

# Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of New South Wales Inc.

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January/February 2013

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 39 No. 1

PO Box 238, Blackheath, 2785.

We welcome all members, especially those who have recently joined us, to our

### General Meeting Saturday 16 February 2013 at The Lodge 2:00 pm start

#### Guest Speaker

##### Paul Cosgrave

We are fortunate to have the local identity, Paul Cosgrave, as our guest speaker for the first meeting of 2013.

Paul is an accredited photographer, writer and broadcaster, starting off as a radio presenter & producer in regional NSW, Newcastle and Sydney before winning awards as a producer of radio documentaries.

He later branched out into media relations and research, and gained mediation accreditation which he used in designing and managing both corporate and community consultation processes. As a journalist, his images and stories covering arts and related events are seen in Australian regional media, among which is the *Blue Mountains Wonderland*, for which he writes the print and online editions.

As a photographer, Paul has exhibited both online and in Australia, and has supplied clients world wide.

Among his many other activities, Paul is a Past President of the Biznet Blue Mountains Chamber of Commerce, and a former Marketing Manager for Blue Mountains Tourism Ltd.

For our meeting, Paul will provide a 'travelogue' by showing us many of his exhibition photos of Iceland and Scotland, as well as allowing plenty of time for the questions that are sure to be thrown at him.

**Definitely not to be missed!**

#### New Members

We warmly welcome the following people as members of the Society, and invite them to become involved in all the activities the Society has to offer.

Manja & Peter Morey,	Blackheath,
Robert Leggo,	Medlow Bath,
Barbara Lehman,	Chain Valley Bay,
Ann Dooley,	Blackheath.

#### Advance Notice - 1 Autumn Working Bee

Please keep **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April** free for our annual Autumn working bee in the Gardens.

With the Lodge being the venue for "Gardening in the Blue Mountains" seminar the following weekend, we must have the Gardens looking at their best.

As usual, lunch will be provided for the volunteers.

#### Advance Notice - 2 Speaker for the April Meeting

In keeping with this year's activities relating to the bicentenary of the 1813 crossing of the Blue Mountains, the speaker for our meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> April will be the local author / historian **Ken Goodlet**.

More in the next newsletter.

### *From the President – Judy's Jottings*

Good wishes to all for 2013 which promises to be an exciting year, with celebrations for the bicentenary of the crossing of the mountains by the famous three, Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth.

At the Campbell Rhododendron gardens we have the prestige of hosting the fourth of the Seminars to recognise this event on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April. While priority will be given to our members and those of the Horticultural Society, numbers need to be confirmed early – so please phone Joan Hailstone on 4787 5859 to reserve your seat for this special event.

Following this theme, we have knowledgeable speaker Ken Goodlet for our April general meeting (20<sup>th</sup> April). Ken has studied the flow of people through the mountains during the earliest days of exploration.

A reminder to members old and new that the library is there for all to appreciate, with books available for borrowing which cover a wide range of garden associated topics. An ideal time to browse is before the general meetings, our first this year coming up soon (16<sup>th</sup> February) when we'll all look forward to meeting together once again.

*Judy Johnston – President*

### *Volunteering and Insurance*

Please remember that if you wish to volunteer at the Gardens, or are already in the happy position of being a volunteer (you meet the nicest people!), It is vitally important that your membership is current, otherwise you may not be covered by the Society's insurance policy if a claim for injuries suffered while working in the Gardens is made.

### *Terri Hamilton*

At the Christmas 2012 lunch, Terri Hamilton was unanimously elected as our latest Patron, joining Norm Campbell and Dick Harris in this exalted position within the Society.

### *Garden Report – Spring / Summer 2012-13*

I will start with the good news stories. This coming spring will again be fabulous with lots of flower bud set on the Rhodos. We have planted in the area alongside the in road a group of several Kalmias, which are new varieties. Some years ago Pat and I imported these varieties in tissue culture, and although it proved somewhat of a disaster (woody plants are not really successful in tissue culture) we managed to get just one of each to survive. I gave some cuttings to Batlow Rhododendron Nursery and he has kindly given us some lovely plants. Photos of these are on display in the Lodge. I am sure you will agree they are quite stunning, but it will be a while before they will be available for sale.

Now for the bad news. Last October we got quite a heavy snow fall and it did quite a lot of damage – many of our deciduous trees had branches broken. I can understand this as they were in leaf, holding up quite a weight of snow that would normally fall off in a winter fall. What I could not get over was the number of Eucalypts that had branches broken, and can only suggest that with the sap flowing in spring the branches were either heavier or more brittle. Whatever the case we had to clear and make safe many areas of the garden. There are still in some areas many widow makers hanging from trees.

As well as the above, the dreaded dodder has run rampant in a very short time in some areas of the garden – in particular on some plantings of Azaleas, and we have had to cut back some of these close to the ground. They will, however, make a very quick recovery, although some may not flower as well this spring.

