

# Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of New South Wales Inc.

Inaugurated April 2nd 1969

September/October 2013

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 39 No. 5

PO Box 238, Blackheath, 2785.

### General Meeting Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2013 at The Lodge 2:00 pm start

We welcome all members, especially those who have recently joined us

Because of the Gardens Open Days throughout October, the usual bi-monthly meeting has again been brought forward to September

#### Election of Management Committee for 2013-2014

At the Annual general meeting of the Society, held at The Lodge on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2013, the following members of the management committee were elected for the coming twelve months.

**President** – Julia Hanley

**Vice Presidents** – Judy Johnston  
Sonia Levitt

**Secretary** – Alan Lush

**Treasurer** – Val Moorhead

**Membership Secretary** – Marion Freidman

**Committee Members** –

Jeannette Adrian

Beryl Black

Geoff Cannings

David Cook

Joan Hailstone

Dick Harris

Diane Twose

The committee positions of Archivist, Garden Supervisor, Newsletter Editor, Social Secretary and Webmaster will be confirmed at the first Management Committee meeting in September.

Our thanks go to Robert Stock, Blue Mountains City Council Ward 1 Councillor for chairing the meeting during the election of the new committee.

#### September Guest Speaker

TBA

However, we are trying to arrange something different – a speaker from the Dryridge Estate Winery in the Megalong Valley to talk about the local cold climate wines.

#### Vale Madge Baker

It is understood that Madge Baker, widow of Bob Baker, passed away recently. There will be an item in the next newsletter on both Bob and Madge, and on their great contributions to the Society in the early years of the Gardens.

#### 2014 Calendars

Don't forget – our splendid 2014 calendars, produced by **David Cook** and **Jimmy Lim**, are on sale now at a cost of \$8 each. For those members unable to pick them up at the Lodge, we can post one out to you at a total cost of \$10 (which includes postage). Just send your details (and a cheque) to:

Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society,  
PO Box 238, Blackheath, NSW 2785.

If you want to send one overseas for Christmas, surface mail to England closes on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

## *President's Annual Report 2012-2013*

In presenting this report I am mindful of the unselfish effort of many towards the success of the Campbell Rhododendron gardens. Year round we see the Monday volunteers, members of the Committee and individual members who contribute directly to the continued wellbeing of this project.

The recent passing of Norm Campbell marks the end of an era. As one of the founding members of the Society, he, with his wife Olive and many other stalwarts, worked enthusiastically to create these unique gardens which have become a major tourist attraction in the district.

Our major fundraiser, the Spring Opening in 2012, was once again most successful, requiring volunteers to 'meet and greet', helpers in The Lodge to serve teas and sell calendars etc, others maintenance of the grounds and toilets, or as guides for coach groups.

Here I need to mention the meticulous work by **David Cook** who yearly produces our calendar, which is of a quality to make it a most attractive purchase and a welcome contribution to funds.

We were fortunate to host one of the 'Gardening in the Blue Mountains' Seminars, held in The Lodge on 13 April this year. This Seminar, which attracted a full house, was organised by the Blue Mountains Zone of The Garden Clubs of Australia to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Crossing of the Blue Mountains. Six eminent horticulturalists, including ABC presenters, each delivered an interesting talk, and we treated them to our renowned morning tea – which was much appreciated by all.

The membership of the Society remains strong – currently 156 members. There were 27 added during the year, 16 of whom joined either during or immediately after our Open Days.

A major forthcoming project to construct a walkway and lookout over the valley we anticipate constructing in the new year. 2014. Committee member **Geoff Cannings** has been most patient dealing with contractors and the Blue Mountains City Council, which is the Trustee of the Gardens, in order to complete this major work. The Management Committee has plans to install a disabled toilet as soon as possible, enquiring into the practicalities of connecting to the sewerage system.

To add to the catalogue of rhododendrons planted, a list has been compiled of natives featured in the grounds, and also of the varied birdlife we see seasonally.

The scheme to name plants in the garden, both exotic and native, is well under way and will be ongoing.

My appreciation and warm thanks to the management Committee for the effort put into the year, and special thanks to the retiring Treasurer, **Joan Hailstone**, for the cheerful way she has managed such a taxing job over the last nine years.

