

Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of New South Wales Inc.

www.rhodogarden.org.au

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NEWSLETTER

Vol. 40 No. 4

PO Box 238, Blackheath, 2785.

Annual General Meeting Saturday 16 August 2014 at The Lodge starting at 2:00 pm

We welcome all members, especially those who have recently joined us, to our 45th 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.

ANNUAL membership RENEWAL fees (for 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015) are still only \$11 per person per annum.

For those members still unfinancial, a membership renewal form is enclosed

The Agenda for the meeting will be supplied separately

August Guest Speaker

Mary Moody

Mary Moody is a journalist who has specialised in the field of Gardening. She spent ten years as a presenter on Gardening Australia.

She spent much time living in France and has written or edited over 40 books on subjects as diverse as living in France, cooking, gardening topics, and gardening for children.

Mary lived in Leura and developed a large garden there before moving to Yetholme where another large garden was developed.

Her passions are still family, food, gardening and travel. She leads tours in France and the Himalayas.

So, come along and hear a very entertaining and knowledgeable speaker.

Advance Notice - September

Please note that the next General Meeting will be held on Saturday 27th September, as the Lodge will be in use during the Open Days in October.

Election of new committee

At this AGM a new management committee for the Society for 2014-15 is to be elected. According to the Society's constitution the management committee will consist of the office-bearers and (up to) seven other members. The office-bearers consist of one President and up to three Vice-Presidents, one Honorary Secretary, one Honorary Treasurer and one Membership Secretary. Our speaker at the meeting, **Mary Moody**, has kindly consented to be Chairperson for the election.

A nomination form is attached to this newsletter. If further copies are required please contact Alan on 4787 6983. Nomination forms must be returned to the Secretary by 10:00 am Friday 15th August.

See Page 5 for the guidelines to be followed for voting at the AGM.

From the President – Julia's Say

Hi to all readers,

People tell me that winter is a quieter time in the garden. At the Gardens it seems there's never a quiet time! The Monday "workers" are busy removing the never ending Dodder and the dead wood from our precious Rhododendrons and Azaleas so all the plants will be well prepared for their big show in spring time.

Actions from the Management Plan: The guttering on the Lodge will be replaced in the next week or two. The Lodge verandah is receiving some maintenance and the planking is gratefully soaking up a coat of preserving oil. The outside log walls will be treated next.

The Lookout is nearly complete. Two brass plaques have been ordered from the Central Foundry. These will be securely attached to the tops of the pillars and will be unveiled on the 27th September by **Graham Ross**.

I have spent time helping to design two tea towels which the Management Committee thought will make good keepsakes for visitors to the Gardens. We will have 500 of each design to sell over the "Open Days". You will be able to see and purchase them at the AGM! **David Cook** has been spending hours sifting through photos to compile the 2015 calendar. Thanks David – the calendar is looking great with lovely larger view photos this year.

The Society will need a Secretary after the AGM as **Alan Lush** is standing down. As this is an executive job it will be very difficult to operate without someone filling this role. Alan is happy to help someone settle into the job but we need a volunteer. I ask each of you to think carefully and see if you have a little spare time to help us. Please contact me on 4787 – 5728 or 0408 336 635 if you would like to know more about this important job. Time is disappearing fast and the AGM is only a month away! PLEASE HELP US.

I also encourage people to put their hand up to be on the Management Committee. We have several vacancies so I hope we will be able to fill them. I encourage you all to attend the AGM as the annual reports will tell you of all the activities happening in the Society and at the Gardens. **Mary Moody** will be an inspiring speaker.

Now to the exciting event: you will find an invitation to the Official Opening of the Lookout in another part of this newsletter. Please let us know if you can attend. It should be a day to remember!
Looking forward to seeing you in August and September.

Julia Hanley – President 2013-2014

Garden Report – July 2014

Most of our time has been taken up with planting, fixing drainage, spreading mulch, etc, around the new Lookout. I urge all members to have a look from the Lookout – the view in spring will be stunning.

The girls with some help from **Pat Kenny** have been removing dodder from various areas. Weed eradication has as usual been ongoing with a deal of success.

We have varnished the outside of the window in the Library and also the insides of the Lodge windows on the northern side. We are also going to fill cracks between the logs, and treat the logs and the verandah.

Of course there are so many jobs that have to be done to keep this garden running. On a Monday, if there are recent plantings that need watering, it takes about 2 hours plus. Keeping the area around the Lodge, i.e. paths and drain around the driveway, etc, takes nearly all Monday for one volunteer. When I start putting fertiliser out, this will take several Mondays for 3 or 4 volunteers to complete the program. Some 100 or more hours per year would be spent on weed eradication. Every Monday that Barry is here is spent by him keeping the tracks in order.

