



Rhododendrons South Australia

Australian Rhododendron Society Inc. South Australian Branch

Issue 137 – September 2020

President's Message

The Rhododendron Society will have a speaker for the September meeting!

Wendy Azadegan, president of the Camellia Society, has kindly agreed to give a talk at our next meeting. At first I thought it might be considered odd to have a presentation about a plant which is not a rhododendron, however camellias grow in almost every member's garden and could rightly be called a companion plant to the rhododendron. The idea to discuss camellias and for members to bring samples of plants from their gardens was made by a committee member and as there were constraints of time as well as Covid 19 the executive agreed.

So, please bring your sprays of camellia flowers and leaves as well as any early flowering rhododendron blooms to the September meeting.

Just today, 4th September, I heard that some restrictions enforced because of Covid are being eased. The committee are monitoring announcements closely as it needs to organize the Christmas function. Although a few ideas have already been discussed, like all good presents, you'll have to wait.

Daffodils in Andrew's and my garden have grown so well this year and are a lovely bright, happy display after a fairly dull winter. I am aware that the garden needs plants that will flower in May, June and July, not just for their beauty, but also to provide food for very cold, wet and bedraggled birds. Even plants with interesting foliage are needed as I love to have vases of both inside. I know that Vireyas will be suggested but our garden does not yet have enough protection for those beautiful rhododendrons. Of the few we have, only three are flowering; one tiny plant called Pink Organdy and the other two Vireya Jasminoides and Highland White Jade. They give such pleasure. Finding plants for my garden that will flower in the winter months is a challenge, but isn't that what makes gardening so exciting.

URGENT: please fill out your Neutrog order and pay Barbara as soon as you can. I'm sorry to be so pushy but we are late putting in our order due to changes beyond our control.

YOUR GARDEN NEEDS YOU.

Olivera Waterman

August meeting - AGM

Congratulations to Olivera Waterman, Lisa Greenstreet, Bob Graham, and Sue Beckoff who nominated for positions on the executive committee.

Barbara Mynhart, Andrew Waterman, Nataliya Popova and Ann Matison have re-nominated for a further term.

A very big THANK YOU to our outgoing President, Belinda Cullum and Secretary, Milton Bowman who have contributed so much to the smooth operation of the SA branch of the Rhododendron Society.

Robyn Wall and Bronwyn Illman were thanked for their contribution to the executive committee. Bronwyn will continue in the Newsletter editor role shared with Nataliya.



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Meg Prince was the winner of the raffle prize



Next Meeting

This will be held at the RSL Hall, Stirling, on Tuesday, September 15th at 8pm.

Our guest speaker will be Wendy Azadegan, President of the Camellia Society, Adelaide Hills branch. Wendy has suggested members may like to bring a small spray of Camellia flowers (with leaves) that they would like to have identified.

Implementing our Covid-19 Plan

All members attending the meeting need to sign a register upon entry. This also needs to include a phone number or email for contact tracing purposes.

Please do not attend the meeting if you are unwell, have respiratory symptoms or have been in Victoria in the last fortnight.

Adhere to hygiene protocols and social distancing and follow directions concerning the pot luck stall.

Members who would like supper will need to bring their own food. Coffee & tea will still be available but in disposable cups.

Please remember to bring something for the “pot Luck Stall” as well as samples of camellias that you would like to have identified. Friends and new members are always welcome.

Bloom of the Month – Rhododendron Vietchianum

Thanks to Gill and Jeff Jenkinson for these wonderful photos of *R. Veitchianum* growing very successfully at St Vigean's.





From the Propagating bench *by Richard Illman*

Propagation boxes

The onset of some warmer weather means it is time to check your propagation boxes. While they should still be receiving filtered light it may be time to slightly raise the lid so that the temperature does not get too high. A spray of weak fertiliser may also help promote growth. Also make sure that the cutting mix remains moist.

Any cuttings that have dropped their leaves are not going to grow and it is best to remove these plants.

