

Rhododendrons International

The Online Journal of the World's Rhododendron Organizations



Vireyas



Rhododendrons



Azaleas

Volume 1 2016. Part 3 - Southern Hemisphere and Asian Rhododendron Organizations

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JOURNAL CONTACTS

Journal Editor: Glen Jamieson, Ph.D.

Issue Layout: Sonja Nelson

Journal Technical Reviewers: Gillian Brown, Steve Hootman, Hartwig Schepker, Barbara Stump.

Comments on any aspect of this new journal and future articles for consideration should be submitted in digital form to:

Dr. Glen Jamieson

rhodojournal@gmail.com

Please put "Rhododendrons International" in the subject line.

From the Editor

Dr. Glen Jamieson
Parksville, BC
Canada



Welcome to the first issue of *Rhododendrons International* (RI). I am the editor of the *Journal American Rhododendron Society* and while attending the 70th International Rhododendron Conference in Dunedin, NZ, in 2014, I was fortunate to be able to meet with representatives from the Dunedin, Japanese, German, Australian and the host NZ Rhododendron societies, as well as representatives from the USA Rhododendron Species and Botanical Garden (RSBG) and the NZ Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust (PRT). While I personally was aware of many of the initiatives of these groups through our journal exchange programs, I know that most members of each rhododendron society are not aware of the many rhododendron-related activities or initiatives around the world that are being supported or discussed by rhododendron societies and organisations.

In an effort to increase awareness of activities involving rhododendrons on a scale larger than is occurring in each of our own individual societies or groups, I came up with the idea of producing a digital, on-line publication that would hopefully have content from as many rhododendron-related groups as possible. My idea was that issues of this journal would be made available to be distributed free by each rhododendron group to all its members. Initially, only one issue is being planned, but if it is well received and there is subsequent interest, perhaps this could become an on-going publication.

I am pleased to report that all the rhododendron societies and organisations world-wide that I know of have welcomed this idea and are participating in this first issue of *Rhododendrons International*. However, with 16 submissions in the first issue and many photos from each group, the resulting pdf document may be too large for convenient timely downloading if it was done as one large file. To remedy this, this first issue of *Rhododendrons International* has been divided into three smaller pdfs on a geographical basis, which should all be downloaded separately and then be read sequentially, since they are linked together text-wise. The three pdfs are “North America Rhododendron Organizations” (Part 1), “European Rhododendron Organizations” (Part 2),

and “Southern Hemisphere and Asian Rhododendron Organizations” (Part 3, this pdf). Issue file size may not be such a concern for future issues, as future issues, if produced, will likely have no more than 8-10 articles in each issue.

We welcome article submissions for future issues, but as indicated, when they might be produced will depend on the responses received to this issue. There is no remuneration for submitted material, and at present, I am willing to volunteer my own time to edit and coordinate submissions. However, at present I have no commitment for someone to do the layout, but this may change once we have a better idea of how much future work will be involved. Comments on any aspect of this new journal and future articles for consideration should be submitted in digital form to:

Dr. Glen Jamieson

rhodojournal@gmail.com

Please put “Rhododendrons International” in the subject line.

Some guidelines for the future content. The content of RI should not interfere with possible article submissions to any existing journals of rhodo societies and organizations, but rather help disseminate more widely relevant rhododendron articles to a larger audience. Article submissions to RI should thus primarily be timely articles that have already been published in other rhodo journals when possible, but be modified so that they are not identical to what was previously published and hence incur possible copyright conflicts. Tweaks could include more images, additional text, and so on.

Other guidelines are the following:

- 1) **Language:** the language of RI will be entirely in English. I know this will cause problems for some groups that have many members that do not speak English, but unfortunately this is the most widely accepted language at present and most importantly, it is the only language with which I can competently edit articles.
- 2) **Content:** All articles will be reviewed and edited, and we reserve the right to refuse material deemed of questionable relevance or scientific credibility. Suggested content that could be considered of interest to the broader rhododendron community and could include local or regional efforts in rhodo conservation, the habitats and characteristics of species occurring in your area in the wild, rhodo hybridization issues, challenges in local rhodo culture, preferred companion plants, challenges in keeping your society operational and so on. I am not suggesting that all these topics would be considered in a single article

or even RI issue, but am simply suggesting what type of content might initially be considered. I am sure that many readers will have other great ideas!

- 3) **Timeframe:** We are all busy people, so there is no rigid schedule for future issues. However, potentially one issue a year might initially be feasible, but again, this is not fixed, and since we are depending on volunteers for article submissions, it may be less frequent!
- 4) **Participation:** Article submissions are welcome from anyone.
- 5) **Format:** Being a digital publication, there is no cost for colour images and these can be located throughout an article, so high quality images (300+ dpi, i.e. large file sizes) are welcome. However, there is work involved in writing, editing and in layout, so writers should bear this in mind in determining individual article lengths and the number of photos submitted. However, rather than specifying limits at this time, lets see how it goes and if submissions should perhaps be made longer or shorter, as editor I will suggest that to specific writers for their consideration.

In summary, thanks to all the writers that have contributed to this first *Rhododendrons International* issue, and to you all for reading this material. I would particularly like to thank Sonja Nelson, Assistant Editor of the ARS journal for volunteering to do the layout and proofing of this first issue, as without her, this issue would not exist. I hope you enjoy it and find it useful.

Glen Jamieson

Editor, *Rhododendrons International*

Rhododendrons in Australia

Andrew Rouse
Melbourne, Victoria,
Australia



(Note: This article draws heavily on a 2010 article written by Lesley Eaton titled “50 Years of The Australian Rhododendron Society - and The National Rhododendron Gardens,” published in The Rhododendron 50: 51-57.)

IT HAD LONG BEEN A DREAM AMONGST A BAND OF DEDICATED AND ENTHUSIASTIC rhododendron growers, who at the time belonged to the Ferny Creek Horticultural Society in the Dandenong Ranges east of Melbourne (state of Victoria), that a more comprehensive study into the culture of the genus

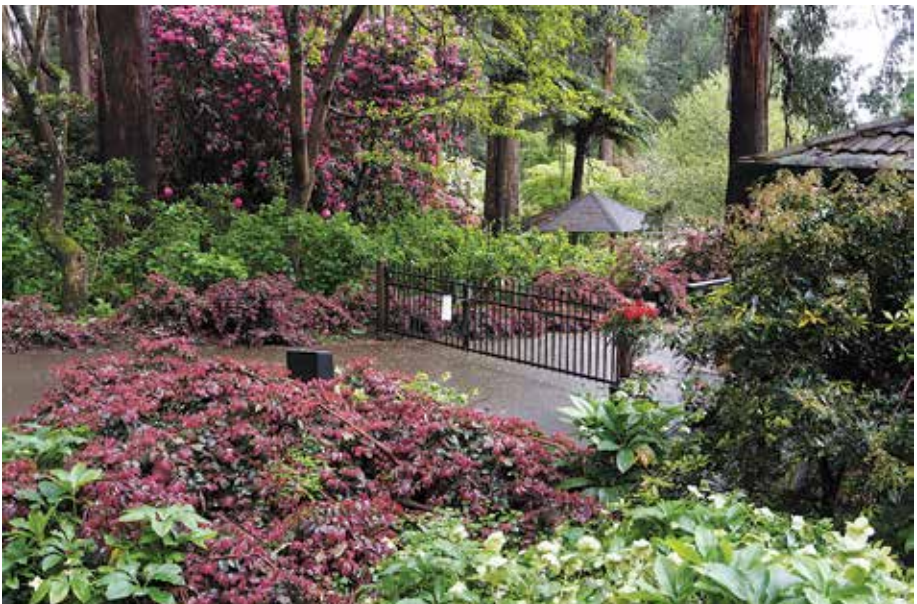


Fig. 1. Entrance to the National Rhododendron Garden, Olinda, Victoria. Photo by Mike Hammer.



