-profit venture.



## Our Mission

- To conserve for Australian gardens, rare and endangered species and cultivars of the Genus *Camellia*, and other plants of the Family *Theaceae*, while promoting the horticultural, cultural and multicultural significance of *Camellia* as a global symbol of friendship particularly with China, Japan and other countries in the Asian Region.
- To work with other associations, to help Australian gardens conserve rarer cultivars of camellias and other ornamental plants and nursery stock, particularly those that are clones requiring grafting for propagation, and to support future plant breeding.
- To promote a supply of rarer camellias to the Australian nursery industry.
- For the purposes of conservation, identify individual specimen camellia trees of relevance to Australian garden history, maintain a national register of these and seek their heritage protection.



*Camellia Ark Australia is launched!*  
*Photo memento of our first Annual General Meeting, 17th April, 2016.*  
*Camellias R'Us Nursery, Glenorie.*

Welcome to all new members and to our great garden plant conservation discovery adventure.

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### From the President's Pen...



*“Welcome aboard everyone. The Camellia Ark Australia Inc. is at last all shipshape and now away under full steam. Thank you very much to those fifty plus members who have helped to get the Ark off the slipway and into the water. There is still plenty of room for more crew members, to take part in this very important task of rescuing and resurrecting, as many as possible of our rare and endangered Camellias, before they are lost forever to plant and garden lovers of Australia.*

*Our main task right now is to keep the enthusiasm going, by encouraging other enthusiasts, to join the ship in areas so far unexplored. Our first task will be the Southern Highlands of NSW which has some very old and interesting gardens, which will obviously contain some old and rare Camellias. This will take place with a get together at Harper's Mansion Berrima, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July. I hope as many of our new crew can attend this very significant day, as we sail off into the unknown waters of the Southern Highlands looking for buried treasures. Until we meet again on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day in July, let's try to gently coerce more enthusiasts to get on board our cause. Until then good plant hunting.”*

*President Jim Powell*

## Membership

We now have almost 50 members already but we certainly need many more. Please spread the good news among your clubs and other garden enthusiasts. Individual or association memberships are only...

**\$30 for a 3 year subscription if you join during 2016.**

That's membership until 30th December, 2018!

And what do you get?

- Priority purchase on rare and endangered camellias;
- Exciting garden discovery experiences;
- Opportunity to participate actively in conservation activities and events, including propagation;
- Learn much more about camellias and other Theaceae plants, including through our Camellia Ark Discovery Journal.

### Camellia Ark Association Name Badge

These are available for \$7 for collection at next meeting or \$9 to include postage. Contact Kate Stanley on (02) 9653 2202 or email [pandkstan@bigpond.com](mailto:pandkstan@bigpond.com) to order.

### Our Sales Table at Camellias R' Us Nursery

As a Camellia Ark Australia member, you have priority in terms of purchasing our rare camellia treasures. If you are looking for rare camellias, we are releasing them for sale, through our table at Camellias R' Us Nursery at 34 Harrisons Lane Glenorie. (ph: (02) 9652 2879 Email: [sales@camelliasrus.com.au](mailto:sales@camelliasrus.com.au)) You will need to pick them up at the nursery or arrange and pay for any freight through Camellias R' Us. After three months, these plants will be offered for general sale. Email Dr Stephen Utick : [sutick@grapevine.com.au](mailto:sutick@grapevine.com.au) for the latest catalogue.

### Treasures from our Sales Table



Our first featured treasure is the wonderful species *Camellia edithae* cv 'Momudan'. Native to Jiangxi and Fujian Provinces China. It exhibits attractive light green leaves, soft hairs (villous) on leaves and brown twigs. Exhibits small to medium double dark red flowers with occasional white blotch, but not frost tolerant. Available in three pot sizes: 12cm, 18 cm and 30 cm.



## Meet our new Committee

(From left to right)

<b>Kate Stanley</b>	SYDNEY (Committee Member; Public Officer; Newsletter Editor; Membership Secretary);
<b>Bill Parker</b>	SYDNEY (Vice-President; Propagator; Camellia Ark Sales);
<b>Craig Carroll</b>	BLUE MTS (Committee Member; Propagator);
<b>Paul Ludwig</b>	VICTORIA (Committee Member);
<b>William Grattan</b>	BLUE MTS (Committee Member);
<b>Dr Stephen Utick</b>	ACT (Secretary; Treasurer ; Newsletter Author; Camellia Ark Catalogue; Camellia Identification; National Co-ordinator);
<b>Jim Powell</b>	HELENSBURGH (President; Reserve official photographer);
<b>Wendy-Sadler-Moyes</b>	SYDNEY (Committee Member & Heritage Tree Archivist);
<b>Jenny Donohoe</b>	HELENSBURGH (Committee Member; Official photographer)

## What's on next?

Sunday, 3rd July, 2016 1 pm

Join us at **Harper's Mansion, Berrima** for our next general meeting featuring the Mansion's new Heritage Camellia Garden.

