

Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of New South Wales Inc.

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November/December 2014

NEWSLETTER

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PO Box 238, Blackheath, 2785.

Christmas Luncheon Saturday 13th December 2014 at The Lodge Time – 12.00 for 12.30 pm

Please bring a plate (e.g. salad, dessert, etc) OR a \$10 donation
Drinks (fruit punch, wine, tea or coffee will be provided.

PLEASE RSVP by December 10th
by phoning Julia on 4787 5728 or Joan on 4787 5859
There will be no normal meeting following the luncheon,
but a number of items will be brought
to your attention beforehand – see notices below.

From the President. Julia's Say.

Hi to all members, Here we are suddenly in mid November, no wonder time goes by quickly when we have so many events in our lives!! I hope many of you have been able to take part in them. The blooming season has been exceptionally good and amazing given the dry period we had during December / January. On the 27th September we officially opened the Dick Harris Lookout. More on this day elsewhere in this newsletter. The lookout has been positively commented on by many of our thousands of visitors during the 6 weeks we opened the Lodge for teas and selling of merchandise and raffles. A large number of our visitors find walking to the valley tricky and so they were able to enjoy the views from the Lookout. Others appreciated seeing the view from high above the valley giving them a different perspective of the Gardens. A very big thank-you to all who volunteered to help during the "Open Days". Due to your help we have raised a record sum of money which will ensure the maintenance of the Gardens for 2015 and allow the Management Committee to plan some future projects. As you can see from Alan's list of "Where our visitors live" people visit our Gardens from all over the world. We even had comments from some who said they had planned their trip from the other side of the world around our peak flowering time!! It gladdens my heart to hear the sound of people's laughter mingling with the natural sounds of bird calls, cicadas, wind etc in the gardens. Please remember our Christmas lunch on the 13th December. See arrangements for that day elsewhere in the newsletter. I hope we will see many of you there so we can

have a good catch up over a lovely lunch to celebrate the end of another year.

Results of the Raffles.

The painting donated by Helen Hudson was won by Maree and Tony Crawford of Blackheath. The Scanpan won by Grace Desmarais of Newport. The hand knitted double scarf donated by Deb Wells was won by Sandra Slade of Northmead. All prizes have been distributed to the excited winners.

Jobs of Committee Members

Julia Hanley - President
Judy Johnston – Speakers and Merchandise
Sonia Levitt – Publicity and Newsletter
Joan Hailstone - Secretary
Val Moorhead - Treasurer
Marion Friedman – Membership and Library
Geoff Cannings – Project Manager and Maintenance
David Cook – Photographer and IT
Dick Harris – Garden Supervisor
Alan Lush – Engraving plant labels

Deb Wells – Kitchen Supervisor and hostess.

THE DICK HARRIS LOOKOUT

A new lookout was proposed by a Monday Volunteer, Tracey Longdon, in 2012. It took a very patient Geoff Cannings over 12 months to have Council approve the plans drawn up by C.G. Hilder Pty Ltd., Structural Engineers, Katoomba. Frank Moon of Mountaincraft Constructions Pty Ltd., Shipley, fabricated the steelwork and constructed the lookout early in 2014. Ross McLaren and his son built the stone pillars and the Central Foundry from Mascot made the plaques. We are grateful to them for the roles they played.

Our thanks go to Geoff who, after a very frustrating time, managed to bring the project to completion.

On 27th September 2014 the two plaques on the new lookout were unveiled. One of these commemorates Ib Sorensen for initiating the idea for the Gardens and the Blue Mountains Nurseryman's Association who supported him in finding the best site and in the initial planning.

The other plaque celebrates the role Dick Harris has played since the initial meeting in 1968 until today. Graham Ross officiated and over 80 people attended.

The weather was warm and sunny and the ambience of the Gardens exerted itself to complete a perfect atmosphere. The Lodge hummed during a light lunch for those attending. A big thanks to the “Quota ladies” who ensured that the food was delicious and plentiful. Graham mixed with all and was very generous with his time.

