

# Newsletter of the ARSV



## Presidents Report

John O’Hara, President

There is very little to report in terms of ARS Victorian Branch activities for this newsletter. The society members could only assemble at the Garden for one Tuesday session between the opening up of Olinda after the big storm and the onset of lockdown #5, with the storm coming right on the heels of lockdown #4. I will give a very brief update on how the storm affected the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Gardens.

Overall, the DRBG survived the storm with less damage than was suffered in some other parts of the Dandenong Ranges. Some significant trees in the Garden were brought down, including a large oak next to the main rock garden (taking with it much of the road), a large, rare pine on The Georgian Road boundary, several eucalypts and conifers in the centre of the Garden and many trees in the Messmate Forest, the Maddeni Walk and the Lyrebird Gully. In the main, the damage was mostly confined to the edge of the Garden with many 60 metre ash trees down along The Georgian Road including several massive trees down in the overflow carpark opposite the DRBG front gate. Remarkably, no buildings at the Garden were damaged. Amazingly, one 40 metre ash, between the footy ground and the Parks Vic staff carpark, fell with just its upper most twigs taking some paint off the office spouting (a bit unfortunate given that a damaged office might have initiated the much discussed depot relocation and carpark redevelopment). Access to the Garden is now open but parts of the Garden such as the forest areas (Maddeni, Messmate and Lyrebird Gully) will remain closed for many months. Overall, the garden collection came through pretty much unscathed.



Trees down along The Georgian Rd, Vireya Café in the background

Committee						
John O’Hara	President	johnohara@optusnet.com.au	0444 552 212	Graham Price	lithic01@bigpond.com	0409 639 448
Andrew Rouse	Vice-President	awrouse@bigpond.com	0424 750 406	Peter Grose	pgrose@bigpond.com	0488 773 577
Michael Hare	Secretary	vicrhodo@gmail.com	0405 403 607	Emma Moysey	emmamoysey@bigpond.com	0422 231 924
Prue Crome	Treasurer	prue@crome.net.au	0419 659 741	Ray Weeks	rayweeks@optusnet.com.au	0408 351 934
Richard Florey	Newsletter/Memberships	richarddflorey@gmail.com	0402 412 123	Alex Pottage	niceplants53@gmail.com	03 5786 1595
Walter Lobbezoo	Librarian	wlobbezoo@parks.vic.gov.au	03 9751 1704			

## ARSV Annual Membership Renewals 2021-2022

Richard Florey, Membership Manager



Thank you to our members who have paid their annual membership renewals, but also for the generous donations made to enable our ongoing efforts at the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden. A reminder to everyone that the annual membership renewals are due prior to 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2021. The ARSV membership form was included with the June newsletter. The ARSV communicate to members via the website, social media and hard copy publications. Please let us know your preferred method of receiving information whether via post or email.

The ARSV Newsletter is published bi-monthly with news and activities, items of local interest and the calendar of forthcoming activities. Event dates are on the website as well as in the newsletter. The ARS national journal, *The Rhododendron*, is published yearly as a high-quality colour publication featuring articles on the genus from contributors throughout Australia and overseas. It is sent to members and released at a later date on the website.

## ARSV Plant Sale 10am-4pm Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 at the DRBG



With continued interest in our rhododendrons and vireyas at past bi-annual plant sales at the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden (DRBG), ARSV are again excited to hold its next sale. The sale will comprise a vast range of hard to get rhododendron species hybrids and vireyas. ARSV staff will be on hand to provide specialist plant knowledge and advice. If you are searching for a particular rhododendron or vireya contact Michael Hare on 0405 403 607 or [vichrondo@gmail.com](mailto:vichrondo@gmail.com) to discuss your needs. The DRBG is located at The Georgian Road in Olinda.

## Another new species from Yunnan

By Francis Crome

*Rhododendron kuomeianum* is a new *Maddenia* subsection species just described from Xiaocaoba Nature Reserve near Zhaotong City in northeast Yunnan by Yu-Hang Chang and co-workers at the Kunming Institute of Botany. It is related to *R. valentinianum* and differs in having a white corolla with a pale red margin (versus yellow), only 1 to 2 flowers per inflorescence versus 2 to 4, and sparser scales on the abaxial surface of the leaf. So far it is only known from a single population at the type locality at 1800–2000 m asl and grows on rocks and cliffs in a cold and wet environment. In the same paper the authors discuss recent knowledge of hybridisation amongst rhododendrons in this part of China and show that *R. maddenii* subsp. *maddenii* and *R. maddenii* subsp. *crassum* are genetically very distinct from each other. The two photos are from the paper.

