

Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of New South Wales Inc

Inaugurated April 2nd 1969

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 19th AUGUST 2017
The Lodge
2:00pm Start

We welcome all members who have recently joined us, and visitors, to our 48th Annual General Meeting and election of Committee members for the ensuing 12 months. Afternoon tea will be served after the meeting. Please bring a plate of food to share.

Please note that members need to be financial to be able to vote.

ANNUAL membership RENEWAL fees for (1st July 2017 to 30th June 2018)
are still only \$11 per person per annum. See membership report below.

Election of new Committee

At this AGM a new Management Committee for the Society for 2017-2018 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 Vice two Presidents, one Honorary Secretary, one Honorary Treasurer and one Membership Secretary. Our Speaker at the Meeting has kindly consented to be the Chairperson for the election.

A nomination form is attached to this newsletter. If further copies are required please contact Julia on 47875728. Nomination forms must be returned to the Secretary by 10.00am Friday 11th August.

Returning Officer for our AGM will be Mina Howard, from RFS, HUFF, Rotary, Mt. Vic Community Association and associated with other community organisations.

GUEST SPEAKER: EDITH REWA

Edith Rewa is a Textile designer and illustrator. Her work dips into botanical and Natural History illustration with a special fondness for the native Flora and Fauna of the Australian Bush. She uses textiles to give her illustrations further purpose,

AND to ignite a sense of reverence in our natural native landscape and its offerings. Edith graduated from Bachelor of Arts (Textile Design) at RMIT, Melbourne with a small study detour to the Academy of Arts in Estonia. Edith has exhibited in group shows such as San Souci and Secret Garden (2015).

FROM THE PRESIDENT - ALAN'S ACCOUNT

Hello to everyone. Well winter has come to the mountains once again. No snow yet, but the water in our three birds' dishes at home has turned to ice two mornings in a row. Beanies and gloves are getting to be the order of the day for the Monday workers as well.

First of all, my thanks to Deb Wells and her Dodderings in the last newsletter, while Brenda and I were gallivanting around England for six weeks. My thanks also to Geoff Cannings and the other hard-working members of the committee who are seeing all their labours over the last two and a half years FINALLY coming to fruition – by the time you read this the new

toilet block will have been completed! Dick Harris and his crew are now in the process of landscaping the area – not to hide the block completely, but to soften the outline of the building. The committee is planning for the official opening (or is that the official first flushing?) to be performed just before the general meeting on the 16th September. More details at the AGM and in the next newsletter. Note – the new loos should be in operation as soon as possible after final completion, to enable problems in the system (if any) to be rectified before the Open Days start.

The rewiring of part of the Lodge has been completed, with old power leads removed and unsafe areas corrected. A number of new wall sockets were installed, and the lighting around the far end of the Lodge, above the 'office-bearers' table, has been updated. There is now also a dimmable spot light for the speaker's lectern, and an in-floor double power outlet installed for computer/projector presentations. Hopefully all this rewiring has removed the need for power leads to be run across the floor. Once again, our Open Days are starting to loom large on the horizon. This year they run from Saturday 30th September to Sunday 5th November inclusive, with the Lodge set-up day planned for Friday 29th September. We need volunteers each day the Lodge is open, to help set up and pack up, to man the Meet and Greet to welcome our many visitors and to sell plants, to sell Merchandise, and to work in the kitchen. Please ring Deb or Julia to let them know when you can help. Contact details are on the back of the newsletter. The work is very rewarding, and you always meet the nicest people possible (both visitors and other volunteers).

From Alan Lush

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Financial Investment Sub-Committee will be meeting with our Financial Planner in August for the MyNorth Investment annual review. Details of the review will be given at the September general meeting.

From Val Moorhead

Membership Secretary Report

As mentioned in the last newsletter, subscriptions to the Society, for the coming year June 2018 were due on 30th June 2017.

as of 7th July 73 members have renewed their subscriptions. Thank you to all these members. Two members have resigned and we have one new member. Welcome Mr John Abel. We have 9 life members and one patron (one life member is also a patron. This means that "96" members have disappointingly not yet paid their subscriptions, If you wish to continue as a member, receive the newsletter, attend meetings with a great afternoon tea and contribute to the upkeep of the Gardens please renew your subscription as soon as practicable. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society Inc. and if making a direct credit payment, the A/C name is Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society Inc. BSB 062507 A/C No. 10012075.(in the description, please note subs and your name.)

Bill Webster

VALE WILLIAM (BILL) DARLEY

10. 4 . 1926 - 14. 6 2017

William Darley and his wife Emily lived in Craigend Street Leura for many years. His love of gardens led him to join the Campbell Rhododendron Gardens in Blackheath in 1978-19080s. William Joined as a volunteer in the Gardens and became friends with Norm Campbell who planned and developed the Gardens. Emily, his wife joined as a volunteer for the Gardens with him. They were actively involved in the Gardens and went to the meetings regularly. He passed away peacefully at Morven Gardens Aged Care Facility in Leura.

From Beryl Black our retired Archivist

GARDEN REPORT

Since last month we have done a lot of work in the Conifer Garden area. Lester Ives (our tree contractor) cut down one large and dangerous Pinus Radiata and a Eucalypt that was dying. All these logs will be used to edge paths in this area in preparation to be used as a Protea area. The branches etc. have been chipped on site.

Some of the dead Eucalypt was cut into firewood and I delivered a load to Jacques to secure next year's lunch which he has kindly provided for us last year and this year.

Geoff and I did quite a lot of weed control in the Glade Walk area where there were many noxious weeds - ivy, privet, Himalayan honeysuckle and many other weeds. We only treated our area for weed control but there are a lot of weeds on neighbouring properties that is in seed. I have spoken to Lynda Thomas (Blue Mountains Council) about this and pointed out that this area is far worse than the area near the Quota Walk where the Council weed contractors have done some work. They still have to do more further down the swamp. I pointed out to her that the priority should be on the neighbour's property as much of it is in seed.

