

Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of New South Wales Inc.

Inaugurated April 2nd 1969

**May / June 2015
NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 41 No. 3

PO Box 238 Blackheath 2785

GENERAL MEETING Saturday 20th June 2015 at The Lodge 2.00pm start

We welcome all members, especially those who have recently joined us, and visitors.

GUEST SPEAKER: BRUCE FERRIER

“A Trip down Memory Lane with Grace Gibson Productions”. Bruce Ferrier is the owner of Grace Gibson Productions. He has been involved in radio productions since 1972 as well as syndication and voice over work. He has developed the Grace Gibson Production Company into a modern business which reproduces the original shows. These are sold online and are a great source of happy memories for those who used to enjoy listening to radio serials.

Afternoon tea will be served after the meeting. To help celebrate the “Noughties”, it would greatly appreciated if you could bring a plate please.

From the President. Julia’s Say.....

Since last writing many actions have happened. The Constitution revision has been taking much of my time. It is now with the Honorary Solicitor, John Chapman who is doing a sterling job liaising with others who need to be involved. The Committee hope that the revised Constitution will be sent out to you in July along with the postal ballot papers. I urge you all to vote for the adoption of this revised constitution as it will bring us up to date with current legislation. Please remember we need 75% of members to vote in

the affirmative for it to be adopted. As soon as the package arrives please read it and send your vote back to us in the replied paid envelope. I do hope we can achieve the requisite vote as it has taken over a year of careful work, by a number of people, for us to develop what I’m told is a very good document.

The new toilet block is under way, not in a construction sense... That would be asking for the approval to be simple and move more quickly!!! At this stage we have submitted conceptual plans to Council and have spoken to someone there who can help guide us through the requisite approvals etc. Thanks go to Geoff Cannings who is patiently guiding this process.

Something we may be able to complete more quickly is an extensive paved ramp up onto the Lodge verandah. David Cook has drawn up a design and Geoff will co-ordinate this construction. As usual we will make sure we spend our money wisely! Once the ramp is in place we can revamp the garden under and behind the Rhodo. Yakushmanum hedge near the Lodge.

Please come to the June meeting and bring your friends. I hope it will be a great celebratory day for all those who are near a decade birthday... Bruce Ferrier will tell a wonderful story.

See you all there! From Julia

Garden Report

We have now taken down or had Lester take down any broken branches too high for us and trees that were a danger to the walking tracks, parking area and road. A huge heap of these have been chipped by Lester.

Weed control has taken place with follow up treatments in the Glade Walk area, the conifer garden area and jasmine has been removed from around camellias and rhododendrons just across the Pryor bridge. In the Glade Walk area a small area of ferns was covered with honeysuckle, this was sprayed out and the fern has now been replaced by digging up and dividing ferns from the surrounding area. A large privet that was in seed on the neighbouring property has been treated.

Linda Thomas, BMCC Weed Officer has been talking to us about their Bush Backyards programme which may get us some help in our weed control and also clean up weeds on neighbouring properties. I agree with the programme but differ with some of her suggested methods of control - I have told her so. With the amount of weed we have controlled in the gardens but without using my methods the spread of weeds would have overtaken our efforts.

We are ready to replant fern around the Pryor bridge and drain the area. Hopefully this can happen while I'm away.

No doubt Geoff will have some more to report on for the weeks I'm away before the next meeting.

from Dick Harris

VALE Merle Hadley 27.2.1926 to 19.1.2015

Long standing member Merle Hadley died in Corowa in January 2015 at the age of 88. A loyal, caring and perceptive friend and supporter of the Society, Merle was a great advocate for our gardens.

After finishing High School, Merle studied accountancy at Sydney Technical College at night, while working with an insurance company and then as a ledger keeper at the Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd at various Sydney branches. In 1944 she and a young bank officer, James Hadley, were married after Jim had served in the military forces in the islands north of Australia.

Jim's first post war appointment was to Inverell - the start of several moves to country towns in NSW where the pair spent many hours creating beautiful gardens. After Jim retired in 1981 they moved to Katoomba, at Echo Point where Merle relished the cool- climate garden featuring rhododendrons and azaleas. They also joined the Woody Pears, a walking group organised by John and Olive Noble and other conservationists (including Joan Storey) and learnt to identify many local native plants and animals.

