



ARSV Tuesday Group 2022 Christmas BBQ

Here we are already at the start of a new year, and we now reminisce about how much work we had achieved last year thanks to the efforts of our active members of the ARSV. Members meet each Tuesday to maintain and consolidate the rhododendron collection at the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden. In appreciation and recognition for their efforts, the ARSV have a Christmas BBQ each year at the gardens. But also, thanks to John Pottage who has been, very kindly, taking a photo of the 'gang' for the last few years. These photos are a great record and add to the celebration of the work done by this cheerful group of members.



All members are most welcome to come on Tuesdays or to just pop their head in the tearoom door around 10am, if they have the time. However, the ARSV committee do need help though, so if you know someone who would benefit from being shown how interesting Rhodos are and how time spent with fellow members can rapidly advance their horticulture development. There are several executive committee positions that will become vacant. Whilst the work of the committee is not particularly hard work, it does control considerable funds and makes important decisions regarding the development of the Garden at Olinda and the ongoing availability and interest in a wide range of plant genera and species.

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			

Updates from members

By Richard Florey, ARSV Newsletter Editor

ARSV has members across Australia and overseas and it would be good to receive news or articles from you that we can put in the Newsletter from time to time. Such as, has anything of interest flowered? Any triumphs or disasters? Have you visited any interesting nurseries or gardens? Do you know of any upcoming events? Or even a question for other members? Please email your snippets and separate JPG photos to me at richarddflorey@gmail.com. In this edition, we have received plant photos from Ian Chalk, a previous newsletter contributor, showcasing more from his garden at Sulphur Creek in Tasmania.

2022 Rhododendron Journal

By Andrew Rouse, ARSV Vice President



Post Covid, I have now been able to compile the 2022 Volume 61 Rhododendron Journal for our members, and it is a bumper edition of over 90 pages of great information.

The Rhododendron Journal is an annual volume that is included in your membership.

It will go to print in March and posted to members shortly after.

Update on the new shade house

By Prue Crome, ARSV Treasurer

This photo was taken by Prue showing the update on the new shade house at DRBG. This is truly looking fantastic and has taken no time at all filling up quickly with a wide range of plant genera and species.



Presentation at the 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress held last September

By Andrew Rouse, ARSV Vice President

On 29th September, I presented the Australian Rhododendron Society's contribution to the Tropical Mountain Plant Science project (TroMPS) at the Global Botanic Gardens Convention. The project presenters were Professor Darren Crayn, Australian Tropical Herbarium (ATH) who gave an overview of the project, Stuart Worboys (ATH) who presented on the logistical aspects of wild collecting plants, Darren Worboys (Cranbourne Botanic Gardens) who presented on the propagation of the wild collected plants, I presented on the ex situ collection of *R. viriosum* and *R. lochiaie* we now hold at the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Gardens and plans for the Cloud Forest Garden, and Donna Davis, the project's artist in residence, talked about her art exhibits she had created to promote the project. The presentation was well received and a great opportunity to present the project to an international audience.

Key points from my presentation:

- A successful ARS partnership with scientific bodies such as the Australian Tropical Herbarium and Cranbourne Botanic Gardens
- 15 ARS members participated in the project's field trips
- We now hold at the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Gardens 38 discrete provenances of *R. viriosum* and *R. lochiaie* from 10 mountains in North Queensland
- 1st reliable collection and flowering of *R. lochiaie* from Bell Peak and Bellenden Ker.

The Bellenden Ker form of *R. lochiaie* is currently flowering.



Here is the link you can copy and paste to the full presentation overview I compiled.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/3kfw12qfsffm56/Tropical%20Mountain%20Plant%20Science%20Project%20Presentation%20Overview%2029%20Sep%202022%20low%20res%29.pdf?dl=0>

The ARS is looking after the collection at DRBG, and the recent extension to the shade house will provide additional space to house the permanent potted reference collection.



Member's Garden – Ian Chalk, Sulphur Creek, Tasmania

By Richard Florey, ARSV Newsletter Editor

Ian Chalk, a member of the ARSV since 2021 and a previous contributor to the newsletter, lives on the northwest coast of Tasmania off Bass Strait. Ian started his garden around five years ago and has since planted 80 vireyas.

Back in the ARSV June 2021 newsletter, we wrote an article on Ian's method of planting to establish his vireyas is interesting by making the use of dead Man Fern (*Dicksonia Antarctica*) from his neighbouring forested properties. This is certainly a great planting method to refer back to.

