

Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of New South Wales Inc.

Inaugurated April 2nd 1969

January / February 2016

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 42 No. 1

PO Box 238 Blackheath 2785

GENERAL MEETING **Saturday 20th February 2016** **at The Lodge**

GUEST SPEAKER: Leonarda Kovačić:

Title of her talk is: "Zagreb, Croatia's green capital" including the Zagreb Botanic Gardens
Leonarda Kovačić is a photographic artist, historian, lecturer, tutor and curator. She has always been very passionate about nature and is a keen bushwalker. Leonarda came to Australia from Croatia in 1997.

Meeting Dates to be noted in your Diaries.

Sat. 20 Feb. General Meeting at 2.00pm. Guest speaker - Leonarda Topic - Gardens in Croatia.

Sat. 16 Apr. General Meeting at 2.00pm. Guest Speaker - Alan Lane. Topic - frogs in the Blue Mountains.

Sat. 14th May Annual Seminar - Topic will be Changes.

Sat. 18th June General Meeting at 2.00pm. Guest Speaker to be advised.

Sat. 20th Aug. Annual General Meeting at 2.00pm. Guest Speaker to be advised.

Sat. 17th Sept. General Meeting at 2.00pm. Guest Speaker to be advised.

Fri. 30th Sept. to Mon. 6th Nov. OPEN DAYS.

Sat. 10th Dec. Christmas Luncheon.

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

I hope 2016 is an enjoyable year for all members! We seem to have another busy one ahead of us both as a Society and as maintainers of the Campbell Rhododendron Gardens. A number of us have spent the summer watching over some recently planted shrubs, trees and other plants in the Gardens. Luckily for us there has been a fair amount of rain over the holiday break so hand watering has been kept to a minimum. Thanks to all those who have carried out this task as it has been required.

Garden volunteers are now back into work on Mondays after a couple of weeks break. There is heaps to do so if anyone feels like joining the

happy band please just arrive at the Gardens on a Monday morning about 9.00am.

You will find the years diary in this newsletter. We still have a few speakers to find for meetings later in the year but the early part of the year is organised. I am putting the last touches to a seminar day to be held on the 14th May with a theme of "Changes". Please put the dates in your diaries and come along as the more people we have the merrier the Lodge sounds!!!

The Management Committee is still awaiting someone to volunteer to fill the casual vacancy. If you feel able to do this please talk to me or any of the Committee members. It is important that we have some new people coming onto the Committee so that the Society remains energised and forward looking. The current committee is a great group of people to work with who are all committed to ensuring the future of the Gardens.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our February meeting.

From Julia

Open Gardens

The following website is one where beautiful and inspiring gardens in Australia can be found. These private gardens may be open to the public for charity, pleasure or for profit. It is a free service. However, access to information about Open Gardens and Events can only be made after registering onto the website. The website is info@myopengarden.com.au

Registration will enable visitors to know which gardens are open, where they are situated and their opening dates and times. Listings of Open Gardens within 100 kms of the members home town, will be sent each week.

Sonia L.

Project Report - Jan. 2016

It has been decided that we connect to the sewer line even before we receive approval from the Council for construction of the new toilet block.

Three plumbers, namely David Hellyer, Craig Pinicini and James Hall have been contacted. Quotes received for this job have been \$27,900 from Craig for a "one pump system" and \$28,600 from David for a "two pump system" as he

estimated that our electricity capacity is able to run such a system.

We have met David on site twice and he has been a third time with an electrician. David asked a lot of questions and made some verbal recommendations already and he strikes me as having a much more professional approach. James was not able to meet us on site until late January.

Brian Mercer from council has said the proposed development is considered supportable in principle but referred us back to Steve Kitching (who we met with last year) for further clarifications. Steve has been on holiday until Wed. 13th January this year and has not returned my call as at the end of that day.

I have been in touch with Richard Starr (architect) who asked for copies of correspondence from Council and said he will take up the Fire and Protected Area clauses (3.1 & 3.2) in Brians's letter and proceed with final drawings for Council. We will need to discuss final construction materials, colours etc before Richard can proceed. Of the two quotes received so far, I feel I would be more confident going with David.

