# THE RHODODENDRON NEWSLETTER

# **SEPTEMBER 2005**

Published by the Australian Rhododendron Society, Victorian Branch Inc. (A5896Z) P.O. Box 524, Emerald, Victoria 3782 Editor: Simon Begg Ph: (03) 9751 1610 email: simonwbegg@gmail.com



# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



ell firstly, Joan and I are back from our 8 weeks trip overseas. I won't say it was a holiday, as it was hard work, but very enjoyable and it is great to be home.

I would like to thank all the guys for filling in for me whilst I was away especially Murray.

Well I am always complaining about the numbers at our General meetings, but the August meeting changed that, as the numbers we well up and included some of our older members, Connie and Keith Moody also Ralph Sangster. It was treat to see them. Also the August Vireya group was well attended where Murray distributed a substantial number of struck cuttings of Species and Hybrids.

Parks Victoria have procured a computer for us at the Olinda Gardens, to assist us in producing labels for our Shows, also for storage of data of Species and Hybrids in the gardens. hopefully Tom Noonan and Alan Kepert can make use of this with assistance of other members of the Volunteer Group.

The stocking of the Retail Nursery is well underway and will continue over the next few weeks, weather permitting, as it is a big job.

If you were at the August meeting, you missed out on a great supper supplied by members, great stuff and thanks to those who brought a plate, this was a great finish to a good night.

Question: Is anybody still doing any hybridising, as this activity seems to have gone into dormancy over the last few years, so what about trying some. The seed can be sown in the glass house at Olinda under the special lights we had installed, so have a go.

[continued page 2]

# **CONTENTS**

President's Report	<b>page 1-2</b>
The Species Column	page 2
Vireya Species	page 3
Bench Display June, July and August 2005	pages 3-4
General Meeting August 2005	page 5
Notice of AGM	page 6
Items of Interest	pages 7-8
A New Yellow Species	page 8
A Visit to Ralph and Lillian Sangster	page 9
P.A. F.O.R.S. Club	page 9-10
Records of the Australian Rhododendron Society	pages 10-11
Coming Events	pages 11-12

Don't forget our show seas is coming up -

October 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Azalea Show.

October 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> November 1<sup>st</sup> Rhododendron Show.

We will need some members to man the display at Caulfield on **September 29**<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> **November** 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily. If you can assist, please contact me on Ph: 9754 8275.

Well we certainly have had some good rains lately, which is very useful, as we have been planting new plants transplanting a lot of Vireyas at Olinda.

# W.J. (Bill) Taylor.

# THE SPECIES COLUMN.

spinuliferum. - Subsection Scabrifolia.

Rhododendron *spinuliferum* is an attractive but unusual species which many people don't ealize r as a rhododendron. It has long red tubular flowers which could be mistaken for a Correa or Erica. However it makes a good display in early September with it's glowing red flowers

"like Chinese

firecrackers." This species is found in China growing in relatively hot dry areas, which is good news for Melbournians. It does well in my garden in Ringwood in full sun

. Name: spinuliferum

Means bearing spines, particularly on the stems.

#### Distribution:

Sichuan, Yunnan, and Guizhou in China, in thickets and pine forests. (1700 to 2600 metres altitude.)

### Characteristics:

This species is easily identified by it's small hairy and scaly leaves and its tubular flowers. The flowers are borne in terminal clusters, whereas in the related species, (*scabrifolium*, *racemosum*, and *spiciferum*) the flowers are borne in axillary clusters (from the leaf axils). Some interesting forms collected in the wild by Terry Smithe have white flowers flushed with pink or red.

# Where to see these plants:

There are about 20 plants of *spinuliferum* growing in the garden at Olinda, mostly in the *scabrifolium* bed which is towards the North end of the garden near the Azalea species bed. There are also some smaller plants in the bank above the Maddenia walk. The flowers can be seen in early September.

#### Hybrids:

This species has not been widely used in ealize re but has potential for producing heat-tolerant and lace-bug resistant varieties.

Crossbill (*spinuliferum*)

Seta (*spinuliferum* x *moupinense*)

Spinulosum (*spinuliferum* x *racemosum*)

Donvale Pink Drift (spiciferum x Crossbill)

### Alan Kepert.

# **VIREYA SPECIES COLUMN**

#### R retusum

Vireya, subsection Pseudovireya [The Rhododendron Handbook, RHS, 1998] According to the RHS editors; a shrub or small tree, generally to 2m, exceptionally 7m, usually terrestrial

#### Name

The name means 'with a rounded notched tip'.

