

# The Camellia Ark



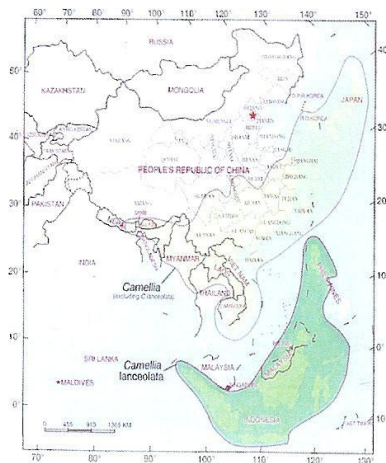
*Camellia amplexicaulis*  
from the Vietnamese and  
Chinese border

## *Floral treasures of the vanishing forests*

Globally, rare and beautiful flora are disappearing and in Australia the water crisis has made it difficult to maintain exotic gardens. Meanwhile, in the last remote forest ravines of south western China and the once lost world of the Mekong Delta in Vietnam, new and wonderful Camellias are being discovered bringing new colours, fragrances and oils to delight the human spirit. Camellias include the tea plant *Camellia sinensis* and belong to the horticulturally rich *Theaceae* family.

Camellias have been part of Australia's horticultural heritage since Alexander Macleay acquired specimens that were planted at Elizabeth Bay House, Sydney around 1826, and William Macarthur first brought shipments that were planted in Camden Park, New South Wales in 1831. However, many rare Camellias once in Australian gardens are now disappearing and reintroduction except native seed is difficult due to strict but necessary quarantine protection.

The E. G. Waterhouse National Camellia Gardens, through Sutherland Shire Council, have joined with Camellias-R-Us, Glenorie, to acquire and propagate some of these horticultural treasures, for the benefit of the Australian public. In time, flowers from successfully propagated specimens will be on display at the E. G. Waterhouse National Camellia Gardens.



Distribution of  
wild camellias across Asia



*Camellia japonica* 'Southern Charm', one of many  
garden cultivars now disappearing from Australia

## Camellia Ark Project - YOU can be part of it and enjoy the flowers yourself!

The Ark includes 75 endangered cultivars and or species with an emphasis on plants that can be grown at the Gardens (see table below). The project recognises the botanical as well as the horticultural value of plants of the family *Theaceae*, and will consult with Royal Botanic Gardens experts on selection of wild species. Wider participation by garden clubs, members of Camellias Australia and public gardens elsewhere across Australia is most welcome. Garden lovers across Australia are welcome to sponsor a camellia (see below). Rare plants will be made available free to participating public gardens including botanic gardens. Donors who subscribe to the project may purchase rare plants through Camellia-R-Us. In time, exhibits will be on display at the Gardens.

Category of Cultivar	Cultivation Numbers
Conservation of rare plants in the E.G. Waterhouse National Camellia Gardens	1-20
Representative selection of Japanese Higo <i>Camellia japonica</i> of floricultural merit	21-25
Representative selection of <i>Camellia reticulata</i> of floricultural merit	26-30
Camellias of fragrance - including hybrids	31-35
Rare camellia cultivars in other Australian collections.	36-50
Camellia species suitable for cultivation in the Gardens or of conservation merit	51-75

### CONTACTS

#### Project Coordination Enquiries including Donations:

Stephen Utick *BSc DipHortSc MScSoc*  
Hon Treasurer, E.G. Waterhouse National Camellia Gardens Management Committee  
Phone: 02 6288 5195 Mobile: 0421 972 287  
Email: [sutick@grapevine.com.au](mailto:sutick@grapevine.com.au)

#### Cultivar Selection Team:

Jim Powell, Vice President, Camellias Australia  
Phone: 02 4294 2877  
Email: [jimpowell@fishinternet.com.au](mailto:jimpowell@fishinternet.com.au)

Marge Mansfield, Camellias Australia, E.G. Waterhouse National Camellia Gardens Management Committee  
Phone/Fax: 02 9531 7309

#### Propagation and Cultivation Facility Enquiries:

Bill Parker, Camellias-R-Us  
34 Harrisons Lane  
Glenorie NSW 2157  
Phone: 02 9652 2879 Fax: 02 9652 2877  
Email: [sales@camelliasrus.com.au](mailto:sales@camelliasrus.com.au)

#### Sutherland Shire Promotion and Publicity (including Community Organisation involvement):

Jenny-Lee Stefas, Tourism Officer - The Shire  
Locked Bag 17, Sutherland NSW 1499  
Phone: 02 9710 0419 Fax: 02 9710 0594  
Email: [jlstefas@ssc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jlstefas@ssc.nsw.gov.au)

Sponsor a camellia (\$15.00 per plant) and help build the Camellia Ark (provide your contact details if you want to choose which one, if you want to plant a camellia in the Gardens (an extra \$5.00) and/or if you wish to purchase rare plants yourself). Cheques and money orders made out to E.G. Waterhouse National Camellia Garden Management Committee. Mail to:  
E.G. Waterhouse National Camellia Gardens, c/o Sutherland Shire Council, Locked Bag 17 Sutherland NSW 1499.