

# THE RHODODENDRON NEWSLETTER

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**W**ell this is my last President's Report, as I am retiring at our next Annual General Meeting, on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November.

I have tried my hardest to do the best for the Society over the last few years and now it is time for someone else to have a go and I wish them all the best. I will still be there to assist in any way I can, so whoever it may be, feel free to ask.

The A.B.C. Gardening Display went very well and attracted a lot of comments from the general public, but we could have done with more people manning the stand to promote the Society and answer more questions. As it was, we obtained a Bronze Award in the Society's Class, not as good as last year, but it was the best we could do.

I would like to thank Murray McAlister for his assistance in setting up the display and also demolishing on Sunday, also Simon and Marcia Begg for their help on Sunday night. Thank you to the other helpers that we had on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Without you we could not have manned the stand as well as we did.

The Vireya Group is still continuing to show interest and numbers. The last meeting was on grafting vireyas, and a good interest was shown, but like all things we need a fair bit of practice. We have to start somewhere.

We have poured a new concrete slab for our potting mix, as the previous storage area was keeping the mix too wet. Now, with more slope, the condition of the mix should be much better, we hope. Thanks to Jack Morris and the boys who helped, as we were all novices in this field. A good job well done again.

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The Azalea Show was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Judges were Allan Kepert and Laurie Begg. Thank you for your time and effort. The show was disappointing as only members of the Volunteer Group benched exhibits after they had done all the hard work setting out the hall. The Rhododendron Show was held on Cup Weekend, with the same judges. There was far greater support for this show both in exhibitors and visitors. Food for thought for next year.

It has been a strange flowering season, some plants are early and others are late. Also the Azalea Petal Blight has been bad. Just when you think your flowers are O.K., they are not. You don't know where you are.

### **Bill Taylor – President**

## **THE SPECIES COLUMN.**

**Occidentale**– Section Pentanthera Subsection Pentanthera.

Rhododendron **occidentale** is grouped with 12 other deciduous azaleas in this Subsection but is the only one found on the West coast of USA. It appears likely that a few million years ago, the ancestors of the present species crossed from Asia to Alaska via a land bridge which is known to have existed. The East coast species diversified into *atlanticum*, *austrinum*, *calendulaceum*, etc., but only one species evolved on the West Coast; *occidentale*.

Fortunately this species comes from low altitudes on the Pacific coast so is well suited to the Melbourne climate. It apparently struggles to survive on the East coast of USA.

The plant is a strong grower to 2 metres high and does well in full sun. In October this plant is covered in scented white flowers with a yellow centre.

This species was originally sold by Boulter's and Chandler's Nurseries but is rarely seen these days so we need to propagate it for members.

### **Name**

'occidental' is latin for Western.

### **Distribution:**

Washington, Oregon and Northern California, from sea level to 2700 metres altitude in the rocky Mountains.

### **Characteristics:**

This species is easily identified by its broadly funnel-shaped flowers which are usually white with a yellow blotch. The flowers have glandular bristles on the outside. The other American species have narrow flowers with long stamens. There are also some attractive pink forms of *occidentale* which are rarely seen in Australia. However the Society has recently obtained seed of these.

### **Where to see these plants:**

There are several plants of this species growing in the garden at Olinda, in the lower end of the 'horseshoe bed' past the lyrebird lookout, and also, further on, in the Azalea Species bed. The flowers can be seen in October.

### **Hybrids :**

There are a number of first generation crosses which are not often seen these days.

For example:

R 'Advance' Pale pink with a golden yellow blotch

R 'Exquisita' Cream with a flushed pink orange blotch

R 'Irene Koster' White, striped pink. Very attractive in the hills but a poor grower in Melbourne

R 'Magnifica' Creamy white, flushed pink, - fairly similar to *R occidentale*.

R 'Westminster' Delicate pink

Many of the Knaphill and Exbury hybrids obviously contain *occidentale* genes; for example R 'Persil', R 'Oxydol', R 'Fawley' and R 'Silver Slipper'.

**Alan Kepert.**

## **VIREYA SPECIES COLUMN**

### ***R jasminiflorum***

Vireya, subsection Solenovireya [The Rhododendron Handbook, RHS, 1998]

According to the RHS editors; a shrub to 2.5m epiphytic or terrestrial.

#### **Name**

The name means 'with flowers like a jasmine'.

#### **Origin**

From West Malasia, Malay Peninsular, Sarawak and Sumatra and Phillipines, Mindanao, from sea level to 3,100m, most commonly at about 1000m. The RHS editors describe only one variety but mention others inferentially by saying that most plants in cultivation are the West Malaysian form. Dr Sleumer, *Flora Malesiana*, 1966 describes 6 varieties. It was first discovered in 1850 by Sir Joseph Hooker. The varieties are *jasminiflorum*, *punctatum*, *maculatum* [described with var *punctatum* in a way that suggests they may not be distinct], *heusseri*, *copelandii* and *oblongiflorum*. In Olinda var *punctatum* and var *longiflorum* are grown. Chris Callard's web-site 'Vireya Rhododendrons' shows photographs, by Richard Currie, NZ, of var. *punctatum* and [I assume] var. *jasminiflorum*.

