

Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of New South Wales Inc.

Inaugurated April 2nd 1969

**June / July 2018
NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 44 No. 3

PO Box 238 Blackheath 2785

**AGM
Saturday 18th August 2018
at The Lodge
2.00pm start**

**We welcome all members, especially those who have recently joined us, and visitors.
Afternoon Tea is served after the meeting, please bring a small plate of food to share.**

AGM PLANT SWAP

Instead of a speaker at the AGM, we will have a plant swap which should be great fun. Bring along a few small potted plants from your garden and swap them for someone else's.



From the President: Alan's Account

As you will see from elsewhere in the newsletter, the 49th Annual General Meeting of the Society is to be held on Saturday 18th August in the Lodge. At that meeting you will hear how the Society has progressed over the last 12 months, and perhaps what is starting to be planned for our 50th anniversary next year. The AGM is also the time for the election of a new management committee for the following 12 months. To this end you will find at the back of the

newsletter both a form to be used for the nomination of management committee members, and guidelines for voting at the AGM in the event that a secret ballot is required during the election process.

The saga of the installation of the 'Telstra Go Smart Repeater' package has taken a while to resolve. Despite hoping that everything would be in and running by the June meeting, that didn't happen. However, by the time you read this, the installation, which is now due to be completed and tested on the 16th July, will (hopefully) be done and dusted, with full mobile phone access available within the Lodge itself.

An Open Days sub-committee has been meeting in the last few months, with planning progressing on everything from menus to merchandise to members on rosters. More on this in the next newsletter, but may I ask now that you think about doing your bit for the Society (and the Gardens) by volunteering some of your time to help in the kitchen, or in the merchandising area, or on the Meet and Greet. An orientation session will be given for all areas before the Open Days start.

Lastly – the weather. Up here in Blackheath we are still waiting for some decent rainfall. The total for the first six months of this year is only half the amount we received in the same period last year (368 mm this year, 738 mm last year in our rain gauge in Evans Lookout Road – or 360 mm and 745 mm at the official weather station at Mount Boyce). Just keep your fingers crossed for a good flowering season this year.

Alan Lush – President 2017-18

From the Vault:

Wayne is having the trip of a lifetime so no Vault this time.

Marketing Report:

Our listing on the My Open Garden website is complete www.myopengarden.com.au as is the Your Wedding - Our Garden page on our own website rhodogarden.org.au

I am very pleased with the result of both - do take a look. Please also put up reports on tripadvisor.com all reviews help to raise our listing for potential visitors to see. Web listings are on-going work and I am gradually getting on top of them. Thank you to Jennie Curtin for the great editorial in the Gazette which hopefully will stimulate new membership.

We are now on the task of promoting the up-coming Open Days season...yes it is that time again.

Deb Wells - Marketing Officer



Garden Report:

I have finished the stone wall (seat) in the Kovac area; not the best stone wall I have built but one has to use what stone is available. I have also planted some Alpine Phlox and Red Dianthus in the beds near the bridge over the lily pond. We have had to do quite a lot of watering on the recently planted plants.

We have finished planting in the Protease area except for a few more Waratahs which I have to obtain.

There has been quite a lot of tidying up particularly where there has been a large drop of leaves and bark from the Eucalypts.

Path and track maintenance has also been done and removing Dodder and dead wood from Azaleas and Rhododendrons which seems to be a weekly task. The big bin has had 2 large posts cemented in behind the bin and stayed by some steel posts. This is to stop the contractor pushing the bin back onto the Banksia behind it.

Geoff and I have been in the lake and spread the same product as I sealed it with when it leaked several years ago. Fingers crossed it works again now.



I have also sprayed weeds and the girls have done an amazing job getting rid of Ivy on the wall of the lake.

Dick Harris - Garden Supervisor

Project Report:

Monday 5th June was quite a productive day around the lake. The girls pulled a skip load (I said **SKIP** load) of ivy from among the ferns on and below the dam wall.

Dick and myself put on waders and distributed water sealing granules by wading around in the water as the level was low enough to do this. Unfortunately it was still deep enough to come over the tops of Dick's boots and fill them up but shallow enough that when I tripped on a sunken branch near the edge, I got wet only on my front side. The water is quite cold at this time of the year. As this job has now been done, we have no need for the boat we were looking for. Thanks to the two people who offered to loan theirs.

While we were there, we came up with a few more ideas to make improvements in this area. These have since been approved by the committee.

The first idea is to neaten up the edges of the Andy Johnson area below the dam with rocks retaining some extra soil to level the edges where they slope off towards the swamp. We can use rocks left over from the wall in the Kovak area and which need to be moved anyway and we have a large pile of soil on the lawn from which we can get the soil.

Some time ago, in heavy rain, we noticed that a large flow of water was rushing down the track beside the Species Valley and so a berm was constructed to divert this into the natural water course of the valley. However, we noted while working around here now, that this water course discharged just below the dam overflow. It was considered possible to divert this flow a few meters across to empty into the dam itself and, as water is in such short supply lately, this job will be undertaken as soon as possible.

We have been considering improving the signs at the entrance to the gardens and at the moment, the Men's Shed is doing some pricing for us.