Harper's Mansion  
c.1835



**Harper's Mansion** is a National Trust property at Berrima, Southern Highlands of New South Wales. Berrima is easy to get to by car or coach, as it is about 3 kms off the Hume Highway (Moss Vale exit), about 125 kms south of Sydney. You will find the Mansion on the corner of the Old Hume Highway and Wilkinson Road (as you drive into the town from the north.) Harper's Mansion is listed on the NSW Government Heritage Register as a property of State Heritage significance. The historic house, is a fine example of a colonial Georgian residence and is furnished in period style. This can be viewed for \$7. The house is set in two acres of strolling gardens, of cool climate heritage plants, overlooking the historic village of Berrima and features one of the largest hedge mazes in Australia; a heritage rose garden and now a special garden of heritage 19<sup>th</sup> century camellias from Europe and Colonial New South Wales. The garden has generously been made free to view for Camellia Ark. Courtesy of Eric Savage, the Mansion is hosting our next committee meeting at 11.30 am on Sunday 3rd July (Committee Members only)

Bring your own picnic and enjoy a ramble in the gardens.



### Camellia Ark meeting - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July commencing promptly at 1 pm.

- Talk by Jim Powell our President, *Introducing Camellia Ark to the Southern Highlands* (10 minutes);
- Talk by Dr Stephen Utick *Preserving our Colonial Camellia Heritage* (15 minutes);
- Commorative planting of 19<sup>th</sup> century Italian gem, *Camellia japonica* 'Spinola Alba' see below;
- Camellia plant stall (raising funds for acquired camellias for Harper's Mansion and for Camellia Ark Australia);
- Camellia bloom ID services (coin donation to Camellia Ark Australia).



*Camellia japonica* 'Spinola Alba' is a beautiful white formal double, with ivory white petals narrowing towards a greenish centre. Originating in Genoa, it first appeared in European nursery catalogues between 1855 and 1856.

## What's on after that?

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July

NSW Camellia Society Show

Ravenswood Girls School, Henry Street Gordon.

Saturday 1.30pm – 4.30pm; Sunday 10.00am-4.00pm.

Adults \$7 per entry, children free.

Visit our Camellia Ark Flower display at the Society's Annual Camellia Show. There is also the 1st Annual Art Competition (Photographic; watercolour; pencil; quilling; paper tote; acrylic sections) - A4 size- subject: "The Camellia". For detailed conditions, email Kate Stanley at [pandkstan@gmail.com](mailto:pandkstan@gmail.com). All entries (unless prior arrangements made) will be for sale to the public. Monies raised to NSWCRS. Camellia sales; Camellia Ark sales; Bonsai and Ikebana display; Camellia ID. General show enquiries, email Pam Watson: [pamandalan@pacific.net.au](mailto:pamandalan@pacific.net.au)

Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> July

Camellia Gala Day,

Lisgar Gardens, Lisgar Road, Hornsby

Camellia Ark Talk at 2 pm and guided tour of some of Lisgar Garden's camellia gems.

Free admission. Further enquiries, email Lorraine Smith at: [lorrainesmi@ozemail.com.au](mailto:lorrainesmi@ozemail.com.au)

Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> July

Christmas in July

10-11 am Jim Powell - PowerPoint presentation on "Camellias at the International Camellia Conference, Dali, 2016" at Camellias R' Us, 34 Harrisons Rd, Glenorie.

11am -12 noon Camellia shopping. Camellia Ark plants for sale. (**Cash only please** - Kate and Paul Stanley-sales)

12.30 "Christmas in July" 3 course luncheon at Geranium Cottage, 828 Old Northern Rd, Glenorie. (\$40 head prepaid ONLY)

This is a Social Function of NSW Camellia Research Society, to which Camellia Ark members are invited to. It is essential to RSVP to Social Secretary NSWCRS with payment \$40 to PO Box 3245, Dural, 2158, NSW by July 5<sup>th</sup>. Payment made out to NSWCRS.

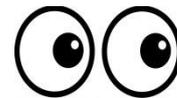
Camellia Ark Discovery Working Group  
Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> August 10.30 am-2pm

Vaucluse House  
1802



A Camellia Ark Discovery Working Group (CADWD), will be visiting historic Vaucluse House to document some of the oldest camellias in the garden. We will be collecting data, taking GPS readings and measuring heights and trunk diameters of the garden's trees. We will also be working with copies of archival horticultural records to investigate how Vaucluse House's camellias might add to the historicity of the introduction of camellias into Australia. Todd Stark, (Horticultural Co-ordinator, Sydney Living Museums), is looking forward to working with Camellia Ark.

