The Rhododendron

Official Journal of the Australian Rhododendron Society

2005 Volume 45

The Pacific Northwest … Garden Tourists – see page 6

TED CUTLAN AND JOY STONES

Above British Columbia.

Gardens as theatre – see page 37

A blazing Japanese maple becomes the focal point in this scene.

BARRY STAGOLL

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The Rhododendron, the journal of the Australian Rhododendron Society Inc., is published annually by the Society. Material for publication in The Rhododendron is welcomed and contributors are requested to note that the closing date for each issue is August 1.

The Australian Rhododendron Society Inc.

Aims

The Society's objective is to encourage interest in and disseminate information and knowledge about the genus Rhododendron and to provide a medium by which all persons interested in the genus may communicate and co-operate with others of similar interest

Membership

Membership of the Society is open to all persons interested in the objectives of the Society upon payment of the annual membership subscription. For further information contact Branch Secretaries or the National Secretary.

Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions cover the period 1 July to 30 June, and vary up to $25 depending on the Branch selected. (Branches set their own level, out of which an amount is paid to the national Society). The annual journal The Rhododendron is included as a benefit of membership.
Overseas members annual subscription is A$25, which includes affiliation with a nominated Australian Branch and The Rhododendron sent by airmail in the last quarter of the calendar year. Contact the ARS National Secretary. Overseas subscriptions may be paid by bank draft or cheque payable in Australian dollars. The Victorian Branch can accept Visa or Mastercard payments.

Contact details

Details of local Branches, along with Office Bearers of the Australian Rhododendron Society, are listed on page 63.

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Editorial

Barry Stagoll
Editorial Committee Chair

I hope our readers get enjoyment from reading this year's volume of The Rhododendron. Once again on your behalf I sincerely thank those who have provided contributions.

We are without some of our more-or-less regular contributors this time. And, of course, the thinning of ranks of accomplished and knowledgeable older members takes its toll on the contents of the Journal just as it does on the life of the Society itself.

As I wrote last year, we're ready and willing to welcome new contributors. Both articles and photos are welcome. And we're just as keen to have members' suggestions on subjects they'd like to see covered in future issues.

When it comes to photos, it should be very much easier to locate images of selected plants (and other subjects of interest) included in the very extensive library amassed over the years by the Victorian Branch, following their transfer to digital records as described by Simon Begg in an interesting article we carry this year. It would be worth bearing this in mind if you might have an inclination to write on a subject but are not in possession of photographs which might be suitable to illustrate it. Alternatively, if there's a particular plant which you'd like to see covered in our pages, then it should be that much easier for us to respond in the future. ❀

A correction and an amplification

Our 2004 issue - Volume 44

We apologise to Pam Watson, who last year contributed a most colourful and appreciated article A walk through the rhododendron forests of Nepal, for inadvertently referring to her in the header and footnote to the article as Pat Watson, although we did get it right on the Contents page.

We also ran an article on Kurume azaleas by Professor Satoshi Yamaguchi. Those with a special interest in this area may appreciate knowing that he carries much information about azaleas and many images on a website which he maintains. It's called The Virtual Azalea, and the address is http://web.agr.ehime-u.ac.jp/~dr.yamaguchi/virtualazalea.htm.

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY INC.

Annual Report for the year 2004–2005

The 2004 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Rhododendron Society was held on Saturday 16th October at the Olinda Garden meeting rooms, Melbourne, during the Society's annual National Convention which was hosted by the Victorian Branch.

At that meeting the new Officers were elected and are:

Officers

President	Barry Davidson (since this appointment has resigned, at time of publication)
Vice President	Neil Webster.
Secretary	Daphne Chandler
Treasurer	Peter Wiadrowski F.C.A.
Registrar & Technical Officer	Ken Gillanders.
Public Officer	John Schutz.

Branch Delegates to National Council

Southern Tasmania	Kaye Hagan
	Neville Horder
Emu Valley	Neil Jordan
	Ivan Johnston
Victoria	Neil Webster.
	Simon Begg
South Australia	John Schutz
	Geoff Bettcher

The Society's Financial Statements for the year ending 30th June 2004 were received and adopted. Copies of the report were available from the Branch secretaries and the National Council Treasurer Peter Wiadrowski.

The promotion of rhododendrons to the public on a view to water wise, heat tolerant, plants was discussed. The outcome of this is to come up with a list of the most hardy species and hybrids that are available commercially. The committee is taking this on board and are hoping to educate the members and the public, that some of the genera are really worth growing in our varied climates. There was also a leaning to increase the knowledge of the vireya

rhododendrons in this list as well. As a society we need to seek out more members in each State to keep it alive and to increase the knowledge and the availability of our lovely genus Rhododendron.

Another point of interest is that the overseas membership is increasing, and there is a genuine interest in what Australians are doing and to keep them interested, we need a good interesting journal, full of our events ideas and programmes to keep it alive we need each state's full support in sending articles to the journal's editor.

The history of the Australian National Rhododendron Society is an ongoing project, and Simon Begg has offered to accept any information that Branches might have, especially on DVD, to be housed at the Rhododendron Office at Olinda. On that note, I would like to, on the behalf of our National Council, and all members thank Val Marshall, for all her tireless work as Historian in the past, as it has been of utmost value to keeping a record of our Society.

During the year John Schutz provided the amended copy of the Constitution to the National Council, which now excludes the Immediate Past President from Office.

On the Citation for Lesley Gillanders, recommended by Southern Tasmania Branch, the elevation to Life Membership of Lesley for her work and in the promotion and knowledge of the genus Rhododendron was confirmed.

As this is my first term as Secretary I would like to say that is a delight to be in contact with a very friendly, knowledgeable group of people, and I hope that the enthusiasm that I have for my beloved rhododendrons remains with you all.

At the time of this publication, it is with regret that the President Barry Davidson has resigned, and in the upcoming Annual General Meeting, to be held in Adelaide November 4, 5 and 6, during the 2005 Convention I sincerely hope that you will all give some support to your local Committee's search for a worthy replacement.

Last year's Convention held in Melbourne was a wonderful example of fellowship, and all of those who attended thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality, the magnificent display at Olinda and the wonderful member's gardens. Hope to see you all in the upcoming Convention in Adelaide. ❀

Canada and America
The Pacific Northwest … garden tourists

Ted Cutlan and Joy Stones

To spend just four days in Japan is really criminal, but that is how it worked out on our way to the Conference of the American Rhododendron Society, held in Victoria BC this year.

The whirlwind visit to Japan is described in more detail by Maurie and Pam Kupsch in another article in this journal, but my lasting impressions are of the bullet train flying through an ancient land where single, small dwellings nestle among the concrete jungle that houses the millions of people. In areas where development was not as dense we saw rice paddies and small plots of the tea camellia (with the associated frost protection towers) and in the distance bamboo covering the hillsides. The temples of Kyoto contrasted so clearly with the amazing, modern Kyoto railway station which was all steel and glass – and then we dashed away, back to Tokyo and on to Vancouver and Victoria.

We were pleased to have been invited to give a presentation to the conference, and took the opportunity to extend our stay down into the northwest of America, to look at some of wonderful gardens and nurseries, and to meet some great people.

Vancouver is a large city (if you come from Hobart) but it had a very familiar feel to it, being surrounded by waterways and close to the mountains. We felt very much at home. We immediately noticed the wonderful public open spaces with quality plantings. These often included rhododendrons, with . 'Unique' used as much as golden diosma back home. The advantages of a big city are immediately apparent on visiting the Van Dusen Botanical Garden. Lots of people means lots of money and what better way to spend it. Van Dusen has a fantastic variety of plants grown in a natural setting. Most of the plants are labelled, which makes the experience mean so much more. To see a tree with wonderful patchy bark in early spring is great, but then to be able to read the name tag and realise that you are looking at a mature Stewartia malacodendron is fantastic. There were so many plants that we had never seen before as mature specimens. This garden was a real highlight of our trip, but I would love to go back after the $20 million redevelopment they have planned. We thought it was pretty amazing already!

The next major garden we saw was the Minter Garden at Chilliwack, about one and a half hours to the east of Vancouver along the Fraser River. The owner and inspiration is Brian Minter, and we think he is almost a clone of Peter Cundall. He writes books, does radio talkback, and has his face everywhere.

TED CUTLAN AND JOY STONES

Ted Cutlan in the Van Dusen Botanical Garden, Vancouver.

Sound familiar? This is a garden along the same lines as Butchart Gardens in Victoria. The appeal of this garden is on a different level. There is not the same emphasis on plant variety and labelling but the beauty of the natural setting and mass plantings around sweeping lawns is fantastic; and they really do the tulips very well. Massed plantings providing colour in the early spring, but everywhere we could see signs of things to come with clematis coming into leaf and roses for summer. This would be a good garden to visit at any time of the year.

The University of British Columbia has another fantastic garden and the Asian garden was of particular interest. There is a vast collection of rhododendron species, with associated companion plants. We saw everything from dwarf plants like *Rhododendron keiskei* to *R. concinnum* and *R. augustinii* over 3 m tall. The hardier big leaf species were well represented but there was not a nuttallii or edgeworthii to be seen – too cold! The wandering paths are all named after famous plant hunters or botanists and lent an air of discovery to our visit. This is definitely a garden you would like to get lost in.

Coming from Tasmania we don't realise how lucky we are with regard to weather. I know there are those mainlanders who carry on about the cold but compared to British Columbia (48°N +) and Washington (43–47°N) we have a great climate. While at the conference in Victoria it was amusing to see the

Species to die for!

TED CUTLAN AND JOY STONES

TED CUTLAN AND JOY STONES

Van Dusen Botanical Garden, Vancouver.

johnstonianums and 'Fragrantissimum's being wheeled into the venue in full flower, and to hear the comments of admiration they brought. These plants had of course been cosseted away for the winter under glass. I must say though that the weather for our trip was fantastic. We had summer temperatures and sunshine, in contrast to our last trip in 1999 when the spring was the coldest ever in 119 years of record keeping.

Our hosts after the conference, Norm and Jean Todd, have a lovely garden near Elk Lake on the Saanich peninsula. Their nursery specialises in the more unusual rhododendrons, particularly species and people come from far and wide to obtain that elusive plant. Norm is an articulate, generous Scotsman with a particular flair for writing. His articles are regularly seen in the Victoria Branch Newsletter.

Sometimes it is the people rather than the plants that stay in your memory. A highlight of our time on Vancouver Island was a visit to Island Specialty Plants where we caught up with Don McWatt. Don is a real plantsman whose interests are constantly changing. On our last visit he was grafting huge numbers of maples and other genera, and growing the best conifers. He has now switched to bulbs and paeonies, and grows 50,000 cyclamen. We could understand the passion of collecting the species paeonies, which had the most wonderful flowers with delightful foliage. As with most collectors the hunt for new varieties was as important as growing the plants. Don is a man in touch with his environment, having spent many years in Alaska before moving south. He explained to us the pressures caused by land clearing. The bears that live on his 50 acres were allowed free range in the native bush, but every two years a cub would be driven from the family unit and forced to find its own territory in an ever decreasing wilderness.

Whenever we met other gardeners we of course compared notes, and it was interesting that most people see Australia as a dangerous country full of venomous snakes. I couldn't help thinking that at least they won't eat you. Bears

TED CUTLAN AND JOY STONES

– you can have them. And then there are cougars. When we went up Hurricane Ridge in the Olympic Peninsula we saw warnings about what to do if confronted by one. Seriously! Give me a few redbacks and a tiger snake any day.

