

# Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of New South Wales Inc.

Inaugurated April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1969

November/December 2011

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 37 No. 6

PO Box 238, Blackheath, 2785.

### Christmas Luncheon Saturday 17 December 2011 at The Lodge Time – 12:00 noon

Please bring a plate (e.g. salad, dessert, etc) OR a \$10 donation.  
Drinks (fruit punch, wine, tea or coffee) will be provided.

Please phone Jeannette – 4787 7904, or Judy – 4787 7298,  
re food donations by December 12<sup>th</sup>.

There will be no normal meeting following the luncheon,  
but Joan Hailstone will bring us up-to-date  
on the results of the Open Days.

**On behalf of the Management Committee – a Merry Christmas to all!**

#### Newsletters by email

Please note that from the next issue of the Newsletter we will be advising those members, who have provided us with their email addresses, of the availability of the latest newsletter on the Society's website, so they can read it via the Internet or download it at their leisure.

Paper copies will still be posted to all other members.

Please let us know if you wish to change your method of receiving your copy.

#### Raffle Results

The winners of the Open Days raffles,  
drawn at The Lodge on Monday 7<sup>th</sup>  
November:

Hamper – David Cook  
Quilt – Margaret Roach of Millthorpe

#### 2012 Calendars

These calendars, produced at very short notice by **David Cook**, proved to be a highlight before, during, and after the Open Days, with many favourable comments being made about the quality of the 36 photos of the Gardens – and the price.

Of the production run of 1500 calendars, less than 250 remain to be sold, and these can be obtained at the Christmas Lunch on the 17<sup>th</sup> December (\$8 each), or by ringing or writing to the Secretary or any of the management committee to have the calendars posted to you (\$8 plus \$2 postage). They will make an excellent small Christmas gift, and there is still time to post them overseas if required.

**Note** – other items 'left over' from the Open Days will also be available for sale at the lunch.

### *From the President*

After the disasters of the wind damage in July, our Spring Open Days gave us an exhilarating and most welcome burst of confidence in the future of the Gardens. For our many volunteers it was an exhausting five weeks of full-time public relations – serving, selling, and advising, or simply chatting to our visitors. It was done so well and with such cheerfulness that the period was financially our best season ever. Our takings amounted to \$40,000 (gross) – that's 40,000 reasons to say thanks to all (volunteers and visitors) who contributed to this success.

As a measure of the work involved, we know that in total our visitors consumed 1572 scones and some 35 kilograms of strawberry jam, not to mention those lashings of cream. Of the souvenirs and gifts, our calendar was probably the most popular, with over 1200 being sold so far. It featured David Cook's photos taken in 2010 which was an excellent flowering season for our rhododendrons.

Recent improvements in the Gardens include re-grading and re-sealing the service road into the valley, to give better access for disabled visitors. This work, and clearing up after the winds, is continuing now our Open days are over and visitor numbers decrease. We also plan on continuing our other major projects of surveying the Gardens, and labelling our rhodos and native plants. Then there is the weeding and general maintenance .....

Best wishes to all our members over the Christmas season.

*Jeannette Adrian - President*

### *New Members*

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

Linton Constable,	Blackheath;
Anne Kennedy,	Blackheath;
John and Jeanne Kinninmont,	Drummoyne;
Bev Paton,	Turrumurra & Blackheath;
Belinda West,	Leura.

### *Open Days Thanks*

The Management Committee wishes to thank most heartily those volunteers and friends who gave up so much of their time, during the 39 days that the Lodge was open, to ensure our major fundraiser for the year was such a remarkable event. Whether you were serving in the Lodge, or selling calendars, souvenirs, raffle tickets or plants, or meeting & greeting, or talking to visitors in the Gardens, you all contributed greatly to the success of the Open Days. You may be interested to learn that the income for this year's Open Days was just over \$40,000, as opposed to just under \$30,000 for last year – which speaks volumes for the hard work put in by everyone concerned.

Once again, 'Thank you all for a job very well done'.

