

Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of New South Wales Inc.

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July/August 2015 NEWSLETTER

Vol. 41 No. 4

PO Box 238 Blackheath 2785

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Saturday 15th August 2015 at The Lodge 2.00pm start

We welcome all members, especially those who have recently joined us, and visitors, to our 46th Annual General Meeting and election of Committee members for the ensuing 12 months.

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

ANNUAL membership RENEWAL fees (for 1st July 2015 to 30th June 2016)
are still only \$11 per person per annum.

For those members still non financial, a membership renewal form is enclosed.

Election of new Committee

At this AGM a new management committee for the Society for 2015-2016 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 three Vice-Presidents, one Honorary Secretary, one Honorary Treasurer and one Membership Secretary. Our speaker at the meeting, has kindly consented to be Chairperson for the election.

A nomination form is attached to this newsletter. If further copies are required please contact Julia on 4787 5728. Nomination forms must be returned to the Secretary by 10.00 am Friday 7th August.

GUEST SPEAKER: Peter Reeve

Peter Reeve is a leading Australian Interior Designer. He is the director of CRDesign which is a broad based interior design company. He has recently designed the refurbishment of the interiors of the iconic Hydro Majestic Hotel at Medlow Bath. We are very fortunate that he is able to speak to us at the AGM despite his being a very busy person.

We also are delighted that he is willing to preside over proceedings in conducting the election of Office Bearers and members to the Committee for the year 2015 - 2016.

Come and hear a very interesting talk about the refurbishment that has brought a historic local building back to life. So please make every effort to come to this meeting and bring your friends.

Short Special General Meeting before AGM
Before the 46th AGM a short Special Meeting
will be held at 2.00pm to announce the result of
the Postal Ballot to accept the revised
Constitution.

Advance Notice - September

Please note that the next General Meeting will be held on Saturday 26th September, as the Lodge will be in use during the Open Days in October.

REMINDER

Remember to vote for the adoption of the revised Constitution. Place your ballot sheet in the small envelope and then in reply paid envelope for posting. All ballot papers must be returned by 24th July.

Thanks to all members who have already sent in their ballot papers.

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

Hello to all members,

As I write this we are gripped in an "Antarctic Vortex" climate wise which means that it's very cold and some snow has fallen. I enjoy this time of year and the colder the weather the better the bulbs seem to flower in spring. The rhodos and azaleas are budding well promising us a great show when the weather warms up.

The volunteers have been working hard in the gardens, after months of tidying up after the snow and winds they are now able to tend the rhododendrons and azaleas. They have removed dead branches and released the trees and shrubs from the inevitable DODDER!! Gardens have been weeded and plaques found and polished. Some paths have been reformed and drainage improved.

The Gardens are a great place to work and its a happy band of people who spend Mondays working together to maintain them. Thanks for all your efforts.

We are still talking to Blue Mountains City Council about building a toilet block which will include an accessible toilet. Unfortunately this project will not be completed in 2015. However, access to the Lodge will be improved with a paved ramp giving a direct pathway to the Lodge door. This will be completed by the end of August.

The AGM this year will be preceded by a Special General Meeting which will announce the results of the postal ballot to accept the revised constitution. Peter Reeve will be the speaker and Returning Officer for the AGM. He will speak on an intriguing topic.... the interior design of the refurbished Hydro Magestic Hotel in Medlow Bath.

I hope you will all come and join us for our 46th AGM.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Julia

Vale Joan Wearne OAM

Joan Wearne was made a Life Member of the Society in April 2002. She died on 10th June 2015 at the age of 93.

Joan led a full and active life and was a member in at least 36 charities. She also typed the Society's Newsletter and was the editor for the late Norm Campbell for 23 years. She was given the award of the OAM for SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS on January 26 1998.

Joan and her husband George lived in Wentworth Falls since 1997. However her last twelve months of her life were spent in Boddington Aged Care Home.

Joan made such a positive contribution to the community that she will be sorely missed. Our thoughts go out to her family.

New Rhododendron Society Members

We warmly welcome three new members to our Society and we invite them to become involved in all the activities the Society has to offer.

Our new members are:-

Fiona Garrod

Blackheath

Sigi Cerveny

Blackheath

Alfred Milani

Blackheath

Special thanks to David Cook who has produced the 2016 calendar.

The pictures are particularly beautiful in this edition!! The calendar is still only \$8.00. It will be on sale at the AGM. The calendar makes a great present!

Sincere thanks to our Honorary Solicitor John Chapman

for all his help in ensuring the revised Constitution for the BMRS is acceptable legally. He spent many hours working on our behalf. John sees clients for the usual legal issues, Wills and Personal documents. John was a local Solicitor in Blackheath for more than 10 years! He is also an real estate agent trading as "Blackheath Village Realty", only 8 in NSW have both licenses! You could discuss some new ideas for marketing your Property while the market remains So Strong! **If you need his services he can be reached on [0419 005 949](tel:0419005949).**

GARDEN REPORT

The building-up and retaining of the path in front of the Lodge has been extended and completed after drainage was installed to take Lodge roof water under the path instead of washing over it.

Clearing has been started behind and around the Rhododendrons along the lower part of the Centenary Walk. Vegetation encroaching from up the hill contained a lot of dodder which was starting to transfer to the Rhododendrons. A cleared strip of 1/2 to 1 metre should make it easier to keep the dodder at bay. There is still more to do here as two dead rhododendrons need to be removed and replaced.

Some work has been done clearing rubbish, dodder etc in the Members Native Walk. Dodder is rife here as well, covering a lot of the ground.

The girls have done a lot of tidying up in the gardens near the Prior Bridge and they have cleaned the plaques.