Another problem in the garden is deer. They are furry like our possums, but they are 20 times bigger and from what we saw, they can do 20 times more damage. It was great to see them and take a few pictures but I'm glad they are not in my backyard.

After leaving Vancouver Island and being counted, photographed, fingerprinted and everything short of strip-searched – we were in America. We made our way south down the Olympic Peninsula to Whitney's Nursery and Garden where Joy introduced herself to Anne the owner (92 years young). This is a lovely nursery with a rich rhododendron heritage. The display garden features many mature rhodos and a lot of good species, all well labelled. The agony for our travelling companions Maurie and Pam was finding a tunnel house full of species. They were beautifully grown in 10 inch squat pots, reasonably priced and included 17 that they didn't have at the Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens in Burnie. There was even a row of *Rhododendron pronum*. The agony was of course due to the fact that we could not bring back any rhodos due to *Phytophthera ramorum*, sudden oak death (SOD). We saw many good species and new hybrids in our travels but couldn't bring any back. It was interesting that one of the presentations at the conference was about SOD, and we learned that camellias are now considered a host for the disease along with other new genera. We don't believe our quarantine people are quite up to speed on this issue. We had camellias on our import permit but chose not to bring any home with us.

Heronswood … it's just one great garden after another. Hang on a minute, did I mention *Rhododendron macrophyllum*? We were in the heartland, and Mecca we were told was Mount Walker. We headed south, and, of course we overshot the turnoff. Back we came and up the hill until suddenly, there it was! A mid pink flower, in a loose truss, on a bush growing to 2 m. The abundance of blooms increased as we gained altitude and thanks to digital photography many pictures were taken. After the euphoria of finding the first macrophyllums we came to realise they were a bit of a weed, and later found them thriving on sandy dunes, not far from the ocean near Florence in Oregon. If it is this interesting finding species in the wild in America I can only imagine what it's like in the Himalayas.

Heronswood … this is truly a plant collector's paradise. The nursery is generally mail order only but opens its doors three or four times a year to the public. The plants for sale are small and expensive but they have all the good stuff. The garden displays many of the plants collected by Dan Hinkley. Colour combinations are very important and in any single square metre there

TED CUTLAN AND JOY STONES

Davidia involucrata 'Sonoma'

could be a dozen plants, all named, including representatives of *Arisaema*, *Paris*, *Podophyllum* and *Smilacina* just to name a few.

From here it is a short drive and a ferry trip from Port Stephens to the Meerkirk test garden on Whidbey Island. This is an interesting garden with a new big leaf area under development. Maurie was very happy to turn the leaf of every plant and note the variations.

Frank Fujioka is fortunate to live on Whidbey Island. We caught up with Frank, some tasty tuna fish and mayo sandwiches and more than 30 humming birds in his wonderful garden full of cutting edge hybrids. I think Maurie may have worn out the digital camera.

A visit to Jim Barlup in Bellevue Washington was a chance to catch up with a very generous plantsman. Jim sent us a collection of his latest hybrids a couple of years ago and these are possibly the last of the rhodo imports we will see in Australia. Because of his relatively benign climate, he has used *Rhododendron macabeanum* in some of his hybrids and also concentrates on the yellows and oranges and good foliage. We hope that they will form the genetic base for some future hybridising in our spare time – around 2020. A gentleman of the plant world, we were so glad to catch up.

As one travels south the climate improves and Eugene, in Oregon, is the perfect place for Greer's Gardens. I confess that it was not exactly what I expected. The display garden was past its best years and there were some weeds but the plant collection was to die for. While catering for some more mainstream customers with the plants you might expect, the real surprise was found when venturing to the back of the nursery and carefully and patiently reading the labels of plants in the tunnel houses and in the ground. A must have is a form of *Cornus capitata* called 'Moonlight', which has flowers twice the size of the species. Then there was *Davidia involucrata* 'Sonoma', which has bracts surrounding the flowers that are a good 220 mm long. We have photos to prove it. Fantastic!

Our last visit was to a nursery and garden at Portland which is found on

Sauvie Island in the middle of the Colorado River. Cistus Design Nursery is 90 km inland and can suffer terrible ice storms but the owners can't help themselves, and grow a huge range of the most interesting plants; many of them totally unsuited to their local climate – zonally challenged. Sean Hogan and Parker Sanderson are the epitome of plant collectors doing what they love most. They have collected in the wild, all over the world, and their generosity in sharing these plants is wonderful. We met some great people in Canada and the USA and I can honestly say that they are not all like those that we see on television in Australia – thank goodness!

The Pacific Northwest is really at the heart of cool climate horticulture and for any serious gardener we would say a "must see". We have just scratched the surface, and regret that we didn't have time to visit Siskyou Rare Plants or Forest Hall Nursery to name just two more must sees.

Maybe next time – After we've been to England, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Assam, Bhutan, Yunnan …

The horticultural world is truly an amazing place. ❀

Ted Cutlan and Joy Stones
Jubilee Nursery, Hobart, Tasmania

MAURIE AND PAM KUPSCH

The view across the calm waters of the pond to the Golden Temple is said to be one of the most beautiful views in Japan.

Four days in Japan

Maurie and Pam Kupsch

The opportunity to go to the American Rhododendron Society conference in Victoria, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, was fantastic but to be able to spend four days in Japan was out of this world. So it came to pass that four of us from Tasmania headed off. Three of the party had never been to Japan before and the fourth couldn't remember a whole lot about a trip 44 years earlier!

It was dark when we arrived at Narita airport so we didn't see any of the country other than the lights of the airport. Stayed at the Holiday Inn near the airport for first night and next morning saw our first cherry blossom out of the hotel window with a background of bamboo. We had reserved seats on the Narita Express to Tokyo. This trip took one hour and ten minutes, with multistorey buildings on both sides of the rail tracks for the whole trip – not a bare patch of ground to be seen anywhere. Walking into the Tokyo railway

station looking for the train that was to take us to Kyoto was like finding our way through a maze with escalators going up and down and vast numbers of Japanese people walking in all directions.

Finally we found our place on the platform where our carriage on the bullet train would pull up, and here we waited for the train to arrive. Which it did – exactly on time!

This journey took around two and a half hours. This time we had glimpses of the sea and now and again the view inland was of very steep hills covered with bamboo and *Zelkova serrata* with an occasional clump of flowering cherry. On the abutments of the numerous short tunnels we went through were contoured rows of green tea and on the low land paddy fields were to be seen with the usual Kobota tractor working.

The Kyoto railway station was an amazing building many storeys high with large curved glass roofs held up with massive steel structures all earthquake-proof, no doubt. Below ground was a multiplicity of platforms with trains coming and going all day and night, also vast shopping arcades with hundreds of shops and food outlets.

Enkianthus campanulatus.

MAURIE AND PAM KUPSCH

Directly opposite the station was The Kyoto Tower Hotel our chosen accommodation for the next three nights. This was also easy to find because it had an eighty metre high tower sitting on top of the ten storey hotel. We checked into our rooms and then returned to the lobby where we were to meet our Japanese guide Kim. Although none of us had met him previously he had been to Tasmania to pursue his interest in Tasmanian plants, particularly alpines.

Kim took us to the Kyoto Botanical garden in northern Kyoto alongside the Kamo River. Here we saw some of the native trees of Japan. *Cercidiphilum japonicum pendulum*, *Zelkova serrata* cv. *musashino*, a delightful upright narrow form, and plenty of cherry trees in full bloom – mainly *Prunus yedoensis* and *P. sargentii*.

Rhododendron dilatatum, *R. wadanum*, and *R. degronianum* were growing in large clumps under tall *Pinus thunbergia* and flowering very well.

We enjoyed a meal together with Kim, getting to know him a little better and appreciate his charm, kindness and patience even more. He was so generous with his time and such a great help with our communication problems

Next day we had to ourselves so we found a sightseeing map at the hotel which showed us that there were five different areas to inspect temples and gardens. We selected the Kinkakuji area.

Our first stop was Kinkakuji (or Golden Pavilion). This garden was built by Yoshimitsu (1358–1408), the third Ashikaga shogun, following his retirement in 1394. The main part of this garden is of course the Golden Temple, the original one being burnt down in 1950. The view across the calm waters of the pond is said to be one of the most beautiful views in Japan. The pond is divided into two parts – the section closest to the pavilion has many small islands, including crane and turtle islands. The grounds are planted with *Acer palmatum*, *Prunus yedoense* and many conifers, with sight lanes and glimpses of Mt Kinugasa. We visited this with busloads of school children and their teachers who at every important view launched into no doubt informative lectures if only we could

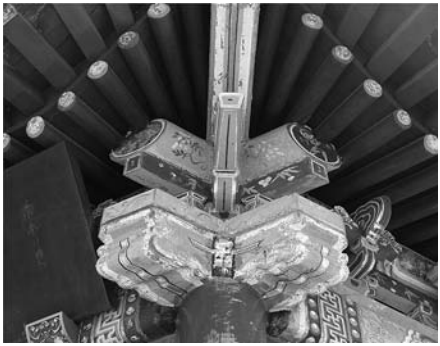
MAURIE AND PAM KUPSCH

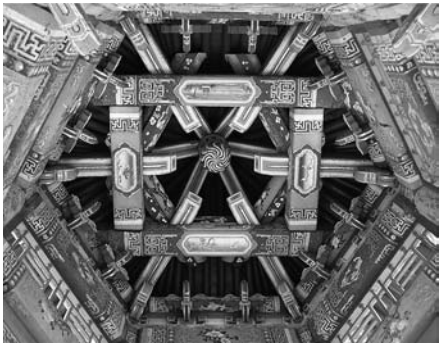
MAURIE AND PAM KUPSCH

have understood! Many other Japanese visitors were there also enjoying the gardens and they all carried cameras!

Next stop, within easy walking distance, was Ryoanji Temple, built in 1450 by Hosokawa Katsumoto. This temple was destroyed during the Onin War. Katumoto's son Masamoto rebuilt it in 1488. Its main claim to fame is the beautiful Zen garden with fifteen rocks placed in groups on beautifully raked sand and surrounded by a wall. The temple grounds were extensive, with large areas of *P. yedoense* in full flower. A stand of *Cryptomeria japonica* had been cut off and allowed to grow back with many long vertical branches – quite unusual.

The Ninnaji Temple was next with massive entrance gates and a very large statue on either side. The columns holding the roof structure up were 800 mm in diameter and 4 m high, all made from *C. japonica*, and have stood for hundreds and hundreds of years. What an amazing timber it must be! This temple and surrounding gardens were founded in 888 by Emperor Uda. During





MAURIE AND PAM KUPSCH

MAURIE AND PAM KUPSCH

the Onin wars all buildings including sixty sub-temples were destroyed to be rebuilt by the Tokugawa family in the late 1400s. Towering above the tree tops was Ninnaji's five storey pagoda. Here again we would loved to have had an English speaking guide who could tell us what the buildings were all about. Flowering cherry trees were everywhere and in full bloom, including *Prunus* 'Gyoiko', the petals were grass-green with a red and white stripe radiating from a pink centre. *Rhododendron reticulatum* was well represented, very large plants covered in bright purple flowers.

The architecture of these three temples was amazing and the gardens surrounding them were a delight and even though it was a wet day we did enjoy the experience. There are so many of these sites around Kyoto you would need a long stay in the area to visit them all.

