

Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of New South Wales Inc.

Inaugurated April 2nd 1969
March / April 2015
NEWSLETTER

GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 18th April 2015
at The Lodge
2.00pm start

GUEST SPEAKER: DAVID MIKE

We are very pleased to have David Mike as our Guest Speaker for our next Meeting. David is a Vexillologist. A vexillologist is one who studies flags. Why do we have flags? Are there other types of flags besides national ones? When did flags first originate? What is the history of the development of flags? These and many other questions that you may think of will be answered.

It should be a very interesting topic. A delicious afternoon tea will be served after the meeting. If you are able to bring a plate to add to what the committee brings, it would be most appreciated. The President and her Committee look forward to meeting you on the afternoon.

* * * * *

From the President. Julia's Say.....

Thank-you to all those who attended the most successful seminar day themed "Grand Designs". It was a day packed with information and bonhomie. The four speakers were excellent and led us on a path that highlighted grand designs in plant breeding, garden festival organisation, greening the desert in Abu Dhabi and in floral arrangements. The arrangements were donated to Kerry and Dale at the Ivanhoe Hotel as they do much to support BMRS. The 42 attendees were treated to great food provided by the Quota Club and I extend our thanks to them for their efforts. There was enough time during

the day for people to walk in the Gardens and to enjoy the ambience of our autumn colour. The very generous raffle prize of dinner for two at Ruby's Brasserie in Katoomba was won by Lesley Freeman from the Oberon Garden Club. My thanks, on behalf of the Society to Hugo Flaherty for his generous donation of the raffle prize and to all who helped organise the seminar day especially Judy Johnston who continues to be a driving force in the promotion of our activities.

The revision of the constitution is progressing. It is now with our Honorary Solicitor to have wording checked. There are a number of steps to be followed but in a month or two we will be sending you all a copy of the proposed constitution. In order for the revised constitution, to be accepted, we need 75% of our members to approve it. Hence we need you to return your vote in the reply paid envelope. More of this in the next newsletter / April meeting.

Your management committee has begun the long task of building a new toilet block which will include an accessible toilet. We will bring you details as the project progresses.

Please remember if you have any ideas for speakers, seminar topics, ideas for newsletters, other activities or you see anything which needs attention in the Gardens please let us know. Your input is important.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at April meeting. **from Julia**

Garden Report

Dodder continued to be removed as well as dead wood and trees cut down by our tree contractor, Lester Ives. Fallen branches were also removed as were some plants that had died.

The reeds in the lake were cut below the water line as a trial to determine if this technique could be used to control them. Dead wood in the rhodos was removed, particularly along the Quota Walk.

15 maples were planted along the Maple Walk. These included replacement of maples that had died.

It's pleasing to note that our Monday working team has been boosted by the addition of three new volunteers.

* * * * *

Vale – Joan Tierney 14.5.1918 – 17.1.2015

Joan Tierney's chief characteristics were her fierce independence (for those who knew her, and incredible stubbornness) and her boundless generosity. Gardening was her passion and the connecting theme for all her family as well as her friends.

Joan was the daughter of a veteran of Gallipoli and the Western Front. She was an only child who grew up in an extended family of a maiden aunt and four cousins who had lost their mother. Her own mother developed a spinal condition which restricted her mobility. When Joan wanted to become a nurse her parents were highly disapproving – but Joan's independence came to the fore. She worked at Hay and Booligal, the TB hospital at Wentworth Falls, then at Epping and completed her formal training as an RN in the first group of graduates from St George Hospital in Sydney.

1947 Joan married Alan Tierney. In the 1950s she played competition tennis with a group of friends. She continued playing until her mid-70's. Tennis and creative pursuits were her passions in life. She decorated cakes, sewed, crocheted, embroidered, cooked and gardened.

When Alan died at the age of 58, Joan with daughter Trish and son Peter began a new life. She designed and maintained a 7 acre garden near Forestville where she planted rare plants and native species that she sought out. On moving to her new home at Blackheath, she developed an interesting cool climate garden with several rare plants.

Joan joined the BM Rhododendron Society about 1982. She was an active garden volunteer and a

committee member from August 1982 to November 2000. She was made Life Member in September 1995. She was also active in the Blackheath and District Horticultural Society.