Fig. 2. Kurume Bowl, National Rhododendron Garden, Olinda. Photo by Mike Hammer.



Fig. 3. Kurume Bowl, National Rhododendron Garden, Olinda. Photo by Mike Hammer.



Fig. 4. Kurume Bowl, National Rhododendron Garden, Olinda. Photo by Mike Hammer.

Rhododendron should be undertaken. Ultimately, in May 1954 a separate study group was created as part of the Ferny Creek Society.

This study group proved so successful, attracting many new members keen to learn more about rhododendron culture, that in August 1958 the members felt that all Australia should be represented. So the name of the group was changed to the Australian Rhododendron Society, a group within the Ferny Creek Horticultural Society.

The original aims of the fledgling society were:

1. To extend the influence of the society to other districts of Victoria and the whole of Australia;
2. To keep in close contact with



Fig. 5. *R. nuttallii*, National Rhododendron Garden, Olinda. Photo by Mike Hammer.



Fig. 6. Bud burst in the Lyrebird Gully, National Rhododendron Garden, Olinda. Photo by Mike Hammer.



Fig. 7. Main Path South, National Rhododendron Garden, Olinda. Photo by Mike Hammer.



Fig. 8. Main Lake looking east, National Rhododendron Garden, Olinda. Photo by Mike Hammer.

other rhododendron groups and societies throughout the world;

3. To keep a register of Australian raised hybrids;

4. To give awards under Australian conditions;

5. To develop up a library of publications on the genus rhododendron;

6. To develop a rhododendron festival; and

7. For the publication and distribution of information of interest to all growers and potential growers of the genus.

Over the years the aims of the



Fig. 9. Main Lake looking north, National Rhododendron Garden, Olinda. Photo by Mike Hammer.



Fig. 10. Main Lake looking west, National Rhododendron Garden, Olinda. Photo by Mike Hammer.



Fig. 11. Cherry Lawn, National Rhododendron Garden, Olinda. Photo by Mike Hammer.



Fig. 12. Kurume Bowl looking west, National Rhododendron Garden, Olinda. Photo by Mike Hammer.

Society have remained largely unchanged and are as relevant today as they were in the late 1950s. The first separate journal for the new Society, *The Rhododendron*, was published in February 1959 in keeping with the newly written aims, and from all reports it was well received.

Although the general meetings were still being held at Ferny Creek, Committee meetings were held in the home of Charles Carlsson, the Society's first treasurer. It was during these meetings that it was mooted that to further the Society's aims, full autonomy would be necessary so its own affairs and funds could be concentrated on. After much discussion, autonomy was granted, and so



Fig. 13. Maple, Kurume Bowl, National Rhododendron Garden, Olinda. Photo by Mike Hammer.



Fig. 14. Main Lake looking south, National Rhododendron Garden, Olinda. Photo by Mike Hammer.



Fig. 15. Lower Garden looking north, National Rhododendron Garden, Olinda. Photo by Mike Hammer.

the Australian Rhododendron Society Inc was established in 1960. Its first President was Arnold Teese.

The Society then set about realising its dream of establishing a Rhododendron Garden encompassing cultivated rhododendrons from all over the growing areas of the world. Two members of the Society approached the late Jim Westcott, who was, at the time chief forester of the Dandenong Ranges, for his help in convincing the local Member of Parliament that the idea of a garden was a sound one. A special Act of Parliament was eventually legislated by the then Premier of Victoria, The Honourable (late Sir) Henry Bolte, to allow an area to be developed. This provided for a Committee of Management to oversee lessees. Various sites were viewed and discussed, and eventually the present one, a 40.5 ha (hundred acre) site running along the eastern ridge of Mount Dandenong and being a section of the Olinda State Forest, was chosen. In August 1960, the Premier of Victoria in a broadcast address said:

...the aim of the government is to do everything possible to preserve and enhance the natural attractiveness of the Dandenongs, and to encourage private individuals to do the same. The government has approved a permissible lease to 100 acres of forest land at Olinda to the Australian Rhododendron Society, which will develop and maintain the proposed Rhododendron Garden without cost to the State.



Fig. 16. Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens. Photo by Heather Walmsley.

The dream was about to become a reality. Although the site was not the first choice, it became apparent that with the splendid views over the Yarra Valley and the ranges beyond, its elevation of 610 m (2000 feet), 1270-1520 mm (50-60 inch) rainfall, and a permanent spring climate, that a garden of high quality could be developed. So it came about that the Australian Rhododendron Society accepted the challenge of taking on a derelict lease, which at the time was a major fire risk to the township of Olinda.

With an increasing number of members living in the Melbourne suburbs, it was requested that some meetings be held off the mountain. The first of these meetings was held in Melbourne at the National Herbarium, with the then Vice-president, Michael Spry as a guest speaker. Regular meetings were held, and the year was capped off with a Rhododendron Festival over the Melbourne Cup weekend in early November. Within eight months, membership had reached 300. The first show was held at the recreation reserve in Olinda, where it was reported 18,000 visitors came through the gates—a remarkable effort for such a young Society.

In 1961, the members fenced the first 6.1 ha (15 acres) and set about clearing and planting. During the first decade it was hard to separate the Society and the



Fig. 17. Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens. Photo by Heather Walmsley.

gardens, as so much work was required to maintain and expand the plantings. The young Society realised that to take on the development of creating a garden would be a formidable task and would tax the Society's meagre resources. However, the dedication of members, the generosity of nurserymen and members in donating plants and money, and eventually recognition and financial assistance from the Government and Tourist Development Association finally brought about realisation of the original concept.

A register of Australian-raised hybrids was commenced and a lovely cross between *R. ciliatum* and *R. racemosum*, named 'Viscount Linley,' became number one on the list. Seed was received from overseas, principally from the UK, and small plants, cuttings and seedlings were distributed to members as well as to build the collection at the gardens. The introduction of *R. christiana*, one of the first vireyas to be introduced from New Guinea, caused quite a stir and from the late 1960s, the Society was a focal point for the introduction of vireyas into cultivation, with species collected by Canon Crutwell, Lyn Craven, Lou Searle and Don Stanton, to name a few. In the early 1970s, the Society also mounted expeditions to Papua New Guinea and North Queensland that led to the introduction of many new vireya species, including *R. lochia* (now split



Fig. 18. Azaleas in the Mt. Lofty Garden, the hills garden of the Adelaide Botanic Garden, South Australia . Photo by Rob Hatcher.

into *R. viriosum* and *R. lochiaie*) from a number of different locations in North Queensland.

Each spring, the Society held annual shows that provided members with the opportunity to display their collections. These shows played an important role in fostering interest in rhododendrons and the Society, and became a major tourist attraction.