Potting on day

A decision was taken at the last meeting to offer members the opportunity to gather for a “potting on day” for plants that would be available for future sale. **The society will supply the pots and blueberry mix to members, so all that members need to do is to bring their struck cuttings from 2019 and 2020 propagation days. We anticipate that the date will be set sometime in late October and it would be very useful if members could let us know approximately how many plants they would be making available for sale.** You can contact us at linwood4574@icloud.com

Please provide the required information as presented in the table below with examples:

Rhododendron Variety	Number of plants	Current pot size
R. Ponticum	3	6” or 150mm
R. Glen	2	Struck cutting in box
Az. Kirin	1	50mm
R. Cynthia	2	Struck cutting in individual cell/cup

This information will allow the committee to assess the feasibility of a plant sale.

When the potting on date is decided it may not be possible for all members to attend and in this case we will make arrangements to collect your plants.

Message to members who attended Maple Grafting workshops

It is now time to remove the freezer bag wrapping from the scion and examine for any bud growth. If there is none but the scion looks healthy re-wrap it for another week or two, otherwise leave it off. Resume watering as normal.

The warmer weather last week has caused a number of our Maple grafts to begin to grow so we have removed the freezer bags and placed the pots in dappled shade.

Spring in Member's Gardens



Magnolia San Jose



Species Tulips



Prunus Glandulosa Rubra



Trillium Cuneatum



Epimedium Mars



Epimedium Hot Lips

Camellia Reticulata





Rhododendron Cilpinense



Unknown rhododendron

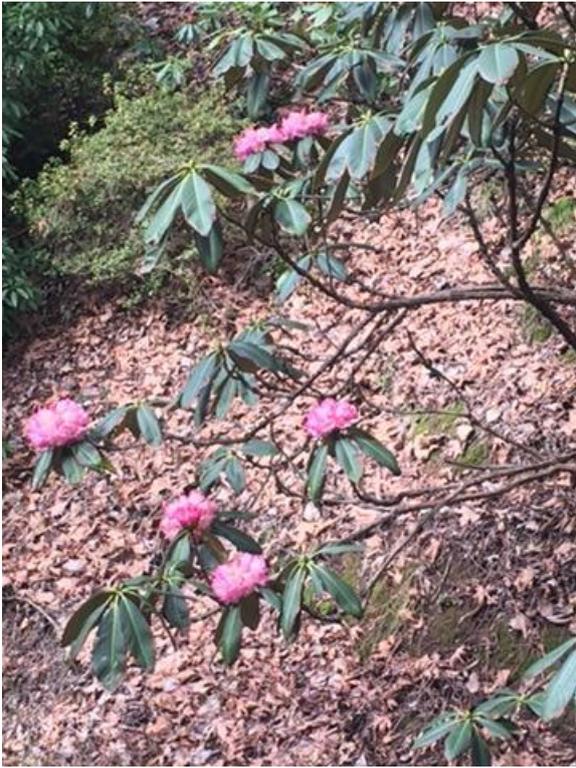


Camellia Spring Surprise



Rhododendron You Beaut (Australian hybrid)

Blooming at Mount Lofty Botanic Garden – thanks to Rob Hatcher.



Rhododendron Protistum



Rhododendron Macabeaeanum



Rhododendron Kesangiae donated by the late Mary Grant.
Grafted on R. Fortunei by the late Bob Malone (Tasmania).

Librarian's Report *by Ann & David Matison*

We've just received the summer 2020 edition of the *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society* which will be placed in our library at the next meeting.

The cover shows an arresting image of *R. calendulaceum* in full bloom on a mountaintop in the eastern US with a background of mist covered mountains in the distant background.

As usual, an excellent read, with a mix of articles of high standard: scholarly, educational and of general interest.

Australia has not been forgotten. Julia Hanley from Blackheath in the Blue Mountains describes the tragedy of the long drought, last summer's bushfires and then torrential rain the Campbell Rhododendron Gardens at Blackheath had to endure. Illustration showing the extensive destruction and evidence already of tiny foci of regrowth complement a very well written article.

