

August 2024

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Newsletter of the ARSV



Benefits of being an ARSV Member

Richard Florey, ARSV Membership Manager

WHAT ARE YOUR PARTICULAR INTERESTS?

JUST LET US KNOW SO YOU CAN GET THE BEST EXPERIENCE POSSIBLE FROM BEING A MEMBER OF OUR SOCIETY! THIS INCLUDES HEARING FROM OUR OVERSEAS MEMBERS!

ARSV is always in the process of re-energising, re-focusing and expanding activities. We are focussing on refurbishing and creating new species collection gardens at the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden, expanding our plant propagation activities and moving into the area of Rhododendron conservation. We aim for an active enjoyable Society so we encourage you to please join in with us. You can become a committee member and / or be involved in our weekly hands-on activities held on Tuesdays at the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden. Please contact our secretary Emma Moysey or any of the committee members shown at the bottom of this page and they will guide you with accessing the tearoom, nursery area and car parking.

COMMUNICATIONS

We communicate by our **website** www.rhododendron.com.au, **social media- Facebook** AustralianRhododendronSociety, **Instagram** @australianrhododendronsociety and hard copy publications. If you haven't already done so, please let us know your preferred method of communication, whether by post or email, or both.

Our **Newsletter** is published bimonthly, with news and activities, items of local interest, the calendar of forthcoming activities. Event dates are on our **website** as well as in the Newsletter. Members' contributions to the **Newsletter** are always welcome.

Our **website**, **Facebook** and **Instagram** pages are constantly updated, and news of forthcoming activities are uploaded to these sites if you have missed the **Newsletter**. Contributions are most welcome from everyone. We also have a member's only Facebook page to share photos, stories with other members, or ask questions.

Our 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 released at a later date on the **website**.

HANDS ON AT THE DANDENONG RANGES BOTANIC GARDEN

We are very active in the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden where ARSV members work on most Tuesdays specifically safeguarding the rhododendron collection. It is a beautiful place, so come and help with our maintenance and garden activities, which can be tailored to suit most people. Activities include propagation, gardening, pruning, planting, developing new collection gardens, labelling, databasing etc.

Committee and Key Team Members			
John O'Hara	President	johnohara@optusnet.com.au	0444 552 212
Andrew Rouse	Vice-President	awrouse@bigpond.com	0424 750 406
Emma Moysey	Secretary	emmamoysey@bigpond.com	0422 231 924
Prue Crome	Treasurer	prue@crome.net.au	0419 659 741
Alex Pottage	Plant Sales	niceplants53@gmail.com	03 5786 1595
Richard Florey	Newsletter & Memberships	richarddflorey@gmail.com	0402 412 123

LIBRARY

The Society maintains an extensive library, which is located at the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden, Olinda. Most items can be borrowed but are only accessible when Society members are at the Gardens on Tuesdays or when meetings are held.

SPECIALIST ADVICE

Members of the Society are available to provide specialist advice on propagation, identification, sourcing and growing rhododendrons. There is always someone on hand on Tuesdays to help, contact our secretary Emma Moysey or another of the committee member who can put you on to the right person. Or check out the **website** and use the search tool and resources button.

PRESENTATIONS, DEMONSTRATIONS, TALKS AND MEETINGS

At the Annual General Meeting, the Society elects the committee and makes major decisions about the Society's direction. We encourage you to attend this to have your say. The date and venue are announced in the **Newsletter** and on the **website** homepage bottom righthand EVENTS. Other meetings, presentations, demonstrations of horticultural techniques, garden visits etc. are organised on an *ad hoc* basis at various venues. Demonstrations usually take place on weekends at the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden, and member's garden visits. Talks are organised when a speaker is available. Details are published in the **Newsletter** and on the **website**.

PLANT PROPAGATION AND SALES

Following the complete overhaul of our nursery facilities at DRBG we are creating propagation lists for the next few years. The next few months is propagation time, so let us know what you are chasing, and we will endeavour to do it! Special plant sale days are held at the Dandenong Rhododendron Botanic Garden as advised in the **Newsletter** and on the **website**.

ACCESS TO HARD-TO-GET PLANTS

We stock plants that you cannot get elsewhere and could propagate specific rhododendrons for you if still growing in the DRBG.

INTERSTATE AND OVERSEAS CONNECTIONS

Membership entitles members to free entry to the Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens at Burnie, Tasmania. Members are encouraged to visit interstate Branches of the Society in Tasmania, South Australia and NSW for their meetings and activities. Similarly, if travelling overseas, particularly in USA and Europe, be sure to contact local rhododendron societies for local information and advice.