A short general meeting was completed in record time and Graham spoke to the meeting. Joan Hailstone has written a synopsis of his talk at another place in this newsletter.

Our many visitors during our “Open Days” have told us of their appreciation of the new lookout. It stands at a point in the Gardens from where it appears to watch over the land surrounding it.

GRAHAM ROSS’S TALK

Following the ceremony to open the new Lookout, and an abbreviated formal meeting, our special guest, Graham Ross, gave us a talk about his career in radio, Television and the Travel industry.

Graham described his first foray into Radio when the ABC invited him to record a short segment for one of Alan Seale’s gardening programmes. At the time Graham was the Principal of West Ryde TAFE.

He was surprised to be asked to do a regular item for the show, which then led to other radio and TV offers with the ABC, 2GB and Channel 7.

Well known now for his Better Homes and Gardens show on Channel 7, and his weekly broadcasts on 2GB, he and his family subsequently branched out into the business of horticultural tours around Australia, and then all around the World. His family’s commitment to horticulture was highlighted by the fact that his daughter is named Kirin, after the Azalea, and he has a Granddaughter named Melaleuca.

We would like to thank Graham for his continuing promotion of our Gardens, encouraging tourism to the Blue Mountains, particularly during our Open Days.

VALE - DR SARAH (SALLY) NELSON

Sally, wife of former President of the Rhododendron Society, Dr Bill Nelson, was farewelled at a quiet graveside ceremony at Wentworth Falls on Friday 26th September.

The moving service was attended by family, relatives and many friends. Sally will be fondly remembered for her gentle Scottish accent, her great love of gardens and gardening and for her continued support of our Society.

VALE - MRS MARY CLARKE

Mary “Polly” Clarke 14 December 1923 - 23 October 2014 Our friend “Little Mary” Clarke joined the then small group of garden volunteers during 2004. Her enthusiasm and creativity made an

immediate impact and she became one of our most consistent workers. Mary chose to work on “doddering” - a never ending task to which she applied her patience, persistence and meticulous care, always with good humour. The azaleas in the top circular garden and the Centenary Walk flourished under her attention. Mary also cared deeply for her family of four sons and a daughter (another daughter had died in infancy), and their children. She was artistic, loved travel, camping and walking. She could sketch and paint and in her spare time did quilting and other needlework. Her garden at Blackheath was and is a place of beauty and interest – any space was seen as an opportunity for another plant! Mary will be widely missed.

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GARDEN REPORT

Since my last report most of our time was taken up getting ready for our Open Days, making sure that paths were clean; the areas around the Lodge, car parks etc were swept. Then the snow came, and the work load was huge- removing broken branches and making paths safe. It never ceases to amaze me, however, how the public take no notice of closed areas, and still get past our danger tapes.

Many of our Monday workers also helped in the kitchen, and on Meet & Greet and plant sales. This reduced my numbers to work in the clean-up period. My weed control programme keeps me busy most Mondays, but the results are wonderful. The conifer garden area is close to weed free. We have also started pruning the conifers in this area, and some will be removed and replaced. I am going to suggest – for the area where most of the weeds were, and dependent on our being able to get rid of the heap of pine branches – that that area be a Proteaceae area, to include one area for the Australian natives, and one for those from South Africa including hybrids of both.

We have fertilized the Maples, Camellias, Viburnums and other general trees and shrubs where necessary, and Pat Kenny and Peter Messer have begun to fertilize the Rhododendrons and the Azaleas.

We have also had to spend a deal of time watering recent plantings, however some of these areas can come off the watering programme after this summer.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - NOVEMBER 2014

As at 12th November , we have 172 current members, including 10 life Members (Jeanette Adrian, Beryl Black, Reg Byrnes, Jim Hadley, Rachel Cleary, Dick Harris,

Judy Johnston, Pam Smith, Joan Tierney and Joan Wearne).

We mourn the loss of Dr Sarah (Sally Nelson) last month and of Mrs Mary Clarke earlier this month.