Joan donated many rhododendrons to honour her extended family as well supporting the Gardens by being a cheerful hostess at meetings and Open Days. In 1995 she held "Friendship Mornings" – social gatherings at the Lodge for those members who could not actively garden or attend weekend meetings.

Before moving to Bowral 5 years ago she donated her precious Rhododendron Lochiae to the Society – it is the only native Australian Rhododendron which flowers in winter.

Joan's major contribution was her meticulous work on a register of donated plants, cross referencing donor's names to plant names and locations in the Gardens. This was completed up to 1995 which involved many hours of detailed work (it is still to be updated).

Joan's son Peter in his Eulogy quoted part of Vita Sackville West's poem "The Land" as a fitting tribute to a woman who never stopped loving her garden.

*She walks among the loveliness she made,
Between the apple blossom and the water –
She walks among the patterned pied brocade,
Each flower her son and every tree her daughter.*

From Jeanette Adrian

VALE Merle Hadley. 27.2.1926 to 19.1.2015

More about Merle in the next newsletter.

New committee members:

Please begin thinking about coming onto the Management Committee to help with the very important job of maintaining the Campbell Rhododendron Gardens. **If you are inspired to join us in this valuable task please contact a committee member asap.** Thanks, from Julia

Club Members

Glenys Bruun of Nambour garden Club in Queensland has suggested likening garden members to our gardens.

They are: Heirloom plants which are the backbone of our gardens and have stood the test of time. In clubs, there are members who have established themselves and who we feel we can always look to for guidance and support.

Hybrid plants which have resulted in a cross between different plant varieties and produced improved plants. In clubs there are members who respect the established ways of the club but suggest improvements to better the club.

New varieties which are challenges to our gardening knowledge. In clubs, there are new members who are learning and can give a new perspective on what the club is about.

Bright colourful blooms add interest to the garden and create delightful responses from visitors. In clubs, these members are often willing to fill whatever role or responsibility that is asked of them, fit in well and are enthusiastic in their contribution.

Shade loving plants fill their place in the garden in a quiet and supporting way. In clubs, they are members who serve in the background and maybe unsure of taking a larger role in the club.

Weeds detract from the beauty and plan of the garden and require a lot of work to be kept under control. Hopefully clubs are free of “weed” members who detract from the efficient running of the club.

Bill Webster

New Rhododendron Society Members

We warmly welcome three new members to our Society and we invite them to become involved in all the activities the Society has to offer. Our new members are –

David Hathenbruck	Blackheath
Eva Ellison	Blackheath
Lesley Freeman	Blackheath



What do “Monday Workers” get up to?

They have fun on the lake..... Take one canoe, some rather fast growing reeds and two intrepid volunteers..... the result is seen in the above picture. Oh what fun on a lovely warm day!! Actually, it is a serious exercise to cut the wayward reeds below the water level to try and kill them without having to poison, not on due to the ecological sensitivity of the area, or pulling them out by the roots as this may disturb the sealing on the lake bottom.

Up dated website:

Please check out our updated website. Marius Coomans has been hard at work and has a new “clean” look website which is also accessible on smart phones and tablets. David Cook and Jimmy Lim have provided new photos so the whole effect is modern and hopefully enticing to a new generation of Gardens visitors. Most of our website “hits” last year were through mobile devices so it is well worth up grading our site to be easily accessible. We will also be on Facebook and Twitter. Marius will be teaching me how to make changes, as required, to the website. Alan Lush has had this task for some years and has done a great job, thank-you Alan. Marius will also be in the background ready to help us when we loose the plot!! I’ll also be learning how to use Facebook and Twitter! Please give us feedback as to your experience when using the website. from Julia

Management Committee 2014 – 2015

President

Julia Hanley
4787 5728

Vice Presidents

Judy Johnston 4787 7298
Sonia Levitt 4787 5502

Garden Supervisor

Dick Harris

Secretary

Joan Hailstone
4787 5859

Treasurer

Val Moorhead
4787 8267

Membership Secretary

Marion Freidman
4787 8416

Committee Members Geoff Cannings, David Cook, Alan Lush, Deb Wells

Meeting Hostess Mary Chernov

Editor Sonia Levitt

website – www.rhodogarden.org.au

Webmaster Julia Hanley

If you have any articles or news for the Newsletter, please send to Sonia at salevitt13@bigpond.com . Thank you

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

