

Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of New South Wales Inc

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Vol. 43 No1

PO Box 238 Blackheath 2785

GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 18TH FEBRUARY 2017
The Lodge
2:00pm Start

**Afternoon Tea will be served after the Meeting. Please bring a plate to share.
We welcome all members, especially those who have recently joined us.**

GUEST SPEAKER: ANGUS STEWART

RHODODENDRONS AND OTHER FLORA OF YUNAN REGION OF CHINA.

Angus Stewart is Australia's leading native plant expert. As a professional horticulturalist he has spent a lifetime working with Australian native plants to make them more gardener friendly. Angus is a presenter on ABCTV's Gardening Australia and appears regularly on the ABC and Talkback Radio. As well as authoring six highly successful books, including his most recent publication - The Australian Native Garden. He also contributes to Gardening Australia and regularly writes for a host of other publications and online gardening sites. As the recipient of numerous horticulture and garden industry awards, Angus has been widely acknowledged for his contribution to our knowledge of Australian native plants.

He leads plant hunting tours throughout the world including China. It is on this experience that his talk today is based. He will have copies of his latest book for sale during afternoon tea at a cost of \$50.00.

FROM THE PRESIDENT - Alan's Account

Welcome everyone!

Well – 2016 has been and gone, and it looks like 2017 is going to be an even busier year for the Society, its members, and the Gardens. I hope everyone will find the year a very enjoyable and fulfilling one, as more and more projects are started, worked on assiduously, and brought to a successful conclusion.

While most of the Monday workers, having had a well-earned break over the Christmas-New Year period, are now back and hard at work, we have had to say farewell to a stalwart – Mary Chernov. Mary, having sold her house in Mt Victoria, has decided to move on. She will be sorely missed. However, if any member, new or not so new, wishes to join in the camaraderie of the Monday workers group, they will be welcomed with open arms. Just turn up at the Lodge on a Monday from 9:00 am – gardening clothes and gloves essential.

Visitors to the Gardens in the last few weeks will have noticed work has started on the building of the new toilet block. This should be ready for the grand opening well before the next Open Days, with, hopefully, a name in keeping with the ambiance of the Gardens to be attached to the building. Any suggestions anyone?

Other activities have kept the committee busy since the last meeting. A new fridge has been purchased for the Lodge, to replace that donated a number of years ago. This should make life much easier for all the kitchen volunteers during the Open Days. Many suggestions were received, and taken on board, during the 2016 Open Days debriefing meeting in early January. There will be more information available later in the year, and an orientation session for both the Kitchen and Meet & Greet volunteers will be provided closer to the date, with the Open Days this year to be from Saturday 30th September to Sunday 5th November.

Publicity for the gardens will be increased this year to build on the great efforts put in recently this year by Sonia, Diane and Anna. This will involve better use of various Tourism websites, a special

promotional video produced by Nick A'Hern, and improved informational material for coach companies. And look out for our very own Rhodosaurus (thought extinct many millions of years ago) which may turn up in the Gardens in the near future!

And then there is the "Creativity" Seminar on the 25th March, Angus Stewart as our Guest Speaker at the February meeting and ...

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 18th February.
Alan Lush, President 2016-17

AN INVITATION FROM THE LITHGOW GARDEN CLUB.

A "**friendship Meeting**" is being held for all clubs in the Zone.

Guest Speaker: Costa Georgiadis

DATE: 13th MAY 2017

VENUE: LITHGOW WORKERS CLUB.

COST: \$35.00 PER PERSON payable at time of booking for morning tea and lunch with advice special menu requirements and payment to Blue Mountains Zone Garden Club.

The days Program is as follows.

Date: Sat 13th May 2017

Venue: Lithgow Workers Club

Time: 10am arrive and mingle.

10.30am Morning Tea

11.15am Welcome to the day by Walter Hitchell, Zone Co-ordination

Introduction of President of Garden Clubs of Australia.

Lunch: 12 noon.

Finish: 2.00 - 2.30 pm.

Come along to the Meeting to meet members of zone clubs AND TO MEET this famous landscape architect who can teach us about how important plants, soils, and water are in our gardens and his beliefs in "embracing Mother Nature's cycles and seasons and nurturing her balance, beauty and bounty organically."

Garden Report

The new chipper has been well used since it was bought late last year. Fallen branches, tree prunings have been chipped up and put on pathways as mulch around plants or put in large heaps for future use. A lot of work has been put into the Conifer Garden area lately. Once the landscaping has been done, Proteas will be planted in this area which will become known as the Protea Garden. Besides our native proteas also known as Waratahs, South African proteas will be planted to show the difference between the two species.