# **Origin**

From Indonesia, Sumatra and Java, from 1,300-3,400m. The RHS editors describe only one variety but Dr Sleumer, *Flora Malesiana*, 1966 describes 3 varieties. It was first discovered in 1823. The varieties are retusum, trichostylum, and epilosum. The RHS editors describe only the first. I think this is the variety grown in Victoria.

# **Description**

Leaves are 2-4 x 1-2 cm elliptic, broadly elliptic or obovate, the apex broadly pointed, rounded or retuse, the margin slightly recurved to strongly and broadly turned down. The upper surface, like young stems, are at first covered in raised discoid scales. Flowers are small, bright red, 1.6-2.5 x 1-1.5 cm tubular erect in early bud afterwards pendulous 2-10 per umbel. In Olinda [500m] flowering is from mid spring to early summer. My specimen is about 1 m at 10 years old growing in my shade house. It is certainly not quick growing! I have propagated more recently as the plants are not very common.

My shrub is pest free and from my experience worth growing.

# Simon Begg

#### **BENCH DISPLAYS at GENERAL MEETINGS**

# June 17, 2005

Surprisingly, with the rain we have had over the last week, there were many very good blooms on display. Looking at the quality, there was a feeling of members standing in the rain with umbrellas, protecting their flowers.

Murray McAlister won Exhibit of the night with a very good truss of *Javanicum X Brookeanum*, truly a stand out. Murray also scored a first with Thai Princess.

Simon Begg again won with an excellent stem of *tuba*. In its size class, he also did well with 'Red Tubular', 'Penny Whistle' and 'Christo Ray'.

Michael Hare displayed a good truss of 'Lorchris', winning the under 4 cm. Hybrids class.

Elizabeth Xipell displayed a very nice zoelleri.

The plant in a pot section was won by John Quinn with an unknown (by those present) pink.

Alan Walker brought a flowering konori in a fern log which looked very good.

The Azalea classes, as expected, were a lot lighter in display. Michael Hare presented an excellent stem of 'Anna Kehr' (very showy) and Alan showed a plant of 'Mac's Treasure' – very similar to 'Rosa Belton'.

The only Rhododendron entry, 'Marion', was displayed by Simon.

Alan Walker won the non Rhododendron entry with what I believe is an uncommon Daphne.

#### **JULY 2005**

Considering the small number of displayers, the display was quite good. The usual members entered, with Elizabeth Xipell, Murray Mc Allister and Alan Walker taking out the vireya awards. Elizabeth won with 'Pretty Cotton Candy' and a *jasminaflorum* hybrid, Murray won with a *javanicum* in the species over 4cm class. It was a very nice stem but no one could name it.

Azaleas were very light on, possibly due to rain spoiling the blooms. Peter Hellier won with a 'Red Wing' ealiz, from Len Sloggett who showed 'Mexico'.

Alan Kepert took out three classes in the rhododendron section, the top blooms were *moumainense*, *veitchianum* x *moupinense* and *veitchianum*, which was a very good truss. To break the sequence Murray won the hybrids over 4cm with a *nobleanum* variety. Laurie Begg displayed some very good trusses worthy of winning but did not bother to enter them.

The non rhododendron entries were very showy, with some excellent little 'Coum' cyclamens shown by Inga Hammer. The category was awarded to Evelyn Hargood with a very nice camellia (name unknown), which looked very much like 'Mark Alan'.

#### **AUGUST 2005**

There was quite a good display of vireyas and rhododendrons, azaleas were light on.

Michael Hare won in three classes with *laetum*, 'Hotel on Mayfair' (a joint winner of the exhibit of the night and a very good presentation) and the third being 'Highland White Jade'. Simon Begg took all three places in the under 4 cm species with *christii*, *tuba* and *jasminiflorum*. Bill Taylor won the under 4cm hybrids with a 'Mac Hybrid' (very appropriate).

Alan Walker was judged first in the evergreen azalea hybrids with a stem of kurume 'Kirin'. Len Sloggett and Barry Stagoll took the other places with 'Goyet' and 'Pink Ice' respectively. Elizabeth Xipell displayed and won with *reticulatum* (alba florum) in the deciduous species class. All classes in the rhododendron section had entries. This is the first time for quite awhile. Of the six classes there were five winners. There were some very attractive trusses. The main one which was also the joint winner of exhibit for the night was 'Arboreum Rubavat' entered by John Quinn. Simon won classes with *spinuliferum* and 'Seta'. Murray McAllister displayed a very good *delavayi*. Alan Kepert brought two very nice plants to show, 'Dunloe Tasha' and *ciliicalyx veitchianum*. The maddenia class was shared by Len, Murray and Bill.

