

Rhododendrons South Australia

Australian Rhododendron Society Inc. South Australian Branch

Issue 88 - May 2015

Coming Events

Next Meeting, 20th May 7:45pm

Robert Hatcher will give a report on Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden and the horticultural consultancy he is doing for them. With the images he has, it will give members some insight into Emu Valley and what they are all about.



Please 'bring a friend', a plate, and an item for the Trading Table.

Open Gardens Australia

Sat & Sun 9th and 10th of May

Open Gardens Australia Final Opening Weekend features two local gardens.



Wairoa, 142 Mount Barker Road, Aldgate



Beechwood, 36 Snows Road, Stirling

Admission \$8 - under 18 free.

Gardens open 10am-4.30pm.

April Meeting

Once again April's meeting was well attended. Our president raised the issue of whether the Grant Memorial lecture should become a biannual event. It was a majority decision to maintain the lecture as an annual event.

Richard gave an informative discussion on four gardens in Britain he had found interesting and why they commanded his interest.

The night's raffle was won by our Secretary, Milton Bowman. Once again the evening ended with a splendid supper.

Michelle.



Exbury Gardens

Recipe of the Month

Rosemary Thomson is renowned for her beautiful chocolate brownies and we are privileged for her to share the recipe.

Chocolate Brownies

Ingredients

1½ cups caster sugar

1 cup plain flour, sifted

¾ cup polyunsaturated oil

2 teaspoons vanilla essence

¾ cup cocoa powder

1 teaspoon baking powder

4 egg whites, lightly beaten

⅔ cup pecan nuts, chopped, optional

Method

Lightly grease a 19cm square cake pan and line the base with non-stick baking paper. Combine sugar, flour, cocoa and baking powder in a bowl. Stir in the oil, egg whites, vanilla essence and nuts and mix well. Spread evenly in the pan and bake at 180°C for about 35 minutes or until just firm to touch. Cover with foil while still hot and allow to cool; then refrigerate until cold.

Serve cut into squares and dusted with icing sugar.



This is the basic recipe — I use vanilla paste so not as much vanilla; I also add about 70 gr. chopped dark chocolate to the mix and I spread melted dark chocolate and nuts (whatever variety that I've put in the mix - in case people have a particular allergy) on top.



By Bill Voigt

Culture Notes

"What you should be doing with your rhodies and garden this May"

Already roses are being sold in supermarkets, but I think that this is too early for planting them as they have been dug before they are really dormant. Roses purchased from the

growers in June or July are a much better buy. Don't be in too much of a hurry to prune roses, as early pruning may encourage the plants to produce new growth which can be damaged by frosts. It can be disappointing to pick blooms for inside display only to find that the roses become full blown and drop their petals. There are some varieties that hold their shape well and last well when picked. These include "Kardinal", "Joy of Life", "Queen Beatrix", "Kordes Perfection" and "Eiffel Tower".

This autumn is proving to be a really spectacular one here in the hills for the brilliant colours of deciduous trees. Sadly, not all gardens have enough space for larger trees such as Oaks, Maples and Nyssa (Tupelo), but there are smaller trees and shrubs that colour well at this time. These include *Euonymus alatus* and *Latifolius*, *Corymbosum* (Highland Blue Berry), *Viburnum opulus Sterile* (Snowball Tree), *Berberis* – All the deciduous varieties, *Amelanchier* (June Berry), *Hydrangea quercifolia* (Oak Leaf Hydrangea) and a charming little rose "Suzanne" which has double coral pink flowers.

Crepe Myrtles are becoming very popular, and there are dwarf varieties, all of these have fine autumn colour.

A word of warning for those who plant *Amelanchiers*, they are much favoured by the cherry slug but "Confidor" will protect them from this pest.

Frequent rain and still warm soil have meant a sudden burst of germinating weeds as *Azaleas* and *Rhodos* have many surface roots, weeds are best removed while small by hand weeding, rather than digging which would damage roots.



Kardinal



Queen Beatrix



Viburnum opulus Sterile



Viburnum Opulus in Autumn

Lace bugs can still be found at this time, so spraying with a systemic insecticide will effectively deal with them.

Now is a good time to tidy up your Rhodos and Azaleas by removing any dead and unsightly branches. See that the lower branches of shade trees are not too close to the plants and thus preventing enough light and air to reach them.

If you have a compost heap, turn it over with a garden fork regularly and add a little blood and bone and / or well-rotted animal manure to enrich the mixture.

The arrival of rain has brought out the slugs and snails from their hiding places so be sure to protect any newly planted seedlings or emerging bulb shoots.

Most nurseries have new stocks of Rhodos, Azaleas and Camellias in now, so enjoy a browse through the plants and you may find a treasure or two.

Enjoy this wonderful season.