### *Open Days Odds 'N' Sods*

- ◆ Of the 39 days, there were 4 days of showers, 5 days of mist, 8 days of showers and mist, and 16 fine days (including one stretch of 9 fine days in a row – is this a record?). The rest were either cloudy or overcast. There were 53 mm of rain recorded locally as well – only about a quarter of that recorded last year.
- ◆ There were one or two complaints early on that there weren't enough flowers out!
- ◆ This was balanced out by the favourable comments about the number of Waratahs flowering by the in gate.
- ◆ The Garden Clubs of Australia lunch was a great success, due to the volunteers who spent the morning preparing the sandwiches, etc., and then making the visitors welcome to the Gardens. A great effort all round!
- ◆ The upgraded access road enabled a number of the more infirm visitors to see more of the Gardens – and they were very appreciative after being driven down into the valley to see the sights down there.
- ◆ The winner of the Quilt raffle had come on a coach tour with a group from Millthorpe and had bought one ticket in the raffle as it 'was for a good cause'.
- ◆ Volunteers and visitors were entertained one lunchtime by a choir of Korean women singing down in the valley.
- ◆ Visitors this year came from all over the world, as can be seen on the following page.

## Visitors to Campbell Rhododendron Gardens – 2011 Open Days

The 'Home Towns' of some of the visitors to the Gardens during the Open Days included:

### ❖ **Blue Mountains**

Blackheath, Blaxland, Bullaburra, Faulconbridge, Hazelbrook, Katoomba, Lapstone, Lawson, Leura, Medlow Bath, Mt Victoria, Springwood, Winmalee, Warrimoo, Wentworth Falls, Woodford

### ❖ **Sydney**

Abbotsford, Annandale, Auburn, Avalon, Balgowlah, Baulkham Hills, Bayview, Berowra, Beverly Hills, Bexley North, Blacktown, Bondi, Broadway, Bronte, Cabramatta, Cammeray, Campbelltown, Camperdown, Campsie, Canterbury, Caringbah, Carlingford, Castle Cove, Castle Hill, Castlecrag, Cheltenham, Cherrybrook, Chifley, Collaroy, Coogee, Cremorne, Cronulla, Croydon, Davison, Doonside, Dulwich Hill, Dundas, Eastwood, Edgecliff, Emu Plains, Engadine, Erskine Park, Fairlight, Forestville, Frenchs Forest, Freshwater, Galston, Georges Hall, Gladesville, Gordon, Granville, Greenwich, Greystanes, Henley, Homebush, Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Hurstville, Illawong, Kingswood, Kogarah, Leichhardt, Liverpool, Loftus, Lugarno, Malabar, Manly, Maroubra, Merrylands, Middle Cove, Minchinbury, Minto, Miranda, Mosman, Mount Drutt, Mt Colah, Narwee, Newport, Newtown, North Epping, Oatley, Old Toongabbie, Paddington, Palm Beach, Panania, Parramatta, Pennant Hills, Penrith, Penshurst, Potts Point, Pymble, Redfern, Richmond, Riverwood, Rose Bay, Rozelle, Ryde, St Ives, Smithfield, Stanhope Gardens, Strathfield, Surry Hills, Wahroonga, Waterloo, West Ryde, Willoughby, Woollahra

### ❖ **NSW**

Albion Park, Bargo, Bateau Bay, Bathurst, Bilpin, Blackwall, Blayney, Bowraville, Braidwood, Budgewoi, Camden, Charlestown, Coonabarabran, Cooranbong, Corimal, Crookwell, Dubbo, East Gosford, Edgeworth, Emerald Beach, Empire Bay, Farmborough Heights, Figtree, Gilgandra, Glendale, Gorokan, Gosford, Goulburn, Grabben Gullen, Grafton, Hannam Vale, Horsfield Bay, Jervis Bay, Kandos, Killcare, Kincumber, Lake Macquarie, Lansdowne, Laurieton, Lismore, Lithgow, Merimbula, Merewether, Millthorpe,

Milton, Moorland, Mt Annan, Mt Pleasant, Mudgee, Muswellbrook, Nambucca Heads, Narellan, Narrabri, Newcastle, Nowra, Orange, Palmdale, Parkes, Pearl Beach, Picton, Point Clare, Port Macquarie, Quirindi, Rankin Park, Rockley, Spring Ridge, Sutton, Swansea, Tamworth, Taree, Tea Gardens, Terrigal, The Hill, Thirroul, Toukley, Wagga Wagga, Wamberal, Warners Bay, Warnervale, Wollongong, Woy Woy