Merle had many other interests including family history research, Australian history, pottery, music, archival work in local museums or historical societies as well as embroidery, machine sewing, cooking and computing. Her community activities included Red Cross (for which she was awarded a medal for long service) the Hospital Auxiliary, the View Club, the National Trust, and the Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society.

Merle and Jim joined our Society in the mid-1980s and were both active members regularly attending meetings. Jim's banking skills were welcomed and he served as Honorary Treasurer from August 1989 to August 1995. He became Life Member in September 1995. Merle helped greatly during our Open Days each year and always enjoyed her visits to our Gardens. On moving to Cowra they were pleased that their retirement village was adjacent to the Japanese Gardens, another peaceful place they could enjoy.

Merle made a positive contribution in so many fields and will be missed very much in all those activities. Our thoughts go out to Jim, their two daughters and their families.

From Jeanette Adrian

EXTRA SPECIAL TRIP!

B M ZONE GARDEN CLUBS COACH TRIP -
weekend of 22-24 October 2016

The Central Blue Mountains Garden Club is organising another Coach trip for the weekend of 22nd to 24th October 2016. Previous trips have been to Hunter Valley wineries, and Berry Garden Festival/ Southern Highlands gardens as well as other places. These trips have been held every two years. We are invited to go on their next Coach trip which will be to Griffith for its Orange Citrus Sculpture and Garden Festival.

The Provisional Programme sounds most interesting as well as a relaxing weekend spent visiting other places.

The Provisional cost is \$380 - \$400 per person. This includes the coach, 2 nights shared accommodation at Econolodge Griffith Motor Inn, 2 x 2 course dinners, 2 hot/continental breakfasts and visits to the following places - Catania Fruit Salad Farm, rice farm/factory, 2 Festival gardens, Calabria Family Winery and Citrus Sculpture display for the Griffith Orange Sculpture and Garden Festival. Provisional Program includes - visit to rice farm/factory, tour of Catania Fruit Salad Farm, visits to 2 Festival Gardens, a tour of Calabria Family Winery and the citrus sculpture display.

If interested please contact Warren Boorman on 4759-2149 or email to bevandwboorman@bigpond.com soon as Bookings are limited to 60.

Early History of the Gardens

Before and After Photographs.

Norm and Olive Campbell are standing behind the cairn and its plaque which was unveiled on 12 May 1990 marking the first 20 years of the development of the BM Rhododendron Gardens. They are recognised for their work in founding the gardens. Olive for her work as co-planner and Hon Secretary for 20 years and Norm for his work as supervisor and planner and designer of the layout of the area. This plaque is facing the car park. Note the Gazebo in the background.



Early History of the Gardens ctd.

Nurserymen and all garden enthusiasts in the whole of the Blue Mountains from Mt Wilson, Lithgow, Kurrajong, Springwood and Leura planned for and sought a site for the establishment of the Gardens during the 1960s. Those who attended the many meetings were working men and women who'd go to meetings after work. Bob Baker, who worked in Lithgow, was one who would drive home to Lithgow after a late meeting at Paul Sorenson's home. In March 1968, the BM Rhododendron society was inaugurated in March 1968.

Planning and development of the Gardens surged ahead. This work involved making roadways, paths, design the lake and in clearing away weeds such as blackberries and broom. The aim was to leave the area in its natural state as far as possible and to eliminate weed problems. Once the first plantings of rhododendrons, camellias etc were made, water had to be carried in buckets by the volunteers to water these newly planted plants.

The same view 25 years later. Note the gazebo which can just be seen through the trees which shows the growth and development of the Gardens.



Management Committee 2014 - 2015

President

Julia Hanley

4787 5728

Vice Presidents

Judy Johnston 4787 7298

Sonia Levitt 4787 5502

Garden Supervisor

Dick Harris

Secretary

Joan Hailstone

4787 5859

Treasurer

Val Moorehead

4787 8267

Membership Secretary

Marion Freidman

4787 8416

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

Meeting Hostess: Deb Wells

Editor: Sonia Levitt

Website: www.rhodogarden.org.a

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS RHODODENDRON SOCIETY OF NSW INC.

PO BOX 238, BLACKHEATH NSW 27895