During all of this we have had to keep up the regular maintenance, and I cannot thank enough the ever growing team of volunteers who work tirelessly to make your garden the icon that it is today. I could not have done without them, as some of you know Pat has ongoing complications from a broken ankle and foot that has been ongoing for over 7 months, and I am facing knee surgery – at the time of writing I am not sure of what or when. However, I am sure the team will not miss a beat, and your garden will continue to flourish.

*Dick Harris – Garden Supervisor*

## ***“Gardening in the Blue Mountains”***

### ***Seminars***

***April 12, 13, 14, 2013***

Information about these seminars was included in the last newsletter. However, as time is now of the essence to ensure those Society members who wish to attend are able to do so, please be advised that we need notification – **and payment** – from you no later than at our next general meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> February if you wish to attend.

The combined Blue Mountains Gardens Clubs are to hold five (identical) half-day Seminars in the Mountains on the above dates, as their primary contribution to the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the crossing of the Blue Mountains by Blaxland, Lawson & Wentworth in 1813.

The seminars are now to be held at Richmond, Springwood, Wentworth Falls, Blackheath and Lithgow. The Blackheath seminar will be held in the Lodge in the Gardens on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Attendance will be strictly limited to 70 people, with members of the Society, the Horticultural Society and the Katoomba Garden Club being invited. The Richmond, Springwood, Wentworth Falls and Lithgow venues are much bigger, with members of the public also invited to attend those venues.

As at late January, the Katoomba Garden Club have put in a block booking for 20 places at the Lodge, with about 30 places individually booked by Blackheath Horticultural and Rhododendron Societies members. Another 11 places have been allocated to some Wentworth Falls members, leaving about 8 places left to be filled by our members. There will be no tickets available to be purchased at the door of the Lodge on the day of the seminar. As Judy Johnston said in her Jottings, numbers must be confirmed early – so please phone Joan Hailstone on 4787 5859 to reserve your seat, and please pay Joan by the 16<sup>th</sup> February.

Raffles, with tickets costing \$2, will be drawn at each venue. Joan is still negotiating with some local sponsors to donate prizes for the raffle at the Lodge – hopefully there will be 5 interesting prizes to be won. Current sponsors include the Vegie Patch, on the corner of the highway and Govetts Leap Road, and the Ivanhoe Hotel which has been a long-time supporter of the Gardens.

General advertising of the Seminars has already begun, with media such as the *Blue Mountains Gazette*, the *Hawkesbury Gazette*, the *Lithgow Mercury* and the *Oberon Review* taking part. Even Gardening Australia is interested – two of the Seminar speakers are well-known ABC TV’s Gardening Australia presenters, Angus Stewart and Jerry Coleby-Williams, and the MC is Jennifer Stackhouse, former editor of *Gardening Australia Magazine*. The other 3 speakers are Bundeluk, of the Darug people, Professor Dr. Ian Jack of the Royal Australian Historical Society, and Alison Halliday, co-author of “A Passion for Place” (about Bells Line of Road gardens).

Some colourful Seminar brochures have been produced, and will be available at our next general meeting.

**This Seminar is not to be missed!**

## ***Native Plants Section***

At the last Management Committee meeting it was suggested that a new section be included in each general meeting – that of identification of, and discussion about, one or more native plants that members have brought in. It was thought that, with a number of members highly conversant with many natives and their habitats in the Blue Mountains, this could be an opportunity to spread their knowledge around, and possibly solve long-standing queries.

Of course, if any member has a rare and/or unusual native in their garden, please bring it along to share its details with all of us!

## ***Collectors’ Plants Fair***

This is an unpaid ad for Sydney’s treasured gardening event, which will be held on 13 & 14 April, 2013 at the Hawkesbury Race Club, Clarendon NSW.

Stalls are open 8am to 4pm Saturday, 9am to 4pm Sunday.

[www.collectorsplantfair.com](http://www.collectorsplantfair.com)

Telephone (02) 4567 2026 for details.

**Note – you can go on the Saturday, and still come to the Seminar on Sunday morning!**

**Management Committee 2012 – 2013**

**President**  
Judy Johnston  
4787 7298

**Vice President**  
Jeannette Adrian  
4787 7904

**Vice President  
and Garden Supervisor**  
Dick Harris

**Secretary**  
Alan Lush  
4787 6983

**Treasurer**  
Joan Hailstone  
4787 5859

**Membership Secretary**  
Marion Freidman  
4787 8416

**Committee Members** Beryl Black, Geoff Cannings, David Cook, Julia Hanley,  
Sonia Levitt, Val Moorhead, Diane Twose

**Meeting Hostess** Bette Brown

**Editor/Webmaster** Alan Lush

**website** – [www.rhodogarden.org.au](http://www.rhodogarden.org.au)

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