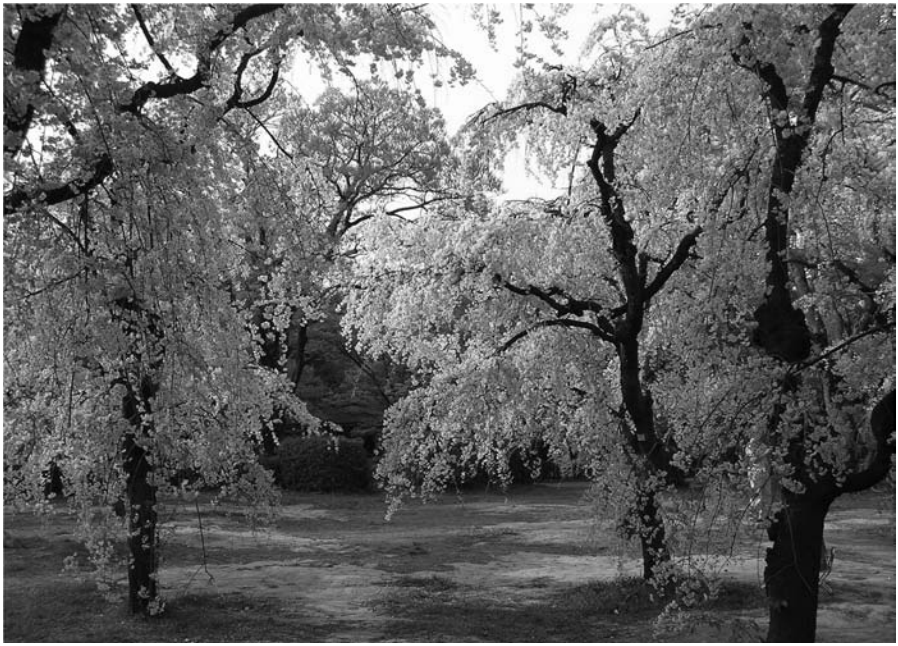
Next day we met up with our guide Kim again who helped us with our tickets and travelled with us to Osaka.

Then we were on our own again, with much instruction from Kim on how to find our way, we managed to arrive at Kobe and find the free bus which was to take us to The Kobe Municipal Arboretum.

Here we visited the information centre and found that the Arboretum covered 140 hectares. Kobe city had set up sister city relationships with different parts of the world and each of these are represented by some of their flora and in some cases buildings too.

Collections of *R. macrosephalum* were on the sides of the roads complete with a very detailed informative signboard depicting flower colour size number of stamens etc. Beautiful specimens of *Enkianthus perulatus* with masses of urn-shaped white flowers were in large drifts – must be magic in autumn. It was great to see *Rhododendron dilatatum*, with its purplish to rose purple flowers growing in the wild. *R. makinoi*, *R. metternichi* and *R. yakushimanum* were growing mostly under and in forests of conifers which seemed strange to us because no flowers were evident. Some specific areas designated in the arboretum were the Japanese archipelago, some of the important trees were *Quercus pasama*, the Japanese larch – *Larix leptoletis*, Japanese conifers – *Sciadoptis verticulata* and the Japanese fir *Abies firma*. Asia was represented by *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* and the Chinese fir, *Cunninghamia lanceolata* and North America featured the coastal redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens* and the Lawson cypress, *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* and the European section featured plants such as Norway spruce, *Picea abies* and the lilac, *Syringa vulgaris*.

Cherry blossoms, Kyoto Botanical Gardens.



MAURIE AND PAM KUPSCH

We had a bit of an adventure finding our way back, having missed the station where we had to change train lines, but despite our language difficulties some charming ladies helped us out, so with just a few stations back tracking and we were on course again for Kyoto with no further hiccups.

Wonderful surprise when we go to cross the road to our hotel there was Kim to meet us again – having already said our goodbyes back in Osaka.

He helped us with some shopping and took us to see a bit of the city we hadn't explored, from very posh department stores to the myriad of back streets crammed with every conceivable food market you could think of.

Next day we were off again back on those fast trains dragging our luggage with us back to Tokyo then to Narita Airport. On our way back we were thrilled to have a clear view of snow capped Mt Fuji as we rushed by at great speed – that was a bonus! Our four days in Japan had been a rewarding and memorable experience.

Then it was up, up and away – next stop Los Angeles Airport. ❀

VALE … Jean Whitelaw (Dann)

6 September 1912–30 June 2005

Our Society has been saddened by the loss of a long term member and supporter of the genus Rhododendron, Jean Whitelaw. Jean was an active and early member at the formation of the Australian Rhododendron Society. She was prominent at Field Days and the Shows held on the Olinda Football Ground and in the associated Hall.

Jean is survived by husband Alex, two daughters Margaret and Elizabeth, and four grandchildren. Alex was deputy Registrar of Titles.

Alex has helped us with biographical details of Jean's early life. He met her first when she was five and he fifteen! Later they met at a boarding house in Castlemaine. They married in 1936 and moved to Wimba Avenue, Kew where they lived for 67 years until Jean was taken ill in 2003.

Jean was educated at Firbank in Brighton, then at Melbourne University where she obtained a number of exhibitions in Agricultural Science while a resident at Janet Clarke Hall. Jean was very highly thought of by teachers and lecturers and following her course worked at the university doing research into animal diseases.

Later she was the first bacteriologist at the Model Dairy in Kew and established the department that looked into the purification of milk from dairy herds, in association with veterinary scientists.

This resulted in huge benefits for the Model Dairy during World War two because the USA insisted that their armies, which were located around Australia, should receive pasteurised milk. Jean's expertise in this area led her to giving lectures and radio broadcasts about the dairy industry.

Jean grew and developed a special garden at Wimba Avenue featuring many Asiatic rhododendrons. In later years she specialised in the Vireya section. Jean was active on the Society's Ladies Auxiliary Committee for

many years, and as Secretary she helped keep the Society active.

Later she was invited to join the Committee of Management of the Olinda Rhododendron Garden to maintain and enhance the Garden. She became Secretary of the Victorian Branch of the Society. Even in her 90th year she continued to travel to Olinda to work as a volunteer in the Garden - planting, potting and cultivating plants and generally enjoying the company of the other Tuesday volunteer enthusiasts.

Jean often addressed the General Meetings and was always willing to impart her knowledge of the genus to members and to enquiries from the public at Shows regarding the genus and the Society. Her dedication was recognised by the National Council of the Australian Rhododendron Society by granting her Life Membership.

When Jean and Alex moved from their Kew home she was anxious to save some of her much loved vireyas. A group of the Tuesday volunteers dug up many plants and relocated them to the National Rhododendron Gardens at her request, where they are still thriving. Once she started something Jean liked to follow it through to completion and until her death she was most interested in keeping in touch with all the news from the NRG and the Society.

Jean, you will be missed by many – thank you for your wonderful support and the knowledge you quietly shared.

Val Marshall & Marcia Begg
Victorian Branch

First published in the Victorian Branch's The Rhododendron Newsletter

Thomas Robert Noel Lothian

O.B.E., N.D.H. (NZ), F.R.A.I.P.R, J.P.

25 December 1915–23 September 2004

Mr Noel Lothian was Director of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide for nearly 33 years, from 1948 to 1980. He was born in Mont Albert and educated at Scotch College in Melbourne. He went on to complete the Horticultural Course at Burnley Horticultural College in Melbourne. After this, he spent some years with the Melbourne City Council, principally at the Fitzroy Gardens.

He received further training at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens in New Zealand, and then at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in England. He was carrying out further study at the Munich Botanic Gardens when World War II was declared.

During the war years Mr Lothian was in charge of a group of army farms in New Guinea.

Following the war, he gained the National Diploma of Horticulture (NZ), for which he was awarded the Cockayne Gold Medal. He was appointed Senior Lecturer in Horticulture at the University of New Zealand (Lincoln College). where he established the horticultural diploma and degree courses.

He took up the appointment as the sixth Director of the Adelaide Botanic Garden and Secretary to the Board of Governors on 1 January 1948. The Adelaide Garden that he took over had considerably deteriorated during the Depression and the following war years. Sharing a similar drive and passion to former Gardens champions Francis and Schomburgk, Noel arrived with a plan of goals to be achieved and

Noel Lothian at official opening of Mount Lofty Botanic Garden November 1977.

clear strategies for achieving them. Amongst these were a technical advisory service, improved staff training and professional recognition, re-establishment of the Herbarium and Library, re-establishment of the international seed exchange programs, improvements to landscaping and labelling, restoration of Botanic Park, establishment of regional tree plantations, and the possible expansion to a new site, together with an increased profile for the Gardens.

On his retirement on the eve of his 65th birthday in 1980, it could be unequivocally said that he had comprehensively achieved all of the major goals that he had outlined at the beginning of his term as Director of the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium.

His most enduring monument however will be the Mount Lofty Botanic Garden, which was conceived by him shortly after his appointment, and lovingly planned and continuously promoted by him.

Noel was President of the Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation, and was made an honorary Life Fellow of that organisation.

He was Chairman of the South Australian National Park Commission; Royal Society of South Australia, and Field Naturalists' Society of South Australia, and was Editor of the South Australian Naturalist for 22 years. He was also a Council member of the University of Adelaide.

He was a regular contributor to horticultural journals in Australia and overseas, and made many broadcasts and television appearances. He had published three books on general gardening and Australian native plants.

During May to September in 1974 he spent three weeks in China with an Australian Cultural Mission looking at parks, gardens and urban open spaces. He revisited that country in 1977.

In 1961 Mr Lothian was awarded the O.B.E. for his services to horticulture, and in 1975 the Royal Horticultural Society in London awarded him the Veitch Memorial Gold Medal in recognition of his work.

Stephen Forbes
(current) Director, Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium, Adelaide

We're grateful to John Schutz, a member of the South Australian Branch and a former President of the Branch and National President of the Society, for obtaining this tribute to Noel Lothian for publication in The Rhododendron. John is in charge of the Mount Lofty Botanic Garden. Noel Lothian was not only a great supporter of Mount Lofty but a great friend to the Society, which has a special relationship with the Garden.

Rhododendron forrestii

Ken Gillanders

Rhododendron forrestii alliance is classified in the subsection neriiflora and is quite variable within this group. Peter and Kenneth Cox explain this in their book *The Encyclopaedia of Rhododendron Species* and they consider most of the following as possible hybrids – *chamaethomsonii*, *chamaedoron* and *chamaethauma*.

What a thrilling moment it must have been for George Forrest when he first discovered the rhododendron that would be named after him. He discovered and introduced many rhododendrons among the host of other plants but what was so exciting was the habit of this plant. A prostrate creeping habit often 5 cm high with large glowing crimson flowers produced singly or in pairs, so very different from any known rhododendron at that time. This was on the first of Forrest's seven collecting trips to China and on which he lost all his possessions and specimens and almost his life.

He discovered it on the Tsedjiong Pass which is on the Mekong–Salween divide in Yunnan. A small specimen was sent back to Edinburgh, but just a short time after the Tibetan Lamas were in rebellion and were rampaging through this area killing missionaries and Christians. Of the party of 80, which he was with at the time, only 14 escaped the poison arrows and swords. He then fled and for many days was hunted. He eventually was helped by the headman of a friendly village and was able to get back, with the help of some guides, to Tali. Not before he unfortunately stepped on a sharpened bamboo stake. These were placed around fields of maize by villagers for protection. The bamboo stake went right through his foot, projecting several inches the other side.

Forrest's words on writing about this were "Although I escaped with my life, I lost everything I possess, all my camp equipment, ammunition and guns, cameras, stores. In fact my all with the exception of the rags I stood in, my rifle, revolver and two belts of cartridges." The small specimen luckily sent before this tragedy was named by the botanist Diels as *R. forrestii*.