We are looking for 4 volunteers  
with any one of the following skills...



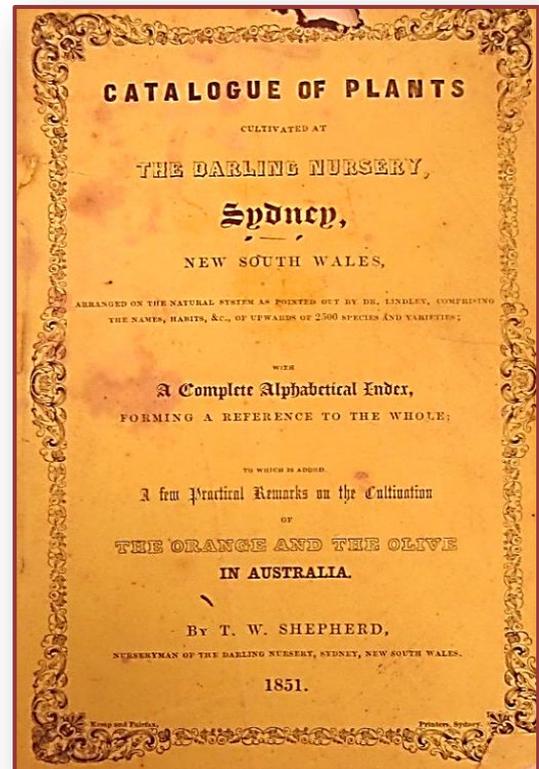
- Photography skills – digital camera with lenses suitable for taking close up shots of flowers or entire tree. (NB: Photos will remain the property of Camellia Ark Australia to be used to support its activities and objectives).
- Microsoft Excel skills– general working knowledge.
- Historical research skills.
- Person who can assist with moving light weight equipment around the garden and setting up the work station in various locations.

**Date:** Friday, 5th August  
**Time:** 10.30 am – 2 pm  
**Place:** Vaucluse House, 69a Wentworth Road, Vaucluse, N.S.W  
**Bring:** Fold up picnic chair; hat and sunscreen; comfortable shoes

If you are interested in being one of our four volunteers, please contact Wendy Sadler-Moyes.  
**Email:** [wendy.sadler.moyes@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.sadler.moyes@gmail.com) **Ph:** 0406 985 295.

### “The Legacy of the Darling Nursery and Shepherd & Co. of Colonial Sydney”

The early development of Australian horticulture and gardening owes much to the legacy of the Shepherd family in colonial New South Wales. Scottish-born nurseryman Thomas Shepherd (c. 1779-1835) ended up in Sydney in 1827, after an unsuccessful flax enterprise in New Zealand. With the encouragement of New South Wales Governor Darling, Shepherd set up the first commercial nursery in the Australian colonies (named after the Governor) located in what is now the inner suburb of Chippendale, along City Road. Shepherd may have acquired camellias for his stock among other plants sourced from the Sydney Botanic Gardens, Alexander McLeay at Elizabeth Bay House and William Macarthur at Camden Park.



Cover of the *Catalogue of Plants* of 1851 for The Darling Nursery, Sydney produced by Thomas William Shepherd (1824-1884)

After Shepherd’s death in 1835, the enterprise was run by his widow from his second marriage, and a son-in-law from a first marriage Robert Henderson (1798-1865). In due course, Shepherd’s three sons from the second marriage assumed control: Thomas William, David and Patrick Lindsay Crawford (the latter a Major and briefly a member of the NSW Legislative Assembly and from 1887 a Member of the Legislative Council). Towards the end of the 1870s, the eldest sons, David and Patrick joined the business which became known as Shepherd and Co. The company acquired other nursery lands in the colony, for production purposes, including ‘*Chatsworth*’ located at Rooty Hill. Both Thomas and Patrick became active members of the then newly-formed Australian Horticultural and Agricultural Society.