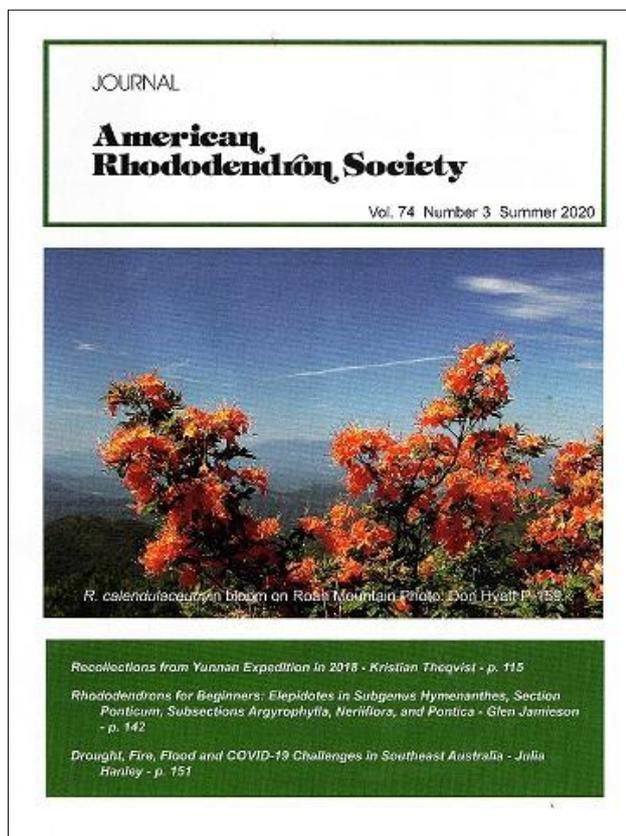
Neil Puddey gives us an article on vireyas with luxuriant images of hybrids from his property and natives - *R. lochiai* and *R. viriosum* on Mt. Spurgeon North Queensland.

Then there are articles on companion plants in the US, plant exploratory expeditions in Yunnan Province SW China and more delights.

All in all, a delightful cornucopia.

Enjoy.

*David and Ann
Librarians*



Notice Board

Final reminder for membership renewal

Please note that subscriptions are now due. Please complete the membership form attached to this newsletter and send it to the Treasurer, Barb Mynhart bmynhart@gmail.com. If you are paying by EFT please make sure that you include your name and indicate that it is for membership.

Reminder: memberships that are not renewed will mean that Newsletters, access to Neutrog orders and other benefits available to Society members will no longer be available.

Neutrog orders for Spring

Forms were e-mailed to members last week. The final date for Spring orders to be sent to Andrew Waterman waterman@chariot.net.au is September 25th.



Pop Up garden Visits

During the Covid-19 restrictions some chapters of the American Rhododendron Society have been running Pop Up Garden visits and the Executive Committee have suggested we might implement a similar concept. It could work in the following way.

“Any member who considers that the weather will be good and their garden is looking great can invite members to visit on a certain day & time.” This can be achieved by contacting the newsletter editors ARSrhodoSAnews@outlook.com or npopova@iprimus.com.au and providing the details to be included in an e-mail to members.

Further discussion will occur at the next meeting.

Please help

In a previous newsletter in President’s Message Belinda Cullum, notified members that Gill Jenkinson was stepping down from her role as supper volunteer. It would be really appreciated if someone would be prepared to take on this role. It requires purchasing tea, coffee, milk and sugar (society re-imburses the expenses) and filling and turning on the urns at the meeting. It could also be a shared position if that was more suitable.

Recycling service at Crafers Garden Centre

The Crafers Garden Centre has a collection bin for recycling empty plastic bags from fertilisers and potting soil. It is located outside near the entrance to the lower level of the building. Please speak to Lisa Greenstreet about information regarding this service.