Before our next Open Days we will be:

- * Painting the lines again in the car park.
- * Installing a 10km/hr\Shared Zone sign beside the in road.
- * Improving the path beside the gazebo into the central area.
- * Placing a rail along the front of the native garden near the toilet block to prevent visitors taking a short cut across the garden.



Any new volunteers who feel able to assist with any of these tasks would be welcome.

Geoff Cannings - Project Supervisor

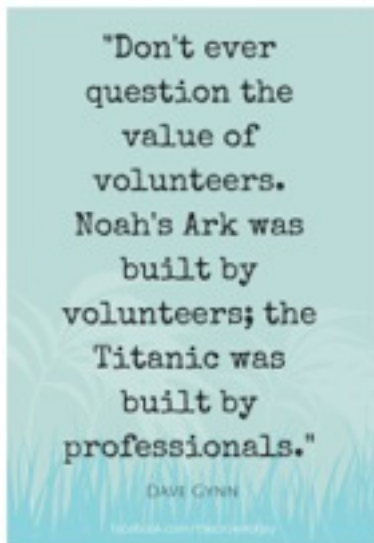
Membership Report:

Thank you to all members who have renewed their subscriptions for the 2018-2019 year. A reminder for all others that their subscriptions are now overdue and you can renew them by cash, cheque to Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of NSW Inc. or electronic funds transfer to: Acct: Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of NSW Inc
BSB: 062-507
Acc number: 10012075
In the description area please note: "sub" and your "initial and surname" so we can identify you!

Welcome to our new member Alberto Tolas who has also joined the Monday workers.

Bill Webster - Membership Secretary

THE RHODO GARDENS NEEDS YOU



Volunteers are needed to join the Monday Workers. What are the advantages?

- * Have fun - especially at coffee & lunch breaks
- * Enjoy the occasional barbecue lunch
- * Partake in a truly excellent Xmas function
- * Meet fellow garden lovers
- * Learn about cold climate gardening
- * Partake in a Volunteers drinks night
- * No need to commit to every week

What do I do to join the Monday Workers?

Just turn up at 9:00am on a Monday. Bring a hat, your gardening gloves, your lunch & whatever else you need for a day in the garden. Come into the Lodge to put your valuables in a safe place and to be assigned a task.



By The Way:

Open Days are just around the corner. We had a very productive planning session with our new Kitchen Organiser Eva Ellison. Eva is looking forward to the **Orientation Day at 10:00 on Sept 17th.** If you are a new member and want to know how you can help, please contact Eva on 0415750525 info in next months newsletter.



Librarian Needed

Marion Freidman is stepping down from this position after many years of tireless work. Thankfully she is not leaving us completely. Marion will still be washing and ironing up a storm during Open Days. The Management Committee would like to thank Marion for all her hard work on Library organisation.



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Lynn's Rare Plants Announcement

An update of plants is now available online at www.lynnrareplants.com.au. Many of them are fairly large divisions as we are going to be moving house this coming spring/summer so are digging & dividing the collection in the garden here. Any questions you can contact us on (02) 4784 3101



Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of NSW Inc.
PO Box 238, Blackheath, NSW 2785

Membership form
1st July 2018 - 30th June 2019

Please circle preferred title: Mr., Mrs., Ms., Other _____

SURNAME/S _____

GIVEN NAMES _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

TELEPHONE _____ MOBILE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

DATE _____ SIGNATURE _____

PLEASE INCLUDE ALL NAMES WHERE MORE THAN ONE MEMBER IS APPLYING / RENEWING

Membership renewal (\$11.00 per person) \$ _____

New Member (\$11.00 per person) \$ _____

Donation (optional) \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Paid by: (please circle) Electronic funds transfer Cash Cheque

Electronic Funds Transfer to: Acc name: BM Rhodo Soc BSB: 062-507 Acc number 10012075
In the description area please note: "sub" and your "initial and surname" so we can identify you!

Renewals / New memberships to be forwarded to: Membership Secretary, PO Box 238, Blackheath 2785

Please circle areas of interest: Volunteer for Gardening Volunteer for Lodge Open Days

Please tell us of any special skills you have:

Please circle how you would prefer to receive the Newsletter: Email Post

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Receipt Number _____ Date: _____

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 following form, fill it in and post it to the address shown on the form by 10:00 am on Friday 10th August.

Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of NSW Inc.

**NOMINATION FORM
Term 2018-2019**

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 Secunder)

ACCEPTANCE

I accept the above nomination

Signed.....
(Signature of nominated person)

Nominations are to be returned to
The Secretary, P.O. Box 238 Blackheath,
no later than 10am Friday 10th August 2018

Management Committee 2017 - 2018

President

Alan Lush 4787 6983

Secretary

Pam Nash 0417 485 592

Treasurer

Val Moorhead 4787 8267

Vice President

Deb Wells 0418 622 307

Garden Supervisor

Dick Harris 0439 878 33

Membership Secretary

Bill Webster 4787 6082

Committee Members: Geoff Cannings, David Cook, Di Twose, Sonia Levitt, Mary Lawley, Brough Warren, Julia Hanley

Meeting Hostess: Judy Johnston:

website – www.rhodogarden.org.au

Webmaster: Deb Wells

Editor: Julia Hanley

Any articles or news for the Newsletter, please send to Julia email julia@hanley.ws Thank you



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BOX 238, BLACKHEATH NSW 2785**