Pruning the Azaleas and removing dead wood from the Rhodos, removing dodder, mowing the grass, clearing drains, plus all those things such as those mentioned at the beginning of this report shows how lucky we all are to have such a wonderful and dedicated group of volunteers.

Note – a virus is attacking some Rhododendrons in the Gardens, mainly 'White Pearl'. If any members are experiencing the same problem, cut out the affected parts and put in the garbage bin – do not compost them.

Dick Harris – Garden Supervisor

June General Meeting

The following is a brief summary of the last General Meeting, held at the Lodge on Saturday 21st June.

President **Julia Hanley** welcomed the 29 members and 2 visitors present to today's meeting. 5 apologies were received and noted in the Attendance Book.

Julia thanked **Sabine Erika**, the previous president of the Rhododendron Festival Committee, for planting a Rhododendron 'Johnny Bender' in the Gardens. Julia also noted that **Dal Dutch**, one of the nurserymen originally involved in the formation of the Gardens, and who has donated many Kurume Azaleas, was one of the visitors present.

An account at the Bendigo Bank in Katoomba was opened during the month. **Val Moorhead** explained that this was to enable the Society to offer EFTPOS facilities to visitors during part of the Open Days. An EFTPOS machine was on loan from the bank and was trialled for a couple of days.

Dick Harris's Garden Report can be found on Page 2 of this newsletter.

Many of the original Society documents are being copied, with the originals being put in the archives and the copies made available to be borrowed.

The Society's website is to be upgraded to enable access from Tablets, iPhones, etc. There is a possibility that a link to the weather forecast for Blackheath be included in the upgrade.

In General Business, **Julia Hanley** commented that two stone pillars have been installed at the entrance to the new Lookout with a plaque to be placed on each. The wording will remain a mystery until the unveiling on the 27th September. An invited guest list is being drawn up. After the official opening of the Lookout by **Graham Ross**, there will be a light lunch followed by a general meeting starting at 2:00 pm. Graham will be the guest speaker. Quota has submitted a quote for the provision of the lunch, with Society members being asked to provide our normal afternoon tea.

Tribute was paid on the recent and sudden passing of **Bundeluk**, one of the speakers at the seminar held last year.

Plant label engraving – a call was made for any members who would be able to assist in the process.

Open Days – Julia called for volunteers to help during the period. She also said prizes were required for the raffles to be held.

The Meeting's guest speaker was **Barbara Tyrrell** of Dryridge Estate Winery in the Megalong Valley. She talked about the establishment of the winery over the last 15 years and provided bottles of Dryridge whites, reds and a rosé for the wine tasting – which were much appreciated by all present.

The tasting finished about 3:30pm and was followed by afternoon tea.

Forthcoming Local Events

- **13-14 September** – Blackheath & District Horticultural Society's 94th Flower & Craft Show. Held in the Blackheath Community Halls, Great Western Highway, Blackheath. Public viewing – 12:00-17:00 Saturday, 8:30-15:00 Sunday
- **27 September** – Opening of Campbell Rhododendron Gardens new Lookout viewing platform, 12:00
- **3 October-10 November** – Open Days in the Gardens
- **4 – 12 October** – Leura Gardens Festival, this year celebrating its 50th Anniversary
- **5 October** – Garden Clubs of Australia Information/Friendship day at the Waldorf Leura Resort. The cost for the day is \$30.00 per person, which includes morning tea, lunch, and a number of guest speakers. Registration is from 9:30 am. Morning tea is followed by the welcome from GCA President Ken Bradley, a talk by guest speaker Jennifer Stackhouse and lunch. The afternoon will be optional – either 2 guest speakers (included in the registration fee) or Leura gardens at your own expense. Please contact George Hoad – phone (02) 6550 5890 if you are interested (or ghoad@internode.on.net).

Norm Campbell's Reminiscences

Before Norm Campbell passed away 12 months ago, he was interviewed by Beryl Black to obtain his reminiscences about his life in the Blue Mountains. These have been placed in the Society's archives as part of the project to save as much as possible of the Society's history for posterity.

When I was recently asked – “What are some of the memories of your days in Blackheath?” I began to reflect back over the years. I do not consider myself as a “real Blackheathen” as my time here has only been for the past 61 years and I am still serving my “apprenticeship”. I have lived all of my lifetime on the Blue Mountains, growing up at Hazelbrook and finally settling in Blackheath.