As membership grew and interest in rhododendrons spread across Australia, new branches of the Society were established. In 1970, two branches were formed in New South Wales, the Illawarra and Blue Mountains Branches, followed in 1978 by the Tasmania and South Australia Branches. The South Australian Branch has a close working association with Mt. Lofty Garden, which is the hills garden of the Adelaide Botanic Garden, and helps to maintain a significant rhododendron collection.

Soon after establishment, Tasmania split into regional branches to better cater for the needs of rhododendron enthusiasts in that state. The Emu Valley Branch (Burnie, Northern Tasmania) established and manages the Emu Valley Garden, which also has a significant collection of rhododendrons.



Fig. 19. *R. burmanicum* in the Rhododendron Gully, Mt Lofty Garden (Photo by Rob Hatcher).



Fig. 20. *R. davidsonianum* in the Rhododendron Gully, Mt. Lofty garden (Photo by Rob Hatcher).

The Southern Tasmanian Branch has no associated botanic garden but rhododendrons thrive around Hobart, so they are popular in nurseries and gardens there. In contrast, in Melbourne and Adelaide, climate change with accompanying heat and drought has tended to confine rhododendrons in gardens to the surrounding Mt. Dandenong and Mt. Lofty areas.

At that time, the original Victorian Society changed its name to Australian Rhododendron Society Vic Branch Inc. and a new Australian Rhododendron Society Inc. was formed under the Associations Incorporation Act of South Australia. The various Branches appointed Delegates to the new body's governing committee, called in its Rules the "National Council". The new body was a uniting body for the Branches and it took on the responsibility of publishing the Society journal *The Rhododendron*.

In recent times the philosophy of the Society *vis a vis* its branches has changed. Though the branches still appoint Delegates to the National Council, no branch is bound to do anything or pay any money to it unless it votes in favour of that action.

With the passage of time, it became financially untenable for the Victorian Branch to continue to manage the garden at Olinda, and in 1995, total management of the Garden reverted back to the Victorian Government, with Parks Victoria the managing agency. The Committee of Management, on which the Victorian Branch retained a representative, became redundant. The Victorian Branch continues to be actively involved at a practical level in decisions relating to the garden and members regularly volunteer at the garden and play a key role with all aspects of developing and maintaining the collection. Most recently, the Branch was instrumental in refurbishing the glasshouse, which now displays a world-class vireya species collection. Members from across the country generously donated plants so that all of the species held in cultivation in Australia could be publicly displayed.

The Society holds biennial conferences that attract delegates from across the Society's branches and overseas. The most recent conference was hosted by the Victorian Branch in 2014.

The gardens at Olinda have an excellent collection of rhododendron species and hybrids, with beds set amongst the towering Mountain Ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*) that are such a feature of the Dandenong Range. The gardens have arguably one of the best climates of any public garden in Australia, enabling a wide range of rhododendrons to be grown. The Australian Rhododendron Society and its branches welcome new members from Australia and around the world, with members actively involved in other societies and endeavours to promote and conserve *Rhododendron*.

For more information on the Society, please contact:

Simon Begg, National President: simonwbegg@gmail.com

Michael Hare, Victorian Branch Secretary: vicrhodo@gmail.com

Milton Bowman, South Australian Branch Secretary: kiche@optusnet.com.au

Gill Fitzgerald, Southern Tasmania Branch Secretary: gillfitzgerald@bigpond.com

Geoff Wood, President, Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden: geoffreywood@me.com

Julia Hanley, President, Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society: julia@hanley.ws

Robin Pope, Secretary, Tamborine Mountain Botanic Gardens (QLD): secretary@tmbotanicgarden.org.au

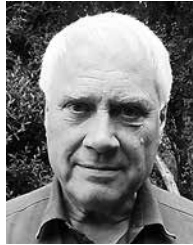
Website: www.rhododendron.com.au

Andrew Rouse is Vice President of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Rhododendron Society.

Rhododendrons in New Zealand

Tony Fitchett

**Dunedin, South Island,
New Zealand**



THOUGH NEW ZEALAND HAS NO INDIGENOUS RHODODENDRONS, due to the variation in climate from north (subtropical) to south (cool temperate) it can grow a wide range of rhododendrons, from temperate large leaf to subalpine to vireyas. Collections of vireyas can be found in the Auckland area, and at Pukeiti in Taranaki, and though they can, with care, be grown in microclimates as far south as Dunedin, the south is known for its temperate rhododendrons, especially those from the *Maddenia*, *Grandia* and *Falconera* subsections.



R. 'Marquis of Lothian', the first New Zealand bred hybrid. Photo by Tony Fitchett.



R. protistum. Photo by Bron Midlicott-Fitchett.

Importation of rhododendrons and seed occurred soon after organised European settlements were established and by the 1880s, nurseryman William Martin, a Dunedin settler in 1848, was offering a range of rhododendron species and what is thought to be the first New Zealand bred hybrid, ‘Marquis of Lothian’, for sale through his nursery catalogue.

Sir John Cracroft-Wilson first arrived in Christchurch in 1854, returned in 1859, and brought seed of a red *R. arboreum*. In the 20th century, Edgar Stead (1881-1949) used seed from Cracroft-Wilson’s two best plants in an extensive breeding programme on his 21.4 ha (53 acre) property, named “Ilam” by Charles Watts-bred hybrids, and grew many Ilam plants.

The New Zealand Rhododendron Association (NZRA) was established in 1944 by a group of enthusiasts, with Edgar Stead as its first President. Its main aims were the promotion, research, development and protection of rhododendron gardening in New Zealand. There are currently about 577 members. Other independent local rhododendron groups exist in many parts of the country, and many members of these groups are not members of the NZRA, but the Association and these groups work together where possible, especially in the organising of NZRA conferences.

Many members of the NZRA have been involved in hybridising rhododendrons

(see Coker and Millar (1998), a handbook of NZ raised rhododendrons). In the North Island, Dr. John Yeates of Massey University College near Palmerston North, hybridised azaleas, cooperating with Edgar Stead, and after Edgar Stead's death, further developed the Ilam strain to produce the Melford azaleas. He also worked with *R. dicoanthum* and *R. degronianum* subsp. *yakushmanum*. Seedlings from these and other sources, initially from Massey College but later from the NZRA garden at Kimbolton, were widely distributed by the NZRA to members for growing on, and a number of cultivars have subsequently been registered. I for example, have a plant of *R. macabeanum* X 'Ilam Orange', passed on by my parents-in-law, which came through this route.

At Tikorangi in Taranaki, Felix Jury was a plant breeder who was awarded the Veitch medal in 1993 by the RHS. His family was also involved, and his wife Mimosa, brother Les, and son Mark produced many popular hybrids ('Floral Dance', 'Spiced Honey' and 'Floral Sun',* respectively) especially from the *Maddenia*. Other successful Taranaki hybridists included Bernie Hollard ('Kaponga'), George Huthnance ('Elaine Rowe'), Allen Harris, and the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust ('Falcon's Gold'*).

Ron Gordon ('Rubicon'), Gordon Collier ('Dame Kiri Tekanawa'), Eric Wilson ('Danella'*), and Ewan Perrott were other North Island hybridists, and Os



Heritage Park near Palmerston North, North Island.