### ❖ **Interstate**

◆ **ACT** – Belconnen, Evatt, Gowrie, Kaleen, Kambah, Lyneham, Narrabundah, Spence, Wanniasa, Weetangera, Weston Creek, Woden, Yarralumla

◆ **Queensland** – Brisbane, Buderim, Bundaberg, Burpengary, Cairns, Caloundra, Chermside, Cornubia, Enoggera, Fitzgibbon, Indooroopilly, Ipswich, Kingaroy, Labrador, Mackay, Moggill, Mooloolaba, Mount Mee, Park Ridge, Pelican Waters, Peregian Beach, Redcliffe, Spring Hill, Surfers Paradise, Taringa, Toowoomba, Townsville

◆ **South Australia** – Adelaide, Hawker, Meadows, Strathalbyn, Westbourne Park

◆ **Victoria** – Bentleigh, Boneo, Bright, Corryong, Frankston, Greensborough, Hoppers Crossing, Lancefield, Marlo, Melbourne, Mornington, Mt Waverley, Point Cook, Rosebud, Warrandyte, Werribee, Wodonga

◆ **Western Australia** – Augusta, Donnybrook, Margaret River, Perth, Scarborough

### ❖ **Overseas**

**Austria, Cambodia, Canada** (Toronto), **Chile, China, England** (Bristol, Burnley, Canterbury, Crookham, Elstree, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancaster, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire, Oxford, Sheffield, Somerset, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Wimbledon, York), **France** (Lyon), **Germany** (Berlin, Cologne, Munich, Strasbourg), **Holland** (The Hague), **Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand** (Auckland, Coromandel Peninsular, Hamilton, Wellington), **Philippines, Russia, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa** (Cape Town, Knysna), **Switzerland, USA** (Arizona (Surprise), California, New Jersey, Michigan (Tecumseh), Montana, New York (Manhattan), Oklahoma, Vermont), **Vietnam, Wales**

## *Garden Report – November 2011*

We are still cleaning up after the July wind, and Angophora Tree Services have not contacted me for some time despite phone calls & faxes. They had told me in September that they were going to give us a free day. I have asked Jeannette to try her luck at contacting them. If we have no luck I will have to get some quotes for removing a couple of widow makers and dropping some dangerous trees, so we can cut them up. This will, no doubt, result in damage to some Rhodos.

We have planted an Acer Negundo Violacea and a Ginko Biloba where the large tree came down alongside the out road, and also a Rhododendron 'Loder's White' where the big mountain ash demolished one in the valley.

The resurfacing of the access road to the valley is well under way & may even be finished by now. We have replaced the gutter and down pipe on the toilets and have put a box drain between the pavers and concrete to stop water flooding into the ladies' loo.

I have also started to put out fertilizer on Rhodos, Azaleas, etc., and have shown some of the volunteers how to prune the Rhododendron Yakusimanum outside the Lodge.

I have had contact with the Council contractor who is going to do some weed eradication – if he hasn't already started he will soon. I have also had contact with Lynda Thomas, BMCC Weeds Officer, who is also up on the natives of the Blue Mountains. She is going to come and help me identify & get out the name plates for them. I have also got a list of more natives, but she is on holidays until the end of November.

We now have the paths in fairly good order, thanks to Barry. The only name plates to go out recently are natives & just a few azaleas. Jeannette & I have now identified all the Rhodos in the garden in the centre of the main drive, but the plan is way out of order & we will have to redo this.

We have also used the survey pegs that weren't used to mark watering points, except for about 4 we can't find (does anyone have a metal detector?) and have corrected the plan in a couple of places.

The daffodils have not flowered well for a couple of years – they are way too thick & need digging out and dividing. This is going to be a fairly big task..

Three Mollis Azaleas and a Rhododendron Madenii were not sold during the Open Days. We plan to plant the Mollis below the toilets, and the Rhodo in the species valley at the far side of the lake.

We owe all the volunteers who worked so hard to

have the Gardens open after the big wind a huge thank you!

*Dick Harris – Garden Supervisor*

### *Contributions Wanted*

If any member would like to contribute an article to the Newsletter, we would love to hear from you!

The Newsletter is produced bi-monthly, but contributions can be received at any time.