*Judy Johnston – President 2012-2013*

### *From the President – Julia's Jabber*

Hello to all members. I was elected president at the recent AGM. I am mindful that many of you have no idea who I am. I am one of the "Monday Workers" and have a great passion for the Gardens, especially its various moods. I have been a gardener since I was first allowed to have a small plot in the garden of my primary boarding school. Our family have always grown vegetables and flowers. In Blackheath I have been spoilt by my husband who has developed a ¾ acre garden for me to "play" in. I worked as a Paediatric Physiotherapist for Government and non-Government agencies, and have been used to working in teams of people.

I am grateful that Judy Johnston has been elected as a Vice President as I will need her wise counsel in the year ahead. I also want to thank the previous Management Committee for all their hard work in moving various projects forward, and look forward to working with the new Committee on the many projects we have planned for 2013/14. In the next newsletter I will let you know more about these.

The Committee welcomes any members' feedback, or ideas for activities, meeting speakers, etc. Please contact us through the web address, or at the Lodge on 4787-8965, or via any of the committee as shown on the back page of this newsletter. Hoping to see you all at the September meeting.

*Julia Hanley – President 2013-2014*

### *Spring Working Bee*

Because of the excellent work being done by a much enlarged group of Monday volunteers, it has been decided that no special Spring working bee is required before the start of this year's Open Days.

## ***Garden Report – August 2013***

The past year has seen a great deal achieved in the garden, with only one hiccup which was the snow fall last October which brought down a lot of branches. In a usual winter snow fall the amount of snow would not have done so much damage, and I can only think that with the sap flowing in the eucalypts this made the branches either heavier or more brittle than they would be in winter.

We have continued our war on weeds with lots of holly, cotoneaster, etc, being poisoned in the northern and north-west area of the garden, and also we are achieving success with Monbretia in the valley area. We also keep a close eye on and treat any fresh germination of weeds in those areas we have treated in the past.

We have planted a collection of natives and hybrid natives in the area in the car park that the late Joan Storey used to maintain.

The drain that carries the water from Wentworth Street through the garden (this is the start of Hat Hill Creek) is being lined with weed mat to stop erosion and silt carrying into the ponds and lake. This job will be finished this month – weather permitting.

The ponds at the front of The Lodge have had a new pump put in which was donated by one of our volunteers. Also, many of the steps on the various paths have had new sleepers put in where the old ones were worn away, and some new covers have been put over some drains that cross paths.

Planning is well under way for the lookout to the left front of The Lodge to enable wheelchair access, and give a wonderful view of the valley area for those who aren't quite as agile as they used to be. We are also looking at the possibility of a Disabled Toilet and putting new, larger hand basins in the existing toilets. We are also investigating the possibility of connecting to the sewer for the existing toilets.

The parking bays have been remarked, and of course we have the never ending job of keeping the place as tidy as we can and making sure the paths are clear and safe to walk on. And of course there is the never ending job of keeping the dodder under control.

We have also had a couple of leaks in the watering systems that were caused by tree roots growing and pushing rocks against the pipe. We keep the water available only available to the Lodge and toilets unless we need it for watering plants, etc.

Our volunteer team keeps growing – we regularly have between 12 and 16 volunteers on a Monday, and we have a range of expertise among them. As you all probably know, I had a knee replacement almost 3 months ago, and last Monday was my first day back for just 3 hours. During my absence **Geoff Cannings** and **Bill Webster** have run the show. I owe them a great vote of thanks, and indeed a vote of thanks to all the volunteers. Could we please show them our gratitude in the usual manner?

*Dick Harris – Garden Supervisor*

## ***An Interview with a Garden Volunteer.***

### **Bill Webster**

When Bill Webster retired four years ago, he followed the advice of his late wife, Jan, to be a volunteer on the day that she volunteered in the Community Kitchen in Katoomba.

He chose to be a volunteer in the Campbell Rhododendron Gardens because they are a great asset to the Community and he wanted to help by putting something back into the community.

The work that Bill does in the Gardens include weed removal, track and drain maintenance, fertilizing, clearing up after storms and other environmental events.

Bill enjoys working in the Gardens because of the satisfaction he feels in achieving something for the community; he's also working amongst a great group of people with whom he enjoys meeting and chatting over lunch in the Lodge. He enjoys gaining new skills, new knowledge of plants both native and exotic, in particular rhododendrons, and the exercise he has while carrying out the work around the Gardens.

*Sonia Levitt*

## ***The Lodge Fountain***

Visitors to the gardens this year will notice a new fountain in the lily ponds outside the Lodge, now operating in all its glory.