Camellias marketed by the

Darling Nursery in the 1851 Catalogue

CAMELLIAS.		
1 Alba plena	13 Henri Favre	24 Rosa mundi
2 " simplex	14 Imbricata alba	25 Rubra plena
3 Albertus. (Low.)	15 Incarnata	26 " simplex
4 Alexina.—(Low.)	16 Innocenza	27 " semi duplex
5 Anemoneflora	17 Kew blush	28 Sasanqua
6 " alba	18 Mutabilis	29 Sovereign.—(Low.)
7 Atorubens	19 Myrtifolia	30 Spectabilis
8 Australia.—(Shepherd.)	20 Pæoniflora pallida	31 Traversii
9 Candidissima	21 " rubra	32 Variegata plena
10 Coccinea	22 Pressii.—(Eclipse.)	33 Wellbankii
11 Corallina	23 Queen Victoria	
12 Gutheriana.—(Low.)	(Priestly.)	

From the 1870's until 1884 (when a business reorganisation took place), Shepherd and Co. not only supplied camellias to Australian colonial gardens but released some 25 Australian cultivars as well. While a large number of these have disappeared, some the nation's most enduring cultivars, can be attributed to the production of the Shepherd family. The most important has proved to be *Camellia japonica* 'Great Eastern', a large crimson semi-double variety, accompanied by large, obovate leaves with acuminate tips. It can survive the dry and harsh conditions that Australian gardens experience regularly. Released by Shepherd and Co. in 1872 and attributed to nurseryman J. Harris, this cultivar was named after the famous giant steamship, that laid the Atlantic cable in 1865.



Thomas' younger brother  
Major Patrick Lindsay Crawford Shepherd  
Son of Thomas Shepherd  
(1831-1903).

"The Sydney Monitor" Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1835.

Shepherd of the Darling Nursery.

The death of Mr. Shepherd is a public loss. He was a man of liberality in his calling, quite unusual, and therefore the more praiseworthy. He did not begrudge, but seemed to delight in making known what some would call the secrets of the trade. His knowledge of the Nurseries, if not scientific, was the practice of the best theories and it was sufficiently experimental to claim for him the merit of discoverer. It is to Mr. Shepherd the colony is indebted for cheap fruit trees of the finest sorts. He reduced the price to less than half, thereby enabling the Colonists to stock their orchards with the best sorts of fruit at a very moderate cost. (Continued overleaf)

He duly appreciated the value of the vines introduced by Mr. Busby and had he lived Mr. B.'s invaluable present to the Colony; and through Mr. S.'s skilful care in growing and packing the cuttings of the 300 varieties of French grapes, the distant settlers of the North West and South, would all, if they chose it, have been rapidly furnished with what will prove some twenty years hence, "the goose that laid the golden eggs." Mr. Shepherd had no political prejudices against Mr. Busby, and therefore, such prejudices did not hinder him, as it does many, from paying Mr. B. that tribute of praise, which is so eminently his due. But that he should have had professional envy against Mr. Busby would not have been surprising; but Shepherd was a man whom nature precluded from such feelings. He was of a large heart, as well as clear and vigorous understanding; sanguine indeed, but proportionably generous in all that concerned the advancement of the Colony in the science and practice of his calling.

He possessed good natural talents, and by the force of nature, overcame many of the obstacles of a common education, as a lecturer and publisher of a very useful little book on fruit trees, & c. Mr. Shepherd, fortunately, had to deal with liberal patrons in his profession, without which he could have done little more for the Colony than wishing it well. But through the liberality of Mr. M' Leay, Mr. William M' Arthur, and one or two others, whose names we cannot recollect on the instant, he was enabled to store his nursery with fruits and flowers, which even an English nobleman might covet, and which so far from desiring to monopolise, by charging for them an extortionate price, he seemed to take delight, by their cheapness, to extend throughout the Colony.

For these reasons, we account the death of such a man as Shepherd, a public loss; and if the pageantry of a public funeral were worth attention, Mr. S. deserved that his remains should receive in their passage to the tomb, such a mark of the popular regret and esteem.

Lake Bathurst.

Fragment from Sydney Monitor (NSW : 1828 - 1838), Wednesday 23 September 1835, p. 2  
National Library of Australia

### Four enduring Australian cultivars released by Shepherd and Co.



*Camellia japonica*  
'William Bull'  
(1878)



*Camellia japonica*  
'Speciosissima'  
(1862)



*Camellia japonica*  
'Great Eastern'  
(1872)



*Camellia japonica*  
'Zambo'  
(1874)

**Sources:** Shepherd Rice (1988) *My Family of Shepherds*, Scone, NSW; Crittenden, V. ( 1992) *A Shrub in the Landscape of Fame, Thomas Shepherd, Australian Landscape Gardener and Nurseryman*, Mulini Press, Canberra; Macoboy, S. ( 1998) *What Camellia is That?*, Landsdowne Publishing, Sydney NSW, p. 113. Research and camellia photographs compiled by Dr Stephen Utick; historical photographs provided courtesy of Dr Greg Johnson, Australian Garden History Society.