Len was lucky to win the non-rhododendron section with *pterostylis*, a Nodding Greenhood.

Len Sloggett

# **GENERAL MEETINGS**

# **AUGUST 18**

Our two speakers on a cold midwinter's night attracted members' attention as we wish every general meeting did! Attendance was at least double recent numbers.

John Faull described the early days of National Rhododendron Garden. John, these days, is still an active sprightly man. Back then, more than 40 years ago, he must have just started out as a contractor. So much was achieved in those early years. Many more, much younger, members. Rhododendrons were very popular. Gardens were bigger, global warming did not threaten Melbournians' ability to water them and today's pests, azalea lace bug in particular, had yet to be introduced. Nurseries flourished. The Society had a mixture of nurserymen and amateur and professional botanists.

John described serving as a watchman during the early Rhododendron Shows. Every bush, it seemed to him, moved un-naturally for a calm spring night. On investigation a number of nurserymen were discovered, each, when challenged, just coming to water their display plants! These were the days when many nurseries had stands along the road from the front gate to the present propagation house. John suspected illicit cuttings, or worse. Unfortunately John did not realize that the early Society slides have been digitalized. I could so easily have produced a selection of early photos to illustrate his talk. We will have to ask John to return to identify many of the early workers. I had in mind the driver on the Society's brand new Ford tractor. But Ralph Sangster identified himself!

Rob Small, CEO of Flemings Nurseries and Chair of the Dandenong Ranges Advisory Committee, gave members an overview of his hopes for the National Rhododendron Garden. He has had a long career as a Parks manager in Auckland and more recently in Australia. He has been CEO of Otway Shire. He was CEO of Geelong Botanic Gardens at the time the Milennium Garden was established and John Arnott became director.

Rob brought a disc of photographs of plants and places of particular significance to him. The digital age made it possible, in a very few minutes, to convert the separate photos into an instant slide show. Since Rob spoke to the volunteer group a couple of months ago he had made presentations to Parks' staff. He concedes that achieving his vision will be a challenge. Rob emphasized the importance of preserving and nurturing important collections of plants such as the rhododendron collection at NRG. He pointed out that Victoria, under Mueller and Guilfoile, established an extraordinary collection of botanic gardens. Many of these are in serious decline. Some have been converted to caravan parks. Of others only remnants remain. Rob is a great believer in volunteers. The 'friends' were crucial to success at Geelong. But it is common ground that preservation also requires a competent director and staff. These require money. Rob recognizes that the salary Parks was able to offer to a horticulturally qualified team leader for NRG was far less than Werribee zoo was able to afford.

President Bill put it well, in thanking Rob, by saying that we would like him to return to expand on his vision and how it can benefit NRG.

**SWB** 

# AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY - Victorian Branch Inc. (A5896Z)

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Rhododendron Society, Victorian Branch Inc. (A5896Z), shall be held on Friday, November 18, 2005, at the Whitehorse Horticultural Centre, 84 Jolimont Road, Forest Hill (Melway Ref: 62 G4), commencing at 8.00pm.

The business of the meeting shall be:

- a. to confirm the Minutes of the last preceding Annual General Meeting;
- b. to receive from the Committee, reports upon the transactions of the Branch during the last Financial year;
- c. to elect Officers of the Branch, and the Ordinary Members of the Committee;
- d. to receive and consider the Statements of Income and Expenditure and Assets and Liabilities for the last Financial Year;
- e. to elect an Auditor;
- f. to elect a Delegate to represent the Branch on the National Council for the two year period of 2005/2006 and 2006/2007;
- g. to conduct such other business of which notice is given in accordance with the Branch Rules.

All positions of Officers of the Branch shall fall vacant under Rule 22.(3) and are to be filled by election.

The Officers are: President, Vice-President (1), Vice-President (2), Secretary, Treasurer.

Three positions of Ordinary Committee Member Positions fall vacant by rotation for three year periods in accordance with Ru 23.(3). Retiring Officers and Ordinary Members of Committee are eligible to stand for re-election.

Please note that **ONLY** financial members of the Branch are allowed to vote at elections – **ONE Vote per Membership**.