#### **Description**

Leaves are 2-6 x 1.5-3.6 cm elliptic, broadly elliptic to subobovate-elliptic, the base rounded to sub-cordate, apex broadly obtusely acuminate or rounded, occasionally sub-acute, the margin strongly and broadly recurved. The upper surface, is initially and laxly stellate-scaly, quickly glabrescent, midrib impressed, the lateral veins rather obscure

Flowers are 3-20 per umbel, semi-erect to half hanging. *Corolla* white or flushed pink and very fragrant. In var. *punctatum* pedicels are mostly 1.5 x 2.5. In Olinda [500m] flowering is from mid spring to early summer, much as is described for its origin in the Cameron Highlands of Malasia. My specimens of var. *punctatum* were initially from hanging baskets sold by Andrew Raper and now, also, from cuttings. Some, planted in ground are about 1 m at 4-5 years old. I have yet to try sunny positions.. It is always a compact well branched shrub. It is very attractive in full flower. I have propagated quite a number recently so the plants are readily available in Victoria. Var. *longiflorum* is also available. Bill Taylor gave me one but it has only just started flowering. I don't know about the others..

My shrubs are all pest free and appear not to suffer from sudden death syndrome that afflicts some vireyas. From my experience they are well worth growing.

**Simon Begg**

## AZALEA SHOW 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2005

The usual volunteers put in a weeks work preparing the hall. This year the construction of Len Sloggett's pergola involved a lot of extra work, especially from Jack Morris, but the result was well worth it. It was a worthy centre piece for the show with the hanging baskets surrounded by potted display plants.

In the same week Bill Taylor and Murray Mc Allister prepared and staged the Society's stand at the ABC's Gardening Australia Festival at Caulfield Racecourse. They did a magnificent job for which the Society received a Bronze Award.

Congratulations also to Ferny Creek Horticultural Society which won the Gold Award for the best Garden Society display.

The show entries, unfortunately, also came from the volunteer group. The lack of quantity was counterbalanced by quality. Attendance was also disappointing, particularly on Saturday.

The best bloom in the show was R. 'My Snow White' entered by John Quinn. Appropriately it was entered in Class 11, a container of an Australian raised hybrid. The President's award for the best species exhibit in sections A and C was won by Walter Lobbezoo's entry of *R. blackii* in class 14, vireya species.

There were many worthy competitors for both awards. Walter might well have won the President's award for his *R. macabeanum* in class 1 (the large leaf specie), *R. irroratum* 'Polka Dot' in class 2 (a truss of a species other than large leafed), *R. irroratum* (yellow) (a container of an evergreen species other than sub-section Madennia), or *R. taggianum* in class 4 (a container of a species from sub-section Madennia). Many of the species entries might also have won 'best bloom' and, in the vireyas, Simon Begg's R. 'Gardenia Odyssey', which won class 18, was noteworthy according to Murray.

The full results are –

### **SECTION A – Rhododendron Species**

#### **Class:**

1. One truss of a large-leafed species, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> *R. macabeanum* entered respectively by Walter Lobbezoo & Alan Walker.
2. One truss of a species other than large-leafed 1<sup>st</sup> *R. irroratum* 'Polka Dot' & 2<sup>nd</sup> *R. thompsonii* both entered by Walter Lobbezoo.
3. One container of an evergreen species, **excluding** any from subsection Maddenia. 1<sup>st</sup> *R. irroratum* entered by W. Lobbezoo & 2<sup>nd</sup> *R. spinuliferum* entered by M. McAllister
4. One container of a species from the subsection Maddenia. 1<sup>st</sup> *R. taggianum*, W. Lobbezoo, 2<sup>nd</sup> *R. veitchianum*, M Mc Allister
5. One bowl of a dwarf species having small leaves and flowers. 1<sup>st</sup> *R. hippophaeoides*, A. Walker & 2<sup>nd</sup> *R. racemosum*, E. Xipell
6. One truss or spray of a species raised by the exhibitor from seed. 1<sup>st</sup> *R. pseudochrysanthum*, W. Lobbezoo, & 2<sup>nd</sup> *R. speciferum*, M. Mc Allister

## SECTION B – Rhododendron Hybrids – OPEN TO ALL

### Class:

7. One truss or spray of a hybrid raised by the exhibitor from seed. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> R ‘Quala a loo’ x ‘My Lady’ x ‘Rose Scott’, both entered by M McAllister
8. One container of a hybrid with minimum diameter of flowers **more** than 7 cm. 1<sup>st</sup> R ‘Gillian Bramley’, & 2<sup>nd</sup> R ‘Corinne Boulter’ both entered by John Quinn
9. One container of a hybrid with individual flowers with a diameter from 4 cm – 7cm inclusive. 1<sup>st</sup> R ‘Florence Mann’, Simon Begg, & 2<sup>nd</sup> R ‘Saffron Queen’, Bill Taylor
10. One container of a hybrid with a maximum diameter of flowers **less** than 4 cm. 1<sup>st</sup> R ‘Hardijzer Beauty’, Simon Begg, & 2<sup>nd</sup> R ‘Racil’, Alan Kepert
11. One container of an Australian-raised hybrid. 1<sup>st</sup>, and best bloom in the show, R ‘Snow White’ & 2<sup>nd</sup> R ‘Olinda Pink’ x Van Ness Sensation’ both entered by John Quinn
12. One container of a hybrid with a lax truss: e.g. Winsome, Elizabeth, Saffron Queen etc. 1<sup>st</sup> R ‘Kimberly’, M McAllister, & 2<sup>nd</sup> R ‘Anne Teese’, Elizabeth Xipell
13. One bowl of a dwarf hybrid having small leaves and flowers. 1<sup>st</sup> R ‘Blue Diamond’, E Xipell, & 2<sup>nd</sup> R ‘Hardijzer Beauty’, Alan Walker