Blumhardt, Michael Cullinane, and Brian Oldham produced many vireya hybrids. Sue Davies ('June Gardiner') of Massey University has an ongoing, well-planned hybridization programme producing both compact, indumented plants with good flowers and new leaf colour and double scented azaleas.

Dunedin rhododendron specialists Maurice Skipworth and Robert Balch of the Dunedin Botanic Garden ('Lovelock', 'Robert Balch', 'Spicil', and 'Alpine Meadow'), and Bruce Campbell ('September Snow') made many crosses, and a number of them have been registered by the Dunedin Rhododendron Group.

Further south at Tapanui, the Hughes family of Blue Mountain Nursery have bred many plants ('City of Dunedin'). Denis Hughes' azaleas are particularly impressive. Other South Island hybridists of note include Lachie and Gwen Grant ('Glenfiddick'), Tom Garbutt ('Winnie Hayes'), Barry Sligh, Mark Lewis, Helen and Graham Holmes, and Jeff Elliott ('Kiwi Magic').

In 1950 Douglas Cook, who established the Eastwoodhill Arboretum in the Gisborne area on the east side of the North Island, found some land at the base of Mt. Egmont on the west coast of the North Island which he thought would be ideal for a rhododendron garden, and offered it to the Association. The NZRA decided it could not undertake such a task, so Cook established the independent Pukeiti Trust, which established an extensive rhododendron garden. The relationship between the Pukeiti Trust and the NZRA has been strengthened in the last few years by combining resources, previously devoted to producing independent annual journals, to produce a combined publication called the *New Zealand Rhododendron*.

In 1967 the NZRA did set up its own garden, at Kimbolton near Palmerston North, where interesting species and NZ-bred hybrids were planted. In 2006, this Heritage Park garden was transferred to an independent trust that maintains and develops it, with help from nearby groups and individuals from all over New Zealand.

NZRA holds an annual Conference, usually occupying nearly three days in late October or early November, which includes garden visits, lectures, and social occasions. The Conference is located in a different locality each year, generally alternating between the North and South Islands, with each Conference being organised by a local committee. The Conference usually attracts participants from overseas – at the 2014 70th Jubilee International Conference in Dunedin, South Island, over a quarter of the 230



70th Jubilee International Conference. Photo by Glen Jamieson



Tannoch Glen during the 70th Jubilee International Conference. Photos by Glen Jamieson.



registrants were from other countries.

In earlier years the NZRA made a number of species and local hybrids available to members, initially grown at Kimbolton but later grown for it by propagators in the North and South Islands. It funds rhododendron trials in the North and South Islands, including at Pukeiti, which is much wetter than most of New Zealand. The NZRA contributes to research in New Zealand and overseas; to the three regional gardens: Heritage Park [near Palmerston North], Orton Bradley Park [near Christchurch] and Tannoch Glen (Dunedin, named for David Tannoch, Superintendent of the Dunedin Botanic Garden, who established its Rhododendron Dell in 1914); and to the costs of overseas conference speakers. The NZRA produces regular newsletters as well as the joint annual *New Zealand Rhododendron* with the Pukeiti Trust. It is involved in a Collections and Conservation project, which ties in with the Red List work of the World Conservation Union. As an example of the value of this project, *R. archboldianum* is listed as “Data Deficient” in the Red List, and is thought not to be “safe” in plant collections. However, it is growing in gardens in New Zealand, probably from wild seed collections.

The NZRA is also working to identify, propagate, and conserve species and good New Zealand hybrids, especially those not strongly held in public collections. It maintains a website at www.rhododendron.org.nz with information about rhododendrons (including New Zealand-bred hybrids) and the Association; links to gardens, nurseries, and sister organisations, through which members and others can register for an annual conference. In summary, the NZRA looks forward to continuing to promote interest in, and cultivation and conservation of, rhododendrons in New Zealand. *= not registered.

Reference

Coker, B. and K. Millar (Eds.). 1998. *Beyond the Rubicon*. Canterbury Rhododendron Society: 96 pp.

Tony Fitchett is president of the NZRA.

Part 3. Southern Hemisphere and Southeast Asia:
The Dunedin Rhododendron Group

Rhododendrons in Southern New Zealand

Alan Edwards
Dunedin, South Island,
New Zealand



DUNEDIN IS A CITY OF SOME 120,000 PEOPLE SITED AT LATITUDE 45°50' S ON the east coast of the South Island of New Zealand. It is at the head of the Otago Harbour, with suburbs running from Pacific Ocean beaches to altitudes of 400 m (1312 ft) on the encircling high hills. The first formal settlement by Europeans began in 1848 with the arrival of ships from Scotland. The early settlers included experienced professional gardeners and nurserymen who



Loder rhododendrons flowering with *Fothergilla* left foreground and a *Sorbus* 'Chinese Lace' with native trees behind. Kanuka Ridge. Photo by Gretchen Henderson.



R. veitchianum, green form. Photo by Mark Joel.



R. meddianum. Photo by Mark Joel.

soon realised that the local climate was relatively mild, with few extremes of temperature, moderate rainfall spread evenly throughout the year, and plenty of cloud cover. William Martin bred the first local rhododendron hybrid, 'Marquis of Lothian' (*R. thomsonii* × *R. griffithianum*) before 1880.

The Dunedin Botanic Garden (DBG) was founded in 1863, moving to its present site in 1869. Species and hybrid rhododendrons were being sold by local nurserymen by at least the 1880s but particularly came to the attention of the public when the DBG established an extensive Rhododendron Dell in 1914, thanks to the international contacts of David Tannock, the Superintendent of Parks and Reserves, who had been trained at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

The New Zealand Rhododendron Association Inc. (NZRA; see Fitchett, this volume) was formed in 1944 by a group of enthusiasts in the North Island. The NZRA organised annual conferences and lists of plants for purchase. In 1970, about a dozen Dunedin gardeners, most of whom were members of the NZRA, established the Dunedin Rhododendron Group (DRG), the first of many such regional organisations around the country. Current goals are:

- a. To help keen gardeners and other interested person (who need not have any prior knowledge of rhododendrons) to extend their knowledge of rhododendrons and to foster interest in the growing of a wide variety of rhododendron species and hybrids and other trees and plants.
- b. To disseminate information and extend knowledge concerning the growing of rhododendrons and other trees and plants by all suitable means and in particular by means of meetings, demonstrations, lectures, visits to gardens and the regular publication of a Bulletin and/or newsletters.
- c. To make plant material available for distribution and/or sale to members of the group and to facilitate the propagation of plants material suitable for that purpose.
- d. To undertake the establishment, development and maintenance of a group garden for the purpose of gathering together a collection of choice rhododendrons and other trees and plants, with an emphasis on species rhododendrons and locally bred hybrids.
- e. To help maintain accuracy of identification, classification and taxonomy of rhododendrons and in particular to undertake the registration of suitable hybrids and cultivars.
- f. To encourage cooperation and exchange of ideas with other horticultural organisations.
- g. To promote and assist in the appreciation of the Group's region as a centre for the growing of rhododendrons.



R. sinonuttallii. Photo by Mark Joel.



'Mrs Percy McLaren'. Photo by Mark Joel.