Later in 1914–1918 Forrest sent back more specimens and the first seed. However these appeared to be different. The specimen sent back in 1905 had purple backs to the leaves whereas the later specimens had green on the reverse. This led at the time to the green backed plant being named a second species – *R. repens*. Now it is accepted that this is insufficient for a separate species and they are all merged under *R. forrestii*. It appears that purple backed and green backed leafed forms are found growing together in their native habitat.

It has since been found growing in many areas in Yunnan, SE Tibet, and NE upper Burma, mostly at elevations of 3,000–4,400 m. Its preferred habitat is between and over moss covered boulders, cliff faces and peaty meadows among rocks.

Other collectors have since found and sent back material of *R. forrestii*, some being Rock, Yu and Kingdom-Ward. Kingdom-Ward describes his excitement in one of his books, while in the Doshong La area on first seeing this species in flower, calling it Scarlet runner.

R. forrestii has always had a name for being a shy flowering plant, at least in some forms. Presumably when first introduced, many were raised from seed and circulated to growers before they flowered. It is a plant that has always fascinated me and was unobtainable in Australia for many years, possibly due to its reputation of not flowering freely. As the main importers at the time were commercial, this trait was not favourable to them. Many other species were imported and numerous hybrids but not *R. forrestii*.

About 20 years ago a very good friend in Victoria gave me a plant of *R. forrestii*, the green backed leafed form, origin unknown, saying "it won't do anything for me, try it in your cooler climate". It was about 30 cm in diameter and I planted it in a pot and kept it there for several years before planting it in the rock garden. During this time it did not flower. After it was planted out it produced two or three flowers most years and increased in size to about 40–45 cm in diameter.

I struck several cuttings from this plant but they were so slow to start growing I wondered whether grafting onto a more vigorous root system would help. We decided on using *R.* 'Elizabeth' (*forrestii* × *griersonianum*) as a stock, it being a strong grower with us and having *R. forrestii* as one of its parents. We grafted a couple and just as well as the plant of *R. forrestii* decided it had had enough and died.

The grafted plant I kept grew quite well and was planted out two years later in a sunny position facing south against a large rock. Now after being in the ground for three years it is 60 cm in diameter and is quite prostrate but obviously getting vigour from the root stock.

Last year it had about 50 flowers on it. Now whether this is due to the extra vigour in the plant or seasonal conditions I do not know.

We imported twp plants of *R. forrestii* R. 59174 from Glendoick Nursery in Scotland in 2001. These both flowered last year, their first year in the garden and they are only small plants. They appear to be a deeper red than the plant we grafted. Peter Cox told me it is a free-flowering form.

It will be interesting to see whether the grafted plant continues to perform as well in its flowering over the next few years. ❀

Victorian Branch slides converted to digital images

Simon Begg

Last year Meric Digital approached the Society with a proposal to convert the Society's slides to digital at a cost per slide of 40 cents. This was a promotional offer at a unit cost far below other commercial providers. The Committee accepted the proposal and the task has now been completed. The cost in total proved to be considerably greater than estimated because it turned out that there were 5,947 slides instead of the original estimate of 3,500 slides. The unit cost remained the same. In addition it was necessary to address storage of the images and backup of that storage. Originally DVD storage and backup was planned but when it turned out that more than 60 DVDs would be needed the Society acquired two portable hard discs each of 200 gig capacity.

The total cost was $2,944.60.

The digital images are now stored on these two portable hard drives, one backing up the other. There are two versions of each image – high resolution using about 30 megabites per image, and low resolution using no more than 300 kb per image – a small fraction of the size of the corresponding high resolution image. The low resolution images are quite adequate for slide shows and historical research. If a high resolution image is needed for plant identification research then it can be found on a hard drive. The low resolution images in total, plus the Photoshop Album catalogue or database (when complete) can be stored on three CDs, a DVD, or copied to another computer. I have complete sets on both my lap top and desk top. The Society will have complete sets on its two portable hard drives plus its new computer when that is acquired.

What has been achieved?

The Society's slides, together with the species and hybrid Registers, back copies of the Newsletter and the Journal, correspondence and other written records, are essential ingredients of the Society's history. So too, of course, are the National Rhododendron Gardens, Olinda in its present form and the combined memories of its living members. Without the written and pictorial records the present Gardens do not speak of their history nor can living members' memories be jogged and clarified and conflicting versions settled. These records are the Society's only access to the memories of our departed members.

Slides deteriorate with age far faster than electronic records. Electronic records can be refreshed by copying very easily.

In addition electronic records can be indexed and made searchable. Calling up all photos of a particular species or hybrid, an event or an individual by ticking computer screen boxes is an easy process. Looking through boxes, sheets and carousels of slides for the same information, or to view it, is not an easy process.

What has been achieved, in a nutshell, is to preserve the pictorial record of the Society and with a lot more work over time, to make that record accessible.

Interestingly, though I was not aware of it until very recently, the Camellia Society has followed a parallel path with its photos. Geoff Sherrington has acquired the equipment and has, or has acquired, the expertise to digitize Camellia Society slides.

Image database

The images, as supplied by Meric Digital, came with a directory or 'tree' that set out the 72 boxes in which the ARSV slides have been stored all these past years. Viewed in 'miniature', or 'thumbnail' form, each image was accompanied by the information originally written on the slide. Plant name, date and in some cases breeder, who took the photo or where the photo was taken.

I could easily expand any particular image to full screen. I could create a 'slide show' of any combination of images that took my fancy.

But I did not have a 'database' that I could search except to find a particular box. I could only tell what was in a box by opening it on screen or reading its description, if anv. Most boxes had no covering description.

I needed a database that allowed me to use my computer to search in similar fashion to the ARSV Species and Hybrids databases that Tom Noonan has created of the plants in the NRG collection.

One of my sons suggested I use Adobe Photoshop Album 2.0. I acquired this software and set to work. I found that I had to enter all the data manually. I could not just import Meric Digital's tree. The process has proved very time consuming. So far I have processed about 2,000 images, or about a third.

I found that two of the slide 'boxes', between them, contained 209 sheets of slides at about 18 slides, on average, to the sheet. Close to 4,000 slides are stored in these boxes. When I viewed their images I found that they had been carefully assembled. Asiatic rhododendron species and hybrids, evergreen and deciduous azalea species and hybrids and vireya species and hybrids were assembled in alphabetical order. My enquiry revealed that this very valuable work was done by Ken Cathie. The Society owes Ken a heartfelt, if belated, thank you.

I started my database project by using Ken's work. I created 'fields' for date, plant, photographer, grower, garden and any other relevant information

that I found in Meric Digital's 'tree' which, in turn, they found written on the slides or box.

I can, now, call up from the 2,000 images I have processed all species or all Asiatic, vireya or azalea species that are included in those images. Alternatively all photos in my database of particular species or a particular species. I have discovered photos in the database of many of the vireyas that Murray (McAlister) and Bill (Taylor) brought back from New Zealand, presumably taken when the Society originally had the plants. I have added my own rhododendron digital photos, including a hundred or so I took of species at NRG, Olinda, with Alan Kepert in Spring 2002 and the photos on the vireya cultivar CD entitled 'the Vireya List'.

Future use of the image database

When the Society gets its own computer any member can access the image database.

Ron Moodicliffe, from time to time, takes members back into the history of the Society by showing slides at meetings. The new digital records, when the database is complete mean that Ron, or any other presenter, can put together a slide show in a fraction of the time and with a fraction of the effort.

I venture to say that without the digital records it would not be feasible to prepare a history of the Society. With the database, and older members willing to give their time, a history is feasible, and an illustrated one! With these records it will be possible to append plant and flower photos to the Species and Hybrid Registers. Where appropriate new digital photos can be taken and added to the digital record. Plant and flower identification should be much more accurate.

What is yet to be done?

The image database is yet to be finished. There remain 4,000 images to process. The data Meric Digital supplied can only be searched manually by looking up and down the computer 'tree' for the required images. I am translating the data, one box of slides at a time, into 'Photoshop Album'. To do this I have two computers running at one time, one looking at images in 'Photoshop' and the other looking at thumbnails on Meric Digital's 'tree'. It is a sad fact that Photoshop's images, even in thumbnail form, do not include the data in Meric Digital's tree.

Much as I would value sharing the database task it is by nature a solitary one. I will show a few sheets at a meeting so members can see the possibilities. So far I have upwards of 40 different vireya species and 80 different Asiatic species. I have concentrated on species. Mostly I have deferred entering the hybrids, being content with identifying the boxes or sheets that contain hybrids and a general description of the parents.

I will need help from long time members to identify themselves, and their colleagues in their younger years as they created NRG.

The most valuable help that members can provide is enthusiasm. This extends to everything that members contribute to the Society. ❀

Simon Begg is a member of the Victorian Branch Committee and the Society's National Council, and his very active participation in the Society includes serving as Editor of The Rhododendron Newsletter, published by

The Pacific Northwest … Garden Tourists – see page 6

TED CUTLAN AND JOY STONES

Rhododendron keiskei.

Whitney's Gardens, Olympic Peninsula, British Columbia.

TED CUTLAN AND JOY STONES

Four days in Japan – see page 14

MAURIE KUPSCH

Above *Rhododendron reticulatum.*

Below *R. waddanum* in Kyoto Botanical Garden.

MAURIE KUPSCH

Rhododendron forrestii – see page 25

KEN GILLANDERS

KEN GILLANDERS

A very different conference – see page 42

ERIC WEEKS

Above *Rhododendron* 'Burnie Supreme'.

Below View across corner of the Japanese lakes, Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden.

ERIC WEEKS

Thanks Nigel

Ted Cutlan

This is the story of a wonderful plant which will forever evoke strange memories.

Joy and I recently visited the USA as described elsewhere in this journal. While we were there we collected all sorts of great plants and brought them back through quarantine. Some of the plants are actually already here in Oz but you never know. One of the really delightful plants we saw was Dicentra formosa 'Margery Fish' which I am told is already here, but for those of you who don't know it the foliage is a lovely blue green with ferny cut leaves. The pendulous flowers which offset this beautifully are large heart shaped, and pure white.

Well, we had to pot all the plants after their torture of being bare rooted and gassed, and to help with this I took our employee Nigel. Nige wrote the new labels as I potted up the plants, and when he came to our lovely Dicentra 'Margery Fish', he announced that he immediately saw "Maggoty Fish" and declared that forever more he was sorry but it would always be "Maggoty Fish". Well my writing is not that good and I thought I could live with this but when he found another plant of the same name, he declared that we had a school of 'Maggoty Fish"

I had to laugh, but I must say that the plant has lost some of its charm for me.

Next time you see a representative of this lovely genera, I hope this doesn't spoil things for you, but if it does,

Thank Nigel !!!! ❀

International Rhododendron Conference

Scottish Rhododendron Society and the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland May 7–11 2008

Join us to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Scottish Rhododendron Society at an International Rhododendron Conference to be held at the Royal Botanic Garden in the City of Edinburgh, Scotland in the Spring of 2008. If you love rhododendrons and azaleas, are enthralled by interesting speakers and magnificent gardens and enjoy a friendly social atmosphere, then this is an event for you.

Jointly hosted by the Scottish Rhododendron Society and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Rhododendron 2008: 50 Years of Modern Day Exploration, Hybridisation & Conservation will predominantly cover the post-WWII period through a wide ranging programme of lectures, garden tours, a rhododendron show, exhibitions and social events in the evenings.

