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# **Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of New South Wales Inc.**

Inaugurated April 2nd 1969

## **November / December 2016 NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 42 No. 6

PO Box 238 Blackheath 2785

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### **Christmas Luncheon Saturday 10th December 2016 at The Lodge**

**Time: 12.00 to 12.30pm.**

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

**PLEASE RSVP by December 7th by phoning  
Julia on 0408 336 635 or Deb Wells on 47876724.**

**There will not be a meeting after the luncheon, but a number of items will be  
brought to your attention beforehand – see notices below.**

#### **From the President - Alan's Account**

Well, that time of the year has come and gone, and the Gardens (and volunteers!) can now collectively breath a huge sigh of relief. Once again the Open Days have brought out the best in all the volunteers in ensuring that every visitor to the Gardens has had an enjoyable experience, with many of them saying they will keep on coming back to see us. Perhaps it is the ambience of the Gardens together with the smiling faces on the volunteers that generates the 'flora fix' that everyone seems to appreciate.

We were fortunate again this year in the community effort that went in to making these Open Days so successful, with volunteers coming not only from the Society, but, from other local groups -the Heathens Choir, the Monday Walkers, (not to forget the Monday Workers) Probus, and the Horticultural Society. From the time the visitors were welcomed at the 'Meet & Greet', to when they were so ably looked after in the Lodge while

recovering from walking around the Gardens, and finally as they were leaving, they were all treated to our renowned friendliness and and hospitality.

My thanks go to all the volunteers this year for their outstanding efforts, no matter what job they were doing – which made the 38 days when the Lodge was open for business such a success. Necessary tasks carried out behind the scenes, but often not seen, included the ordering and delivery of scones and other refreshments, making or donating aprons and other souvenirs, folding serviettes (another string to Jim's bow!), keeping the display wall of flowers looking fresh, emptying garbage bins and removing rubbish, and checking and cleaning the loos – initially once or twice a day, and building up to hourly during the Festival weekend. However, we did get a number of people complimenting us on the cleanliness of the loos! My special thanks go to Deb, Julia, Val and Anna for supervising the work in the kitchen, and particularly to Deb for maintaining the roster and calling in those on standby when required. Thanks also go to the pupils of Blackheath Public School for taking part in the poster competition,

with the best entries being made into laminated posters which were placed around Blackheath (and further afield) advertising the Open Days. The staff at the school, especially the Principal, Jane Davies, were kind enough to allow our ads for the Open Days to appear on the school's electronic notice board, so travellers on the highway could also be informed about our doings.

A get-together for 40 or so of the volunteers was held in the Lodge at the end of the Open Days so people could just relax and enjoy each other's company. This followed a Special General Meeting that had been called to present to members the new form of reporting required by Fair Trading caused by our elevation from a Tier 2 organisation to a Tier 1. This was brought about by our level of assets/income being increased by a bequest to the Society from Frank Jurists-Kovacs.

Please note our last meeting of the year, which will be our big Christmas party on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December – 12:00 noon for 12:30. All our members are invited, but we need to know if you will be coming, for catering purposes. As per usual, please either email us via the website, or contact Deb on 4787 6724, or Julia on 4787 5728 by the 7<sup>th</sup> December, so we may know of your proposed contribution to a fun afternoon. The committee and I are all looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and our best wishes go to you all for the coming festive season and new year.

Alan Lush President 2016-17

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## 2016 - VISITORS TO THE CAMPBELL

### RHODODENDRON GARDENS

During the Open Days the Gardens played host to visitors from all over the world - with the majority coming from the Blue Mountains and Sydney. There have also been many from various cities and towns throughout Australia, as well as from the four corners of the globe, some countries of which haven't been represented before this year. These countries include :-

**Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Columbia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, England, Finland, France, Germany, Guam, Holland, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Malaysia, Poland, Russia, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Taiwan, Uganda, USA, Vietnam and Wales.**

It was gratifying to hear that more and more of our visitors had discovered us from our website, and it was even more gratifying to hear that our Gardens compared more than favourably with many of the overseas gardens, especially when the visitors discovered the work here is all done by volunteers. (Stand up and take a bow every one.)

## SOME VISITORS COMMENTS

“Haven't had scones as good as these in 25 years!”  
“Light and fluffy scones!”  
“Wonderful toilets” - Thanks to those who checked and cleaned the toilets several times a day.

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## OPEN DAYS 2016 - STATISTICS

During the Open Days, the following items were consumed.

|                              |                       |        |            |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|------------|
| SCONES                       | 2600;                 | JAM    | 65 kg      |
| CREAM                        | 40 litres             | MILK   | 144 litres |
| TEA                          | 2600 tea bags approx. | COFFEE | 16kg       |
| HOT CHOCOLATE approx. 1.5 kg |                       |        |            |
| BANANA BREAD                 | 20 loaves             |        |            |

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## RAFFLE RESULTS

The lovely painting created and donated by local artist and member of the Society Helen Hudson was won by Louise.

The expertly hand crafted scarf set made and donated by Deb Wells was won by M. Hardman.

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## OBITUARIES

### Vale - Georgina Alice Jeffries (1906-2016)

On 24 September 2016 our oldest member, Georgina Alice (Georgie) Jeffries passed away at the age of 109. Georgie Jeffries was active in several societies including Red Cross, Country Women's Association, Trefoil (Guides), as well as the Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society. She had many friends and enjoyed life to the full. She was popular with the staff at Boddington Aged Care facility and kept her independent spirit until very recently. It is fitting that a Celebratory Service was to be held at St Hilda's Anglican Church in Katoomba on 28th November, 2016, when she would have reached 110 years of age.