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

Our new Members are –

Jeanette Hawkins of Medlowbath.
Suzanne Glennon-Martyn of Oberon
Claire Paul and Kerry Banney of Mount Victoria
Phyll Latta of Blackheath
Elizabeth Muir of Blackheath
Jenny Muir of Blackheath
Pam and Max Beattie of South Bowenfels
Jan Easterbrook of Wahroonga
Dean Letcher and Irene Ryan of Blackheath
Sandra Gore of Blackheath
Tony and Ann Fisher of Wentworth Falls
Edward Jobbins and Graham Pilgrim of Wentworth Falls
Adrian and Pamela Guilfoyle of Leura.

2014 Visitors to Campbell Rhododendron Gardens

Thousands of visitors came from all over the Blue Mountains and from nearly all the suburbs of Sydney and from many places throughout NSW. Others came from the places listed below.

Interstate - ACT

Belconnen, Canberra, Chisholm, Isaacs, Kingston, McKellar, Yarralumla

Northern Territory – Darwin

Queensland – Beenleigh, Brisbane, Buderim, Bundaberg, Burpengary, Cairns, Caloundra, Gold Coast, Hervey Bay, Jindalee, Kenmore, Landsborough, Maryborough, Moggill, Mooloolaba, Rockhampton, Sherwood, St George, Sunshine Coast, Tamborine Mountain, Toowoomba, Walloon

South Australia – Adelaide, Lower Mitcham, Port Adelaide, Prospect, Victor Harbour

Tasmania – Hobart, Shearwater

Victoria – Ararat, Beaumaris, Brunswick, Cobram, Frankston, Gippsland, Hastings, Hawthorn, Heywood, Hoppers Crossing, Lilydale, Melbourne, Moonee Ponds, Ormond, Otways, Phillip Island, Richmond, Seaford, Traralgon

Western Australia – Fremantle, Mandurah, Perth

Overseas Austria, Bali, Brazil, Canada

(Edmonton, Ottawa, Toronto), **China** (Shanghai), **Costa Rica, Czech Republic, England** (Berkshire (Windsor), Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire (Cheltenham), Kent, Norfolk (Norwich), Staffordshire, Suffolk (Ipswich), West Sussex, Worcestershire (Birmingham), Yorkshire (York)), **Finland, France** (Lyons, Marseilles, Nice, Paris), **Germany** (Bavaria, Cologne, Heidelberg, Stuttgart), **Greece, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia** (Kuala Lumpur), **Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand** (Auckland,

Christchurch, Gisborne, Great Barrier Island, Nelson,
New Plymouth, Taranaki, Wairapu),
Northern Ireland (Belfast), **Norway, Poland, Portugal,**
Russia (Moscow), **Scotland, Singapore, South Africa**
(Cape Town, Pretoria), **Spain, Sweden** (Stockholm),
Switzerland (Zurich), **Taiwan, Timor, Ukraine, USA**
(Arizona, California, Colorado (Denver), Maryland, New
York (Great Neck), Oregon (Portland), Texas (Sunnyvale
)), **Wales, Zimbabwe Northern Ireland** (Belfast),
Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia (Moscow),
Scotland, Singapore, South Africa (Cape Town,
Pretoria), **Spain, Sweden** (Stockholm), **Switzerland**
(Zurich), **Taiwan, Timor, Ukraine, USA** (Arizona,
California, Colorado, (Denver), Maryland, New York
(Great Neck), Oregon (Portland), Texas (Sunnyvale),
Wales, Zimbabwe.

ANY SUGGESTIONS??????

The Committee would love to hear any suggestions
for activities, speakers at our meetings or
suggestions for the maintenance of the gardens etc.
Hand in any of your ideas or suggestions to any
member of the Committee who will then bring them
up at the next meeting.

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 Moorhead
4787 8267

Membership Secretary

Marion Freidman
4787 8416

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

Meeting Hostess Mary Chernov

Editor Sonia Levitt

website – www.rhodogarden.org.au

Webmaster Julia Hanley

If you have any articles or news for the Newsletter, please send to Sonia at salevitt13@bigpond.com . Thank you

**BLUE MOUNTAINS RHODODENDRON SOCIETY OF NSW INC
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