International speakers will entertain you with a schedule of lectures covering contemporary exploration, hybridisation & breeding, cultivation & propagation, historical, science and taxonomy and conservation. To cater for all tastes there will be an opportunity to attend an alternative set of lectures when the science & taxonomy sessions are programmed.

Two full days of tours are being planned to a variety of gardens that will complement the theme of the Conference. A specially arranged full-day sight-seeing tour is planned. Also under consideration is a four-day pre-conference Tour with a wide-ranging itinerary of private gardens located in a completely different area than those visited on conference tours in 1996 and 2002.

This is a wake-up call to put the date in your diary, plan ahead and come to Edinburgh in 2008.
Further details will be available in late 2005.

VALE Bob Withers

Dr Robert Melville (Bob) Withers died on 24 January 2005, just a few short weeks short of his 82nd birthday on 9 February.

My first permanent memory of Bob was in the 1960s when I suggested at an Olinda Show that he hybridise *R. gracilentum* with *R. laetum*; flowering plants of each being on show and the *gracilentum* from memory being Bob's. The resulting plants included the clone named 'Carillon Bells'. Since those early (for me) days, we have kept in touch and I have valued his friendship and enthusiasm.

Bob's early life was not known to me but I gather that he graduated from showing chickens and dogs as a teenager to develop an active interest in plants. His horticultural activities appeared to increasingly dominate his recreation time since then. Before mentioning some of Bob's green accomplishments, it is necessary to give some of the basic facts about his life. Bob attended Haileybury College in Melbourne until he was awarded a scholarship to Scotch College in the same city. He graduated in medicine from the University of Melbourne in 1946 and, after stints in Cairns and Darwin, practiced in Abbotsford and Fitzroy. Bob married and he and his first wife, Selma had three children. He married Hari in 1964 which was about the time that he and I became acquainted.

It was in the early 1960s that vireya rhododendrons were becoming popular and Bob, along with late John Rouse and Brian Clancy, were dedicated proponents of the virtues of this remarkable group of plants. At that time, Bob was also very interested in liliums, rhododendrons and camellias, and he had a block of land in the Dandenongs where he grew many of these plants as a close-in suburban Melbourne garden was too hot for many of the less tolerant species, and too small in any event. Subsequently, Bob disposed of the hills block and concentrated on growing vireyas and camellias in suburban gardens, of which Hari and he had three during the time that I knew him.

Their most recent garden was a work of some considerable skill. While there is a record for the greatest number of university students that can be

squashed into a VW beetle, Bob and Hari easily held the record for the number of camellias that could be fitted into a standard suburban block!!

Bob was more interested in growing vireya species than hybrids although he did make some crosses. His major hybridising energies went into camellias, perhaps the strongest of his horticultural pursuits, and I remember well the jars of germinating seeds that he had and the jar-covered grafts. Bob wrote many articles on rhododendrons, and I imagine on camellias also, and his book, Liliums in Australia, is a landmark for students of that genus. He was a dedicated correspondent and maintained links with many overseas people who could further add to his horticultural passions.

Bob also shared Hari's interest in Greek history and culture. They enjoyed many trips overseas together and their visits to Greece expanded their knowledge.

As a result of his activities, and especially his generosity in sharing his plants and knowledge, Bob received many awards of which perhaps the Order of Australia Medal, and the Veitch Gold Memorial Medal, are the most significant. Bob was a plantsman of note and has earned his place in horticultural history

The Australian Rhododendron Society owes a great debt to Bob for his service to the culture of rhododendrons and our sympathy is extended to Hari Withers as she adjusts to life without Bob. Hari is a dedicated gardener also and she will find Bob close to her as she tends her favourite plants, just as we will remember Bob as we work with the plants that we especially associate with him. In my case it includes the clone of *R. konori* named 'White Giant' and many other species that I obtained from him.

Bob's lasting legacy will not be confined to his name appearing on a plaque somewhere. Rather, it will be found in the new garden plants that result from the numerous *Camellia* and *Rhododendron* species that he helped bring to Australia, and which have been made available for breeding programs.

Lyn Craven, Melba, ACT

Republished from The Rhododendron Newsletter of the Victorian Branch, March 2005, wherein its Editor Simon Begg wrote:

As Lyn notes, the Australian Rhododendron Society shared Dr Bob's considerable horticultural energy and skill with many other societies worldwide … The International *Rhododendron Register and Checklist 2nd Edition RHS 2004* names Dr Bob as the hybridiser of three vireya hybrids. Lyn has noted 'Carillon Bells' (*gracilentum* x *laetum*). The two others are 'Robert Withers' (*christianae* x *aequabile*), and 'Hari's Choice' ('Triumphans' ['Princess Royal' [*jasminiflorum* x *javanicum*] x *javanicum*) x *javanicum* x *leucogigas*.

Jack (John Francis) Wilson

25 August 1924–24 April 2005

A Tribute

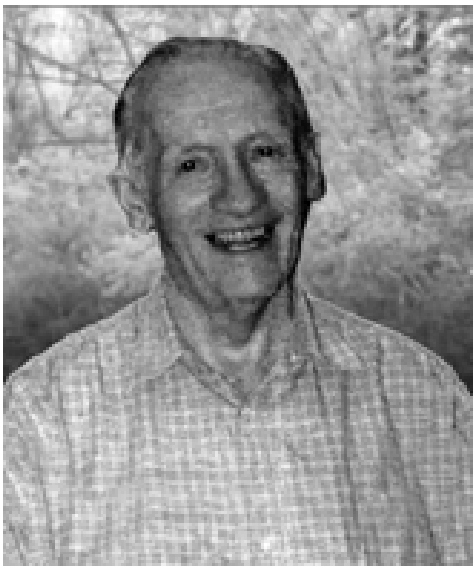
Jack was born in Gisborne in 1924, and commenced work upon leaving school, for the local council, and the newspaper, whilst he waited to turn 18, and could then enlist. Enlistment was in 1942, and he recalled living in the Melbourne Exhibition Buildings whilst training at Pilot School as a Navigator. He was seiously injured in training, and carried fragments of a wayward grenade for the rest of his life.

He then undertook teacher training at Melbourne Teachers College, and spent 21 years as a Primary Teacher, mostly at Regional Schools.

He met Dorothy in 1953. Upon their marriage, they lived in Brighton, and subsequently in Blackburn South, for a total of 52 years. Jack and Dorothy raised four daughters, Elizabeth, Helen, Jenny and Sue. They have been blessed with 10 grandchildren.

In the later years of his career, Jack upgraded his qualifications. He was then given the task of establishing a Professional Development Centre for teachers at Mirrabooka, and eventually retired as Director, Teacher Education, for the State of Victoria, after a very distinguished career. He was also Master of his Lodge in 1985.

Jack was a perfectionist, a man who never gave up, and one who continued to learn throughout his lifetime. This was one of the reasons others were drawn to him. His knowledge of rhododendrons, azaleas, vireyas and species *Cyclamen* became formidable. Few, if any, had more knowledge.



Brian Clancy, and Jack O'Shannassy, can both recall purchasing *R. ponticum* seedlings from Jack for 5 shillings each. Jack also sold seedlings to Coles, for rhododendron was unique at that time. Brian says he first met Jack in 1959. He had a lot of respect for Jack.

Jack was also a beekeeper – for the honey, and probably also for the pollination of his seedlings.

His close friend, Ken Campbell said in eulogy, that: "Your friend is your needs answered". Jack generously gave advice, information, and plant cuttings to those who asked. To receive cuttings of *R.* 'Southern Cloud', his prized hybrid, was to be given a magnificent gift. What better way to remember a 'friend"? He also named three azaleas from the large number he bred, one of which was *R.* 'Blackburn Pink Frills'.

His abiding desire was to see further work done on tetraploids, which he considered to have much merit, as shown by *R.* 'William Avery', named after a close friend (a hybrid of *diaprepes gargantua* x 'Walloper').

We all have much to thank him for. No person has done more for the *Rhododendron* genus in Australia than he; for he was one of a group of five who founded the Australian Rhododendron Society as a breakaway group from the Ferny Creek Horticultural Society, and ultimately paved the way for the establishment of the National Rhododendron Gardens.

Jack was President of the Victorian Branch in 1990 and 1991 and the editor of the newsletter for 10 to 15 years.

Our sincere condolences to Dorothy and family.

Murray McAllister
Vice President, Victorian Branch

First published in the Victorian Branch's The Rhododendron Newsletter

Gardens as Theatre

Barry Stagoll

For those keenly interested in plants, collections of interesting and decorative plants are enjoyable to view. The viewing can be even more enjoyable if the plants are incorporated in a garden environment where they are used effectively to complement (or contrast with) one another and stimulate our senses more comprehensively. Tastes differ, but for each of us certain gardens will stand out in the memory, even though our last visit may have been far from recent. In my experience, many of the gardens which tend to attract the most enduring admiration create a real sense of occasion for the visitor, and one important way they can achieve this is to incorporate a touch of "theatre".

Even a casual observer would be likely to recognise that an objective of creating a formal ornamental garden is to obtain an orderly effect – possibly quite a striking effect – and the more successful formal gardens may easily rate as theatrical, whether they use traditional or more modern design features and materials. The formality will usually be established in the structure of the plantings and other physical features, by emphasizing geometrical order – for instance using rectangles, elliptical shapes, and straight lines, and selecting suitable plants as well as confining plant growth to complement this order. Often they will also include a significant content of ornamentation (for instance, statuary) and hard landscaping features (such as paved areas and structures). Cloudehill on Mount Dandenong in Victoria is a popular garden of this sort, of which there are many other examples of varying character.

In a more naturalistically styled garden, the theatricals may rely to a considerable extent on the use of plants themselves as the "cast", changing their costumes (or appearing and disappearing) with the seasons. But if the garden is to be highly successful as theatre, they need to be staged and directed effectively. You could say that the first requirement is to plan the vista intended to confront the observer (the stage and its "props" such as structures, hard landscaping features, water features or statuary), and then consider the planting so as to populate this (the director's contribution).

Scene changes

If there is only the space to create one stage, then the changing seasons will be the means of changing the "scene", perhaps with the seasonal changes in the appearance to the permanent plants being supplemented with potted plants being

included at their appropriate seasonal times. Of course, if the particular scene draws heavily on the use of plants which do not really exhibit well during their dormant period, then the "theatre" might be in recess altogether at such times – the rose garden, for instance, when it's all pruned and waiting for its next blooming.

In a larger space, it is possible to create a series of stages (vistas) which can then intensify the sense of theatre by offering the viewer a selection of "scenes" during the one visit. Some sizeable gardens have many and varied vistas – you can tell how these vistas impress visitors by observing for a while to see how many people pause (and often get out a camera) at these points. Mostly the vistas haven't just happened, but have been the end result of serious planning for scenic effect.

The site and natural scenics

That said, it has to be admitted that the location and topography of a garden can make a considerable contribution to its theatricals. Borrowed scenery, such as distant views of natural scenics or attractive tall trees is very helpful. Steeper sites often lend themselves to exciting scenery within a garden (an example that comes quickly to mind is that of Powys Castle in Wales, spilling down the side of a bluff), as do rock outcrops or natural watercourses. Existing mature trees can likewise be an advantage, if they're in a suitable place. So can attractive structures, such as a photogenic house or outbuildings. The availability of a high vantage point can provide a quite different - and sometimes spectacular - view of a garden than those obtainable at ground level. In some gardens, where the natural topography doesn't provide for a high viewing point, terraces, balconies or decks, might serve the purpose, or the landscaping may incorporate an artificial mound – an example of the latter is found at the historic nineteenth century Rippon Lea Estate in Melbourne.