## SECTION C – Vireya Rhododendrons – OPEN TO ALL

14. One container of a Vireya species. 1<sup>st</sup>, and the President’s Award for best species, *R blackii*, Walter Lobbezoo, & 2<sup>nd</sup> *R christii*, Simon Begg
15. One container of a small-leaved, small flowered Vireya species. 1<sup>st</sup>, *R macgregoriae* [pink form], Simon Begg & 2<sup>nd</sup> *R retusum*, Bill Taylor
16. One container of a Vireya species raised by the exhibitor from seed. 1<sup>st</sup> *R aequabile*, Simon Begg
17. One container of a Vireya hybrid raised by the exhibitor from seed. No entry
18. One container of a Vireya hybrid with minimum diameter of flowers **more** than 4 cm. 1<sup>st</sup> R ‘Gardenia Odyssey’ & 2<sup>nd</sup> R ‘Irian Jaya’ both entered by Simon Begg
19. One container of a Vireya hybrid with a maximum diameter of flowers **less** than 4 cm. 1<sup>st</sup>, *R macgregoriae* x *variosum* & 2<sup>nd</sup> R ‘Pennywhistle’ both entered by Elizabeth Xipell

## SECTION D – Azaleas – OPEN TO ALL

20. One container of a Kurume Azalea. 1<sup>st</sup>, R ‘Hino de Giri’ & 2<sup>nd</sup>, R ‘Kirin’, both entered by Simon Begg
21. One container evergreen Azalea (Satsuki, Gumpo, Indica **but** not Kurume). 1<sup>st</sup>, R ‘Mauve Schreyderi’, Alan Walker & 2<sup>nd</sup> R ‘Rose Queen’, M McAllister
22. One container of a deciduous Azalea hybrid. 1<sup>st</sup>, R ‘Les’s Penny’, John Quinn & 2<sup>nd</sup> R *luteum* x ‘Gibraltar’, Alan Kepert
23. One container of a deciduous Azalea species. 1<sup>st</sup> *R austrinum*, Alan Walker & 2<sup>nd</sup> *R reticulatum*, Alan Kepert
24. One vase of evergreen Azalea – 3 sprays, distinct varieties (exhibitor to supply own vase – 3 stems with sprays permitted). 1<sup>st</sup>, Len Sloggett, & 2<sup>nd</sup> E Xipell
25. One vase of deciduous Azalea – 3 to 6 stems, one variety (exhibitor to supply own vase – 3 to 6 stems with sprays permitted). No entry
26. One flower arrangement with Azaleas predominating (exhibitor to supply own vase). No entry.

## SECTION E - Plants - OPEN TO ALL

### Class:

27. One Pot, Tree fern or Basket, grown plant of a Vireya Rhododendron with minimum diameter of flowers **more** than 4 cm. 1<sup>st</sup> *R hellwigii x konori*, Bill Taylor & 2<sup>nd</sup> R 'Simbu Sunset', Simon Begg
28. One Pot, Tree fern or Basket grown plant of a Vireya Rhododendron with maximum diameter of flowers **less** than 4 cm. 1<sup>st</sup> *R jasminiflorum*, & 2<sup>nd</sup> R 'Magenta' both entered by Jack Morris
29. One potted plant of an **Asiatic** Rhododendron in bloom other than a Vireya or Azalea. 1<sup>st</sup>, R 'Donvale Pink Ruffles', Bill Taylor & 2<sup>nd</sup> *R johnstoneanum*, Alan Kepert
30. One potted plant of an Azalea in bloom. 1<sup>st</sup> R 'The Teacher', Bill Taylor & 2<sup>nd</sup> R 'Ward's Ruby, Alan Walker.
31. One Azalea as a 'Bonsai'. No entry
32. A hanging basket of an Azalea in bloom. No entry
33. One Azalea as a 'Standard'. 1<sup>st</sup> R 'Pax', & 2<sup>nd</sup> R 'Rose Queen' both entered by Karel Van de Ven
34. One potted plant of a dwarf Rhododendron, species or hybrid, other than a Vireya or Azalea, having small leaves and flowers. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> R 'June Bee' both entered by Bill Taylor
35. One Pot, Tree fern or Basket grown **Vireya** Species flowers **more** than 4 cm. 1<sup>st</sup> *R laetum* entered by Walter Lobbezoo
36. One Pot, Tree fern or Basket grown **Vireya** Species flowers **less** than 4 cm. 1<sup>st</sup> *R rarum*, Simon Begg & 2<sup>nd</sup> *R bagobonum*, Walter Lobbezoo

### RHODODENDRON SHOW SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER- 1 NOVEMBER 2005

The Rhododendron Show 2005 attracted 270 entries from 18 exhibitors. It was much more successful than the 2005 Azalea Show, though 10, 20, 30 and 40 years ago both the number of entries and exhibitors were much higher. The quality of entries however was comparable. As usual the same people did all the work in setting up the show, judging and helping the public. President Bill Taylor, Murray McAllister and Alan Walker. Jack Morris who handled all the entries with John Quinn's assistance in the case of changes on the day. Laurie Begg and Alan Kepert judging. Murray and Bill, again with the specific awards. Carole Quinn and Joan Taylor and many others besides.

