

# Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of New South Wales Inc.

Inaugurated April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1969

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## NEWSLETTER

January/February 2010

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PO Box 238, Blackheath, 2785.

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### **General Meeting**

**Saturday 20 February 2010 at  
The Lodge - 2pm start**

**Dick Harris will be the guest speaker, talking about the A – Z of Rhododendrons.  
Definitely not to be missed!**

### **Special 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting**

**Saturday 13 March 2010**

**To commemorate the Society's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, there will be a short, informal, meeting in the Valley, near the new Members' Native Walk (down from the Wentworth Street entrance to the Gardens), starting at 11am.**

**Our guest speaker for the day, Kevin Brown from the Mount Tomah Botanic Garden, will officially open the "Members' Native Walk 2010". This will be followed by the planting of the President's Rhododendron by Judy Johnston.**

**All members and friends are then invited to return to The Lodge for a brief formal meeting, starting at 12 noon, after which a catered light lunch will be served.**

**Kevin Brown will talk about species rhododendrons, and Dick Harris will give a brief history of the beginnings of the Gardens. An opportunity will be given to members who wish to say a few words from the floor.**

**We hope you can make a special effort to attend and reminisce about the last 40 years!**

## *From the President - (Judy's Jottings)*

A happy and interesting new year to all!

This year, 2010, we celebrate two landmarks for our Society. It's forty years since the first 'on site' meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1970; as well, it's thirty five years since the official Newsletter was begun in September 1975.

A great deal has been achieved by volunteers and with generous donations throughout the years, and we realise the drive and determination of Olive and Norm Campbell and many others has created a splendid asset for all to enjoy.

At our February General Meeting, Dick Harris will be the guest speaker, and we'll have a special celebration to mark 40 years on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March – so we'll look forward to your company on both occasions.

Our Honorary Secretary Nancy Etccl has had her ups and downs recently, and is at present experiencing another set-back, so we wish her a speedy recovery. In Nancy's absence, Alan Lush will take on her duties and Robert Reid will be Minutes Secretary.

Best wishes to all.

*Judy Johnston – President*

## *New Members*

We warmly welcome the following new members and invite them to join in all the Society's activities:

Geoffrey & Elaine Cannings,	Blackheath
Miss Val Moorhead,	Blackheath
Lynne & Barry Stallard,	Blackheath
Brian & June Carpenter,	Kingswood

## *Obituary*

### **Joan Evelyn Storey MBBS, FRCOG**

**02/12/1921-05/11/2009**

Joan Storey was born on 02/12/1921 in the family home in Randwick, NSW, and passed away peacefully at her home in Blackheath on 05/11/2009 after a very full 87 years, much of which was spent in service to the community.

In her youth she proved to be a brilliant student and at Sydney University her years of study culminated in graduation in medicine in 1944. She was awarded the University Medal in Medicine, the first woman to have gained that honour.

She then worked as a resident at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, at one time as her father's resident, and here she decided on her career in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

As specialisation meant a trip to the UK she headed for London in 1948. Travelling as a ship's doctor, Joan was contracted as a seaman on the *Port Lyttleton* out of Melbourne. Her contract describes her as the "said seaman" with all reference to the male gender – a reflection of the fact that she must have had few, if any, male predecessors. It must have been odd for someone who later had very clearly formed views of the role of women in society.

In 1952 she was accepted as a member of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in England. On returning to Australia Joan worked first as a G.P., but was later able to set up as a specialist in Penshurst, with positions both in St. George and King George V Hospitals, where she built up a reputation as a wonderfully skilled and caring obstetrician.

Her skill and experience in obstetrics was such that she was the person for whom other colleagues called when they and their patient were in trouble. Many women and babies owed their lives to the fact that Joan walked through the theatre or delivery room door at the critical time. (cont.)

*Obituary for Joan Storey (continued)*

Before the introduction of the present health system the honorary medical officers were paid absolutely nothing for their care of public patients in hospital, yet Joan made no distinction between her public and private patients. All received the best she could give.

Joan retired to Blackheath in the early 1980s and from the start became involved in community affairs. She joined the Red Cross Society, which had been important to her since childhood, and it is due to her support and encouragement that the Blackheath branch has survived until today. Joan was always available for duty on the street stall, often in freezing conditions, and she spent much time knitting, as well as making marmalade and cakes for sale. She was Secretary of the Red Cross Society from 1985 to 1988.

While still a new resident in Blackheath, Joan took an active interest in the Blackheath and District Horticultural Society. She continued as an energetic supporter, adviser and steward at most of the seasonal shows. This included the 82<sup>nd</sup> Flower and Craft Show held in October 2009. She was particularly recognised for her knowledge of Australian plants which she promoted whenever possible. Joan established a native garden in her new home and in it encouraged the birds and animals to take up residence, for she loved them as well as the plants.