In all gardens it's possible that areas planned as open spaces can be compromised, whether by enthusiastic over-planting or by maintenance work which is too timid or infrequent. Such loss of open space tends to be less usual in formally styled gardens than in gardens styled more informally, as their custodians will usually have a strongly designed garden plan to guide them.

Most people who are keenly interested in plants have a tendency to over-plant their gardens. Often this needs to be resisted to allow the plants to be appreciated to the full in the garden setting (even if this means fewer can be included). For the long-term effect, it's best to consider with care how the next plantings you make will work out. I admit to being one who learned from experience how crowded things can get, and how much clearing can be required later both to provide good growing conditions for particular plants and to allow good viewing of them. From that experience, it dawns that a

reasonable smattering of open spaces (or at least spaces planted mostly with low-growing material) should be regarded as important elements of a garden, rather than always being candidates for greater "utilisation" for growing things. Sometimes they are places from which to take in the view, and sometimes they can contribute in a positive way to the scenery, and in many a case both.

Theatrical effects in informal gardens

Whilst I appreciate many styles of formal garden, I must admit that the gardens I've played a part in building, and my favourite gardens among those I've visited, have most of their space occupied by informal, naturalistic plantings.

Of course, you can find examples of informally arranged plantings within gardens of essentially formal style – which is how I would describe parts of Sissinghurst Castle garden in Kent, for instance, with its rectangular garden rooms providing the formal structure. There's certainly scope for plenty of theatrical scenery in that concept.

The range of interesting and attractive theatrical vistas which could be created within a garden must be pretty much infinite. But there are certain design elements which are worth considering for inclusion in planning garden scenery. For instance, in designing informal landscape there is value in creating the visual impression that any path traversing it does not terminate, but continues on into further interesting scenery beyond – even if in fact the available space doesn't allow it to do so. In a large enough space, a useful way to approach this is to develop a plan of pathways or access spaces which avoids the creation of any "dead ends", so they'll naturally include bends and curves. This assists to maintain the interest of a visitor as they will be encouraged to continue on rather than retracing their steps frequently, and as a result taking in the same scenery as before.

Providing focal points for scenery

Inclusion of a deliberate focal point can make a strong contribution to an effective garden vista, just as the most arresting photographs include a focal point. It might result as a matter of a simple happy accident, but typically the existence of a successful "focal point" results from the garden designer choosing a particular viewing point from which the vista will be visible, say a particular spot on a path, a clearing, or a set of steps. The object which is to act as the focal point may even serve to do this for more than one vista, viewed from different positions in the garden. The effect is often achieved most successfully when the focal point zone is framed – say with foreground plantings (but it can be by other means – an example being a viewing aperture located in a wall or hedge) so as to assist in drawing the eye to it more readily.

The focal point may be a pond, a statue, a large rock or group of rocks, or an ornament, for instance. But a focal point can also be achieved by placement of a striking tree or plant – or a group of plants, perhaps in an "island" configuration – to draw attention. Indeed, it is even possible to locate several quite different plants in the "focal point" zone, each of which will become the focal point at different times by drawing attention strongly to itself during "its" season – whether this is by a seasonal show of blooms, bright foliage contrasting with surrounding plants during its growing season, or stunning autumn foliage.

It's also possible to use a particularly attractive plant which changes its appearance radically through the seasons as a changing focal point. Typically, unless the garden is on a really grand scale, it will be best to choose a plant which is not too large. The particular plant chosen need not qualify as the most remarkable plant in the scene, whether for its rarity, its botanical interest, or any other reason - the main issue is whether it is successful at catching the eye. Usually we would be drawn to consider a deciduous type – strong candidates include flowering shrubs or trees such as *Lagerstroemia* (crepe myrtles), and, in non-flowering types, maples such as the many selections of *Acer palmatum*, and also *A. griseum*, which in addition to seasons clothed in mature leaves and bare of leaves have intervening seasons of colourful autumn foliage and highly decorative emerging new foliage in spring. Both the crepe myrtles and *Acer griseum* also have stunning bark which shows to particular advantage in some of the seasons. One of my favourite "theatrical" garden scenes is the view of a magnificent specimen of a larger *Lagerstroemia*, *L. subcostata*, with the Lake as backdrop, in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. This really fine, medium-sized flowering tree looks quite different at different seasons, but it's always stunning.

But if the objective is to use a single plant as a changing focal point, the choice need not always be for a deciduous plant. Many attractive evergreen plants change their appearance from season to season, if more subtly. In this category, of course, are so many different fine rhododendrons that it would be pointless to try to suggest a list here. But (depending on the size of the space) when it comes to species it would be hard to exclude various different forms of *R. arboreum*, for instance, and similarly the wide selection of plants having *R. degronianum* ssp. *yakushimanum* in their parentage.

A non-rhododendron favourite of mine which also certainly qualifies is the *Arbutus* (a member of the Ericaceae family) especially the species *A. canariensis*, with outstanding bark which changes in texture and colour (pale grey-green to bright orange to cinnamon), shining deep green leaves, masses of fringed bell-shaped pendulous blooms for an extended blooming season, followed by

strawberry-like fruits in various stages of maturity at the same time (some yellow, some orange, others red). Similarly, a good specimen of *Arbutus* × *andrachnoides* would be a great plant to build a scene around.

So, do you see yourself as a garden impresario?

Now, if you're singularly focused on plants for their own sake and their own individual attractions, you might feel there's no need to consider whether their may be any advantage in striving to introduce some theatre into the garden. But to broaden the appeal of gardens and to encourage greater interest by others in sharing the marvellous world of ornamental plants, it has a lot going for it. And it needn't involve extra cost or a great amount of extra work – just a careful analysis of the potential of the location and any existing prominent features, followed by some thoughtful planning of the sorts of scenery you might seek to create. ❀

A Very Different Conference Experience

Pacific Region International Rhododendron Conference, Burnie, Tasmania … October 2006

NEIL JORDAN

At Burnie, in North Western Tasmania, we have been carefully planning an International Conference that we think will have great appeal for rhododendron enthusiasts from all over the world.

This is the second time we have staged a Pacific Region International Rhododendron Conference, the first being in 1994. On that occasion, despite being novices to such events, we hosted a very memorable conference.

Since that time, we have frequently been asked to repeat our effort. A decade of hectic development at our Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden kept us very busy, and although the pace of development here has not abated, only now have we managed to organise another such event.

This will be mid spring in Tasmania – truly the most delightful time to visit. Burnie enjoys such a mild climate, and we are able to grow whatever rhododendrons we choose under natural conditions. Enjoy Tasmania's unique flora and fauna as you tour an island of unusual diversity – from rugged mountains and rainforests to rich farmlands and quiet fishing villages.

Our 1994 Pacific Region International Rhododendron Conference was a great success, with delegates enjoying warm hospitality, superb food, and an excellent insight into the unique place that is Tasmania. I am very confident that we can stage an even better Conference in 2006 to inform and delight rhododendron growers, whatever their origin.

From our 1994 Conference, with very modest beginnings, we were able to send a substantial group of delegates back to their northern homes, with glowing testimonies of their experience in Tasmania. In short, the Conference was successful beyond our wildest expectations.

The later weeks of October in Tasmania will see most rhododendrons at their best. The daytime winter temperature in Burnie very rarely stays below 10°C (our record overnight low is –2°C). At the other end of the spectrum, it very rarely exceeds 25°C in summer, and we enjoy an annual rainfall of around 1000mm (40 inches). Consequently we are able to grow whatever rhododendrons we choose under natural conditions.

As I write, our new Interpretation / Visitor Centre is under construction, and will be open for business in the coming spring. This will allow us to accommodate larger groups of visitors in comfort regardless of weather conditions.

We have planned a most informative and entertaining conference. An experience you will long remember. At this time we are still finalising our list of speakers, but great care is being taken to ensure the best possible outcome.

The Burnie Civic Centre is an excellent venue for these events, allowing us to run the more formal presentations in a large theatre setting, with dinners in the Town Hall, and other meals in adjoining rooms – all under one roof. Catering is excellent. Tasmania has established an international reputation for quality cuisine, and our aim is to present what Tasmania does best – fresh, quality produce that is the envy of most.

With most delegates arriving on Friday 20th October 2006, we will commence with a Welcome Dinner on that evening to ensure that everyone gets to know each other, and that the scene is set for the days to follow.

Saturday, Sunday and Monday will focus on Conference presentations, with some short tours (including half a day to take in the incredible Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden), and the main Conference Dinner on the Saturday evening. An alternative day tour will be organised on the Sunday for partners who find a full day of conference presentations a bit too much.

Whilst in Burnie, coaches will transport delegates to and from comfortable accommodation within a few minutes of the Burnie Civic Centre. This means that you have no transport problems – just go with the program and everything will be taken care of.

Various tours will be arranged to follow the Conference from Tuesday, 24th, to Friday, 27th October. Tuesday's tour will be a guided rainforest walk in the Cradle Mountain National Park. This will be followed on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday by an extended tour of our rugged West Coast and Central Highlands regions, ending on Friday evening in Hobart. Here you can see the Hobart Rhododendron Show and some more gardens before flying on to New Zealand for more great rhodo experiences.

Naturally, the cost of such an undertaking is very substantial, but this will be covered as required by delegates' booking far enough in advance to cover their needs. We are confident that we can offer attractive rates for what we are sure will be a very memorable experience.

Since most of you will be visiting Tasmania for the first time and, no doubt, have a wider interest than just rhododendrons, we will be including some talks and guided tours relating to Tasmanian native flora, and its origins in Gondwanaland.

For those who may not be aware, Tasmania is quite a unique place! As the southernmost Australian state, and an island, we enjoy a cool temperate climate. Our position in the Southern Ocean affords some of the cleanest air in the world. Hence we are able to produce a range of truly superb cuisine. Our fruit and vegetables are unsurpassed in quality. Similarly, our seafoods, wines and cheeses, to mention but a few, are of the highest quality and enjoy premium positions on world markets.

You will see from our program that we have provided excellent opportunities to take in both the Conference, and a good selection of the sights and experiences that Tasmania has to offer in a brief time. Our booking agent would be only too happy to put you in touch with trout fishing or bush walking opportunities in our Central Highlands, or perhaps a scenic flight over a wilderness area. We can also make provision for easy connections to mainland Australia or New Zealand. If you want more – say the word !

At time of writing we are still finalising speakers, but an excellent team is emerging. We are in the process of completing arrangements with the following acknowledged international rhododendron experts:

- Guan Kaiyun, Director of Kunming Botanical Garden in Yunnan, China
- Graham Smith, Director of Pukeiti Rhododendron Garden near New Plymouth, New Zealand
- Dr George Argent (now retired) of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh, Scotland.
- Holger Hachmann, of the legendary Hachmann Nursery in Germany
- We will also have an excellent group of very talented Australian speakers.

Time is moving on and we have taken this opportunity to contact as many people as possible now, so that they may start making plans to be here in 2006. From this small corner of the globe, it is difficult to make contact with all those who may be interested in making the trip. If there is anyone you know who may not be aware, please pass the word, or give us the names and we will be pleased to send them information.

I'm sure readers will all have your own contacts in the travel industry, but there can be no doubt that local people can tell you more about seeing the best of Tasmania. To this end you are invited to make contact with our booking agent, Charles Cameron at Tasmanian Travel Centre, PO Box 973, Burnie, Tasmania 7320, Australia, tel. (03) 6434 6111 or fax (03) 6434 6123 or email travel@burnie.net). Charles will be handling all Conference bookings on our behalf, and would also be very happy to assist with your travel and accommodation requirements. I know you will find Charles and his staff most helpful.