Nominations of candidates for election shall be in writing, signed by two members of the Branch and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate, and shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Branch not less than seven (7) days before the Annu General Meeting.

**Note** that the Nominee, Proposer and Seconder must be financial members of the Branch at the time of signing.

Nominations, which close at 5.00pm on Friday, November 11, 2005, should be sent to the Secretary, A.R.S. – Victorian Brand (Inc.), P.O. Box 524, Emerald, Vic. 3782.

A copy of the "Statement of Purposes", and the "Rules of the Australian Rhododendron Society – Victorian Branch Incorporate (A5896Z)" may be obtained on application to the Branch Secretary.

An example of a suitable Nomination Form is attached to this Notice.

Honorary Secretary, A.R.S. – Victorian Branch Inc. (A5896Z)

# **Items of Interest**

From time to time the Society receives notification of future events from various ealize re ns. The following are a few of these events that may be of interest to some of our members.

# Ferny Creek Horticultural Show

Our friends at Ferny Creek will be holding their Spring Show on September 10 and 11. In addition, their Flower Festival has been brought forward to the weekend of 22 and 23 instead of the usual Melbourne Cup Weekend. Both Shows will be held in the Hall at Ferny Creek Reserve.

### Open Garden Weekend

On the weekend of October 15 and 16, "Como Gardens" will be holding a fund raising Open Garden for St. John Ambulance and the State Emergency Service.

"Como Gardens" has a long history, going back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1996, the gardens were purchased by the current owners and have since been meticulously restored. There are 6 magnificent hectares with winding walks and a miniature steam railway, there will be a working display of Vintage Cars, garden tours, a sausage sizzle, Devonshire Teas and other refreshments as well as floral art displays and demonstrations.

The address is 79 The Basin-Olinda Road, The Basin, and the opening times are 10.00am to 4.30pm. There is plenty of on site parking, so if you are looking for a great day out, "Como Gardens" is the place to be on September 10 and 11.

# **Drouin Lions Club**

For anyone who has been able to attend the "Baw Baw Garden Expo" at Lardner Park near Warragul, well guess what, it is on again this year! Dates are October 8 and 9, 9.00am to 4.00pm.

I love this show, lots and lots of goodies available, not just plants either. Unfortunately, the Head Gardener and I will be in New Zealand at this time, so I will miss out.

There are beautiful displays and sales of garden and back-yard products, plants of all kinds, mulch, fences, garden tools and machinery, garden novelties, outdoor furniture, shade houses, landscaping, paving, fountains, gazebos, arches, children's activities and extensive catering including ealize re teas.

The Show is held at the Lardner Park Field Days site and is not far from Warragul. It is well sign posted but enquiries can be made by calling (03) 56251990, or (03) 5625 4589.

#### Annual Open Rose Garden Fundraising Event

This is another very worthy fundraising event being held to support the victims of road trauma.

The Road Trauma Support Team will be hosting this annual event on the weekend of November 12 and 13 at John Nieuwesteeg's renowned Rose Nursery at 4 Tarrawarra Road, Coldstream, commencing at 9.00am and concluding at 4.00pm each day.

It is a once-a-year opportunity to have a look at, and buy, hundreds of different roses. These roses include Alister Clark and David Austin varieties.

In addition there are many unusual perennials, there will be a huge raffle with great prizes, refreshments including a sausage sizzle and ealize re teas will also be available.

Well there you have it, if you are in a position to visit any of these functions, then please do so as you will be helping some very worthy causes.

Carole Quinn

# A NEW YELLOW SPECIES?

An interesting film plot caught my eye last Saturday, September 3, on channel 2.

'Midsommer Murders. "Orchis Fatalis". When a rare orchid is smuggled illegally into the country, it releases "the heady scent of passion, jealousy, and death".

How could I resist? I'd long ago heard stories of early rhododendron growers transferring cuttings between countries by air, with a basket of cutting material on the seat beside them; or sometimes sending out material in a rolled up English newspaper or magazine, mailed to a friend at home.

This show had it all. A grower who illegally secured a particular **yellow** orchid for 150,000 pounds, - the one and only known cultivar of a new species.

We were then treated to scenes where:

- The President of the Society gazes in rapture at the magnificent flower, drinking in the sheer joy of possession to the exclusion of all others. What a moment of triumph!!
- Mr. Plod accidentally stands on, and destroys a precious seedling; one the grower has been waiting years to see flower. What a disaster!!
- Gardeners and growers going to extreme lengths to hide this orchid as it is transferred between members by sale or blackmail.
- Growers who become so passionate (in more ways than one), that they stoop to any tactics to secure the orchid....... Consider the advantages for any propagation program!
- Sadly the President and several other society members pay the ultimate price as a result of their attempts to gain advantage at the expense of others.