Our thanks go to **Peter Messer** for supplying a new fountain head and a new pump to drive the fountain, as well as installing and testing the waterworks.

## **44<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> August 2013**

This year's AGM was attended by 35 members and 2 visitors, with 6 apologies noted. **Judy Johnston** welcomed all those present and gave a warm welcome, on behalf of all present, to Robert Stock, our Ward 1 Councillor on the Blue Mountains City Council, who was our guest chairperson.

In her opening remarks Judy showed the gathering an excellent painting of Rhododendrons, done by Helen Hudson, a local artist, which will be the main raffle prize at this year's Open Days (tickets \$2 each). Judy also praised the efforts of **David Cook** in producing our 2014 calendar – on sale now at \$8 each.

The minutes for the 43<sup>rd</sup> AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2012 were read and approved by those present. Judy then gave her President's Report for 2012-13, as shown on page 2, followed by **Joan Hailstone** with her Financial Statement for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013, a copy of which is included with this newsletter. Joan commented that the insured value of the Lodge will need to be reassessed to obtain an up-to-date figure. She also said that this would be her 9<sup>th</sup> and last report, as she is stepping down as Treasurer of the Society, but would still be able to serve on the management committee.

**Dick Harris** presented his Garden Report for the year, as shown on page 3. He also stated there were a number of plants available free to those present – these had been given to the Society by Watsons Hardware in Blackheath when they closed their business recently.

**Jeannette Adrian** proposed to the meeting that **Beryl Black** be made a Life Member of the Society. Beryl has been a member since the mid 1980s and a committee member since August 1999, becoming the Society's Archivist along the way – a position she still holds. She is famous for the hundreds of Cherry Shortbread biscuits she has contributed to the Open Days and for becoming a very accomplished painter, painting all the outside woodwork of the Lodge, painting the seats throughout the Gardens, and painting the Horticultural Society shelter shed in the valley. Beryl also helped oil the outside timber of the Lodge. In addition to all this she has worked in the Gardens as a Monday volunteer for over 20 years. Her husband, Sam, had also been made a Life Member in 2007. Jeannette's proposal was carried unanimously by the meeting, after which

Beryl spoke briefly on her experiences as a member of the Society – including being called 'Van Gogh' by Bob Baker when wielding her paint brush.

All members of the Management Committee stood down and handed over the meeting to Robert Stock to conduct the election for the new committee for 2013-14. Robert spoke briefly on his motivation for standing as a Councillor, and his experiences since his election to the BMCC Council. He mentioned he had lived in Blackheath for many years, and visited the Gardens often – he first came to the Gardens when the Centenary Walk was opened in 1985. He also thanked the members for inviting him to the meeting. In addition to the election of the new office bearers and management committee members as shown on the front page, Dick Harris and Terri Hamilton were endorsed as Patrons and Warren Boorman as the Official Auditor. The new President, **Julia Hanley**, thanked Robert for his professional handling of the election. She also thanked Joan for her 9 years as Treasurer of the Society, mentioning that Joan was persuaded by **Nancy Etcell** to become Treasurer in 2004 when the Society had been losing money. However, with the subsequent receipt of a large bequest and more productive annual Open Days, Joan is stepping down with the Society in a much better financial position.

Julia welcomed the new committee and called them forward to receive their badges of office.

There was no speaker at the AGM, which allowed more time for members to meet and talk with Robert Stock – and for him to get to know a bit more about the Society.

### ***BIRD SIGHTINGS IN THE GARDENS***

A bird to watch out for in the Gardens in Spring is the **Eastern Spinebill**. The flip flop sound of wings attracts you first, as he darts high and low seeking insects and nectar, tail flirled, flashing prominent white outer feathers. His bill is black, very long, fine and curved. Black feathers extend down on either side of his black upper breast, with a rufous and black patch in the centre of white throat. His back is brown, with buff under sides. The female is paler grey, olive brown. Cheerfully rollicking he calls to his mate "quick, quick", he calls, "hurry up, hurry up, quick, quick, quick", his flight very fast and erratic as he hovers among the flowers.

***Diane Twose***

## *Spring Open Days*

By the time you receive this newsletter, our major fund raising event of the year – our Spring Open days – will be just one month away. This year we again hope to host visitors from all over Sydney and the Blue Mountains, the rest of New South Wales, all the other states in Australia and over 20 countries in the rest of the world.