We have a designated connection to the sewer at the bottom of Wentworth Street which is ideal as the trench can be dug on the site of the road which would improve drainage and make it easier to maintain. It will keep the whole system within the gardens.

No progress has yet been made on the repair of the tool shed due to more pressing matters.

Geoff Canning

When Young Jim took 'em on!!

(with apology to Banjo)

There was movement at the Gardens
For the word had got around
That Jim Moorhead was returning to the Lodge
For t'was nigh on open season
There were tourists to the fore
And six women in the kitchen to be dodged

Yet in spite of all such perils
Jim came willing to the task
The thought of six week's effort no constraint
So he mustered up his courage

And stepped right up to the sink
For he never was a bloke to voice complaint

Jim had trained the whole off-season
To be ready for the fray
His tea towel skills were never finer honed
With an edge to his demeanour
And an attitude right keen
He was ready, bring it on, let skills be shown!

And sorely they did test him
Day after frantic day
As the flurry took the kitchen to the brink
But Jim stayed right there with it
Midst a plethora of plates
Hour after hour, they filled his straining sink

Jim rose right up to that challenge
And six weeks on end he went
A lesser man might leave his post and run
But not our young Jim Moorhead
Seeing each day to its end
And in the evenings, counting takings, just for fun

Then at last the time was over
When the season drew to close
And the volunteers said "rest Jim, your work's done"
He replied, "No Need, I'm able
There's a bit more in me yet
Why ever not, I'm only 91"

So in years to come, when volunteers
All gather at the Lodge
They will talk in quiet tones, yet make a fuss
When they speak with awe and fondness
Of the time now long ago
When Jim Moorhead did the tourists
Bus by bus!

Wayne Hanley

Garden Report

The three paulonia trees donated by Julia have been planted in the valley.

A lot more holly, cotoneaster and other noxious weeds have been removed from the gardens along Bacchante Street. The grass in the camellia area and other sites have been tidied up and with the whipper- snipper and the lawn in the centre and the weedy grass along Bacchante Street were mown. Cutting of the grass in the valley was started and will be completed next Monday.

Reeds have been cut well below the water line in the lake. A great effort by Geoff.

We will make a concerted effort to put potash around the rhododendrons to promote good flowering next spring. The wayward wisteria along the Bob Baker walk was removed and the rhododendrons tidied up.

The produce store where we used to get our fertiliser has closed down. We don't need any at the moment - not necessary until winter. Hopefully a rodent proof storage shed will be available by then. The devilish rodents have chewed their way into the storage shed and the fertiliser stored in it.

One rhododendron on the Quota walk has died. We do not want to plant the same variety again on that site.

The skip has been repositioned. It is now much easier to access it for ourselves and for Cleanaway.

Dick Harris

Membership Report

The Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society has 166 financial members and 8 Life Members.

This month we welcome back Dr W. P. Nelson (a Past President) who has been involved in the Society for many years.

Regretfully there are 25 persons who have not renewed their membership this year. If you wish to remain a member and receive the Newsletters, please renew your membership as soon as you can.

Bill Webster

The Plant Collectors' Fair

Don't forget this popular annual event will be held on 9/10 April at the Hawkesbury Race Club, 1 Racecourse rd., Clarendon.

See website www.collectorsplantfair.com.

You will be inspired by the Guest Speakers and the displays of plants some of which are rare and little known from 70+ nurseries. This plant fair is open from 8am - 4pm on Sat 9th Apr and 9am-4pm on Sun 10th Apr.

Management Committee 2015 - 2016

President
Julia Hanley

Vice Presidents
Deb Wells

Garden Supervisor
Dick Harris

4787 5728

4787 6724

Secretary
Anna Martin

Treasurer
Val Moorhead

Membership Secretary
Bill Webster

0439 062 256

4787 8267

4787 6082

Committee Members: Geoff Cannings, David Cook, Judy Johnston



THE BLUE MOUNTAINS RHODODENDRON SOCIETY OF NSW INC.

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