I have been to Plantmark and sourced some rhododendrons which I am holding at my place. We have registered to buy wholesale from Plantmark. We have used some wood chip to mulch freshly potted plants and also on some areas where bulbs are about to come up and where weeds have been treated. Weeds in various parts of the garden, including the planned Protea area, have been sprayed.

From Dick Harris

Advance Notice - September

Please note that the next General Meeting will be held on **Saturday 16th September**, as the Lodge will be in use during the Open Days which will be held between 30th September to the 5th November. New Loo opening before meeting!



PROJECT REPORT

Toilet Block. The toilet block is getting very close to completion. Dick is getting eager to get into the landscaping around it. There will also be some tidying up of the general parking spaces and repainting of lines. Tony Crawford will be back to install the fencing along the disabled car space and down the path to the toilet plus the installation of one bollard and this project will be finished.

Gates. The repair and rejuvenation of the entry and exit gates has been started but due to weather, grand kids and other commitments, it's been a long drawn out project, but should be completed in the near future.

Hand rails. When the gates are completed, we will start the installation of a hand rail along the bottom section of the Griffiths Path from the arch to the Shelter Shed.

The only other "projects" are small ongoing such as maintenance of seats, paths, bridges etc.

From Geoff Cannings - Project Officer.

The Changing of the Guard

The guardian of the Society's archives for over 20 years, Beryl Black, has finally decided to pass on the responsibilities of keeping the archives safe and accessible. Beryl and her husband, Sam, both became members in 1986, and quickly became friends with both Olive and Norm Campbell – so much so that Norm earmarked Beryl to take over the Society's paperwork saved from its inception. Beryl remembers Norm arriving with the precious archives in some fruit boxes, which required the lounge room floor to be the repository until they could be sorted into order and eventually stored in filing cabinets in the Lodge. Beryl was always very conscientious as Archivist, as well as being on the management committee for 15 years, but felt it was time for her to hand over her duties to someone with more experience in the trend to the computerisation of archives and their safekeeping.

I know the members will join with me in thanking Beryl for all the work she has done in her time with the Society. Her reminiscences will surely be welcome for inclusion in the book to be produced to coincide with the Society's 50th anniversary in 2019.

Alan Lush



A VIEW FROM THE VAULT

Many of our Society members probably aren't aware that the organisation has archives (the vault), but it does. Not only that, we have a very fine and comprehensive library that operates in parallel with the archives. Marion Freidman still carefully tends and organises the library. For many years Beryl Black has given the BMRS archives the most careful attention and has classified and arranged its contents systematically into filing cabinets within the library. Beryl is now retiring from her task and the Society is grateful to her for her hard work over many years. We'll continue the tradition of orderly arrangement she has established.

We wonder just exactly what an "archivist" is, and what such a creature actually does? The 'archive' which occupies the archivist's time, is a most important part of the continuation of any organisation for it tells the story of its existence and allows people through time to examine just exactly how the organisation evolved, who was part of it, what they did and why. It is the real proof of what it was and what it is, and this can be used as a basis for helping to plan what it might become in the future. The BMRS Archive is a very important tangible record of the structure and character of the Society and for that very reason its preservation is very important indeed. Proper organisation of this legacy is paramount.

It's easy to get bogged down in the seriousness of a task such as archival management and therefore it's important to maintain a lightness of mind when doing so. Here's a few (tongue in cheek) thoughts to get us into the right attitude and frame of mind

The Archivists Code of Practice

1. Keep what must be kept
2. Shred what must be shredded
3. Understand the difference between 1 & 2

The Reasons for getting involved in Records Management

Hunting for lost or needed documents adds excitement to an otherwise boring life.

Shuffling papers prevents dust from piling up and is therefore good housekeeping.

Being as confused as everyone else ensures that you fit into the organisation.

Moving piles of paper regularly is in fact a self-determined exercise regime and is good for you.

In future episodes of your newsletter I will try to bring things of interest out from the vault and let you see just exactly what we have actually got in there. There is much of interest and it will help us to appreciate the enormous effort that has been made to give us the magnificent gardens that we see around us today.

In the meantime.... And with an apology to Kenny Rogers and an old country and western song, when it comes to archiving...

"You've gotta know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em, know when to chuck away and know when to keep. You never overstuff your folders when they're in the filing cabinets, there'll be time enough for shredding, when the piles get deep".

Wayne Hanley

Wisdom even in the cold weather!

If you ever get cold

stand in a corner for a bit

They're usually around

90 degrees F

Guidelines for Voting at the Annual General Meeting.

Only financial members can vote, nominate or be nominated for a position on the Management Committee.!

1. 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.

2. *If more members are nominated than there are advertised 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..!*

3. *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..!*

4. *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..!*

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 14th August. !

Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of NSW Inc.!

NOMINATION FORM! Term 2017-2018!
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 this nomination

!

Signed.....
(Signature of Seconder)

ACCEPTANCE

I accept the above Nomination

Signed...

.....!
(Signature of nominated person)!

Nominations are to be return to the Secretary, P.O. Box 238! Blackheath, no later than 10am Friday 11th August 2017.

Management Committee 2016 - 2017

President

Alan Lush 4787 6983

Vice President

Deb Wells 4787 6724

Treasurer

Val Moorehead 4787 8267

Secretary

Julia Hanley 0408 336 635

Garden Supervisor

Dick Harris

Membership Secretary

Bill Webster 4787 6082

Committee Members: Geoff Cannings, Anna Martin, David Cook, Sonia Levitt, DiTwose, 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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