### AWARDS AT THE SHOW

**Certificate of Merit:** An award of the Society's Certificate of Merit may be made by the Judges for an entry in Open, Amateur or Novice Sections, considered by them to be of exceptional merit. Only one award of Certificate of Merit can be made each year at the Society's Annual Rhododendron Show. Such an award can only be made for an exhibit of the genus Rhododendron. This year the judges did not award a certificate of merit.

**Perpetual Trophies:** Because of the generosity of some of our members, the following Trophies have been presented to the Australian Rhododendron Society for award each year at its Rhododendron Show. The trophies remain with the Society in perpetuity, ribbons are presented to the winners to commemorate the awards.

**Alistair MacLeod-Cooch Trophy:**

For the 3 best blooms, species or hybrid, grown by an amateur. Section G 46. The winner was Murray McAllister with R 'Pawhusker', R *tyermanii* and an unknown hybrid.

**Dowd Trophy:**

For 3 Rhododendron species (1 truss or spray of each) in the Open Section, from either Section A item 2 or Section C item 24. Andrew Rouse was already an almost certain winner of this prize since his entries were placed first in both of the relevant classes. His Asiatics were judged the winner, being R *lindleyi*, R *dalhousiae* and R *championae*.

**Gibson Trophy:**

For the best truss of a Rhododendron in the Amateur Section. The winner was Barry Stagoll in Section G 48 with R *tyermanii*

**Pritchard Trophy:**

For the best Rhododendron hybrid, raised by the exhibitor from Seed, either from Section B item 17 or Section C item 27. The trophy judges differed from the primary judges and awarded the trophy to the second placed entry in Section B17, rather than the first placed entry. The winner was Murray McAllister with R 'Mi Amor' x 'Alpine Snow'

Annual Prizes:

**Alfred Bramley Prize:** For 2 species and 1 hybrid of Rhododendron (1 truss or spray of each) grown by an amateur. There was no entry and, thus, no winner.

**Best Vireya Species Sash:** Awarded for the best Vireya species (truss or Spray) in the Show. The winner was Brian Clancy with R *zoelleri* var. 'Michael Black'

**G.Louise Anderson Prize and Sash:** For the best Vireya Rhododendron hybrid (truss or spray) in Show. . The winner was Brian Clancy with R 'Gardenia Odyssey' x *javanicum* .

**Australian Rhododendron Society, Victorian Branch Prizes:**

1. For best Rhododendron truss in Open Sections. The winner was John Quinn with his entry in Section B9 R 'Point Defiance'
2. For best Rhododendron truss in Novice or Amateur Sections. The winner was Jack Morris with his entry in Section G51 R 'Australian Sunset'
3. For best Azalea Exhibit in Sections D, E, or F. The winner was Karel Van de Ven for his entry in Section E34 R 'Mamma Mia'
4. For best Exhibit in Children's Section. There were no entries and, thus, no winner.

## SECTION A – Rhododendron Species – OPEN TO ALL

### Class:

1. One container of an evergreen species. 1<sup>st</sup> Walter Lobbezoo with *R niveum* and 2<sup>nd</sup> Karel Van de Ven with *R yakushmanum*. Interestingly *The Rhododendron Handbook* RHS 1998, describes this plant name as a synonym for *R degronianum*.
2. 3 trusses or sprays of species, distinct varieties, 1 truss or spray of each staged separately (Dowd Trophy). 1<sup>st</sup> Andrew Rouse with the trio of *R lindleyi*, *R dalhousiae* and *R championae* and 2<sup>nd</sup> Marina Moodycliffe with *R aberconwayii*, *R diaprepes* [actually, according to RHS, *R decorum* subsp. *diaprepes*] and *R nuttallii*.
3. One container of a species from the subsection Triflora. 1<sup>st</sup> Walter Lobbezoo with *R yunnanense* and 2<sup>nd</sup> Simon Begg with *R augustinii*
4. One truss of a species from the subsection Fortunea. 1<sup>st</sup> Barry Stagoll with *R decorum* and 2<sup>nd</sup> Murray McAllister with *R fortunei*
5. One container of a species from the subsection Maddenia. 1<sup>st</sup> Simon Begg with *R formosum* and 2<sup>nd</sup> Walter Lobbezoo with *R edgeworthii*.
6. One bowl of a dwarf species, having small leaves and flowers. (exhibitor to supply own bowl of approx. 100 mm. diameter). 1<sup>st</sup> Walter Lobbezoo with *R campylogynum* and 2<sup>nd</sup> Alan Walker with *R kiusianum*
7. One container of a species raised by the exhibitor from seed. No entry.