EXPEDITIONS

We are active in organising and joining expeditions to areas rich in rhododendrons. In the past, members have explored for rhododendrons in far north Queensland, Myanmar, China, Nepal and PNG.

A Special Thanks to our overseas members

Prue Crome, ARSV Treasurer

The Committee of ARSV wish to thank all its members for their ongoing support through their memberships, donations and purchases of rhododendrons. But a SPECIAL THANKS is made to our overseas members who unfortunately cannot physically engage in the ARSV offerings yet continue being members and make generous donations!!!

Buy Swap Sell Event at Ferny Creek Horticultural Society held 3rd of August

Emma Moysey, ARSV Secretary

Ray Weeks and Alex Pottage did a wonderful job running the ARSV stall at this event. Almost all of the rhododendrons were sold, including Asiatic hybrids, species and vireyas. They even signed up a few new members to ARSV. Well done to Ray and Alex!



Upcoming ARSV Events for 2024

Emma Moysey, ARSV Secretary

2nd of November at 2pm— ARSV Annual General Meeting open to all ARSV members. This will include a visit to Australian Cloud Forest Garden, ARSV new facilities, plant sales and a BBQ lunch.

16th of November - garden visits open to all ARSV members and free of charge.

- 10:00am Heywood House is located at 50 Linwood Road, Seville, Victoria. This will include a tour of Virginia Heywood's garden. BYO lunch. A BBQ will be available for use. This 6.5 hectare property has a few acres of garden with sweeping views of mountains and vineyards that frame the garden and is filled with many camellias, salvias, an orchard, a dam and abundant wildlife. Virginia was a political adviser in Tony Blair's cabinet while living in the UK, who turned her hand to horticulture after returning to Australia. 25 years later, Virginia is a guide at the Royal Melbourne Botanic Garden, 3CR radio gardening show presenter and Plant Trust Secretary.
- 1:30pm Geoff Bogle Arboretum is located at 770 Gembrook Launching Place Road, Hoddles Creek, Victoria. This will include a tour. The arboretum fills a 32 hectare property where Geoff started planting trees back in 1985. Today, there are over 4,000 different trees and shrubs, including more than 1750 different conifers, 230 different oaks of which 158 are species and the remainder hybrids and cultivars, 150 maples and a spread of Australian rainforest trees. Geoff was a plant enthusiast who once grew Christmas trees (conifers) for supermarkets.

Seminar on ARSV Nth Qld Rhododendron Project held 15th of June 2024

Andrew Rouse, ARSV Vice President

I held a seminar at the Ferny Creek Horticultural Society where I did a presentation and Q&A time on the ARSV North Queensland Rhododendron Project. This was also live and recorded on Zoom. The seminar had great attendance. The presentation overview covered:

- Vireya rhododendrons and their distribution and conservation status
- Australia's two endemic species of vireyas (*Rhododendron lochiaie* and *R. viriosum*)
- ARSV's involvement in the Tropical Mountain Plant Science project
- Establishing a conservation collection of *R. lochiaie* and *R. viriosum* at the DRBG, and
- The creation of the Australian Cloud Forest Garden.

Here is the link to the presentation slides.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/8lu2h0hc2k0crpas3j6d2/FCHS-June-2024.pdf?rlkey=dpnavh2ab7he49fvhcoyhp5xg&st=cimdvu5n&dl=0>

Here is the link to the Seminar presentation video.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/hoisfe6awpfmt0gr3koxp/FCH-June-2024-Seminar-Video.mp4?rlkey=knfv19hx2duaglwlcjdgagudc&st=fj7jw88z&dl=0>

Meet one of ARSV's Newest Committee Members – Helen Franklin

Helen Franklin, ARSV Committee Member

I am based in the Macedon Ranges and am creating a large garden on my property at Hesketh. I am keenly interested in all aspects of gardening, I am also a member of the Alpine Garden Society. Recently I retired from full time work, so I am looking forward to having time to devote to my garden and to horticultural groups in which I participate more fully than I had previously been able.

My latest additions in the garden have been a shadehouse and greenhouse, which I am thoroughly enjoying. Tomato seedlings have been planted for the year and I am hoping I might get a ripe tomato or two up here now I have a greenhouse!



What's in flower in the Nursery at DRDG (June 2024)

Ray Weeks, ARSV Committee Member



R alticola



R carringtoniae- distinctive shuttlecock shaped flowers that all sit up and look you in the face.



R phaeochitum