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Rhododendron

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Rhododendron at 'Surrey Hills'

FOREWORDS

It is hard to believe it's been over 4 years since Pukeiti signed the partnership agreement with Taranaki Regional Council (TRC). The garden has certainly been transformed over this time, something that as a Trust we could only dream of, due to not having sustainable financial backing to enable us to complete these projects.

The all weather paths, tree huts, plant labels and general garden improvement have added considerable interest. This will only continue to increase over time as TRC work through their ten year development plan.

We now come to the issue of the benefits of being a member of Pukeiti. Is being a member indeed relevant with TRC doing all the donkey work? To help answer this, prior to our AGM in October, the Trust held a facilitated workshop to engage with our members to determine what they saw as good reasons to maintain membership of Pukeiti and what did they feel they received from being members? And also what did they want from the Trust?

While the final outcomes are still being written up by our facilitator it was clear those members who participated in this workshop felt strongly that there was significant benefit from being a member of a vibrant organisation, and indeed came up with a number of options on how we could grow our membership. Over the next few months the Board will develop some action points from the workshop that we can progress.

The Trust have committed substantial funding towards the re-development of the Keiller Garden. This is in partnership with TRC with work programmed to start in late 2014. The Board is also looking at a number of other development opportunities within the garden where the Trust can leverage outside funding unavailable to the TRC.

Earlier this year the Trust helped celebrate Andrew Brookers 25 years of service at Pukeiti. Andrew began working for the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust in 1989 as a labourer on a short term contract. This position soon developed into an apprenticeship and he became Pukeiti's third apprentice. Andrews love for the garden grew so did his roles and involvement. Andrew became Head Gardener in 1993 and has now risen to Curator a position held since 2008. Today Andrew leads a team of dedicated gardeners and volunteers to assist in caring for Pukeiti.

Andrew is a plantsman who is keen to learn and equally keen to impart his extensive knowledge about Pukeiti and in particular all matters concerning the genus *Rhododendron*.

The Rhododendron Collection at Pukeiti is one of the best in the world, as we know. The Trust along with TRC is determined that this remains the case. TRC has produced a draft Plant Collection Strategy and it has recently been agreed that two of our Pukeiti Board members, Dr Marion MacKay and Doug Thomson will work with TRC staff and the Gardens Forum Group to further develop this key strategy document that will ensure the collection's future direction and growth. Members of the Gardens Forum Group include Graham Smith and Alan Jellyman so we can rest assured we have a very high level of knowledge represented, and I thank them for their continued input into Pukeiti.

Gordon Bailey, Chairman Pukeiti

Gordon Bailey tells me that the President of the New Zealand Rhododendron Association must write a Foreword for the Journal— now, of course, a joint publication with the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust, and called The New Zealand Rhododendron. So, as newly elected President of NZRA, I have my first task.

Initially it seemed presumptuous for someone who has had no formal training in botany since the Upper Sixth Form at school (now, I believe, Year 13), or in horticulture, to be introducing a collection of articles by experts, especially when I have not yet had the chance to read them. But on reflection it seems that, symbolically, this may be a good thing.

While many of those who, as members of the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust, or of the NZ Rhododendron Association, or of both, receive The NZ Rhododendron are expert botanists or gardeners, many (most?) of us are simply amateurs for whom gardening in general, and the cultivation of rhododendrons in particular, is a personal interest.

So, as a non-expert President of NZRA I represent an important part of both the NZRA and the Trust. And I am sure that when, like other members of the Trust and the NZRA, I receive my copy of The NZ Rhododendron I will find a treasure trove of articles covering, if last year's edition is any sort of guide, gardens, people, newly found plants, and old favourites.

The fact that The NZ Rhododendron is a joint publication is, I believe, a good omen for cooperation between the NZRA and Pukeiti. I have recently been impressed by the difficulty experienced in sourcing some rhododendron species that were available 20-30 years ago – partly, at least, the result of the demise of some specialist rhododendron nurseries as individual nurserymen and nurserywomen have retired or died, and with large scale retail chains increasingly dominating the garden centre market. Surely there is scope for the Association and the Trust to explore together ways to address the difficulty ordinary gardeners have in acquiring species.