The intention, quickly realised, was thus to provide encouragement and support for local gardeners interested in rhododendrons. A pattern of regular monthly meetings, from autumn to spring, was established, at which illustrated lectures and talks were provided for members. The first annual Plant List was mailed to members in 1970, offering 23 species and 13 hybrids. Visits to notable local gardens were arranged each spring, with from 1975, a weekend excursion each alternate year to gardens elsewhere around the South Island. In 1972 arrangements

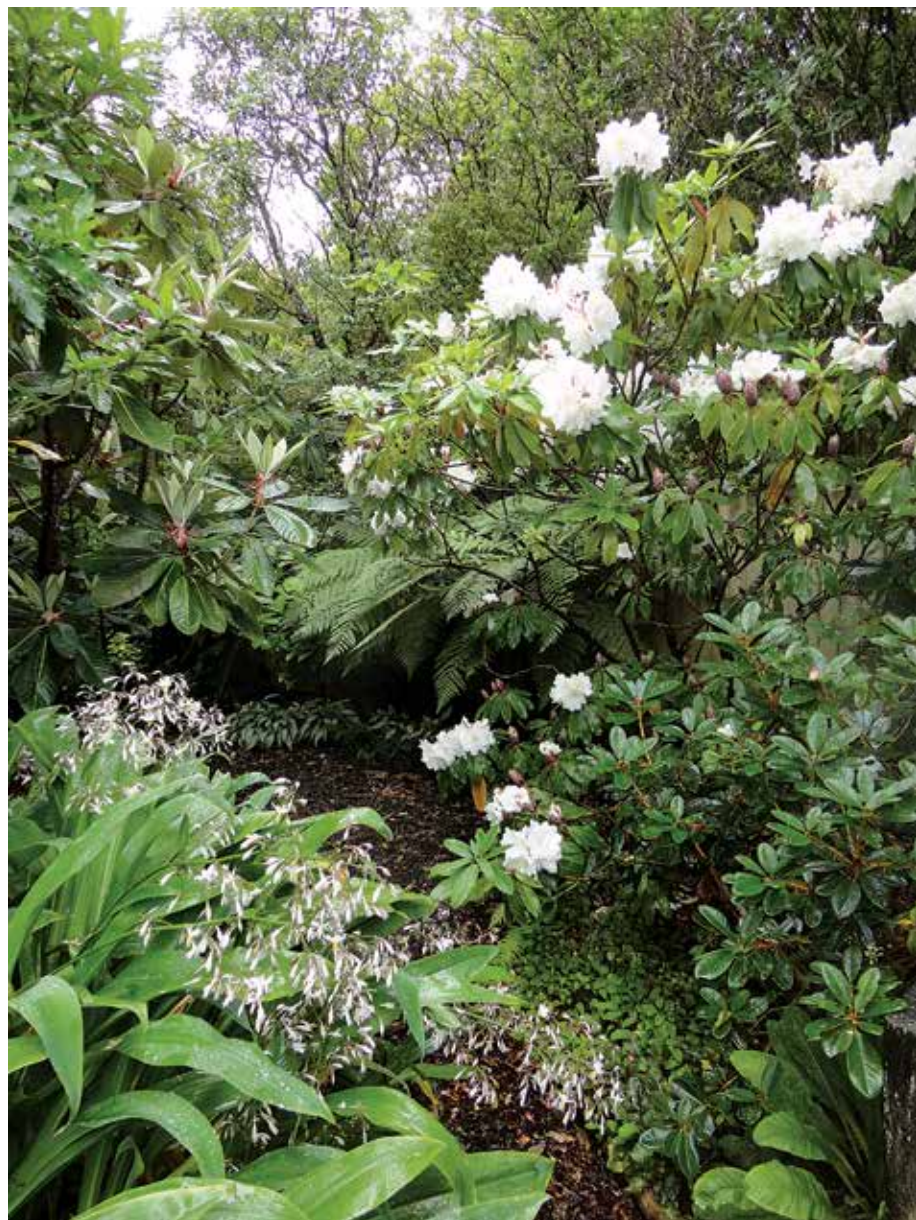
were made for the use of 1.6 ha (four acres) of farmland in the hillside suburb of Opoho, not far from the upper-most edge of the Dunedin Botanic Garden, for a woodland rhododendron garden. It was named Tannock Glen, in commemoration of David Tannock. In 1973 the first annual Bulletin (21 pages) appeared. In 1977 the Group hosted for the first time an annual conference of the NZRA.

The patterns of activities established in the 1970s have continued to the present day, although membership, in common with most community organisations in New Zealand and overseas, has declined from its peak in the 1980s and 1990s. The DRG Bulletin, which includes a few subscribers from overseas as well as from parts of New Zealand outside the Group's territory, currently goes out to some 200 addresses. The Group is legally constituted as an incorporated society. It is administered on a voluntary basis by a president, a secretary, a treasurer and a small committee, supplemented by a "Plant List" secretary and a Bulletin editor and sub-committee.

Tannock Glen

The establishment of this garden came about in part because two of the founder members of the Group, Bruce Campbell and Ralph Markby, were keen to create a garden with a rhododendron emphasis, in part because of concerns that other public gardens in the city were not being well-resourced, and in part because Bruce was growing more rhododendrons from seed (species and hybrids) than he had space for on his own property. The RSPCA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) was required to maintain a green "buffer zone" between its Opoho kennels and neighbouring residences and it was happy to enter into a gentleman's agreement whereby the Group turned unused hillside pasture into an attractive woodland garden. Lack of formal legal tenure was compensated for by the waiving of any ground rent. Gradually, weeds (including docks and thistles) were controlled and removed, unwanted trees, such as sycamores, were cut out, and selected trees planted for shelter and for their ability to take up some of the excess water on the often boggy site. A network of paths and drainage was installed in various places over the years and garden beds, built up with wood chips and gravel to compensate for the poorly drained clay soil, increasingly reduced the amount of lawn that requiring mowing. The garden is now maintained almost entirely by the voluntary efforts of Group members, with working bees once a month plus special ones in the spring and autumn. At times assistance has been provided by others, such as trainee gardeners and arborists.

Rhododendrons, particularly species, were acquired over the years from



R. 'Polar Bear' flowering with native Renga-renga lily (*Arthropodium cirratum*) at left foreground. Kanuka Ridge. Photo by Gretchen Henderson.



The two dominant rhododendrons are *R.* 'Sir Charles Lemon' and *R. macabeanum*, with native trees behind at Tannock Glen. Photo by Gretchen Henderson.

many sources, including Bruce Campbell and Alistair Blee (from seed from England and the American Rhododendron Society), local nurserymen such as Heaton Rutland, and from cuttings imported from the RHS gardens at Wisley, the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh (through Dr. Melva Philipson) and Glendoick Nursery; such cuttings were grafted or grown on by local experts such as Chas McLaughlin and Bennett and Sons.

The Group has occasionally provided some financial support for plant-hunting endeavours and has benefitted from the seed-raising efforts of local enthusiasts, nurserymen and the Dunedin Botanic Garden, as a result of the bringing of wild-collected or imported seed into New Zealand.

In more recent times, the maturing rhododendrons in the garden have been used by selected nurserymen as sources of cuttings for further propagation, in part for use in the annual Group plant list.

Rhododendrons include approximately 150 species and 120 hybrids, including some 20 registered local hybrids. Because there is no gardener on site to provide frost protection, no attempt has been made to grow vireyas.

The garden now includes around 70 varieties of choice trees, including

maples, prunus, oaks, redwoods and some 20 varieties of magnolias.