One word of advice. Interstate and overseas travel agents frequently get bad advice. The airport for Burnie is Burnie (Wynyard). Don't let your travel agent book you into Tasmania through other airports (such as Hobart or Launceston) as it will involve substantial local travel and extra cost. All major airlines have several connecting flights into Burnie every day.

If you would like to be informed further of developments leading up to the 2006 Pacific Region International Rhododendron Conference, please contact me (details below) at your earliest convenience. All those who register their interest will be assured of direct information as it is released.

We would be very happy to consider any specific requests or suggestions in relation to the Conference. Our main aim is to promote international cooperation in furthering the appreciation of rhododendrons.

I look forward to meeting your information needs, and to the prospect of meeting many of you in Burnie in 2006. ❀

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Conference details will be confirmed by October 2005, and will be notified directly to all who register their interest before that time.

Fragrant Rhododendrons

Richard Francis

As gardening as a passion took me in its hold, one particular group of plants began to capture my imagination, the cool climate evergreen rhododendrons. Living at the time in southern Tasmania, I was naturally drawn to the big, colourful trusses of the popular hybrids. Each spring I spent many an hour at the botanical gardens in Hobart watching and waiting as one by one these splendid plants unveiled their delights for a few short weeks before rain would come to wilt their petals.

Soon I realised there was much more to the vast and diverse *Rhododendron* genus than the show-stopping garden shrubs found in every corner nursery. There are tiny, ground-hugging prostrate plants, with spiky leaves and trusses of flowers no larger than a five cent piece, that have adapted to surviving heavy frosts and winter snows of windswept rocky outcrops in the Himalayas. There are forests of trees with gigantic, leathery leaves as much as a metre in length. And there are epiphytes perching precariously in the forks of trees in the misty, mountain jungles of southeast Asia and New Guinea.

The rich variety of rhododendron foliage can equal the delights of their blooms, especially the young spring shoots which rise optimistically like candlesticks once the flowers are spent. And an added bonus that is often overlooked in a number of species and hybrids is fragrance to rival the sweetest rose or magnolia.

Fragrance in flowers is just one of several devices evolved by plants to attract birds or insects as pollinators and a number of species have survived by perfecting this trait. Fragrance in the rhododendron is genetically linked to pale flower colours, so that fragrance becomes an unfortunate trade-off with colour. Any strongly coloured rhododendron can be guaranteed not be fragrant.

About the only relief from white in fragrant rhododendrons one can hope for are pale creams or lighter shades of yellow, or perhaps a pink or purplish flush to the flower buds which inevitably fades to white as the flowers open.

R. nuttallii, from the Himalayas, is a tough, generous plant whose strongly scented, bold white flowers positively glow from a vibrant yellow throat. It thrives in quite open positions, and its large leaves are like sumptuous, deeply grained green leather. *R. lindleyi*, also from the Himalayas, has a more open habit and less interesting foliage, but crosses between the two have resulted in some very beautiful, highly fragrant plants.

The heat tolerance and suberb fragrance of *R. maddenii* make it a good choice for Australian gardens. It is widely variable in form and found across a broad area of southeast Asia and the Himalayas. There are some pale yellow

forms of *R. johnstoneanum* from northern India, but as always the rule is that the deeper the shade the weaker the fragrance will be.

The cream flowered *R. dalhousiae* is another evergreen species that is closely related to *R. maddenii* and worth seeking for its powerful fragrance. Its variety 'Rhabdotum' offers the bonus of a bold red stripe along the side of each flower.

Fragrance is generally passed on to the hybrids of species rhododendrons, and perhaps the best known of the fragrant hybrids is the aptly named *R.* 'Fragrantissimum'. Its Latin name suggests that it is a species but it comes from the early days of hybridizing, when Latin names were still permitted for hybrids.

'Fragrantissimum' is one of the *edgeworthii* hybrids, a cross between the richly fragrant *R. edgeworthii* and the non-fragrant *R. formosum*, both white flowering species from the Himalayas. But one wonders why the uninspiring 'Fragrantissimum' lanky and fairly sparse of leaf remains so popular, when even the parent *R. edgeworthii* develops a far superior garden habit. Its straggly, open form does, however, lend the plant to training as an espaliere against a wall or trellis.

Other sweetly fragrant plants with *R. edgeworthii* in their parentage include 'Princess Alice' and 'Countess of Sefton'. The more compact 'Suave' and slightly larger 'Daviesii' have very similar, large simple white flowers tinged with pink, and a fragrance to rival that of 'Fragrantissimum', but they are far better behaved, compact shrubs.

Rhododendron tuba from New Guinea.

RICHARD FRANCIS

The Loderi hybrids were bred by Sir Edmund Loder around the early 1900s, and are crosses which include two white flowering fragrant species in their parentage, the Himalayan *R. griffithianum* and *R. fortunei* from eastern China. Probably the best known of these hardy, vigorous plants are 'Loderi King George', with its enormous trusses of white funnel-shaped flowers, and the more sun-tolerant and compact 'Loder's White'.

The island of New Guinea is the domain of the vireya rhododendron and is home to over two hundred species with certainly more treasures awaiting discovery. Others are found scattered across much of southeast Asia, with the red-flowering species, *R. lochiae*, native to the far northeast of Queensland.

Recent years have seen the release of many new vireya hybrids with forms superior to the often leggy species, as these versatile plants rapidly gain popularity. So long as sufficient sunlight and some protection from frost can be provided, vireyas may be grown in gardens as far south as Hobart.

Many of the vireya rhododendrons are strongly scented, probably the best known examples being *R. konori* from New Guinea and *R. jasminiflorum* from Malaysia, Sumatra and the Philippines. The unique *R. tuba*, also from New Guinea, is an unforgettable sight in flower, massed with trusses of dangling white tubular flowers with a heady perfume.

Few of the evergreen azaleas offer fragrance, although there are a few notable exceptions. 'Alba Magnifica', also known as 'Alba Magna', is an enduring,

Trusty old favourite child of *edgeworthii*, 'Fragrantissimum'.

RICHARD FRANCIS

vigorous Indica hybrid from the 1850s, whose tolerance to sunlight makes it an ideal choice for planting in massed beds in an open setting, concentrating its subtle scent.

A rare exception to the pale colour rule is the mildly perfumed, pale mauve hybrid 'Schryderii Mauve', a sport of the equally fragrant white 'Schryderii'. Both plants have sticky foliage which potentially harmful insects avoid.

Many deciduous azaleas can be delightfully fragrant. *R. occidentale*, the western azalea, grows wild in temperate zones west of the Rocky Mountains. It is a particularly captivating plant whose white flowers bear a distinctive golden yellow flare, a characteristic passed on to other occidentale hybrids, such as 'Exquisita' and 'Delicatissima'.

The massed flowers of many deciduous azaleas burst open dramatically on bare branches before the foliage emerges, providing a striking contrast in an otherwise often bleak early spring landscape. The eastern European species, *R. luteum*, which has a very strong fragrance resembling honeysuckle, is one such plant. A parent of many hybrids, its yellow flowers are among the strongest in colour of the scented rhododendrons, and it is also noted for its dramatic autumn leaf colour.

It's not just the flowers of the rhododendron plant that can be fragrant. A characteristic of the red to yellow flowering *R. cinnabarinum*, from the Himalayas, and one that is passed on to its many offspring, is the cinnamon-like aroma of its bluish green foliage when rubbed against or crushed.

Other plants with aromatic foliage include the species *R. campylogynum*, whose sulphur yellow flowers are also slightly fragrant, the pink or white *R. glaucophyllum* and and the purplish blue *R. hippophaeoides*, all Himalayan plants.

There are several forms of the heat-tolerant American hybrid 'P.J.M' in various shades of pink, and all with aromatic foliage. All of these plants demand siting alongside paths, where they will be brushed against, adding yet another dimension to the garden sensation. ❀

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Fragrant rhododendron species

ciliicalyx
cubittii
dalhousiae
decorum
dendricola
edgeworthii
falconeri
fortunei
griffithianum
hemsleyanum
johnstoneanum
lindleyi
maddenii
megacalyx
nuttallii
rigidum
scopulorum
taggianum
veitchianum
virgatum

Small fragrant hybrids

'Daviesii'
'Princess Alice'
'Suave'
'Dora Amateis'
'Sesterianum'

Medium fragrant hybrids

'Admiral Piet Hein'
'Fragrantissimum'
'Tyermanii'
'Anne Teese'
'Lavender Girl'
'Van Nes Sensation'
'Award'
'Loder's White'
'Wedding Gown'
'Countess of Haddington'
'Mount Everest'
'Mrs. A. T. de la Mare'
'Countess of Sefton'

Large fragrant hybrids

'California Gold'
'Janet Blair'
'Sir Frederick Moore'
'Coronation Day'
'Mother of Pearl'
'Faggetter's Favourite'
'Puget Sound'
'Geoffrey Millais'
'Satin Glow'
'Irene Stead'

Fragrant vireya hybrids

'Aravir'
'Great Scent-sation'
'Pastenello'
'Bob's Crowning Glory'
'Highland Arabesque'
'Pink Pizazz'
'Bold Janus'
'Highland White Jade'
'Princess Alexandra'
'Christopher John'
'Iced Primrose'
'Robert Bates'
'Craig Faragher'
'Jean Baptiste'
'Sweet Amanda'
'Dr. Hermann Sleumer'
'Laura Kate'
'Sweet Rosalie'
'Eastern Zanzibar'
'Little Pinkie'
'Sweet Seraphim'
'Elegant Bouquet'
'Lochmin'
'Sweet Wendy'
'Esprit de Joie'
'Lovey'
'Gardenia Odessy'
'Magic Flute'
'Gossamer White'
'Moonwood'

Fragrant vireya species

R. carringtonii
R. jasminiflorum
R. konori
R. leucogigas
R. loranthiflorum
R. luraluense
R. multicolor
R. orbiculatum
R. phaeochitum
R. phaeopeplum
R. tuba

Fragrant deciduous azalea species

R. arborescens
R. atlanticum
R. luteum
R. occidentale
R. prinophyllum
R. viscosum

Fragrant deciduous azalea hybrids

'Balzac'
'Berryrose'
'Buzzard'
'Carat'
'Exquisita'
'Irene Koster'
'Lady Jayne'

Fragrant evergreen azalea hybrids

'Alba Magnifica'
'Fielder's White'
'Magnifica'
'Schryderii'
'Schryderii Mauve'

New Registrations 2004–2005

Ken Gillanders

The following is a listing of registrations submitted by the Australian Rhododendron Society Plant registrar, and approved by the Royal Horticultural Society during the year 2004/2005.

Colour numbers refer to the R.H.S. Colour Chart. Accompanying colour names are taken from "A Contribution Towards Standardization of Color Names in Horticulture", R.D. Huse and K.L. Kelly, edited D.H. Voss (ARS 1984)

Parents of plants are reported in the conventional order – seed parent × pollen parent.

Abbreviations used

H	hybridized by
G	Grown to first flower
S	selected by
N	named by
I	introduced by
R	registered by

I have included broad colour definitions after RHS Colour Chart numbers for the flowers. This will enable members without access to the chart to have some idea of the colour of the flower.