A fanciful story. But it couldn't happen here,.. could it?

Oh, by the way, Chris Callard's Vireya site pictures a recently discovered specimen of an unnamed **yellow** Vireya species.

Nah!! MMcM

# VISIT TO RALPH AND LILLIAN SANGSTER

Simon and I enjoyed a fruitful morning with Ralph and Lillian Sangster looking at slides of the formation of the National Rhododendron Gardens. They helped identify some of the people in the early photos and gave us a brief introduction to the history of the gardens. As the slides have all been converted to digital they can be flicked through quite quickly. Of the hundred or so we looked at some were as early as 1961 and showed the rough terrain with which the 'people with a vision' had to work..

Some of the land had been used for growing potatoes but a lot was covered with regrowth. John Faull and his heavy equipment were commissioned to clear areas for the initial plantings. It was a few years later that the society purchased, with the help of a government grant, a brand new bright blue Ford tractor. The photos proudly showed its delivery and Ralph as its first driver. Ralph and Lillian with many other dedicated members and nursery people spent most Saturdays at the Gardens during those early years.

The first building was a toilet for the ladies, most of whom were members of the Ladies Auxiliary who spent many hours planting and weeding. This was followed by a shade house, glass house and the hall. The grand opening of the hall was attended by at least three parliamentarians including Lindsay Thompson, Borthwick and Chandler (the Minister of Agriculture). Protection from bushfires being one of the main reasons for the formation of the gardens meant that the government took a keen interest in its establishment.

Photos of early shows with fabulous displays by local nurseries, under canvas structures along the top road, showed many visitors taking a keen interest in the plants. Shows in the hall indicated keen competition by society members.

The developing garden with lakes, roads, rockery, the Kurume Bowl and exotic plants, etc. made amazing progress in the superb soil and perfect site but most of all it is thanks to the many dedicated members who gave their time and energy and the generous nursery men who donated so many of the plants.

# Marcia Begg

# P.A.F.O.R.S. Club

In an effort to help out our over-worked Editor, I have decided to submit my first ever article. Needless to say, this is not an easy task for a novice without much knowledge of technical terms, diseases, growing habits or other such facts of life for the average Rhodoholic. Please read the following with your tongue in your cheek, doesn't matter which cheek.

I am a partner of a Rhodoholic. I have decided therefore, in the interests of other partners and friends of Rhodoholics, to form a new society/club within the Rhododendron Society. This club will be known as the **P.A.F.O.R.S. Club**, (short for Partners and Friends of Rhodoholics).

Now, there are no pre-requisites for joining this very elite, select club of individuals, though it will help if you are patient, long-suffering and have a sense of humour. Yes, definitely a sense of humour, I think. Membership is free; there will be no joining fees. It is hoped that, somewhere along the line, this club will help those of us who are not Rhodoholics, to retain or obtain, some measure of sanity and ealize we are not alone out there.

Think about all the times you have picked up a copy of any newsletter or journal and tried to understand the jargon therein. There will be none of that in this Club, I promise. What I would

like from members, though, are snippets of information, such as your most embarrassing moment as a **P.A.F.O.R.** or a funny incident that you may have been involved in?

To that end, I will share with you one of my more embarrassing moments. I was on one of those long, up-hill down-dale, soggy underfoot, garden visits, trailing along as usual at the back of the group, when the group stopped, causing me to cannon into the very stately but well-presented wife of the current President. In an effort to undo some of the damage of nearly up-ending this personage, I commented on the nearest plant. Another big mistake. I noticed the name of the plant and babbled on "fancy calling a plant Super Bum". President's wife politely pointed out to me that it was not Super Bum but Superbum. I honestly thought someone had a weird sense of humour, (perhaps similar to mine,) and had decided to be rude and name the plant accordingly. To this day, I do not attempt to pronounce names that I am not sure of.

Anyway, if you would care to drop me a line or two from time to time, I will be happy to share your ideas, thoughts or items of interest with the other members of the Club. At the moment though, membership is light, consisting of only 1 member, me. I can think of quite a few others though who will be joining me. If numbers permit, our group will get together on the next garden visit and wait up the top, or at the back, wherever, and have a cuppa and a chinwag. Do, please, feel free to join us.