Wider cooperation may be possible too. Following the successful NZRA 70th Jubilee International Rhododendron Conference held in Dunedin in October, for which over a quarter of registrants came from overseas, Glen Jamieson, Editor of the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society, who attended the Conference and so met up with enthusiasts from Germany, the UK, USA, Canada, Australia and Japan, has proposed that an occasional digital, online international publication, be available free to all members of all the rhododendron groups involved, to link them around the world.

At a time when membership of, and commitment to, voluntary groups in all facets of society in New Zealand is diminishing, the healthy way forward for rhododendron groups, I am sure, is through active cooperation between the various regional and national rhododendron bodies, both within New Zealand and internationally.

Tony Fitchett, President, NZRA; Member, Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust

CONTENTS

COLLECTING & SHOWCASING RHODODENDRONS	5	THE STORY OF 'HERITAGE PARK', KIMBOLTON PART 1: PREHISTORY, ESTABLISHMENT AND EARLY YEARS TO 1984	36
GRAHAM SMITH: THE PERSON WHO MOLDED PUKEITI INTO A PLACE OF INTERNATIONAL REPUTE	6	A WINTER VISIT TO EDEN GARDEN	40
NURSERYMAN SUPREME: DENIS HUGHES	12	TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL GARDENS TUPARE THE MAPLES ARE A TASTEFUL CHOICE.	42
RAIN, MUD AND RHODODENDRONS: EXPLORING ARUNACHAL PRADESH (NORTH- EASTERN INDIA) IN THE MONSOON SEASON	14	HOLLARD GARDENS	44
PHOTO GALLERY RHODODENDRONS THE GEMS OF DUNEDIN	26	PUKEITI RHODODENDRON FALCONERI SSP EXIMIUM THE LEGACY MAINTAINED	46
MADDENIA IN NEW ZEALAND: A TENDER GROUP OF RHODODENDRONS, MANY OF WHICH HAVE PROPERLY EARNED A PLACE IN NEW ZEALAND GARDENS	28	PUKEITI'S DATABASE NOW BEARING FRUIT	48
TANNOCK GLEN: A LITTLE HISTORY	32	RETURN TRIP TO THE KING OF THAILAND'S ROYAL AGRICULTURAL PROJECT.	50
ORTON BRADLEY: JOURNEY TO A GARDEN 1985-2015. THE CANTERBURY RHODODENDRON SOCIETY COLLECTIONS	34	BOOK REVIEW RHODODENDRONS AND THE VARIOUS HYBRIDS BY J. G. MILLAIS (IN TWO VOLUMES 1917 & 1924)	53
		NEW REGISTRATION	54
		INVITATIONS	55

THE RHODODENDRON VOLUME TWO 2014

The NZRA Council and the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust Board are pleased to make material in this publication available for reprinting, with acknowledgement, in other horticultural publications. Credit must be given to both the author and this journal. Financial assistance has been provided by the Taranaki Regional Council through the partnership agreement with the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust. Thanks are extended to all the contributors, authors and those who have provided photographs and advice.

Back Cover
Rhododendron 'Irene Stead', photographed
at 'Ireland Glen', Oamaru

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COLLECTING & SHOWCASING RHODODENDRONS

Rhododendrons are one of the few plant genera which are grown purely for aesthetic reasons. Not any part of the plant is harvested for commercial purposes although plenty of people in China and in the Himalayan regions find some species very useful. Trees provide good firewood - the wood even will burn while still green, the flowers of *R. decorum* are often eaten (after boiling they look like brown sludge and probably taste like it too), and the occasional wood worker will turn a bowl from a piece of the trunk.

The flowers though have long been considered the aristocrats of the spring garden and rhododendrons have become important commercial horticultural plants. Their popularity has waxed and waned over the years and reached its peak post World War Two when new propagation techniques such as applying rooting hormones to cuttings grown under mist made them cheaper and readily available to the home gardener who could enjoy the beauty of these aristocrats in their own gardens. Now, as gardens have become smaller and more ordered and low maintenance, big blousy plants don't fit the modern planting schemes. Correctly chosen forms, though, would.

In the nineteenth century when they were first introduced rhododendrons were plants for big estates planted under the canopy of tall deciduous trees and in large green houses, which provided protection against the cold winters of the Northern hemisphere. It was on these estates that their popularity was established. The owners and leading nurseries which supplied these estates often spent fortunes to find new and better species to enhance their large gardens and show these gems to their visitors. Some species were rare and jealously guarded.