## SECTION B - Rhododendron Hybrids - OPEN TO ALL

8. One container of a red Rhododendron. 1<sup>st</sup> Simon Begg with R 'May Day' and 2<sup>nd</sup> Jack Morris with R 'Gwill King'
9. One container of a pink Rhododendron. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> John Quinn with R 'Point Defiance' and and 'unknown'
10. One container of a yellow or cream Rhododendron. 1<sup>st</sup> John Quinn with R 'Sunspray' and 2<sup>nd</sup> Murray McAllister with R 'Scott's Starbright'.
11. One container of a white Rhododendron. 1<sup>st</sup> Bill Taylor with R *lindleyi* x *nuttallii* and 2<sup>nd</sup> Barry Stagoll with *R tyermanii*
12. One container of a blue or mauve Rhododendron. 1<sup>st</sup> Barry Stagoll with R 'Madam Cachet' and 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Taylor with R 'Purple Emperor'
13. 3 trusses of hybrids, distinct varieties, 1 truss of each, staged separately. 1<sup>st</sup> John Quinn with a trio of R 'Hawk Crest', R 'Dreamland' and R 'Red Delicious'. There were no other entries.
14. One container of a hybrid, having *R.yakushmanum* [ or more properly *R degronianum*] as one of its parents. 1<sup>st</sup> Murray McAllister with *R degronianum* x *erigynum* and 2<sup>nd</sup> John Quinn with R 'Dreamland'
15. One container of a hybrid with a lax truss, e.g. Trewithen Orange, Temple Belle, Alison Johnstone. 1<sup>st</sup> Simon Begg with R 'Allison Johnson' and 2<sup>nd</sup> Murray McAllister with R 'Jingle Bells'
16. One container of an Australian-raised hybrid. 1<sup>st</sup> John Quinn with R 'Maria's Choice' and second Barry Stagoll with R 'Midnight'
17. One container of a hybrid raised by the exhibitor from seed. (Pritchard Trophy). 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Murray McAllister both with R 'Mi Amor x Alpine Snow'
18. One container of a hybrid not elsewhere specified. 1<sup>st</sup> John Quinn with R 'Naselle. There were no other entries.



19. One bowl of small-leaved, small flowered hybrids – up to 3 varieties, (exhibitor to supply own bowl of approx. 100 mm. diameter). 1<sup>st</sup> Murray McAllister with R ‘Arctic Tern’. There were no other entries.

### **SECTION C - Vireya Rhododendrons - OPEN TO ALL**

20. One container of a species with min. dia. of flowers **more** than 4 cm. 1<sup>st</sup> Brian Clancy with *R zoelleri* var. *Michael Black* and 2<sup>nd</sup> Andrew Rouse with *R hellwigii*
21. One container of a species with max. dia. of flowers **less** than 4 cm. 1<sup>st</sup> Andrew Rouse with *R robinsonii* and 2<sup>nd</sup> Simon Begg with *R macgregoriae pink form*.
22. One container of a hybrid with min. dia. of flowers **more** than 4 cm. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brian Clancy with R ‘Dr. Sleumer’ x *superbum* and R ‘Johannes’
23. One container of a hybrid with max. dia. of flowers **less** than 4 cm. 1<sup>st</sup> Elizabeth Xipell with R ‘Lomac’ and 2<sup>nd</sup> Andrew Rouse with *R rubineiflorum* x *anagaliflorum*.
24. 3 trusses or sprays of species, distinct varieties, staged separately (Dowd Trophy). 1<sup>st</sup> Andrew Rouse with a trio of *R sessifolium*, *R aequabile* and *R rarilepidotum* and 2<sup>nd</sup> Simon Begg with a trio of *R jasminiflorum*, *R loranthiflorum* and *R macgregoriae pink form*.
25. 3 trusses or sprays of hybrids, distinct varieties, staged separately. 1<sup>st</sup> Elizabeth Xipell with a trio of R ‘Just Peachy’ R ‘;Lovey’ and R ‘Elegant Bouquet’ and second Brian Clancy with a trio of R ‘Dr. Sleumer’ x *superbum*, ‘Dr. Sleumer’ x *superbum* and *R javanicum* x *brookeanum*.
26. One container of a species raised by the exhibitor from seed. 1<sup>st</sup> Brian Clancy with *R zoelleri* x *zoelleri*
27. One container of a hybrid raised by the exhibitor from seed. (Pritchard Trophy). 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brian Clancy with *Gardenia Odyssey* x *javanicum* (1<sup>st</sup>) and *Gardenia Odyssey* x *javanicum* (orange) 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **SECTION D - Azaleas - OPEN TO ALL**

#### **Class:**

28. One vase of a deciduous species, 3 to 6 stems (one species). 1<sup>st</sup> Alan Kepert with *R. occidentale* and 2<sup>nd</sup> Simon Begg with *R. luteum*.
29. One vase of a deciduous hybrid, 3 to 6 stems (one variety). 1<sup>st</sup> Marina Moodycliffe with R. Knaphill hybrid and 2<sup>nd</sup> Alan Kepert with R. Red Shank.
30. One vase of a deciduous azaleas, species or hybrids **three** distinct varieties, 3 to 6 stems. 1<sup>st</sup> Marina Moodycliffe with R. Norma and 2 unnamed hybrids and 2<sup>nd</sup> with 3 unnamed hybrids.
31. One vase of a Kurume azalea, 3 to 6 stems (C.V.A.). No entries
32. One vase of evergreen (not Kurume), 3 to 6 stems (C.V.A.). No entries

### **SECTION E - Plants - OPEN TO ALL**

33. One potted plant of Azalea. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Taylor with R. Rose Queen and R. unknown.
34. One potted plant of a standard Azalea. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Karel Van de Ven with R. Mammamia and Ballerina.
35. One potted plant from the genus *Rhododendron* grown as a bonsai. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Barry Stagoll with a Kurume Azalea and *R hatsugiri*.

