

# Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of New South Wales Inc.

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

May / June 2014

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 40 No. 3

PO Box 238, Blackheath, 2785.

### General Meeting Saturday 21 June 2014 2pm start in The Lodge

We welcome all members, especially those who have recently joined us, to our  
*Mid-winter Meeting*  
Browse in the Library - there are books there for everyone.

The General Meeting will begin at 2.00pm, will include a special wine tasting, and will be  
followed by our usual delicious *Afternoon Tea*

#### June Guest Speaker Barbara Tyrrell of Dryridge Estate Wines

The speaker at the next meeting on June 21st will be **Barbara Tyrrell** from Dryridge Estate Wines in the Megalong Valley.

Barbara is one of the owners of the Dryridge Estate and over the last 15 years has helped her husband develop the cold climate vineyard. She will speak about, selecting the site, the development of the vineyard and a thriving wine business.

She will bring some wine for us to sample, which should make this a meeting not to be missed!

#### Special Event

Also on the 21<sup>st</sup> June, **Sabine Erika** will be planting a Rhododendron in the Gardens to commemorate her time as President of the Rhododendron Festival Committee. This will take place at 1:30 pm, immediately before the General Meeting. All are welcome to attend.

#### Annual Membership Fees Due

Please note that the ANNUAL Membership RENEWAL Fees (for 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015) are now due, so there will be an opportunity to pay early at this meeting.

Still only \$11 per annum

The Membership Form is attached to this newsletter

#### Advance Notice for August 2014

The Society's 45<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and election of committee members for the year 2014/2015 will be held at The Lodge at 2pm on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

**Mary Moody** will be the guest speaker (more next issue) and has kindly agreed to act as chair of the meeting during the election.

If you want to be happy for a short time,  
get drunk;

Happy for a long time, fall in love;  
Happy for ever, take up gardening.

*Chinese proverb*

### *From the President – Julia’s Say*

Hi to all readers,

I hope your autumn has been colourful, it certainly has been at the Gardens. The Maples seem to be redder than usual this year.... maybe it's the warmth in the air. What a wonderful time of the year!

As promised, feedback from the Management Plan. We are currently continuing to work on completing the Lookout Project. The next stage is to erect two stone pillars on each side of the entrance to the walkway out to the actual Lookout. We have asked a local stonemason to build these pillars for us. The pillars will have a plaque on the top. The plaques will be revealed at the Opening Ceremony on the 27th September. Graham Ross from Better Homes and Gardens will be “cutting the ribbon” to officially open the Lookout on that day and will speak at our General Meeting which will be held after a light lunch. More details in the next newsletter.

A number of other items are in the initial stages of being worked on. These include gutter replacement on the Lodge, name tags on more plants, the 2015 calendar, a revision of the 1970 Constitution, new merchandise, and a poster to encourage visitors to become members. I will continue to update you in succeeding newsletters.

A big THANK- YOU to **Dick Harris** for his generous donation of new Daphnes and Lilacs to rejuvenate the Scented Garden area, along the Bob Baker Walk. Dick has also bought a number of new plants which have been planted under and around the Lookout.

I would love to see you all at the June meeting when Barbara Tyrrell from Dryridge Wine Estate will tell us about growing cold climate vines and winemaking. She will also bring some of their wines for us to taste.

The AGM will have Mary Moody speaking. She will also be the Returning Officer.

I would still like to hear from anyone who is interested in helping the Rhododendron Society by becoming its next Secretary.

Looking forward to catching up with you all in June,

*Julia Hanley – President 2013-2014*

### *Garden Report – May 2014*

We have now had a short dry period and it appears the Lily Pond near the Pryor Bridge is **not** leaking.

There have been 15 Daphne & Dwarf Lilacs planted in the scented garden area. The Daphne varieties are Daphne Odora Rubra (Common Daphne), Daphne Bholua and Daphne Bholua Alba (Tree Daphnes), Daphne x Burkwoodii and Daphne x Burkwoodii variegata, Daphne Genkwa (Deciduous Daphne), and Daphne Retusa (a slow growing dwarf shrub). The Lilacs are Syringa Afghanica (syn Syringa protolaciniata or syn Syringa laciniata) (Afghan Lilac), Syringa Josikaea (Hungarian Lilac), Syringa Persica (Persian Lilac) and one other Syringa which needs its name to be verified. We have also planted 13 Waratahs in the area around the picnic tables – 2 White, 2 Yellow, 2 Crimson, and 7 Red.