Any reminiscences, gardening notes, comments on the Gardens, or suggestions would be most welcome.

Please see Jeannette, Judy or Alan for further details.

### *Ongoing Happenings*

- Discussions are still taking place about the provision of a disabled toilet. After there being a possibility of obtaining some funding from the State Government through its Community Building Partnership program for 2011, it has been decided to obtain quotes for the building of the loo so we will be prepared to submit an application for funding in next year's program.
- Preparations are under way to enable membership renewals, donations, wedding application payments, etc., to be paid over the Internet via our website. This feature will be available well in advance of next year's subscriptions falling due, with all details being provided both in the newsletter and on the website.
- Now that the Open Days are over we will be able to get back to our 'normal' activities, including the preparation and installation of the plant labels throughout the Gardens. We also aim to have better directional signage in place in the Gardens before next year's Open Days.
- We are still hoping for our hazard reduction burn to take place within the next six months. As you know it had to be postponed this year because of the amount of extra work that fell on the shoulders of the fire brigades and Rural Fire Services in cleaning up after the big winds in July.
- Although we welcomed a pleasing number of new members during the Open days, we are on the lookout for more! Just think where we would be if everyone could introduce just one new member each.

## ***Better StormSafe than Sorry***

(Held over from the last newsletter due to lack of space)

In view of the problems the Gardens, the rest of the Upper Blue Mountains, and Blackheath in particular, suffered during the winds of the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> July (one wind gust reached 170 km per hour at Mt Boyce), we print this information from the SES in case a similar storm occurs again – although hopefully it won't!

The State Emergency Service is responsible for dealing with storms. This includes planning for storms and educating people about how to protect themselves and their property.

The SES is responsible for sandbagging properties affected by flash flooding, placing tarpaulins on damaged roofs, felling dangerous trees and branches, giving storm safety advice and rescuing people trapped or injured in storm-damaged buildings.

As part of his presentation at the AGM, **Bill Webster** (also a member of the SES) passed on these words of wisdom to those members present.

### **What can I do before a storm?**

- Clean gutters and downpipes
- Trim overhanging branches
- Keep yard and/or balcony free of loose items
- Make sure your roof is in good repair
- Prepare an emergency kit
- Prepare a list of emergency numbers

### **Emergency Kit**

- Portable radio and spare batteries
- Torch with spare batteries
- First aid kit
- Candles and waterproof matches
- Important papers
- Copy of home Emergency Plan
- Waterproof bag

### **If you need to evacuate**

- Strong shoes
- Appropriate clothing
- Food and drink
- Special requirements
  - \* Medicines
  - \* Babies
  - \* Disabled
  - \* Infirm
  - \* Elderly

### **Emergency Numbers**

- Police, Fire, Ambulance 000
- Katoomba Police 47828199
- State Emergency Service (SES) 132500
- Electricity Emergency 131-003
- Water Emergency 132-090
- Blue Mountains Anzac Memorial Hospital 4784-6500
- Blue Mountains City Council 4780-5000

### **What can I do during a storm?**

When a storm warning is broadcast:

- Listen to your local radio station for information and advice
- Bring children and pets indoors
- Stay away from windows
- Park your car under secure cover and away from trees
- If outside, seek secure cover away from trees
- Do not walk, ride or drive through any flood water
- Stay away from fallen trees and power lines
- Put your Family Emergency Kit where you can find it easily
- If you need help from the SES, call 132 500
- For life-threatening emergencies, call 000
- While the storm is passing through, stay indoors if possible. If you are driving, put on your hazard lights and pull over to the side of the road, clear of floodways, streams, creeks, causeways, trees and power lines.

### **What can I do after a storm?**

- Keep listening to your local radio station for information and advice
- Check your house for damage
- If you need assistance from the SES, call 132 500
- For life-threatening emergencies, call 000
- Stay well clear of creeks, drains, causeways and other water ways
- Stay well clear of fallen trees, power lines and other damaged structures
- Take care when clearing debris and securing property
- Check on your neighbours as soon as it is safe to do so
- **Do not** go sightseeing

### **After the storm**

- In a Declared Natural Disaster, the Local Council will clear away any debris that you stack neatly at the front of your property and any debris on Council land
- You may need to clear away debris yourself or have a professional company clear it

**Management Committee 2011 – 2012**

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