36. One potted plant of a Rhododendron, species or hybrid. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Karel Van de Ven with Maria's Choice and *yak x eriogynum*.
37. One potted plant of a dwarf Rhododendron, species or hybrid, having small leaves and flowers. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Taylor with *impeditum* and 'Alpina'.
38. One potted plant of a Vireya, with min. dia. of flowers **more** than 4 cm. 1<sup>st</sup> Simon Begg with 'Highland White Jade', 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Taylor with 'Coral Flare'.
39. One potted plant of a Vireya, with max. dia. of flowers **less** than 4 cm. 1<sup>st</sup> Bill Taylor with 'St. Valentine' and 2<sup>nd</sup> Murray Mc Allister with *malayanum* x "Dr Sleumer" x *herzogii*.
40. One hanging basket – (Rhododendron, Azalea or Vireya). 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Taylor with 'Mac's Treasure' and 'Euilali Purple' (?).

#### **SECTION F - Novice**

41. One container of a Rhododendron species. No entries
42. One container of a Rhododendron hybrid. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Carole Quinn with 'Point Defiance' and 'Sir Phillip Bennet'.
43. One container of a Vireya, with a min. dia. of flowers **more** than 4 cm. No entries
44. One container of a Vireya, with a max. dia. of flowers **less** than 4 cm. No entries
45. One container of a deciduous Azalea. No entries

#### **SECTION G - Amateur**

46. 3 Rhododendron, species or hybrids, distinct varieties, 1 truss of each staged separately (Alistair MacLeod-Cooch Trophy) **A.R.I.** 1<sup>st</sup> Murray Mc Allister with a trio of 'Pawhusker', *tyermanii* and unknown, no other entries.
47. 3 Rhododendrons, 2 different species and 1 hybrid, 1 truss or spray of each, (Alfred Bramley Trophy) **A.R.I.** No entries
48. One truss or spray of a Rhododendron (Gibson Trophy) **A.R.I.** 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Barry Stagoll with *tyermanii* and 'Hugh Koster'.
49. One container of a species with min. dia. of flowers **more** than 4 cm. No entries
50. One container of a species with max. dia. of flowers **less** than 4 cm. No entries
51. One container of a hybrid with min. dia. of flowers **more** than 4 cm. 1<sup>st</sup> Jack Morris with 'Australian Sunset', no 2<sup>nd</sup>
52. One container of a hybrid with max. dia. of flowers **less** than 4 cm. 1<sup>st</sup> Elizabeth Xipell, no 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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

#### **September 16<sup>th</sup> 2005**

Numbers at this meeting were disappointing, but it was pleasing to have 14 exhibitors. The quality of entries was good. The exhibit of the night was won by Michael Hare with his vireya hybrid 'Hotel on Marfair'. A bloom from the same plant also won exhibit of the night in August. Mike also had many more good exhibits; those of note being 'Bonza', *laetum*, and 'Just Peachy'. Simon Begg took plenty of points with 'red Tubular', *laetum*, 'Nuigini Firebird' and *macgregoriae*. Simon also brought 2 winning plants 'Vladimir Bukovsky' and 'Simbu Sunset'. Walter Lobbezoo presented a rare less than 4 cm species *blackii*.

There was a large display of evergreen Azalea hybrids with 'Princess Maud' and 'Coconut Ice' chosen for Len Sloggett and Alan Walker. Alan Kepert won with *nupides* in the deciduous species class. Bill Taylor took both places with Azaleas in pots with 'Linearfolium' and 'Red Robin' and won with 'Hardijzer Beauty' for a Rhododendron in a pot..

All classes in the Rhododendron section had entries with winners being Simon, Billwalter, Alan Kepert, John Quinn, Mike Hammer, Jack Morris and Elizabeth Xipell. The flowers varied in size and shape. Some of them were *virgatum*, 'Vicount Lindley', *emasculum*, 'Hardizjer Beauty' *grande*, *delavayi*, *macabeanum*, 'President Roosevelt' x *Macabeanum*, 'Yellow Moon', 'Anne Teese', *pachypodum*, and *taggianum*

The non Rhododendron Section was won by Len Sloggett with Orchid 'Dockrillia Linguiforme'.

### **October 21<sup>st</sup> 2005**

Sitting at the back of the hall at the meeting it was pleasing to see so many blooms. We had the usual exhibitors but they certainly brought a lot of material. We expected good Rhododendrons. We were surprised at amount and quality of the vireyas. Evergreen Azaleas were down slightly on expectations but we had an excellent display of deciduous.

Simon Begg took all but 4 places in the vireya section. Elizabeth Xipell took a second with 'Penny Whistle' and 'Gardenia Odyssey' and Murray McAllister took second and third in the plant section with 'Noddy' and 'Star Showers' Apart from gaining all the other places Simon won Exhibit of the night 'Gardenia Odyssey' [there were a number of these on show]. Others of Simons blooms more than worthy of mention were *christii*, *retusum*, *pink macgregoriae*, Sweet Mac', *superbum*, *laetum*, and a good plant of 'Highland White Jade'.

There were entries in all the Azalea Classes, with deciduous being the stand out. 'Anthony Koster' won for Simon with Alan Kepert taking the places with 'golden Eagle' and 'Harvest Moon', very showy. Alan Walker beat Len Sloggett with a better *occidentale*. Alan also won with *kuisianum* in the evergreen species. The hybrid places went to Barry Stagoll, 'Goyet' and RW Hardijzer and Simon Begg 'Hino de Giri' Len took the plant places with 'Autumn Coral' and 'Pride of Laurenceville'.