Plant collectors such as Hooker, Forest, Wilson and Farrier in the 19th and early 20th centuries scoured China, the Himalayas and Burma, following often in the footsteps of the two Jesuit priests, Delavay and Pierre David, and more recently Kingdon Ward and Joseph Rock, sending seeds back to their sponsors. From these often finicky species many hybrids were raised, producing stronger more showy garden plants, some of which are still admired in gardens today.

With the advent of the world wars, changing political landscapes, especially in China, changing social and financial conditions, and the reduction in the viability of the large estates, plant collecting was severely constrained and it was left to adventurous amateurs pursuing dreams and self-financing their journeys. Plant expeditions are now mainly financed by rhododendron societies or botanic gardens and public parks which play an increasing role in displaying and popularising rhododendrons. Surprisingly after 200 years of collecting there are still new species, or forms to be found.

In this edition of the journal the rigours of plant collecting are detailed by Schepker and Roy in an account of the expedition to Arunachal Pradesh. New species introduced to cultivation are also detailed. The account takes much of the glamour from plant collecting.

The purpose of plant collecting is changing. Just adding to the number of plants in a collection is no longer the sole purpose. Conservation is now the main focus. Natural habitats have been, and are being ruined, as natural forest is cleared. The effects of climate change, too, alters the range of factors limiting the distribution of species. Most rhododendron species occupy a limited environmental range, and to ensure species survive plants need to be collected from a range of habitats, to provide a strong genetic base from which new stock can be bred. To this

end botanic gardens and dedicated rhododendron parks are beginning to play an increasingly important role in species conservation. Further work will be reliant on thorough recording using a universal system, like the widely used BG Base computer programme devised at the Edinburgh Botanic Garden. The specialist collections networked and reviewed can then be compared so that the species and the best hybrids, especially heritage plants associated with early horticultural history, can be propagated and grown in the most suitable of environments. Germany leads in this and is developing procedures to nationally preserve rhododendrons. In New Zealand, Pukeiti, Heritage Park, Orton Bradley, Tannock Glen, Dunedin Botanic Garden and Eden Garden can play and are playing an important role in conservation of species and heritage hybrids. To broaden the conservation role will require cooperation and detailed computer recording of the collections, which have already begun in some of the gardens. This list is not exclusive and other collections both in public and private gardens should be included in the network.

This edition of The New Zealand Rhododendron outlines the histories of Tannock Glen, Orton Bradley and Heritage Park which focus the vision of enthusiasts. The on-going development of these gardens and the naming and labelling of the collections would not have been possible without the passion and knowledge of a dedicated band of plants-people with support from professional horticulturalists and nursery men. Two of New Zealand's leading rhododendron specialists, Graham Smith and Denis Hughes are profiled. Rhododendron enthusiasts, owe a lot to them and others who over the years have continued to promote these magnificent garden plants.

Lynn Bublitz,
Editor

GRAHAM SMITH: THE PERSON WHO MOLDED PUKEITI INTO A PLACE OF INTERNATIONAL REPUTE

Graham, the fifth Curator of Pukeiti was appointed in 1969 and ended his full time employment, as Director, in 2008. He then continued in a part-time role computerizing the rhododendron collection records. In retirement he still advises the TRC on planting plans and development of Pukeiti and serves on the Members' Committee of the Trust.

Graham's love of plants started at an early age, growing, with his father, flowers and vegetables on an allotment on the outskirts of London. After leaving school he took up, with relish, an apprenticeship at Regent's Park and five years later entered the three year Diploma Course at Kew Gardens. There, one day working in the Temperate House he found on the ground the red fruits of a Titoki - his first introduction to New Zealand.

Not long after with his wife Sue he arrived in Auckland. While working in the Tropical House in the Domain he discovered an advertisement for the Curator's job at Pukeiti. Intrigued, he applied and was flown to New Plymouth and interviewed at Pukeiti. So different from any garden he had visited with its surrounding bush, now referred to as the rainforest in all the brochures, he was completely taken in. Pukeiti had ensnared him.

Offered the position, he drove

his Jawa motorcycle, Sue as the pillion passenger, and took up residence at Pukeiti to begin a long and symbiotic relationship with the place. As well as his few possessions he brought with him gardening skills and a plant knowledge that has developed over the years to be second to none in the country.