For the past few years we volunteers have been gratified to hear the comments made by many of the visitors who are amazed at how much work is carried out to ensure the Gardens are at their best during the peak flowering season of October / November. They are even more amazed when they are told that all the work is done by volunteers, with no financial backing by any of the three levels of government, as a genuine labour of love.

This year our Open Days will be from Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October (the October long weekend) to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November inclusive. As happened last year, we are again asking the volunteers to be at the Lodge from 9:30 am, with the doors opened to the visitors at 10:00 am. In the afternoon, last orders will be taken at 3:30 pm so we will (hopefully) be able to close the doors by 4:00 pm, enabling a more orderly start and finish to each day.

As the Lodge will be open for a total of 37 consecutive days, we would like to be able to call on quite a few of our members to volunteer their time over that period. There should be a minimum of three people in the kitchen at any one time to prepare and serve food and drinks, and one person ‘working the room’, greeting visitors, selling souvenirs, raffle tickets, etc. During the rush hours, when up to 50 people from one coach tour may descend on you en masse, another 1 or 2 may be needed to help out. Julia Hanley and Judy Johnston are drawing up a roster of volunteers for kitchen duty, so even if you can give of your time for just half a day, please see Julia or Judy – they would love to hear from you!

Souvenirs are always good sellers – we will have a wide selection of tea towels, cards and all sorts of other goods, with a number of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fridge magnets still available. David Cook’s 2013 calendar sold very well last year, and the 2014 calendar, produced by David and Jimmy Lim is even better – with many more photos of named individual flowers. At \$8 each, the same

price as last year, they again should walk out the door during the Open Days. Again, it will be a year-long remembrance of the Gardens for the visitors – and great publicity for the Society. And they will make an excellent Christmas present, especially for friends and relatives overseas.

Raffles are always great earners, with one of the prizes being a beautiful painting of Rhododendrons, painted by Helen Hudson and valued at over \$400. There should be no difficulty in selling many tickets each day.

One of the main functions of the ‘Meet & Greet’ volunteers is to put the visitors in a good frame of mind when they first come into the Gardens – but then, with most visitors who come here being avid gardeners already, it is very, very easy to meet & greet at the Information Kiosk. Other activities include selling plants and calendars, keeping an eye on the donations box, and providing information about the Gardens. This year the plants will include 3 to 4 year old rhododendrons and mollis azaleas at \$25 each, and the ‘Explorers Triumph’ Everlasting Daisy, specially propagated to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first crossing of the Blue Mountains in 1813, at \$10 each.

During very busy periods our parking areas are usually full, with many visitors having to park in Bacchante and Inconstant Streets and walking to the Gardens. This year we are hoping to have the circular drive near the Tool Shed and ‘Cage’ used for the volunteers’ car park, with, hopefully, the volunteers being able to car pool – to leave more spaces in the car parks for the visitors.

Hope to see you during the Open Days this year.

### *A Gentle Reminder*

Please, volunteers, don’t wait for us to contact you about joining the happy band of helpers in the Lodge during the Open days.

Instead, why not ring Julia (4787 5728) or Judy (4787 7298) now, and offer your services to help in the kitchen, or sell souvenirs or raffle tickets, or ...

You never know, you may even be able to taste test one of our famous scones!

**Management Committee 2013 – 2014**

***President***

Julia Hanley  
4787 5728

***Vice Presidents***

Judy Johnston 4787 7298  
Sonia Levitt 4787 5502

***Garden Supervisor***

Dick Harris

***Secretary***

Alan Lush  
4787 6983

***Treasurer***

Val Moorhead  
4787 8267

***Membership Secretary***

Marion Freidman  
4787 8416

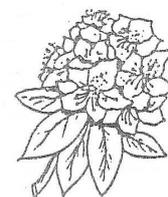
***Committee Members*** Jeannette Adrian, Beryl Black, Geoff Cannings,  
David Cook, Joan Hailstone, Diane Twose

***Meeting Hostess*** Bette Brown

***Editor/Webmaster*** Alan Lush

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

**BLUE MOUNTAINS RHODODENDRON SOCIETY OF NSW INC  
PO BOX 238, BLACKHEATH NSW 2785**



**BLUE MOUNTAINS RHODODENDRON SOCIETY OF NSW INC.  
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS YEAR ENDED 30TH. JUNE, 2013**