The Rhododendron trusses were very good.

Barry won the species with *decorum* from Simon with *fortunii* and *yunnanense*.

John Quinn won the hybrids with 'Grand Slam' from Bill Taylor's 'Sappho' and John's 'Snow Peak'

Murray brought 2 plants grown from New Zealand seed flowering for the first time, 'Woody Peak' x 'Sunny Day' and 'Moonwax' x '1000 Butterflies'. These two show terrific potential.

The Maddenia section had a lot of entries with Murray awarded first and third with *pink maddenni* and 'Mi Amor' x 'Alpine Snow' and Simon second with *nuttallii* x *lindleyi*.

In the 'other plants' section Len's dendrobion was chosen over displays of clematis and lily of the valley. All were good exhibits.

For the year the Bench Displays had many excellent exhibits. Exhibit of the night was shared among 9 people. There were 22 exhibitors for the year.

**Len Sloggett**

## **Vireya Interest Group-Grafting**

At the recent Azalea Show, one customer asked for a small pot of white azalea that would grow to look like the 1.5m high standardized version he so admired. As he explained, it would be a lot easier to transport home in the bus...

The discussion that followed, at least stimulated the thought that we all need to know more about the technique of grafting, for we have all frequently admired the stunning results Karl achieves with standard azaleas and rhododendrons.

Karl was kind enough to demonstrate his technique at a Tuesday gathering, so the Vireya group set out to attempt to replicate the technique.

Some of the key points were:

1. Karl prefers to use a particularly sharp scalpel, to ensure that cuts can be quickly made to the desired angle and distance. (He averages 50 seconds per graft. Those of us who are less adept may fear for our thumbs??)
2. The first cut to the scion can be almost 3cms in length; the second, on the opposite side is a little shorter, but slightly angled, so that the result of the cuts, is a tapered wedge shape, i.e. with more bark remaining on one side than the other. Make certain that the cuts are not curved in any way, so as to facilitate a tight fitting joint.
3. Karl uses a *side graft* on his rootstock. The cut should be about 2 to 3 cms long, slanting towards the centre of the stem, but not more than half way. Again, ensure that the surface of the cut is flat.
4. Place the thicker part of the wedge of the scion to the outside of the cut in the root stock plant. Keep the outer surface of scion and rootstock aligned by using the thumb of your non-preferred hand as a stopper. This should assist in matching cambium layers of each at that side.
5. Using a little pressure on your grafting tape, tie the scion to the rootstock.
6. Karl was not concerned with the age of the wood on to which he wished to graft, as long as it was firm. Leave some leaf on the rootstock to ensure that the plant does not die, but you may need to reduce the amount of leaf to encourage union between scion and rootstock.
7. We were encouraged to graft a number of scions (3) on to each rootstock. This is an effective way to get quick results/impact.
8. For rootstock, Karl uses '*Clare Rouse*', a vigorous hybrid. Any vigorous hybrid would do.
9. To seal the joint between scion and rootstock, Karl uses *Selleys – No More Gaps*, which comes in a handy squeeze tube, for a few dollars. Let the sealant dry before allowing water on it, as it will wash off in the first half an hour or so.
10. Your completed graft can then be stood in the glasshouse to be regularly watered. No special plastic bags or coverings are required.

This technique can be trialled on long canes of Vireya prunings before attacking a prized specimen.

## Potential Applications

- (i) Grafting desirable cuttings on to a tall, lanky, less desirable "standard".
- (ii) Developing hanging baskets which quickly give results. Perhaps even utilizing several varieties may give special impact?
- (iii) Grafting species on to a stronger root system. Some species have weak root systems, and may benefit from this? Perhaps perakense?

Why not give it a go? It is a cheap experiment, and could pay real dividends. What a terrific way to use up those plants which are of no real value to you.

For further information, speak to a member of the Vireya interest group.

McA

## **PASSING OF HEDLEY GEORGE ( Bill) BOWMAN**

Another of our members has died. Unfortunately with our elderly membership we note our members' passing uncomfortably often. Bill Bowman was one of our few members from Western Australia. He received the Rhododendron Newsletter by email so that his daughter could increase its print size to accommodate his failing eyesight. Bill died at the beginning of the year in his 80<sup>th</sup> year but I have only recently learnt of his death. His daughter Barbara sent me a copy of the eulogy she and his son Stephen delivered and a photograph of one of his rhododendrons in flower. He propagated and tended rhododendrons azaleas and camellias far from where they are more usually grown in Australia. Our Society sends its condolences to his family

### **BIRD BATHING**

In my garden there is a bird bath above which hangs a sign that reads:

*Water is scarce – limited time for bathing!*

I have observed that most birds thoroughly enjoy a drink and a good wash – all that dust and pollution!

On the other hand there are the water fearful, like the wattlebird. After a few minutes perched precariously on the rim of the bath, the wattle bird will eventually pluck up sufficient courage to fly rapidly over the surface of the water a couple of times getting a few drops on his undercarriage. Then follows the 'piece de resistance', he flies into the Japanese maple and proceeds to shake and flap vigorously and continuously, I could easily be fooled into believing that he had almost been drowned!