But he had a lot to learn. Rhododendrons were not his chief interest and gardening in a place where the rainfall exceeded three metres a year, in soil which as a consequence was almost tropical, completely leached of most nutrients, where the bush continually tried to swamp and re-take the garden, where opossums and goats, and even rabbits took a liking to often favorite plants, and being always beset by a lack of money and tools made the Curator's role challenging to say the least. Staffing was not easy either – Pukeiti was a tough environment in which to work.

Greatly encouraged by the help and support so freely given by key staff, particularly Jack and Elsie King, and despite some conflict and differences of opinion the Executive and Board, Graham grew into the role. His success called on his other skills - those of communication, writing, organisation and scholarship - important in developing a network of plants-people throughout the country and overseas who could help make Pukeiti a beacon for rhododendron enthusiasts. He soon



R. archboldianum 'Starburst'



R. rubineiflorum

was acknowledged as a leader in the rhododendron world. He, too, was always ready to share his knowledge.

Graham led a number of overseas tours for members and also collected rhododendrons in both Papua New Guinea and China.

Among these some need special mention. On his return from New Guinea after his first visit he was excited about a pink flowered species which he first considered a hybrid,



probably of *R. culminicola*, which he named and registered 'Starburst'. After further research this was later verified to be *R. archboldianum*, named in 1960 for Richard Archbold and his daughter Anne, who financed the 1933 expedition on which it was first collected. Until it was grown at Pukeiti it was not known to be in cultivation. *R. rubineiflorum*, the ruby red-flowered rhododendron, was collected in 1986 and flowered for the first time in cultivation at Pukeiti in 1990. It has

since been used widely in hybridisation programmes. Graham's work and interest in vireya rhododendrons have played a major part in developing Pukeiti's international reputation. He is described in Dr George Argent's book 'Rhododendrons of the subgenus vireya' as the "remarkable and energetic director of Pukeiti Rhododendron Garden, collecting many species and (who) developed the group as a feature which stimulated much interest which is current in New Zealand today". Other vireya which are his favourites include *R. tuba*, *blackii*, *stenophyllum*, *christi*, *rarum* and hybrids 'St Valentine', 'Saxon Glow' and 'Simbu Sunset' which he named and registered. It is interesting to note that the first vireya grown at Pukeiti was *R. gracilentum* sent by John Womersley of the Lae Botanical Gardens in New Guinea. While this did not survive it stimulated a life-long interest for Graham in the subgenus *vireya* of rhododendrons.

From 1975 to 1991 Graham was the first registrar of rhododendrons in New Zealand. During the first ten years of his office he actively pursued the breeders and the names of the most popular unregistered hybrids in New Zealand. Names of hundreds of hybrids and named clones of species were gathered into the system and sent to the Royal Horticultural Society in London for ratification on the International Register. This role is still carried out under the auspices of the New Zealand Rhododendron Association. Graham was of the view that only outstanding plants should be registered and using observations of the plants growing at Pukeiti and in other gardens registered only the best. He registered 'Lemon Lodge', 'Pukeiti' the clone of *protistum* KW21498 - the iconic plant of Pukeiti, 'Falcons Gold', 'Ina Hair', 'Charisma' - seedling of KW20280 *ciliicalyx* sub-series, 'Spiced Honey', 'Candy

Plant introductions to Pukeiti by Graham Smith

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, 1983.

Rhododendron commonae
(red, coral, pink, salmon and cream)

R. rarum

R. herzogii

R. caliginis

R. caliginis x vitis-idaea

R. superbum

R. christi

R. blackii

R. macgregoriae, (red, yellow, orange)

R. pulleanum

R. pleianthum

R. womersleyi

R. culminicola

R. scabridibracteum

R. dielsianum

R. gracilentum

R. aurigeranum

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, 1986

Rhododendron multinervum

R. stevensianum hybrid

R. archboldianum

R. vitis-idaea

R. herzogii 'Pink Tube'

R. rubineiflorum

R. phaeochitum

R. saxifragoides

R. beyerinkianum

R. superbum

R. aurigeranum



R. protistum 'Pukeiti'

Cane', 'Coconut Ice', 'College Pink', 'Frosted Ice', 'Pearly Queen', 'Rose Imp', 'Satin Cloud', 'Homestead', 'Ilam Red Glow', 'Kaka', 'Pines', 'Tupare' and 'Sir Russell Matthews'. Many of these plants are still popular and can commonly be found in garden centres.