	<b>CREDIT:</b>	<b>DEBIT:</b>	
Affiliation Fees & Subscriptions	\$	\$ 106. 00	
Audit Expenses		200. 00	
Calendar Sales	7,229. 45		
Donations Received	23,383. 00		
Gardens - Labour		6,618. 18	
"    Materials, Equipment & Maintenance		3,762. 93	
"    Rubbish Removal		3,421. 70	
"    Tree Lopping		5,250. 00	
"    Rectifying Leaks		543. 64	
"    Tools		809. 10	
Gifts, Gratuities & Flowers		188. 14	
Insurances		4,810. 15	
Interest Received	10,004. 66		
Library Expenses		96. 36	
Lodge Maintenance, Equipment & Supplies		1,548. 62	
Lodgement Fees- (Office F.T)		75. 00	
Meeting Expenses		149. 52	
Membership Subscriptions	760. 00		
Postages & P.O. Box Rental		513. 86	
Power & Water		2,477. 65	
Printing & Stationery		856. 64	
Publicity Expenses		730. 45	
Raffles Income	932. 75		
Souvenir & Plant Sales - (Open Days etc.)	4,259. 34		
Sundries	190. 75	223. 37	
Tea Sales (Open Days etc.)	9,718. 55		
Telephone Rentals		348. 13	
Website Expenses		500. 00	
Receipts in Advance - Members Subs.	870. 00		
GST on Income & Expenditure	164. 00	2,985. 25	
GST Refunds received	3,158. 00		
Trading Account - CBA	12,013. 06		
Term Deposits- CBA		36,468. 87	
	<b>\$ 72,683. 56</b>	<b>\$ 72,683. 56</b>	
<b>Cash at Bank 1/07/12</b>	<b>\$ 33,635. 38</b>	<b>Term Deposits 01/07/12</b>	<b>\$ 217,308. 13</b>
"    "    30/06/13	<b>\$21,622. 32</b>	"    "    30/06/13	<b>\$253,777. 00</b>
	<b>\$12,013. 06</b>		<b>\$ 36,468. 87</b>

  
12/8/13

**BLUE MOUNTAINS RHODODENDRON SOCIETY OF NSW INC.**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH. JUNE, 2013**

		2013	2012
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>			
Buildings & Improvements		\$ 163,196. 00	\$ 163,196. 00
Library		654. 00	558. 50
Lodge Equipment 2009		-	21. 00
Lodge Equipment at Cost 2010	\$181. 00		
Less Depreciation	181. 00	-	46. 00
Library Bookcase at Cost 2010	\$1,545. 00		
Less Depreciation	1,545. 00	-	483. 00
Garden Seats at Cost 2010	\$ 727. 00		
Less Depreciation	640. 00	87. 00	327. 00
Lodge Equipment at Cost 2011	\$ 272. 00		
Less Depreciation	210. 00	62. 00	152. 00
Garden Equipment at Cost 2011	\$ 1,362. 00		
Less Depreciation	599. 00	763. 00	1,212. 00
Lodge Shelving at Cost 2012	\$390. 00		
Less Depreciation	86. 00	304. 00	-
Garden Equipment at Cost 2013	\$890. 00		
Less Depreciation	73. 00	817. 00	-
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
Cash at Bank - CBA		\$ 21,622. 32	\$ 33,635. 38
Term Deposit - CBA		143,777. 00	137,308. 13
“ “ “		110,000. 00	80,000. 00
Cash on Hand		300. 00	300. 00
Debtors GST Received		164. 00	133. 00
Payment in Advance		-	3,066. 00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>\$ 441,746. 32</b>	<b>\$ 420,438. 01</b>
<b>Less Current Liabilities</b>			
Prepaid Membership subs		870. 00	700. 00.
GST collected on subs		87. 00	70. 00
<b>BALANCE</b>		<b>\$ 440,789. 32</b>	<b>\$ 419,668. 01</b>
<b>Represented by Accumulated Funds</b>			
Balance from Previous Year		\$ 419,668. 01	\$ 409,479. 24
Plus Profit/Loss for the Year		21,121. 31	10,188. 77
<b>Total Accumulated Funds</b>		<b>\$ 440,789. 32</b>	<b>\$ 419,668. 01</b>

**I certify that I have examined the books of the Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of NSW Inc. and found them, and the Reconciliation Statement and Balance Sheet, correct, as represented by the above.**

Signed:.....

12/8/13