My first reflections go back to a visit on 2nd November 1932, when Don Bradman, playing cricket for Blackheath versus Lithgow, scored a fabulous 256 runs. It was a most exciting day, and was recorded by the late John Boyd, one of Blackheath's outstanding sportsmen.

I recall the “Peg Factory” situated adjacent to the present day Fish Shop. After the factory closed down, it became a Roller Skating Rink, which was a popular pastime in those days.

Shipley Plateau was a very prolific Apple Growing area with several large orchards providing employment especially in the picking season. They would also compete in the Annual Blackheath Show.

On a visit or camp-out to the Blue Gum Forest, one would see quite a few cattle and horses grazing on the grass. They were taken there for pastures when there was not sufficient grazing on the several Blackheath farms.

I recall Saturday's visits to the “Victory Theatre” to see the latest “movies”, as they were known. There was even an elevated “Dress Circle”, and many of the fans had permanent bookings. The usherettes knew by experience where every regular patron sat, and would quickly lead you to your seat.

One of my most interesting visits was to call into the shop of Mr R. “Pop” Williams, a retired surgical instrument maker. He had a most interesting collection of miniature tools and equipment, and could supply you with many items often difficult to obtain – plus a good yarn. He also had a very good collection of postage stamps, and also as I was then a philatelist we had many interesting discussions.

The big fall of Snow on 17th July 1957 comes to mind. It all happened within a few hours before midnight, and next day the town came to a standstill. Rail and road traffic was stopped except for a few 4 wheel drive vehicles which were able to negotiate some of the roads. The depth of snow was measured at up to 18 inches (45 mm).

Many will recall the famous “Apple Cabin” in Hartley, which had a large model of an apple mounted on the apex of the roof. It became a well known feature for tourist coach captains to show passengers. The Apple Cabin still stands – it is now the tool and equipment shed at the Rhododendron Gardens at Blackheath.

When I look back on some of the local achievements, I get a great feeling of pride for the many who have achieved so much for our town. I think of the volunteers who gave their support for the original construction of the Swimming Pool, the Blackheath Show, the Festivals, the Paul Harris Lookout, Quota Grove in Megalong, the Rhododendron Gardens, and the many clubs and organisations.

Submitted by Beryl Black

I finally figured out what I want to be when I get older YOUNGER!

***Don't get all weird about getting older!
Our age is merely the number of years the world has been enjoying us!***

My day starts backwards - I wake up tired and go to bed wide awake.

Guidelines for Voting at the Annual General Meeting

1. Only financial members can vote, nominate or be nominated for a position on the Management Committee.
2. If only one member is nominated for an executive position (or up to seven members for the committee positions), then that member (or members) is/are considered elected and no vote is taken, providing that their nomination(s) was/were received by the Secretary by the advertised closing date.
3. If more members are nominated than there are advertised committee positions, and their nomination forms were received by the advertised closing date, a secret ballot will be taken by those members attending the AGM. That member (or members) with the most votes will be declared duly elected to the particular committee position.
4. If a position has NO nominations, the Chairperson can ask for nominations at the meeting (“from the floor”). If more than one person is named and seconded, a vote will be taken as in 3.
5. If a position is NOT filled at the AGM it is called a “casual vacancy” and may be filled at a later date by an appointment by the management committee.

The Management Committee consists of:

President
up to 3 Vice-Presidents
Treasurer/Public Officer
Secretary
Membership Secretary
up to 7 committee members

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

New Members

We warmly welcome the following people as members of the Society, and invite them to become involved in all the activities the Society has to offer.

Cat Harker, of Blackheath,
Jerrold Cripps, of Blackheath,
Dinah Milojevic, of Blackheath.

If you wish to nominate a member for a position on the management committee please cut out the form below, fill it in and post it to the address shown on the form by 10:00 am on Friday 15th August

Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of NSW Inc.

NOMINATION FORM

Term 2014-2015

I wish to nominate

.....
(name of person to be nominated)

for the position of

.....
(Name the office/position)

Signed.....
(Signature of nominator)

SECONDER

I wish to second the above nomination –

.....
(Signature of seconder)

ACCEPTANCE

I accept the above nomination

Signed.....
(Signature of nominated person)

Nominations to be returned to Secretary, PO Box 238, Blackheath, 2785, no later than 10 am Friday 15 August 2014

We all get heavier as we get older, because there is a lot more information in our heads. That's my story, and I'm sticking to it.

Every time I start thinking too much about how I look, I just find a pub with a Happy Hour - and by the time I leave, I look just fine.

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

Meeting Hostess Mary Chernov

Editor/Webmaster Alan Lush

website – www.rhodogarden.org.au

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