Y.-H. Chang, G. Yao, J. Neilsen et al., *Rhododendron kuomeianum* (Ericaceae), a new species from northeastern Yunnan (China), based on morphological and genomic data, *Plant Diversity*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pld.2021.04.003>



## 2021 Virtual ARS Fall Conference “Fall into Gardening” 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of October

Hosted by the Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society and the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society in partnership with the Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association

### Meeting Format

There will be four presentations each day:

- 9 AM to 1 PM Pacific Time (west coast)
  - 12 PM-4 PM Eastern Time (east coast)
  - 1 PM – 5 PM Atlantic Time (Maritimes)
  - 5-6 PM to 9-10 PM in Europe.
- (Unfortunately, NZ and Australian members will have to get up early!)

### Saturday Speaker Topics

- Hartwig Schepker, Germany - Sichuan: A Plantman’s Paradise
- Shannon Berch, BC - Living Soils
- David Sellars, BC - From Rhododendrons to Rock Gardening
- Don Hyatt, VA - A Walk in the Woods

### Sunday Speaker Topics

- David Millais, UK - Conservation of Heritage Rhododendrons
- Linda Chalker-Scott, WA - Landscape Mulches – The Good, The Bad, and The Just Plain Ugly
- Richard Dionne, QC - Growing Rhododendrons in Québec’s Harsh Winters
- Don Wallace, CA - Fragrant Rhododendrons

### Important Details

This is a free event to all participants however, to receive the link and other background talk information, you are asked to register with Mailchimp at <https://mailchi.mp/9151e79e2a98/fall-conference-2021>

## Recent flowering of Vireyas in Member’s gardens

In Clare Rouse’s Garden by Andrew Rouse, Vice President and in my garden by Walter Lobbezoo, Librarian,



*R. zoelleri* (Michael Black form)



*R. javanicum ssp. kinabaluense*

The *R. zoelleri* (Michael Black form) is growing happily in the garden bed and is one of the original plants from this source. The *R. javanicum ssp. kinabaluense* was grown from seed received in the 1980s and is now about 3 metres tall. Both contributed by Andrew Rouse.



*R. Clare Rouse (R. christiana x R. laetum)*

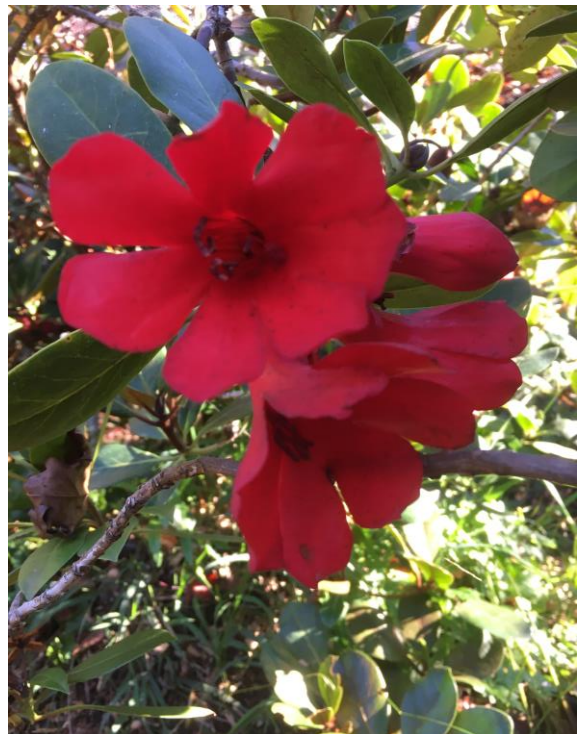


*R. aurigeranum x R. laetum*

*R. Clare Rouse (R. christiana x R. laetum)*. The *R. aurigeranum x R. laetum* is a tall, leggy plant that has been growing in the same pot for 30 years. Both contributed by Andrew Rouse.



*R. Princess Alexandra*



*R. hellwigii*

*R. Princess Alexandra* is a Veitch hybrid dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Contributed by Andrew Rouse.

*R. hellwigii* is one of the largest red-flowering vireyas from the Finisterre Range in Papua New Guinea. It was collected by Paul Kores back in 1976 and received as *R. superbum* and then identified as *R. hellwigii* when it first flowered in 1988. Contributed by Walter Lobbezoo.