Tannock Glen is always open to the public, and is especially popular in the spring, when up to 900 people have been known to visit during the week.

Plant List

From small beginnings, relying on rhododendrons from Bruce Campbell and nurseryman Chas McLaughlin, the annual list of rhododendrons (and, from the mid-1990s, choice associated plants) has been selected and compiled by volunteers from the Group from the offerings of up to ten nurseries from around South Island. These days, a typical list will offer around 50 species, 90 hybrids, and 140 associated plants (trees, shrubs, bulbs and perennials). Members place their orders with the Plant Distribution Secretary, who arranges with the suppliers for plants to be delivered to Dunedin on a specific date, when the plants are sorted into batches, ready to be collected by the ordering members.

Plant Registrations

Beginning in 1977, the Group has actively sought out and monitored rhododendron hybrids which have been produced or discovered locally and has named and registered those of worth, often encouraging local nurseries to propagate them and make them available commercially. About 20 plants have been registered since the first batch of four in 1977.

Garden Visits

In a typical year, the Group would organise afternoon visits to notable private gardens in the greater Dunedin area on two weekend dates in spring and on a date in late summer or autumn; three or four gardens on each day. In alternate years a weekend-long series of visits is organised to gardens within driving distance, in a centre somewhere else in the South Island. It is now the practice for members to participate in garden visits (and lectures) when a national or international conference organised by or for the NZRA is held in the city.

Lectures

Normally, six monthly meetings are held between April and September, at which a guest speaker gives a presentation on a botanical or horticultural subject. Speakers come from the Dunedin area or from elsewhere in the country. At times, it has been possible to collaborate with other organisations and partly fund guest lecturers from overseas, usually in conjunction with their participation in an NZRA conference.

Over the years, a number of members have travelled overseas and made contact with notable rhododendron enthusiasts, some of whom have subsequently visited Dunedin and been shown around local gardens and given talks to the Group or the general public.

DRG Bulletin

Under a succession of skilled editors, the Bulletin rapidly grew into an annual in A5 format of 80 to 90 pages, including colour plates. It includes articles by local, New Zealand and overseas authors on rhododendrons and associated plants, on topics such as plant-hunting, cultivation and propagation, and notable gardens and gardeners. It includes book reviews and matters of local record, such as descriptions of gardens visited. On occasion, articles of interest have, with permission, been reprinted from journals which members would be otherwise unlikely to read.

Education and Communication

In 1985 a substantial donation of books from the estate of the late Bruce Campbell formed the nucleus of a library, available to Group members. It continues to be augmented with new books and current journals on rhododendrons.

Although the Group has never developed a regular programme for the exhibiting of blooms, competitive or otherwise, it has on occasion organised exhibits, principally of flowers, either for the public or for conferences such as the NZRA conferences held in Dunedin in 1977, 1989 and 2014, and has at times encouraged members to exhibit at local horticultural society shows.

On occasion, the Group has also organised practical events for members and the public, such as a workshop on using microscopes and botanical keys to identify species, or demonstrations on planting and pruning rhododendrons.

Communications with members are by email and a newsletter, issued about three times a year. The Group has a website at:

<http://www.rhodogroupdunedin.org.nz/>

Awards

Life memberships are conferred on members who have given exceptional service to the Group and several distinguished non-members have been made honorary life members. An engraved 'President's Spade' is presented annually to a deserving member who has made a notable contribution in the previous year.

Alan Edwards is editor of the Dunedin Rhododendron Group Bulletin.

Rhododendrons in New Zealand's North Island

Greg Rine

Stratford, New Zealand

Andrew Brooker

New Plymouth, New Zealand

Photos by Taranaki Regional Council, unless indicated otherwise



G. Rine



A. Brooker

THE TARANAKI REGION, SITUATED ON THE WEST COAST OF NEW ZEALAND'S NORTH Island is considered by many to be a horticultural wonderland due to its fertile volcanic soil, its temperate climate and its reliable rainfall. Arable farmland stretching from the sea to the mountain that dominates the landscape (Fig. 1) sets the backdrop to many and varied horticultural ventures. Established amongst these within the last 100 years were three quite different private gardens sharing one key fascination, the genus *Rhododendron*.



Fig 1. Taranaki Mountain.



Figs. 2 & 3. Iconic images of Tupare and Hollard gardens.

Now under the stewardship of the Taranaki Regional Council, these three gardens—Tupare, Hollard and Pukeiti—continue to flourish, building on the horticultural legacy of their creators to remain relevant and inspirational to our regional community and our visitors (Figs. 2,3). Whilst Tupare and Hollard continue to grow the rhododendrons that best suit their microclimate, Pukeiti is where the key focus for the genus lies in Taranaki.

Established in 1951, the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust set out to garden in what was then a remote location building on the shared love its members had for rhododendrons. Their combined passion and expertise (Fig. 5) has evolved into a



Fig. 4. An historic 1961 image of Pukeiti, with Betty Elliot and a large leaf rhodo.



Fig. 5. Planting a rhodo in the Valley of Giants.



Fig. 6. *R. macabeanum*.



Fig. 7. *R. rubicon* and 'Allen's Surprise'*.



Fig. 8. *R. solitarium*.

collection that is now one of great significance as a conservation repository for the genus. Set within 364 ha (900 acres) of conservation rainforest, a 26.3 ha (65 acre) garden with one of the more diverse habitats available in the Southern Hemisphere abounds with some 289 taxa from the genus *Rhododendron*. From the large-leaved giants of the genus, ably represented by *R. grande*, *R. protistum*, *R. macabeanum* and *R. falconeri* to the less hardy subsection *Maddenia* and subtropical vireyas, the species on show vary in flower colour and shape, leaf size and texture, and plant size and habitat (Figs. 4, 6–8). Value was always placed on not only collecting as many species as possible, but ensuring that the plant material obtained, be it seed or cutting, had wild origin with all provenance recorded. Plant collecting trips to places such as Borneo, Papua New Guinea and China ensured hands on experience for the Trust and the assurance of origin for the material. Seed lists are as well utilized today as they were in the 1950s, and our focus remains firmly on wild origin material. Providing the backdrop to the species collection is a broad selection of both native and exotic flora gathered together over the same timeframe, with many of the rhododendron cultivars imported from the great gardens of the United Kingdom early in the garden's history, sharing that connection with rhododendron nurseries and gardens around the country.



Fig. 9. Pukeiti in the spring.



Fig. 10. Rhododendron 'Otome Zakura' in spring.



Fig. 11. Spring in the hybrid block. Photo by Rob Tucker.



Fig. 12. An architect's impression to express the use and proportion of the new structure. It will bear no relation to the finished landscape.

In 2010, a change of ownership from the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust (PRT) to the Taranaki Regional Council has resulted in a revitalization of the garden as a whole. After considerable work getting the plant husbandry up to date and the database compiled, we are moving towards a much more strategic focus for the collection, with clearer aims and objectives for everything we do. Using the collective knowledge of both Council staff and PRT members, we now target species that we know will do well through experience rather than trial and error. There will always be a need for stunning display plants (Figs. 9–11) but *ex situ* conservation and building a genetic base within targeted species is now our evolving focus. To do this effectively, we must understand and complement globally what other rhododendron institutions are growing and why, to see where Pukeiti can fit in.