'Amarlie Crowden' Elepidote hybrid of 'Miss B L Jones' × 'D J Dosser's Choice' H(1995) G(2003) N&R(2004)Don Dosser. Truss: conical consisting of 18 funnel shaped flowers. Corolla: 40mm × 100mm. Lobes: 5 wavy. Buds:66D. Corolla inside: 65D edged 66C. Corolla outside: 66C(light purplish pink) Leaves: oblong 190mm × 70mm. Height: 1m × 60cm in 8 years. Flowering: November.

'Aussie Witch' Elepidote hybrid of 'C.I.S.' × 'Cheyenne' H(1995) G(2002) N&R(2004) Harry Ronken. Truss: dome, consisting of 11 campanulate flowers. Corolla: 60mm × 90mm. Lobes: 7, wavy. Buds: 12B. Corolla inside & outside 12C (pale yellow) a few rays 44C on 3 upper lobes. Leaves: elliptic 100mm × 45mm. Height: 75cm × 60cm in 8 years. Flowering: November.

'Brocaded Pillow' Evergreen Azalea. Hybrid of 'Princess Maud' × 'Kirin'. H(1987)G(1990) N&R(2004) Craig Carroll. Truss: 2 hose in hose flowers per truss. Corolla: 10mm × 20mm. Lobes:11, wavy. Buds: 57B. Corolla inside & outside 57B(crimson) Leaves: ovate, 25mm × 12mm. Plant 1m wide in 6 years. Flowering: spring.

'Burnie Chameleon' Elepidote hybrid of *magnificum* × unknown. H(1988) unknown. G(1998) Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden. N&R(2004) Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden. Truss: dome, consisting of 29 ventricose campanulate flowers. Corolla: 80mm × 90mm. Lobes: 8, wavy. Buds: 63A(deep rose) Corolla inside & outside: on opening 55B in tube with 64B on lobes, fading to 10C in tube with 63B on lobes(pale yellow, dusky pink on lobes) purple blotch in base. Leave: elliptic, 350mm × 120mm, silver indumentum under leaf. Height: 2.5m × 3.5m in 15 years. Flowering: August.

'Burnie Supreme' Elepidote hybrid of *magnificum* × unknown. H(1988) unknown. G(1998) Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden. N&R(2004) Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden. Truss: dome, consisting of 27 ventricose campanulate flowers. Corolla: 80mm × 80mm. Lobes: 8-9 wavy. Buds: 59C. Corolla inside & outside: 10C in tube, 75C on lobes(pale yellow, mauve on lobes) purple blotch in base. Leaves: broadly elliptic, 400mm × 120mm, silvery indumentum on reverse. Height: 4m × 5m in 15 years. Flowering: August.

'Carillon Melody' Evergreen Azalea. Hybrid of 'Ambrosius' × 'Orchidiflorum' H:(1985) G:(1988) N&R:(2004) Craig Carroll. Truss: 2 single flowers. Corolla: 300mm × 15mm. Lobes: 5 wavy. Buds: 57A. Corolla: 57B(red) Leaves: elliptic. Height: 1m × 1m in 5 years. Flowering: spring.

'Carol Ann Ronken' Elepidote hybrid of pachysanthum × unknown. H:(1994) G:(2000) N&R:(2004) Harry Ronken. Truss: dome, consisting of 11-15 campanulate flowers. Corolla: 55mm × 70mm. Lobes: 5 wavy. Buds: 73C. Corolla inside: white. Corolla outside: white with a trace of 73D on tip of each lobe(white, tipped mauve pink) spotted on upper lobe. Leaves: elliptic, 100mm × 30mm, indumentum silvery when young, light orange-brown on maturity. Height: 80cm × 1.1m in 10 years. Flowering: September–October.

'D. D. Noyce' Elepidote hybrid of 'Cornubia' × 'Coronation Day' H:(1990) G:(2000) N&R:(2005)Harry Ronken. Truss: dome, consisting of 14 funnel shaped flowers. Corolla: 60mm × 90mm. Lobes: 6 wavy. Buds: 68A. Corolla inside: 68D. Corolla outside: 68C (pink) spotted 68A in throat. Leaves: oblong 225mm × 65mm. Height: 3m × 2m in 14 years. Flowering: November–December

'Fairy Floss' Elepidote hybrid of 'Lily' × 'Satin Glow' H:(1986)Bob Malone. G:(1993)Bob Malone. N&R:(2004)Harry Ronken. Truss: ball, consisting of 13-15 broadly funnel shaped flowers. Corolla: 75mm × 110mm. Lobes: 5 wavy. Buds: 68A. Corolla inside: 68A. Corolla outside: 68D fading to 56D(dusky pale pink) Leave: elliptic 160mm × 50mm. Height: 1m × 1m in 6 years. Flowering: October.

'J.S. Garrett' 3rd' Elepidote hybrid of 'Lockington Pride' × 'Cup Day' H:(1990) G:(2000) N&R:(2004) Don Dosser. Truss: dome, consisting of 13 funnel shaped flowers. Corolla: 75mm × 70mm. Lobes: 5 wavy. Corolla inside & outside: white and streaked 62B(white streaked pink) spots 61C all over(crimson) Leaves: oblong 175mm × 50mm. Height: 2m × 2m in 14 years. Flowering: November.

'Lapoinya Leprechaun' Elepidote hybrid of *yakushimanum* dwarf form × *arboretum* KW21976. H:(1985)P A Schick, USA. G:(1993)Bob Malone. N:(1995) Bob Malone. R:(2004)Harry Ronken. Truss: dome, consisting of 9 tubular campanulate flowers. Corolla: 50mm × 60mm. Lobes: 5 wavy. Buds: 52A. Corolla inside & outside: 52A (light red) a few faint spots on lobes and dark red blotch at base. Leaves: lanceolate 95mm × 25mm, silvery indumentum when young , 165D biscuit when mature. Height:60cm × 1m in 18 years. Flowering: August–September.

'Lapoinya Lollipop' Elepidote hybrid of 'Coronation Day' × 'Lighthouse' H:(1987)Bob Malone. G:(1996)Bob Malone. N&R:(2004)Harry Ronken. Truss: ball, consisting of 18 funnel campanulate flowers. Corolla: 60mmx 115mm Lobes: 5 wavy. Buds: 57D. Corolla inside: 57D on lobes fading to center 55A, spotted 57A.. Corolla outside: 57D (pink) Leaves: elliptic 155mm × 50mm. Height: 1.4m × 1m in 6 years. Flowering: October.

'Lockington Glow' Elepidote hybrid of 'Marcus of Lockington' × 'Australian Sunset' H:(1994) G:(2003) N&R:(2005)Don Dosser. Truss: Conical, consisting of 11 funnel shaped flowers. Corolla: 40mm × 115mm. Lobes: 7 wavy. Buds: 68A. Corolla inside: 68C flushed 11C, tip of lobes 68A. Corolla outside: 68C(pink) ray 71B(deep crimson) Leaves: elliptic 180mm × 50mm. Height: 1m × 1m in 10 years. Flowering: November–December.

'Lockington Maggie' Elepidote hybrid of 'Marcus of Lockington' × 'Australian Sunset' H:(1994) G:(2003) N&R:(2005)Don Dosser. Truss: ball, consisting 12 funnel shaped flowers. Corolla: 50mm × 75mm. Lobes: 6 wavy. Buds: 50B. Corolla inside & outside: 50B (light red) blotch in centre 46A(deep red) Leaves: elliptic 140mm × 140mm margins decurved. Height: 1m × 1m in 10 years. Flowering: November–December.

'Lockington's Sunset' Elepidote hybrid of 'Marcus of Lockington' × 'Australian Sunset' H:(1994) G:(2003) N&R:(2004)Don Dosser. Truss: ball, consisting of 14 broadly funnel shaped flowers. Corolla: 30mm × 110mm. Lobes: 6 wavy. Buds: 58B. Corolla inside: 10D. Corolla outside: 10D streaked 58A (pale yellow streaked pink) ray 59C. Leaves: elliptic 160mm × 50mm decurved. Height: 1m × 1m in 10 years. Flowering: November.

'Majestic Maiden' Elepidote hybrid of 'Sir Frederick Moore' × 'Coronation Day' H:(1979)Bob Malone. G:(1986)Bob Malone. N:(1988)Bob Malone. R:(2004)Harry Ronken. Truss: round, consisting of 13-15 funnel campanulate flowers. Corolla: 87mm × 135mm. Lobes: 7 wavy. Buds: 58B. Corolla inside: 62D to 65A on edges. Corolla outside: 65A(pink) blotch 59A with spotted rays outwards 59D(red) Leaves: 160mm × 57mm. Height: 1.5m × 1.2m in 7 years. Flowering: November.

'November Moon' Elepidote hybrid of 'Unique' × 'Jacks White' H:(1994) G:(2002) N&R:(2004)Don Dosser. Truss: ball, consisting of 15 funnel shaped flowers. Corolla: 50mm × 75mm Lobes: 5 wavy. Buds: 3D. Corolla inside & Corolla outside: 4D(pale yellow) Leaves: broadly elliptic 125mm × 40mm. Height: 75cm × 1m in 10 years. Flowering: October

'Rosbevann Star' Elepidote hybrid of 'Diana Trask' × 'Windmill' H:(1990) G:(1995) N&R:(2004)Don Dosser. Truss: 3 funnel shaped flowers per truss. Corolla: 40mm × 75mm. Lobes: 5 wavy. Corolla inside & corolla outside: 53D(red) Leaves: elliptic 40mm × 15mm. Height: 60cm × 60cm in 14 years. Flowering: September–October.

'Village Fair' Elepidote hybrid of 'C.I.S.' × 'Lemon Lodge' H:(1995) G:(2001) N&R:(2004)Harry Ronken. Truss: dome consisting of 8-9 broadly funnel shaped flowers. Corolla: 50mm × 85mm. Lobes: 7 wavy. Buds: 9C. Corolla inside: 9C at base, 9D at the edge of lobe. Corolla outside: 9D(yellow) Leaves: elliptic 100mm × 48mm. Height: 1m × 1.2m in 8 years. Flowering: October–November.

'Woolmer's Blush' Elepidote hybrid of 'C.I.S.' × 'Victor Boulter' H:(1995) G:(2001) N&R:(2004)Harry Ronken. Truss: dome consisting of 9-11 funnel campanulate flowers. Corolla: 60mm × 100mm. Lobes: 5 wavy. Buds: 64C. Corolla inside & corolla outside: 64C becoming 62D on edge(dusky pink with paler edge) 2-3 red rays from base. Leaves: elliptic 110mm × 25mm. Height: 60cm × 1m in 8 years. Flowering: September–October.

'Wounded Virgin' Elepidote hybrid of *aberconwayi* × 'Coronation Day' H:(1985)Bob Malone G:(1992)Bob Malone N:(1995)Bob Malone R:(2004) Harry Ronken. Truss: dome, consisting of 10-12 funnel campanulate flowers. Corolla: 70mm × 100mm. Lobes: 5-6 wavy. Buds: 62A. Corolla inside & corolla outside 155D(white) blotch at base 60B(red) Leaves: elliptic 110mm × 45mm decurved. Height: 90cm × 1m in 6 years. Flowering: October. ❀

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New registrations – see page 52

Above 'Woolmer's Blush'.

Above 'Lapoinya Lollipop'.

Below 'Wounded Virgin'.

Below 'Aussie Witch'.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY HARRY RONKEN

Fragrant rhododendrons (see page 46) 'Mrs A.T. de la Mare', left and 'Loder's White'.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICHARD FRANCIS

Rhododendron occidentale

Front cover Deciduous azaleas at the Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden. (Photograph by Eric Weeks)