In order to extend her knowledge of the environment Joan attended a course on Outdoor Gardening at Katoomba TAFE in the 1980s, and when the course finished she joined with the Woody Pears group to undertake a weekly walk on Thursdays under the leadership of John and Olive Noble. The Woody Pears continued walking for some years until age made long walks impossible. The group still meets, though less frequently.

When the new Rhododendron garden was to be established in Bacchante Street, Joan was anxious that the existing native plants be appreciated and not overwhelmed by introduced plants. To this end she attended weekly working bees as well as meetings of the Society and its Committee on which she served for more than 30 years. At afternoon tea there was always a home baked cake made by Joan. Joan became President of the Rhododendron Society from 1992-94 and again in 2003-04, and was Secretary from August 1999 to 2001. As a reward for this continuing service she was made a life member from August 1996.

Propagating native plants for the Conservation Society was another of Joan's interests, and for 20 years she worked with the Bushcare group at the Blackheath Centenary Reserve, removing gorse and broom from the bushland as a monthly commitment. This work inspired her to initiate the removal of bushland weeds from the Rhododendron Garden, and with the help of others this resulted in getting rid of broom, gorse and groves of holly.

Joan was a long time member of the Australian Native Plants Society, and as a Friend of the Botanic Gardens she enjoyed visits and meetings held at Mt. Tomah. She was also a long time supporter of the Orpheus Strings, attending the concerts of this local group of musicians regularly over many years. She was also a member of the Blue Mountains Historical Society for some years, enjoying lectures about the local history of the Blue Mountains and the excursions which illustrated them.

To extend her general knowledge still further, Joan joined the University of the Third Age, and for many years attended classes in a variety of different subjects. Earlier in 2009 she attended a special course in Digital Photography in order to produce better photographs of small flowers.

In the brief time left for other activities Joan would be driving a friend without transport to an appointment, taking a meal to a friend who was not well, or helping someone in need. Her good deeds never ceased and were known to few, other than the recipients. It was very difficult to repay the kindness she offered. To have known Joan was a real privilege, and she leaves a gap in the lives of many in the Blue Mountains Community.

***Compiled by Joyce Brister, with the assistance of information from David Storey***

(Note – This obituary was also published in the Blue Mountains Gazette on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2010.)

## *Autumn Fundraiser*

Consideration is being given to holding a fundraiser at the Gardens in April, when the Autumn colours should be at their best. It will be run along the lines of the Spring Open Days, with The Lodge being open for one weekend and our renowned Devonshire Teas on sale. More information will be provided in the next newsletter.

## *Finances*

Included in this newsletter are a copy of the Society's Balance Sheet as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009, and a comparison of takings during the last four years' Open Days (which shows just how rewarding the efforts of the volunteers have been).

## *Fundraising Dinner*

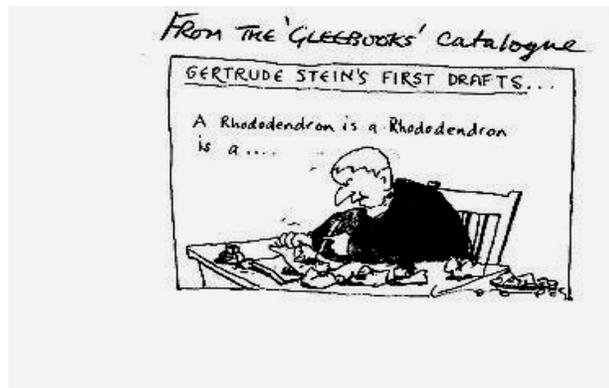
### **A Big Thank you to Our Sponsors.**

A very big thank you goes to Kerrie Ray of the New Ivanhoe Hotel for her work, champagne by the lake and provisions for the inaugural fundraising dinner held at The Lodge on Thursday December 17th.

A very big thank you to Bruce the Blackheath Butcher for donating the chicken for the entrée, and to Megalong Beef for sponsoring the event with their Angus Beef.

A great night was had by all. We raised a considerable sum for the Society, and will be having another fundraising dinner on Saturday March 27 at The Lodge. Three courses for \$55, BYO. There are only 32 spots available, so please get in early.

*Rob Emanuel*



<b>Management Committee 2009 - 2010</b>		
<b>President</b> Judy Johnston 47877298	<b>Vice Presidents</b> Rob Emanuel 0412 062 236 Alan Lush 47876983	<b>Garden Supervisor</b> Dick Harris
<b>Secretary</b> Nancy Etccl 47871580	<b>Treasurer</b> Joan Hailstone 47875859	<b>Membership Secretary</b> Bette Brown 47876463
<b>Committee Members</b> Jeannette Adrian, Beryl Black, David Cook, Les Hayward, Robert Reid <b>Editor</b> Alan Lush		