Today Pukeiti is currently in the middle of a multimillion dollar upgrade, with the clear understanding that under our public ownership, the gardens need to be relevant and inspirational to both our regional community and our visitors. What that means on the ground is captivating landscape installations, tree houses, and secret kids' trails, excellent covered facilities for growing vireyas, quality arrival and hospitality facilities, and wayfinding and interpretation that can add so much more to the visitor experience (Figs. 12, 13). Throughout



Fig. 13. Pukeiti treehut. Photo by Rob Tucker.

this process of redevelopment and rediscovery, maintaining the value of the collection that began in 1951 is forefront, to ensure that the special nature of Pukeiti is not lost but enhanced for all time.

For further information, please go to: www.pukeiti.nz, www.hollardgardens.nz, or to www.tupare.nz.

* = not registered.

Greg Rine is the Regional Gardens Manager and Andrew Brooker is the Pukeiti Gardens Manager.

Rhododendrons in Japan

Shuji Inoue
Toyonaka City, Osaka
Japan

Background

JAPAN IS A RELATIVELY LONG COUNTRY AND FROM NORTH TO SOUTH, IS ABOUT 3000 km (1865 miles), with a climate that ranges from temperate to sub-tropical. The highest mountain is famous Mt. Fuji at 3776 m (12,388 ft). There are more than 50 species of rhododendrons growing wild throughout Japan, with many endemic plants such as *R. degronianum* subsp. *yakushmanum*. In the northern part and in locations higher than 500 m (1640 ft) elevation, it is rather easy to grow various rhododendrons. However, in Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka and in the south-west part of Japan such as Kyushu Island, in the summer it is too hot and humid, making it difficult to grow most rhododendrons. Consequently, years ago it was not so popular to grow rhododendrons and they were not commonly grown garden plants, even among those people who love flowering trees and alpine plants.



Fig. 1a *R. pentaphyllum* Maxim. Japanese name: Akebono-tsutsuji.



Fig. 1b. *R. pentaphyllum* Maxim. Japanese name: Akebono-tsutsuji.



Fig. 1c. *R. pentaphyllum* Maxim. Japanese name: Akebono-tsutsuji.



Fig. 1d. *R. pentaphyllum* Maxim. Japanese name: Akebono-tsutsuji.



Fig. 2a. *R. keiskei* Miq. Japanese name: Hikage-tsutsuji.

History of the Society

Among the societies of alpine plants and wild flower lovers in Japan, representative members from the Alpine Garden Society of Tokyo and similar societies in western Japan, notably Teruo Takeuchi, Hisaharu Yoshioka and others, proposed establishment of a society devoted to rhododendrons. Along with Hideo Suzuki, who was both a member of the Royal Horticultural Society and the American Rhododendron Society, this new committee announced this event throughout Japan. As a result, in February, 1972, the Japanese Rhododendron Society (JRS) was established. Its first Chairman, Motonosuke Oza-



Fig. 2a. *R. keiskei* Miq. Japanese name: Hikage-tsutsuji.



Fig. 3. *R. dauricum*. Japanese name: Ezomurasakitsutsuji.

wa, who was the group director of the Azalea and Rhododendron group in the Alpine Garden Society of Tokyo, was appointed after discussions with Ichiro Arakawa, Chairman of the Alpine Garden Society of Tokyo. Since then, a general meeting has been held every two years, with lectures, a plant auction and a rhododendron flower show.

The JRS was established to achieve the following objectives:

- (1) To study, establish and teach better rhododendron growing methods and techniques;
- (2) To increase knowledge about new and rare rhododendron species, hybrids and cultivars;
- (3) To create new and better hybrids and cultivars which are heat tolerant

and/or hardy;

- (4) To increase the number of gardeners growing rhododendrons and to facilitate their sharing of knowledge;
- (5) To encourage the culture of more rhododendrons by both developing improved growing techniques and creating more hardy rhododendrons. In Japan, there are very few rhododendrons, except for *R. indicum*, grown in the public gardens, public places, private gardens and even in botanic gardens; and
- (6) To establish and deepen relationships with overseas rhododendron societies and enthusiasts.

During the term of the second Chairman, Dr. Tamio Yamada, membership increased and about 40 local branches were organized over different prefectures and the content of the society journal *Rhododendron* was expanded. Various

activities of the society such as an annual Plant Sale and a Seed Bank were also further developed.

Over time, the society has become one of the representative horticultural societies in Japan. In the last 30 years, techniques of grafting scions to stronger species have become more widely known, and heat tolerant and hardy cultivars have been created and distributed. By these efforts, earlier difficulties in growing rhododendrons have been minimised, allowing fulfillment of some of the main objectives of the society.



Fig. 4. *R. metternichii*. (White flower). Japanese name: Tsukushi-shakunage.

However, in recent years because of the internet, it has become easier to obtain various relevant information about rhododendron growing techniques and rarer plants without joining the society. A decrease in the number of elder members due to aging and with less need for younger members to join has resulted in new financial difficulties that are now challenging the running of the society.

Society Activities

The number of JRS members has changed over time, with a peak number in 1983 and the lowest number now: 1975 – 800, 1983 - 1500, 1993 – 800, and 2015 – 330 members, respectively. The considerable decrease in number of members is a big problem.

Members are organized into branches, and there are now 37 branches throughout Japan. Most of the activities of the Society are organized through the branches, and usually, branches will have several meetings per year. Depending on the branch, meetings are mostly indoors but they are



Fig. 5. *R. mucronulatum*. Japanese name: Genkai-tsutsuji.

occasionally held outdoors. Branch activities include:

- Rhododendron exhibitions;
- Showcasing of interesting rhododendrons;
- Demonstration of grafting techniques;
- Interesting talks and lectures; and
- Excursions or hiking events.

1) Regional Meetings and the Biannual National Meeting

Joint meetings of nearby branches are periodically held to share experiences and socialize. Every year, regional meetings are held in the western part of Japan, the central part of Japan, and the northeast part of Japan.

Every two years, a General Meeting will be held at varying locations in the



Fig. 6. *R. sataense*. Japanese name: Sata-tsutsuji.

spring. This meeting has a:

- Rhododendron Flower Exhibition;
- Rhododendrons Lectures;
- Garden Tours and/or visits to wild rhododendron habitats; and a
- Plant auction, which is the most popular event.

The Ozawa Prize is awarded to the best flower at the Exhibition, which commemorate the society's first Chairman, Mr. Ozawa.

The society's journal, *Rhododendron*, is published

in Japanese in both the spring and autumn, with contents typically including:

- Exchange of views between members;
- Methods of growing rhododendrons;
- Introduction of new varieties and hybrids;
- Tour reports;
- Branch activity reports; and
- Reports and opinions from members.

Each issue is 50-80 pages with color picture pages.

2) Plant Sale and Seed Bank

Once a year in the autumn, a list of rhododendrons for sale is published in the journal. About 500 plants (in the case of 2015) of either species or hybrids gathered from throughout Japan are available for sale to society members.

A Seed Bank list is published in the spring journal, listing seed for sale both collected by members and some kindly provided by the American Rhododendron Society.

3) Video and Photo Collection

Videos and photos taken in the field, gardens or parks, and at exhibitions are available to society members for rent.



Fig. 7. *R. schlippenbachii*. Japanese name: Kurofune-tsutsuji.