The Lookout has been finished, and landscaping around it has been carried out with Rhododendrons and Banksias.

We have been given a very large Wollemi Pine which will be planted in the Glade area. In addition 2 Davidia (Dove Trees) which were donated by Van de Vens in Victoria have been planted, one in the valley and one in the area inside the In and Out roads.

Weed control has been ongoing and always will be. However we have made some huge progress in the conifer garden area and have treated fresh germination in the Glade area. The Monday workers have been removing Dodder from the start of the Bob Baker Walk, and from the Azaleas on the right side of the start of the Zig Zag path. These were cut back hard a couple of years ago but may have to be done again after they flower.

Of course the never-ending tasks of tidying up, keeping the tracks clear, and watering recently planted plants has also kept us busy.

*Dick Harris – Garden Supervisor*

### *Resignation of Diane Twose*

For personal reasons, Diane Twose has tendered her resignation from the Society’s Management Committee. However, she will remain a member of the Society.

## *April General Meeting*

The following is a brief summary of the last General Meeting, held at the Lodge on Easter Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April

President Julia Hanley welcomed the 22 members and 1 visitor present to today's meeting. 13 apologies were received and noted in the Attendance Book.

**Dick Harris's** Garden Report can be found on Page 2 of this newsletter.

In General Business, **Julia Hanley** commented that the Lookout is now open to all, with some plantings in place around the disturbed areas. She was still following leads regarding stonemasons for 2 obelisks which will bear plaques to acknowledge the original nurserymen and the 'name' of the Lookout. Graham Ross, possibly with his wife Sandra, has agreed to officially open the Lookout on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September, with the General Meeting to be held on the same day. (Note – the 2 obelisks have now been built, one on either side of the Lookout.)

The Management Plan, a continually updated document, will be available for perusal in the Lodge at all times.

In the absence of a formal speaker, members were invited to talk about favourite flowers and gardens, with items given by **Judy Johnston, Sonia Levitt, Julia Hanley** and **Jeannette Adrian**, and photos taken by **Alan Lush** of last year's Chelsea Flower Show also being shown.

Afternoon Tea included Hot Cross Buns and Easter Eggs for all.

## *The digital age is amazing!*

A young girl visiting the Campbell Rhododendron Gardens with her mother earlier in the year dropped her SD (Secure Digital) card which was full of photos she had taken. These cards are very small but often brightly coloured. The young girl thought the card was lost to her and was very sad as it was full of pictures of her school friends and family.

Her mother decided to contact the Rhododendron Society through our web site.

The family now live in Mullumbimby and had been in Blackheath on Holiday. As luck would have it, a Monday volunteer had picked up the SD card and we had hung it in the Meet and Greet Shelter so that anyone looking for it would find it. The mother was told this and with great certainty we felt we had resolved the problem and one young girl would be very glad. However when we went to retrieve the SD card it had gone. One young girl was told it had gone so she was very sad!

Several months later we received an email from her mother telling us they had the SD card! "Someone" had taken the SD card but had realised it was full and had printed out a couple of the photos. One was of children in school uniform, and "someone" saw the Mullumbimby Public School crest. One was of two adults. "Someone" then contacted the school and the office staff recognised the adults. Through the supplied phone number, contact was made and one young girl had her precious SD card returned to her!

*How amazing is that!!!*

## *Norm Campbell reminiscences*

As you will recall, **Norm Campbell** passed away a year ago – on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2013. Earlier on he was interviewed by **Beryl Black**, with his reminiscences to be included in the Society's archives.

In the next newsletter we will include what Beryl has written up from that interview. In the meantime, here is a "Teaser".

"Many will recall the famous "Apple Cabin" in Hartley, which had a large model of an apple mounted on the apex of the roof. It became a well known feature for tourist coach captains to show passengers. The Apple Cabin still stands – it is now the tool and equipment shed at the Rhododendron Gardens at Blackheath."

**Management Committee 2013 – 2014**

***President***

Julia Hanley  
4787 5728

***Vice Presidents***

Judy Johnston 4787 7298  
Sonia Levitt 4787 5502

***Garden Supervisor***

Dick Harris

***Secretary***

Alan Lush  
4787 6983

***Treasurer***

Val Moorhead  
4787 8267

***Membership Secretary***

Marion Freidman  
4787 8416

***Committee Members*** Jeannette Adrian, Beryl Black, Geoff Cannings,  
David Cook, Joan Hailstone

***Meeting Hostess*** Bette Brown

***Editor/Webmaster*** Alan Lush

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

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