

# Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of New South Wales Inc.

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## NEWSLETTER

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PO Box 238. Blackheath. 2785.

[www.rhodogarden.org.au](http://www.rhodogarden.org.au)

### **Annual General Meeting Saturday 21 August 2010 at The Lodge 2:00 pm start**

**We welcome all members, especially those who have recently joined us, to our  
41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting and election of committee members for the  
ensuing 12 months.**

**Please note that members need to be financial to be able to vote. Also note that, unlike the  
other election being held that day, you will be able to vote up to a dozen times (once for each  
committee position).**

**ANNUAL membership RENEWAL fees  
(for 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011)  
are still only \$11 per person per annum**

### **The Agenda for the meeting will be supplied separately Guest Speaker at the AGM - Kevin Brown**

Kevin started in horticulture with an apprenticeship in a pot-of-colour nursery, the Kurrajong County Nursery, while doing his TAPE work at the Ryde School of Horticulture. After his apprenticeship he worked in England for a time, also seeing old gardens, visiting Kew, etc., and absorbing the history of the country (one of his many interests).

Back in Australia, he spent 10 years working at Camellia Grove Nursery at St Ives, followed by 2 years at their Glenorie growing area. Whilst at Camellia Grove, Kevin obtained his Associate Diploma in Nursery Management at Ryde, and a certificate in horticultural science by correspondence.

After the St Ives site was sold, Kevin moved to East Kurrajong, and worked as a groundsman at

Hawkesbury Hospital for 4 years. In 2008 he obtained a position as a Horticulturist at MtTomah Botanic Gardens, caring for The Explorers Walk, Rhododendron Species and The Lodge gardens.

As he says; "I love what I do and find it very interesting. The longer I am in horticulture the more I realize I don't know. I feel I spent twelve years working with Camellias and am still scratching the surface."

Kevin will be speaking about Camellias, highlighting his talk with a powerpoint presentation, and will answer any questions you may have about this species.

**So why not bring along a friend or two?**

*(From the President - (Judy's Final Jottings)*

Dear Members,

August 2010 will complete my three year term as President of the Society and it's time for (financial) members to choose a successor.

I warmly compliment all Committee Members for their enthusiastic support and for their efforts on behalf of the Society throughout this time.

Two recent achievements include the establishment of a 'rhodogarden' website at the instigation of Rob Emanuel, and the plant labelling programme which has involved Alan Lush working the engraving machine with teams of others checking and listing accurately each area of the gardens, and fixing the labels on posts in front of each plant.

In March this year we celebrated our fortieth anniversary with the official opening by Jeannette Adrian of the Members' Native Walk, providing refreshments afterwards in our recently refurbished Lodge. The celebration cake was beautifully decorated by Lois Korendijk and ceremoniously cut by Dick Harris (with a little help from a friend).

Sadly during the past year we noted the deaths of two valued members, Dr Joan Storey, who variously occupied the positions of Secretary and President, and also Mrs Joyce Brister. Both were longtime members and both had a passionate interest in Australian native plants.

The Campbell Rhododendron Gardens are unique in presentation with exotics growing happily among existing natives and also that this remarkable effort over forty years has been achieved solely by volunteers.

It has been a pleasure to contribute in a small way to this enterprise.

**Judy Johnston - President**



## *New Members*

We warmly welcome the following new members and invite them to join in all the Society's activities:

Peter Jurd,  
Peta and Peter Trahar,

Parramatta  
"Woodgreen", Bilpin

## *Happenings in the Gardens*

The lily ponds outside The Lodge have now been cleaned out and the water lilies replanted. The 'fountain', which had been powered by an old fridge motor, may be replaced by a more up-to-date water feature.

The fish ponds in the valley have been sealed, thus removing one more leak preventing the water in the valley from finishing up in the lake.

More wooden signs, including some directional finger posts, are to be erected to provide more information for visitors. In addition the engraving and installation of plant labels is progressing, with the labels for the Bob Baker Walk now installed and those for the Dr Matheson-Lines area by the lake being prepared.

## *Spring Open Days*

An advance notice for the open days – this year from Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November. The Treasurer, Joan Hailstone, has requested some help with the important function of collecting, counting and banking of the monies collected during this period, with all information and help with the processes to be supplied by Joan. If anyone feels they will be able to assist in this way, please contact Joan.

Jennie Curtin has again offered to draw up the roster of volunteers to help with serving Devonshire Teas, selling souvenirs, etc., in The Lodge during the open days. All help gratefully received, even if it is for only one day. No experience necessary, and you will get to try at least one scone (to ensure the quality of the product!).

## *Vale – Dr Ulrich Engelbert*

Older members will be saddened to hear of the death of Dr Ulrich Engelbert, on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2010, aged 89 years.

Uli Engelbert, a geophysicist, was one of the early volunteers in the Rhododendron Gardens, working during the developmental times of the 1980s. The Engelbert Nature Trail, which he designed and constructed about 1985, passes through many interesting areas of pristine native bushland over a distance of some 500 metres. It is a lovely and lasting legacy from Dr Engelbert and enables so many visitors to appreciate these gardens.

*Contributed by Jeannette Adrian*

**[www.rhodogarden.org.au](http://www.rhodogarden.org.au)**

is the Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society's new web site. Log on and check it out. Any comments & suggestions to Alan Lush or Rob Emanuel.

**Management Committee 2009 - 2010**

**President**  
Judy Johnston  
47877298

**Vice Presidents**  
Rob Emanuel  
0412 062 236  
Alan Lush  
47876983

**Garden Supervisor**  
Dick Harris

**Secretary**  
Alan Lush / Robert Reid

**Treasurer**  
Joan Hailstone  
47875859

**Membership Secretary**  
Bette Brown  
47876463

**Committee Members** Jeannette Adrian, Beryl Black, David Cook, Marion Friedman, Robert Reid  
**Editor** Alan Lush

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