Fig. 8a. *R. makinoi* Japanese name: Hosoba-shakunage.



Fig. 8b. *R. makinoi* (white flower).
Japanese name: Hosoba-shakunage.

4) Overseas Expeditions and Tours

Trips are periodically arranged for rhododendron lovers to visit botanic gardens, private gardens and nurseries to widen their knowledge and to exchange information and views with foreign friends. For the more adventurous, some expeditions to look for rhododendrons in the field are also planned, and such past trips have been:

1991: China, Yunnan, Mt. Emei.

2005: China, Yunnan.

2006: Bhutan.

2007: U.K.

2008: U.S.A., Northwest gardens.

2012: India, Sikkim.

2014: New Zealand, 70th International NZ Rhododendron Congress.

Society Membership

500 yen for a single entrance fee or 5000 yen/year for an annual membership.

Society Website and Contact Information:

Current chairman: Michihiro Shida
Tsu City, Mie, Japan

Secretary: Fujio Morishita
Otsu City, Shiga, Japan

International Affairs Office: Shuji Inoue
Toyonaka City, Osaka, Japan
Tel, Fax: 06-6841-2726
E-mail: shuji_inoue@air.zaq.jp

Rhodo Name Registration and Internet:
Dr. Katsuhisa Fujiwara
Kannonji City, Kagawa, Japan

Rhododendrons in China

Guan Kaiyun
Kunming, Yunnan
China



THE RHODODENDRON SOCIETY OF CHINA WAS ESTABLISHED IN MAY, 1986, IN Kunming, Yunnan Province. Its general headquarter was attached to the Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Fifty-four participants representing 37 organizations or companies from 15 provinces or regions of China attended the inaugural meeting. Prof. Feng Guomei from



R. adenogynum in Laojunshan Mt., Yunnan Province.



R. aganniphum in Baima Snow Mt., Yunnan Province.



R. decorum.



R. dichroanthum in Cangshan Mt., Dali, Yunnan Province.

the Kunming Institute of Botany, CAS, was elected as the first president of the Rhododendron Society of China. In April, 1994, the name of the Rhododendron Society of China was changed to the Rhododendron Branch, Flower Association of China, according to administration regulations for social organizations of the Chinese government. At the same time, its general headquarter was moved to Guiyang, Guizhou Province, where it was attached to the Guizhou Botanic Garden. Prof. Xiang Yinghai was elected as the second president of the society. In April 2007, the general headquarter of the society was moved from Guiyang in Guizhou Province to Wuxi, Jiangsu Province, where it was affiliated with the Landscaping and Horticultural Bureau of Wuxi City. Mr. Wu Huiliang, senior engineer, was elected as the new president of the society.

The society now has 62 group members and 387 individual members. There are now ten provincial Chinese rhododendron societies, one each in Yunnan, Sichuan, Xizang (Tibet), Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Hunan and the Fujian Provinces (Regions). Some provincial societies have annual meetings and regional rhododendron shows annually or once every two years. There are more than ten rhododendron gardens or collections



R. lacteum in Jiaozi Snow Mt., Yunnan Province.



R. racemosum in Zhongdian Plateau, Yunnan Province.



R. roxieanum in Nity-nine Dragon Pool, Lijiang, Yunnan Province.

established in China, including rhododendron gardens in the Kunming Botanic Garden, the Lushan Botanic Garden, the Western China Subalpine Rhododendron Garden, the Guizhou Botanic Garden, the Hanzhou Botanic Garden and at the Jing-gangshan Landscaping and Horticultural Research Institute. Special azalea gardens or collections were also constructed in many gardens and parks, especially in eastern China where the climate is hotter. For example, an azalea garden of about five ha (12.4 acres) with nearly 400 cultivars is established in Xihui Park, Wuxi City, in Jiangsu Province.

Since the establishment of the society, twelve National Rhododendron Shows have been held in China. The first, fourth and fifth shows were held in April 1987, 2003 and 2006, respectively, in Xihui Park, Wuxi City, Jiangsu Province. The second show was held in April 1993 in Hanzhou City, Zhejiang Province; the third show was held in April 1997 in Suzhou City, Jiangsu Province; the sixth show was held in March 2008 in the Black Dragon Pool Park of Kunming City, Yunnan Province; the seventh show was held in April 2010 in the Biyun Garden of Jiashan County, Zhejiang Province; the eighth show was held in April 2011 in the Binjiang Forest Park of Shanghai City; the ninth show was held in April 2012 in the Xuanwuhu Park of Nanjing City, Jiangsu Province; the tenth show was held in April 2013 in the Pudi Rhododendron Scenic Area,



R. simsii in the Guifeng Mt., Macheng City, Hubei Province.



R. sinogrande in Zibenshan, Dali, Yunnan Province.

Guizhou Province; the eleventh show was held in April 2014 in Jinggangshan City of Jiangxi Province; and the twelfth show was held in April 2015 in Macheng City, Hubei Province.

China is a core area in the natural distribution of rhododendrons, with some 566 rhododendron species distributed in China, over 60% of the world's total rhododendron species, with 419 species endemic. China also has a very long history in the cultivation of rhododendrons, although the cultivation of rhododendrons in China was very limited until about thirty years ago. Before the 1980s, there were only around 200,000 plants or pots of rhododendrons,

mainly azalea cultivars, cultivated and there was virtually no commercial production of rhododendrons in China. With the founding of the Rhododendron Society of China, commercial cultivation of rhododendrons in China has since been greatly developed. In 2015, the annual commercial production of rhododendrons in China was around one billion pots and the annual output value was about 1.5 billion Yuan (\$US 231 million).

The natural distribution of rhododendrons in China covers all the country except Xinjiang and Ningxia Regions. Yunnan is the richest province for rhododendron species with 257 species, 62 being endemic, comprising 45% of the total number of Chinese rhododendron species. There are 183 rhododendron species found in Xizang, of which 37 species are endemic, comprising 32% of Chinese rhododendron species. Sichuan has 180 rhododendron species, 37 species endemic, again representing 32% of Chinese rhododendron species.

The natural distributions of rhododendron species in other provinces and regions in China are: 75 species in Guangxi, twelve endemic; 60 species in Guizhou, eight endemic; 52 species in Guangdong, 15 endemic; 37 species in Hunan, three endemic; 35 species in Fujian, ten endemic; 30 species in Taiwan, 26 endemic; 27 species in Jiangxi, two endemic; 27 species in Hubei, one endemic; 18 species in Zhejiang, one endemic; 15 species in Gansu, two endemic; 13 species in Shaanxi and Qinghai, four endemic in Shaanxi; nine species in Anhui, none endemic; five species in Jilin, one endemic; four species in Jiangsu, Liaoning and Heilongjiang, one endemic in Liaoning; three species in Inner Mongolia; two species in Shandong and Henan; and one species in Hebei and Shanxi.

Mail contact address:

Mr. Jia Wei, Secretary General
Rhododendron Society of China
100 Xiuzhang Road
Huishan Guzhen, Wuxi City
Jiangsu Province, China
Tel: 0510-83091592, 0510-83091595
Fax: 0510-83091592
E-mail: manage@rccfa.com
Website: <http://www.rccfa.com>

Author's address: Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Lanhei Road, Heilongtan, Kunming, Yunnan, China; e-mail: guanky@mail.kib.ac.cn