### Vale - Jim Hadley, Life Member

We were sorry to hear of the death of Jim Hadley on 12 September 2016. Jim was a banker who joined the Society after his retirement in 1981, and was Treasurer from August 1989 to August 1995. He became a Life Member in September 1995. Jim and his wife Merle later moved to Cowra, to a retirement village close to the Japanese Gardens. Both maintained their interest in gardening as long as they were able, and kept in touch with our Society and their friends in the Blue Mountains. Both were active contributors to the Society in its critical early years.

Prepared by Jeannette Adrian

## GARDEN REPORT

We didn't sell all the plants that we bought and indeed I was most disappointed at the quality of some. We do have Mollis still in flower, some rhododendrons and some Kalmias (most of which had no flower buds).

I have approached Til Weber about joining with him to buy in Victoria and pay him to freight them back. He is happy to help and freight wouldn't be much dearer than Batlow's.

I have planted one rhododendron Taurus in the valley area, that is in the Kovac's area.

I am most perturbed about the irrigation pipe line. Someone had turned the tap off at the meter. Alan rang me and I went down and discovered the tap which I turned on, tested that it was working at the tool shed, where the plants for sale were held which it was. However, the next Monday it was not working again. Someone had turned a gate valve near the toilets off which cut the water off to the above area. To my knowledge it was not any of the volunteers, which is worrying. Who was it? I believe we should cover any of the concrete surrounds, where the gate valves are that control water to various parts of the garden, with leaves etc to disguise them.

We also had some trouble with the lock on the Out Gate. It appears to me and to Peter Messer that someone had tried to force it. I think we should buy three more long shanked keyed alike locks for the In and Out gates and the Wentworth Street Gate. If you agree to this, I will have to get enough keys for those who open and close the gates. I have put in the gate lock on the Out Gate and put another spare lock on the In Gate. I'll let those responsible for the gates know where the key is.

Work on fertilizing the rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias and other exotic plants has begun. Removal of virus affected leaves on the azaleas, which was seen recently ( the cause of this virus is not known) has been carried out.

By Dick Harris - Garden Supervisor.

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## PROJECT REPORT

The new heavy duty mulcher that was bought recently, has been put to much good use. We are saving money by mulching all branches that used to go into the waste bin which was filled every monday and cost a fortune to Binaway. The mulch that is being made by the new mulcher is being laid around the rhododendrons and other plants which is helpful in maintaining soil moisture. It is working well and the men are very happy with it. Goggles are being bought for safe use of the mulcher. We already have ear muffs. Two small mulchers which are not working at present will be returned to working order so that they can be sold. The reeds in the Lake have been cut down again. The reeds are now dwindling thanks to the efforts of Geoff and Bill on cold mornings.

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The Lookout has been oiled and its handrail has been sanded and oiled before the Open Days. Gates have been repaired and painted. and the Dog Sign at Wentworth Str. gate has been cemented in. The tool shed is being painted. Hot Tamarillo was the colour chosen for the shed. Geoff will choose a contrast trim.

**The Battle for the new Toilet block continues!!**

The plans for the new Toilet Block have been given to three more builders to submit quotes but all three were not interested in this project. Tony Crawford will recommend another builder in this project and Geoff will contact him. Time is running out as the Grant has to be spent before March 2017.

From Geoff Cannings - Project Manager.

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## NEW RHODODENDRON SOCIETY MEMBERS

We warmly welcome nineteen new members to our Society and we invite them to become involved in the activities that the Society has to offer.

Our new members are:-

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Roger Pinferi   | Darryl Lane        |
| Narda Mahanga   | Kathleen Priestley |
| Dianne Williams | Jane Kothe         |
| Frank Portelli  | Philia Portelli    |
| Annie Sherwood  | Brian Drinnan      |
| Irma Mahling    | Patricia Baker     |
| Brian Twomey    | Lucy Twomey        |
| Viki Geraghty   | Stephen Rossiter   |
| Pauels Anetko   | Leigh Cuppitt      |
| Sue Richards    | John Gtiffith      |

Have fun! Bill

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## OPEN GARDENS ELSEWHERE

Wild Meadows on Coxs River Road Little Hartley is a new garden which began its development 6 years ago when the paddocks were designed to create floral meadows and woodlands. These Gardens will be open on the following days - sat 3rd Dec, sun 4th Dec. sat 17th Dec and sun 18th Dec from 9.30 am to 3.00pm. Entry fee is \$8; dogs are not allowed.

Other places worth visiting are "Bebeah" in Mt Wilson, and Merry Garth Rare Plant Nursery in Mt Wilson and Secret Garden and Nursery, Richmond NSW. .Look up this website for further details - [info@myopengarden.com.au](mailto:info@myopengarden.com.au).

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A HAPPY NEW  
YEAR.**

## Management Committee 2016 - 2017

**President**  
Alan Lush  
4787 6983

**Vice President**  
Deb Wells  
4787 6724

**Garden Supervisor**  
Dick Harris

**Secretary**  
Julia Hanley  
0408 336 635

**Treasurer**  
Val Moorehead  
4787 8267

**Membership Secretary**  
Bill Webster  
4787 6082

**Committee Members:** Geoff Cannings, Anna Martin, David Cook, Sonia Levitt, Di Twose, Brough Warren

**Meeting Hostess:** Joan Hailstone

**Editor:** Sonia Levitt

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

If you have any articles or news for the newsletter, please send to Sonia at [salevitt13@bigpond.com](mailto:salevitt13@bigpond.com). Thank-you



**THE BLUE MOUNTAINS RHODODENDRON SOCIETY OF NSW INC.**

**PO BOX 238, BLACKHEATH NSW 2785**