There has also been ongoing removal of dead wood from rhododendrons and removal of dodder from the rhododendrons and azaleas in other areas as well as removal of weeds etc from in front of plant labels.

The bin was so full after work last monday it was necessary to have it emptied a week early to make room for more clearing up the following monday.

Growth has also been cut back from around other plaques and signs.

PROJECT REPORT

Accessible Toilet Block

We have received no reply yet from Council. I feel we should approach someone in Council higher up in authority than the desk people to find out what their problem is and why they are being obstructive for such a beneficial project.

Realignment of Path to Lodge.

I gave three reminders to the third contractor who looked at the job and three times he promised to do the quote that night but the quote still has not

been forthcoming and so I recommend we accept the quote Steven Pole of "Consider". Unfortunately Steven cannot start before 17th - 20th August, thus not before the AGM but at least it will be done for the Open Days.

Repair of Roadway and Tracks

I have received a quote from Crawford Earthmoving and would recommend that we go ahead with this. Tony has recommended he use a product called Asphaltic Cement. It can be obtained only in 1 tonne bags and he won't need more than half of this but it is used cold, the balance can be kept and used by ourselves for any other patching we need to do in the future. A cold mix product from Mitre 10 would be \$1500.00 per tonne in 20 kg bags is not nearly as good.

Geoff Cannings

A PLAN FOR CHANGES IN ENGLISH SPELLING!

The European Commission has just announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language of the European Union rather than German, which was the other possibility.

As part of the negotiations, the British Government conceded that the English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a 5-year phase-in plan that would be known as Euro-English.

In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c". Certainly this will make the sivil servants jump with joy. The hard "c" will be dropped in favour of "k". This should klear up confusion and keyboards kan have one less letter.

There will be growing public enthusiasm in the second year when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced with "f". This will make words like fotograf 20% shorter.

In the third year, public akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expected to reach the stage wher more komplikated changes are possible.

Governments will encourage the removal of double letters which have always ben a deterrent to akurate spelling.

Also, al wil agre that the hoibl mes of the silent “e” in the language is disgrasful and it should go away.

By the 4th yer people will be reseptiv to steps such as replacing “th” with “z” and “w” with “v”.

During ze fifz yer, ze unesesary “o” kan be dropt from vords containing “ou” and after ziz fifz yer, v vil hav a reil sensibl riten styl.

Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech ova. Zr drem of a united urop vil finali kum tru.

Und efter ze fifz yer, ve vil be speking German like zey vunted in ze forst plas.

From Alan Lush

MARY BAIRD

Mrs Mary Baird, a long time resident and gardener of the village of Blackheath, penned this poem in 1997. It pays tribute to the many dedicated volunteers responsible for the conception, establishment and ongoing care of this beautiful Blue Mountains garden.

A SPECTACULAR ACHIEVEMENT

Knowledge, friendship, pleasure encased in a beautiful wrap,

Securely bound together in a wily nature trap,

Glorious rhododendrons display tresses red, pink, mauve and sunshine yellow,

Pristine white, vibrant, soft and often mellow.

Maples, dogwoods, cherries, camellias and azaleas bright

Enhance the attractive scene - a sheer delight!

In the valleys and on the slopes the lovely natives grow,

Into the lake the clear waters of the creek gurgle and flow.

In the tiny cascades water insects play,

Giving the children pleasure on their adventurous day.

Visitors from around the world so wide

Disembark from tourist buses parked side by side,

And pedestrians and those arriving by car

Are happy to journey from districts near and far

To enjoy the beauty in the invigorating air

As they wander the paths constructed with care.

The volunteers worked hard a grand plan to devise,

Approved and supervised by gardeners wise,

A community effort, of one to be proud,

For those wonderful workers, sincere comments and praises loud.

As the flora nature unveils, 'twill be a splendid visual feast,

The Blue Mountains Bacchante Gardens of Blackheath.

Note- In November 2001, it was decided to rename the Bacchante Gardens as the Campbell Rhododendron Gardens in honour of Mrs Olive Campbell and Mr Norman Campbell in recognition of the many years of hard work they did in establishing these Gardens.

BOB BAKER

Near the Lodge are two wooden pergolas covered with wisteria. On the first pergola is a simple board with the name Bob Baker. These pergolas cover part of the Bob Baker Walk. Who was he? Bob was on of the first volunteers to work in the Gardens from when work began in 1970. He took part in developing the lake and in working to clear blackberries and rubbish from that area in 1972. He helped in building a strong fence along Ridgewell Road and from the highway to the main entrance and he helped to plant many rhododendrons etc. In 1976 he was noted for “being outstanding in his work of planting”.

Source- History of Gardens by Olive Campbell

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.

The Management Committee consists of:

President

up to 3 Vice-Presidents

Treasurer/Public Officer

Secretary

Membership Secretary

up to 7 Committee members

The committee positions of Archivist, Garden Supervisor, Newsletter Editor, Publicity Officer(s), Social Secretary and Webmaster will be confirmed at the first Management Committee meeting in September.

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 2015-2016

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 nominated person)

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 7th August 2015

Management Committee 2014-2015

President

Julia Hanley

4787 5728

Secretary

Joan Hailstone

4787 5859

Vice Presidents

Judy Johnston 4787 7298

Sonia Levitt 4787 5502

Treasurer

Val Moorhead

4787 8267

Garden Supervisor

Dick Harris

Membership Secretary

Marion Friedman

4787 8416

Committee Members: Geoff Cannings, David Cook, Alan Lush, Deb Wells

Meeting Hostess: Deb Wells

Editor: Sonia Levitt

Website: www.rhodogarden.org.au

**Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society
of NSW Inc**

PO Box 238 Blackheath 27885