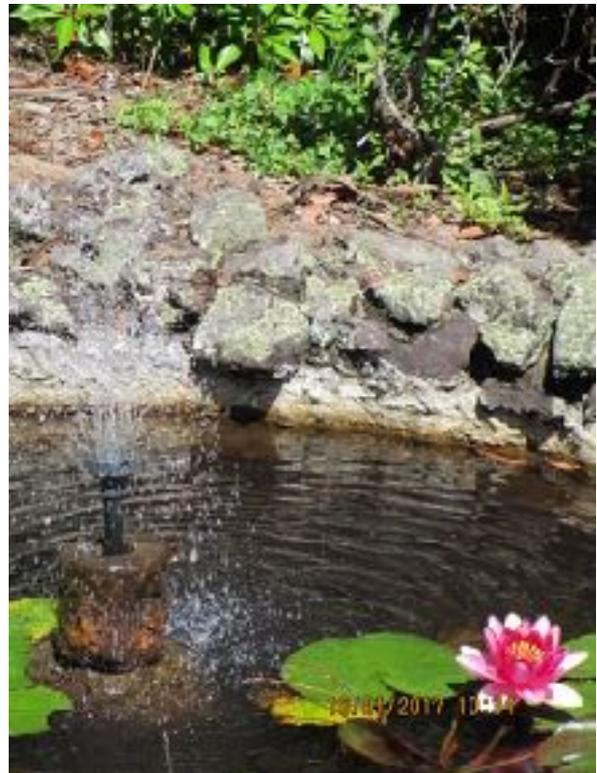
Over the Christmas break many azaleas and rhododendrons suffered another outbreak of lace bug. I used over 250 litres of spray with my small sprayer as the large power spray unit cannot be used off the tracks.

A different chemical to Confidor has been used to break the resistance build-up. The rest of the time has been taken up with usual maintenance, lawn-mowing, track clearing, pruning azaleas etc. and fertilising, including potash to help in next year's flowering.

Dick Harris

A generous Donation.

Peter Messer is one of the stalwarts of the Gardens. He hardly ever misses a day and he does a lot of extra work.



This impressive new fountain head was donated by him. It gives a sense of peace with its splashing water. **Thank you, Peter.**

SEMINAR DAY

The Campbell Rhododendron Gardens Annual Seminar Day is to be held at the Lodge on 25th March, 2017. TIME: 9.00am - 3.00pm. Cost \$20.00 whole day; \$15.00 half a day lunch included.

SPEAKERS -

Paul Brinkman, Director BM Cultural Centre.

Greg Bourke, Curator Manager, BM Botanic Gardens.

Lindena Robb, Visual Artist and Creative Performing Arts Teacher.

Lunch, Morning and Afternoon Teas will be provided.

Buy tickets soon as spaces are limited.

to Book ring **Julia 0408 336 635** or

Alan 47876983

Better yet, buy tickets at the next meeting on 18th February.

Project Report

Quotes have been received from three builders. The sub-committee decided that Monolith Constructions had the best quotation although it was not the cheapest one, as it was more detailed than the others and covered everything that we wanted. Monolith has indicated that they will be free to commence by the end of February or early March.

The construction of the Disabled Car Parking Space is under way. This will include the path at the specified slope of 1/14 down to the height of the slab. any top soil left over will be used to fill the screening garden between the toilet block and the car park.

Ongoing cutting and pulling of reeds in the Lake is being done as time allows. The last time I was in the water, a large black snake swam across from the island to the bank. Thought he was out of the way so as I was about to move to the next clump he swam past again. That clump will have to wait!

Geoff Cannings.

Membership Report

New members since last Newsletter are -

Betty Bogar - Leura, Mary Lawley - Blackheath
We warmly welcome these new members to our Society and invite them to become involved in our activities. Bill Webster

THANKS FROM A SRI LANKAN

During last year's Open Days, some one from Sri Lanka left a rewarding message for us in the Donation Box. The message reads - "Cleanest toilet in Australia. Thank you
— a Sri Lankan."

On Leave - Paul Ketelhohn

Paul is a very cheery person It was always a pleasure seeing him on the driveway or nearby. I would stop and talk to him while he had a rest from sweeping the driveway or whatever else he was doing. He would crack a few jokes or talk about the weather or anything to do with the Gardens.

Paul has done many things in his life. He has worked on the railways then the mines and later he went to sea on merchant ships. He gained a wealth of experiences then. He has lived in Tasmania and the Northern Territory before moving to Coffs Harbour and finally Blackheath where he is enjoying retirement. Other tasks he did besides sweeping were painting benches and helping make and position plant labels of which there were many. We miss his jokes and cheery laughs while he is recuperating. We also miss him at lunchtime when he'd join in telling stories or jokes to make us all laugh. Enjoy a good rest and we look forward to seeing you in the gardens again... Editor

Farewell to Mary Chernov.

Mary is a keen gardener who knows a lot about a wide variety of plants. She came each Monday to help in weeding the gardens which she did enthusiastically. Like all of us volunteer gardeners, she disliked the fiddly weed known as Dodder but she still attacked it when she saw it. Mary attended most meetings which she enjoyed. She sold her house in Mt Victoria to move to the North coast to be near her family, I believe.Editor

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

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



THE BLUE MOUNTAINS RHODODENDRON SOCIETY OF NSW INC.

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