The dove, on the other hand, is the elephant or Hercules of his race. He alights on the edge and if the bath is occupied will wait patiently until it is his turn. However while waiting he loves to turn face outward and nonchalantly dangle his tail feathers in the water (nothing else we hope!). Once the bath is free he slowly plods into the middle and commences his very sedate but complete ablutions.

A magpie takes no notice of the water restrictions nor heeds the warning not to waste water. He lobs in the middle and then the fun commences! Water flies in all directions accompanied by sounds reminiscent of an approaching avalanche and the surrounding area looks as if a Queensland rain squall has just passed through.

However the Indian mynahs insist on keeping the anti-discrimination aspect alive and regularly play there water polo match – all in together amid much noise and action. As a complete

contrast the dear little silver-eye flits across, in and out, drinking his meagre requirement, and by comparison is like a little fairy coming to my garden.

Surprisingly I receive rare visits from the very well-behaved sparrow, perhaps he is fearful of being tossed out, trodden on, or at the very least drowned.

I have to be on my toes to keep the 'RSPCB' at bay, you should hear the complaints I receive from time to time – 'not enough soap', and 'no clean towels'! as you can imagine, our bird bath also sports a well 'decorated' sign reading – *Equal opportunities for all!*

Article by June Bushell, reproduced with permission from 'Australian Better Gardens and Home Ideas' and forwarded to the ARS Newsletter by Robin Humphries.

### **Beaver O'clock Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2005 – Fathers Day in Canada.**

After a day and a half confined to the apartment due to grey and wet weather it is heaven to be outside again - sitting in a gently moving boat. The late afternoon sunshine warming and giving this late afternoon vista clarity and definition.

Looking north - our favourite Crean Cabin sits aloft its small peninsula – its flag distinctive - its red and white tugging and defiant, then in the next breath the wind drops and the flag hangs lax against the pole. Conifers – White Spruce gather on the land's end and a luxuriant froth of birch foliage softens their vertical drama. The many copses of birch (even Edna would have been inspired) their multiple white trunks, many of them enormous in girth (for birch). The angular and wiry form of the fire tower equals the height of the tops of the spruce.

Mr Beaver, his square head pushes along through the water leaving his signature wake behind him. Oops he is disturbed.... his robust and muscular body rolls like a donut into the deep, with a firm smack, he slaps the water with his paddle-like tail and disappears leaving the suggestion of his presence with rippling rings moving ever further apart and away.

Mrs Loon, her lovely angular black head, jewelled with crystal red eyes, is buoyant and boat-like with her babies/chicks riding upon her back. It was such a relief to see her as her nest was empty and the water level has risen with the rain.

The boat powers up and takes us out to the lake; we are rocked by resisting waves. Cliff edges exposed as land has slumped away, leaving clay coloured scars some more raw than others. The shoreline is crowded with spruce trees bent at crazy angles, spruce gives way to Tamarisk (*Larix* - deciduous larch) on the flats. Poplar foliage is intermittent and flutters lacey and white in the mass of green. Birds, mostly ducks, congregate on the beaches and the Crean Lake islands look like they are floating. All the islands are totally different in appearance and look secretive.

A deep sense of mystery pervades this environment.... this remote landscape whispers its secrets across the water and in the sighs of branches of the spruce. The round boulders that rise out of the water and deckle the lakes shoreline store the whispered vibrations of eons, and wolves and loons cry up stories that permeate this land as the sun sinks every evening into the western skyline.

I have been practicing the very under-rated art of being – just stopping and looking. I have done it all my life but have got out of practice over recent years. But at Crean it is compulsory, every window in the cabin demands to be looked out of. Curiosity and the desire to not miss a passing miracle – a moose, otters or a delicate and deft dive by a blue black and copper swallow.

The sun has been swallowed by the horizon, the chill of the air draws our attention away from the opaque watermark of the large and almost full moon rising east above the treeline. To the west a large black ribbon of threatening black cloud snakes through the sky, a silence – a deep hush drops like an invisible curtain across this theatre set of the north. Birds disappear; no more gulls and turns plummeting into the water. The water turns a still steel. The boat thrown into full throttle tears through the water, its power throws walls of spray into the air.

Back at the jetty swallows sit silent facing the moon.

Into the refuge of the cabin, the cloud has blanketed the sky, mosquitos congregate in numbers on the flyscreen that are quite frightening. Gas lamps flicker and hum throwing out an antique glow. The wind picks up and waves lap around the northwest shoreline, the candle in the bedroom flickers madly and the door slams shut.

Jack has his bird book open and confirms today's sightings – the Belted Kingfisher, a Caspian Turn and a Chirping Sparrow (one of the 26 possible Sparrows in this area).

Dishes are done hastily in a dish of water outside with the mozzies to a mad slapping dance-dishes completed we eagerly rush for the door.

Heavy raindrops begin to fall just as the door is closed. It is definitely bedtime in this land of Christmas trees.

**Dee**

### **BRANCH MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2005**

Reports of these meetings and notes of Alan Kepert's talk on Section Maddenia and Peter Fisher's talk on the effect of climate change will appear in January 2006 Newsletter

### **ARS CONVENTION 2005 HOSTED BY SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH**

A report on this convention, the National Council meeting and the Annual General Meeting of the ARS will appear in the January 2006 Newsletter.

### **COMING EVENTS FOR 2005.**

**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**

The next meeting will be in February 2006

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