Topic for the next issue will be the increasing member numbers and favourite biscuit or cake recipes.

**Carole Quinn**, Secretary, A.R.S. Vic. Branch ('cause no-one else wants to be Secretary and I can type!)

# RECORDS OF AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

It can be no secret that our Society, much like rhododendrons in our gardens, from time to time needs rejuvenation. Is it a case of cutting out the deadwood and a good overall pruning to encourage new growth?

In the past a change of office bearers and a crisis has seen a resurgence. This time if members over 70 were taken to be deadwood, and pruned, I fear there might be insufficient vitality left for the Society to survive. Perhaps my wife Marcia's idea might work. Join the modern age and engage a marketing expert to identify potential members, conduct an appropriate survey as to the activities that would attract them to meetings and other activities and then go for it.

Would the outcome suit the over 70s?

Whatever the future holds we owe present and past members a duty to put Society records in order and to make them readily accessible. Who knows the Society records may also be of value to our future members. It would be nice to have a recorded 'history' of the Society similar to the "History of Rhododendron Species Foundation" a copy of which Fred Whitney presented to the Society last October.

Tom Noonan, Alan Kepert and Elizabeth Xipell have worked hard on the species and hybrid databases of plants at National Rhododendron Gardens, Olinda and their GPS location.

The Society photographs in possession of the Victorian Branch have, now, been digitalized. The process has brought to light earlier collation and labeling by Ken Cathie and Ron Moodicliffe. And, I

understand, others before them. Graham Price, Arthur Hedlam and Bob Withers among many others. Members are beginning to see the benefit of easy access to these photos as they can readily be called up and displayed at meetings.

A similar task needs to be undertaken with the Society's written records. All back copies of "The Rhododendron" and "The Rhododendron Newsletter". Ideally the general meeting and committee minutes and correspondence should be included.

In recent times secretaries and editors have used computers. I have the past couple of years Newsletters recorded. I suspect Joan Taylor has many of Ken Cathie's Newsletters recorded. Barry Staggoll has 10 years "The Rhododendron" on computer.

I now have hard copies of "The Rhododendron" from Volume 1 no 1 of May 1962 until the mid 90s. So I probably can access a complete set.

The Newsletter is harder. But I am working on it.

The first issue, apparently, was edited by Lionel Marshall in 1984. I understand this was a single sheet

Issues were edited by Jack Wilson in 1985-1987.

An issue was edited by Wally Lobbezoo and Ron Moodicliffe in September 1987. For the first time this was a booklet.

An issue was edited by Nancy and Max Warner in December 1987 and, again, in April 1988.

Graham Price edited issues from July 1988 until September 1990.

Jack Wilson edited issues from December 1990 – July 1992

Lionel Marshall edited issues from September 1992- March 1995

Ken Cathie became editor from mid 1995 until his death after the January 2004 issue. In Ken's time, I think publication frequency went from quarterly to bimonthly.

Bill Taylor and Murray McAllister produced the March 2004 issue. From May 2004, onwards, I have been editor.

Assuming I can find all the copies I then have to address the task of computerizing them. Turning them into pdf files or trying to convert them to word documents using character recognition. I'll consult the office experts and let you know the outcome. If successful it will be easy to reproduce back articles or anthologies such as E White Smith and Lucy Sorensen-Smith's 'Vireya Rhododendrons' an anthology produced from the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society. **SWB** 

# **COMING EVENTS FOR 2005.** .

September 16thMaddenia – A. Kepert8. 00 p.m.October 21stDr Peter Fisher 'Water'8. 00 p.m.

October 1<sup>st</sup> & 2nd Azalea Show

October 22 or 23 Garden visit to "Ardrudah", Mt Macedon. Date and time to be advised at the next meeting. Dr Dortimer's garden was planned by Baron von Mueller and is not usually open to the public. It is one of the largest gardens on Mt Macedon and has many unique plantings.

October 29th, 20th, 31st & 1st Nov. Rhododendron Show

November 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> ARS National Convention South Australia

November 18<sup>th</sup> AGM; Andrew Rouse vireya collecting in the wild on Mt

Kinabalu 8. 00 p.m.

December 4<sup>th</sup> Christmas Luncheon

# **VIREYA GROUP MEETINGS**

. October  $8^{th}$  NRG,Olinda 1. 30 p.m. December  $10^{th}$  NRG, Olinda 1. 30 p.m.