

COMMUNITY

BULLETIN

Summer gatherings and green gardens.

Summer is a great time of year in the Southern Highlands. Its a time of swimming, BBQ's and the outdoors however the hot and dry weather also proved challenging for Hume Coal's landscape managers.

The existing irrigation system (over 120 pop up sprinkler heads & more than 1km of buried pipes) had been neglected over the previous years to the point that it no longer worked. So, using old hand drawn maps, a metal detector, shovels and spanners, we found and repaired pipes, joins, valves and the many sprinkler heads.

The existing house at Mereworth was built in 1965. Its a two-story brick building with outbuildings in the French Provencal Chateau style. The garden was designed and planted by Paul Sorensen, a landscape architect best known for his mid-century work in the Southern Highlands, Blue Mountains and Illawarra. His favoured style was cold-climate species combined with natives.



The setting of Mereworth encompasses the house and the surrounding rural landscape. The garden creates an 'island' effect, heightened by the ha-ha, which creates a physical boundary from the surrounding paddocks while also creating a visual continuity with the greater landscape. The design incorporates a sunken lawn, hedges of tightly packed Bhutan Cypresses, a rose garden and a mature cold-climate forest. The house is accessed by a long driveway lined with conifers and golden elms ending at a porte-cochere.



If Hume Coal is granted approval for the mine development, the company will extend it's commitment to conserving the Mereworth house and gardens, for the entire life of the proposed development (approx. 23 years), thereby guaranteeing the preservation of an important heritage garden in the Southern Highlands.

A huge thank you and congratulations to our landscape management team who've worked hard to restore the gardens to their former glory, while battling the heat of the 2017 summer. We encourage those interested in learning more about the Hume Coal Project, Mereworth and its gardens to contact the team using the details below.

Hume Coal's mine design is underground 'first-workings' only

Hume Coal has recently been asked whether the company was now looking at designing a longwall or open cut mining operation. This is definitely not the case. Hume Coal will submit its Environmental Impact Statement shortly for the proposed development of an underground 'first-workings' mining operation only. The mine design will only allow for the extraction of approximately 1/3 of the underground coal resource to ensure the integrity of the overlying strata and groundwater systems. The mining operation has been designed to integrate into the existing landscape, ensuring co-existence with current industries and surface land uses.

Contact Us
 Hume Coal Main Office
 P. 02 4869 8200
 Berrima Community Shop
 P. 02 4877 2481
 Employment Info Line
 P. 02 4869 8282
 E: info@humecoal.com.au
 W: humecoal.com.au