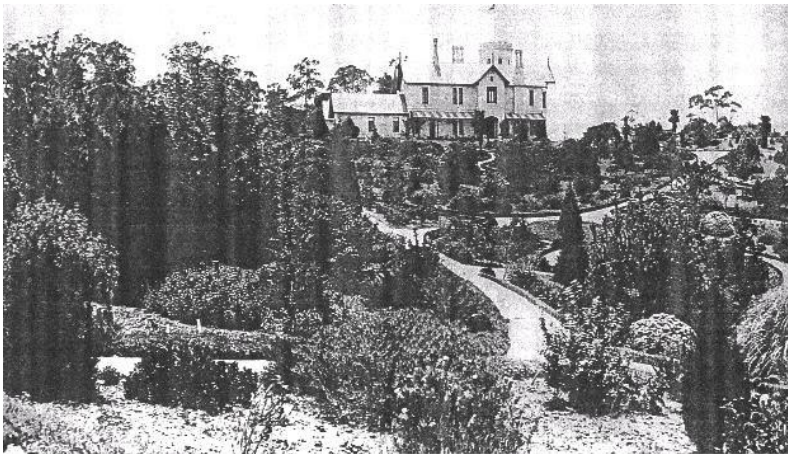


Euonymus Alatus



Euonymus Alatus in Autumn

Tales from Forest Lodge



The last month has seen a significant change in the weather and it does feel as though winter has arrived with a rush. We have had a number of very cold days and nights and there have been several days when the temperature has not been over 10°C. I have had the fires on for most of the month and the house is gradually heading for it's winter minimum !

The rain has been excellent with several days of heavy falls and other days of slow, steady, and soaking rain. The total for the month is 145mm, making the year total 222mm. The BOM tells us that the winter is going to be wetter than average, and so things are looking good.

Milton Bowman



Bloom of the Month

Azalea Ruth Marion

Azaleas are continuing to put on a wonderful autumn display. This month's flower of the month is an excellent example.

Pictured in our header is Azalea Ruth Marion.



Blooming in Rob's Garden

This is "Burnie Shines" a selection of one of seven seedlings as a result of a cross by Rhododendron gardener Maurie Kupsch from Emu Valley. They are a Rhododendron konori cross and all seven are variations on the theme, all are pink and all are scented and as far as I know only 3 were registered. This one, one named after Maurie and one named after Pam his wife. Recently Terry Shadbolt's widow Kaye brought "Big Pink Number 2" along to a monthly meeting at DEVRG. The originals were all given the Big Pink# 1 through #7 originally by Maurie and "Burnie Shines" is one of these as are the others. "Number 2" went missing but now has been found again. Burnie Shines is also an annual arts Festival in Burnie and that is where the name came from.

Rob Hatcher



Farewell Ray Giles.
23/09/1916 - 15/04/2015



We extend our condolences to Chris, Emily, and family on the passing of Ray.

He was a quiet, kind, and thoughtful man and an inspiration to us. He was always working away at projects and remained vital and interested all of his life. I suspect that he is one of a very small group of people who have learned to successfully propagate rhododendrons when over the age of 90, and was always trying new things in his garden.

He will be missed by all of us.

Milton Bowman

More from Dunedin

More of Peter's photos from Dunedin



Bird of the Month

Red-rumped Parrot

psephotus haematonotus

Usually seen in paddocks and roadsides or grassed areas feeding on grass seeds. When disturbed they will fly up into gum trees.

Red-rumped Parrots are medium-sized, slender parrots. The adult male is bright green, with a blue-green head, a red rump, and yellow shoulders and belly. The female is a duller, olive-green, with a green rump and faint yellow or light green scales on the belly. Young birds of both sexes are duller in colour.

Chris Thomas



From the Propagating Bench

Magnolias

I mentioned at the April meeting that if members have seed pods on their magnolias then it is a simple matter to propagate new plants by storing the seeds in a zipper bag with some moist peat moss. Place in the crisper of the refrigerator until spring. When planted the seeds will germinate in about a

month and should grow vigorously during the summer.

Propagating from seed – A general comment

The demise of many nurseries that provided interesting plants has meant that one of the only ways to increase collections is to access those who supply seed, including wild collected seed. Marcus Harvey of Hill View Rare plants in Tasmania supplies a good range of interesting seed via mail order. Richard and I have just received a collection of seed including crocus, galanthus and colchicum. His web site also includes instructions for growing them and an interesting blog about his overseas travels and where he sources wild seed.



Magnolia Pod



Magnolia Plant

Another company that we have used with success is the American, Swallowtail seeds who have a very extensive range of seeds, the like of which we don't see in Australia. They also are acutely aware of our quarantine regulations and label their seeds appropriately so that they get through customs with ease.

Check out their website www.swallowtailgardenseeds.com

Reminders for May

It is probably the last chance to get your tulips and other bulbs into the garden to provide your spring display.

Remember to plant the tulips at depth (at least 20cm) to avoid later problems.

Anzac Day is the traditional time to fertilise Paeony roses. They are heavy feeders that prefer a slightly alkaline soil so use dolomite lime and either some well-rotted fowl manure or some blood and bone. Another application in spring will keep them growing strongly



Crocus from seed

Where do you get it

Following a request from a number of members, your editorial team was wondering whether it would be of value to members to have a section where members could request information about the acquisition of particular plants or garden requirements. Members may know of specific nurseries or places where plants or products could be obtained and those who propagate plants may be prepared to sell or donate to other members. It would simply require members to inform the editorial team prior to the 1st of the month of any plants or product that they wished to acquire so that it could be published in the subsequent newsletter.

Bronwyn

Article Submissions

The news editors welcome submissions for the monthly newsletter. In addition to Problem Corner, Recipe of the Month, and Bloom of the Month, members are welcome to submit articles on any topic that will be of interest to the Society's membership.

We have a deadline of the 1st of the month to allow time to prepare the newsletter for distribution a week before the meeting.

Submissions can be made directly to Michelle or Bronwyn, or emailed to; news.editor@sarhodo.org.au

Michelle & Bronwyn