Among those registered are some hybrids raised by Graham, although in his time at Pukeiti he raised only a few as he considered there were plenty of good plants already available. His hybrids include 'Coconut Ice', 'Frosted Ice' 'Candy Cane', 'Beverley McConnell' and 'Fireflash'. Other crosses including a number of large-leaf hybrids show promise but are yet to be selected and named.

Vireya which Graham has registered include 'Flamenco Dancer', 'Gilded Sunrise', 'Java Light', 'Simbu Sunset', 'Coral Chance', 'Simbu Goldstrike', and 'Starburst'.

The large-leaf rhododendrons are another group in which Graham has a special interest. These giants of the race are grown only in a few gardens throughout the world as they grow naturally in monsoon areas and need a warm temperate wet

climate. Pukeiti suits them well and since the initiation of the planting in the 'Valley of the Giants' over 40 years ago members of the Grandia and Falconera sections have been sourced and grown. They have been carefully nurtured by Graham into what is now regarded as one of the world's most important collections of large-leaf rhododendrons. One of

those not yet registered but named by Graham is 'Jack Anderson', a handsome tree which bears large trusses, the flower varying in colour from cream to rich pink with a yellow-cream throat. To mark Graham's retirement a track through this area now bears his name - the only track in Pukeiti not named after a foundation member. He is presently involved in

GRAHAM'S FAVOURITE RHODODENDRONS

Species	Hybrids
<i>R. protistum</i> 'Pukeiti'	'Charisma'
<i>genestierianum</i>	'Noyo Chief'
<i>macabeanum</i>	'Lemon Lodge'
<i>arboreum albotomentosum</i> 'Mt Victoria'	'Rubicon'
<i>elliottii</i>	'Floral Gift'
<i>nutallii</i>	'Saffron Queen'
<i>maddenii</i> 'Pink Form'	'Ina Hair'
<i>pingianum</i>	'Van Nes Sensation'
<i>scabrifolium</i> var <i>spiciferum</i>	'Halopeanum'
	'Michael's Pride'



R. 'Falcon's Gold'

contributing to two books about this group, writing all the accompanying text for 'The Pukeiti Large-Leaf Rhododendrons', an art album by Susan Worthington containing facsimiles of 23 watercolour paintings which she produced at Pukeiti.

One of Graham's attributes – a real skill - was to build networks of

contacts throughout New Zealand and the world and this allowed access to and importation of a great range of plant material. Graham has always ensured that imported material complies with the appropriate regulations. These have changed from time to time. At one stage Pukeiti had an approved Quarantine

House which was subject to regular inspection. The present regime makes it more difficult and in many cases impossible to introduce new material.

Not only rhododendrons have been introduced. Graham while in New Guinea collected and introduced *Tecomanthe montana*, *Dimorphanthera amonea*, both of which grow under cover and *Dacrycarpus compactus*. Perennials were also imported from England and many of these grace the Drive Border. These played a role in changing Pukeiti from a primarily rhododendron garden into 'A Garden for All Seasons'. While rhododendrons were now Graham's main focus, particularly species, this suited his wider interests. He enjoyed the company of a network of other notable plants-people throughout the country, always with an eye on plants which would enhance Pukeiti. He travelled widely, was in demand for speaking engagements throughout the country and overseas and contributed articles to a number of publications. He writes, "Species can be much more temperamental and demanding of special conditions to perform well. As a garden manager, this makes a species



R. 'Charisma'



R. suoilenhense

collection much more challenging and exciting to grow, particularly if you are fortunate enough to collect them in the wild. You learn how to manage their idiosyncrasies to produce exciting plants that really do earn their keep. Does it really matter that your species takes fifteen years to produce its first flower? Not if you have a passion and the patience for them.”

Managing a garden is not a simple business and a knowledge of plants is not the only requirement for its success. Management skills: budgetary, employment and promotional have to be learned and honed. One has to have patience, be single-minded at times, be a good time-manager and have the strength to stick to one’s guns and sometimes even be obdurate.

During his tenure Graham weathered two cyclones which caused enormous damage to Pukeiti and led to changes in management practices. He learned to cope with limited monetary resources, with other storms in governance and with employment issues which arose from time to time. Lesser men would have waved goodbye to the place; but Pukeiti was in his blood and part of his psyche – he stayed. Even now Graham still plays an important role and serves on the Members’ Committee of the Trust, works with the present TRC staff on the Garden Advisory Group, and is particularly involved in the recording and computerising of the plant collection data, a process which he initiated.

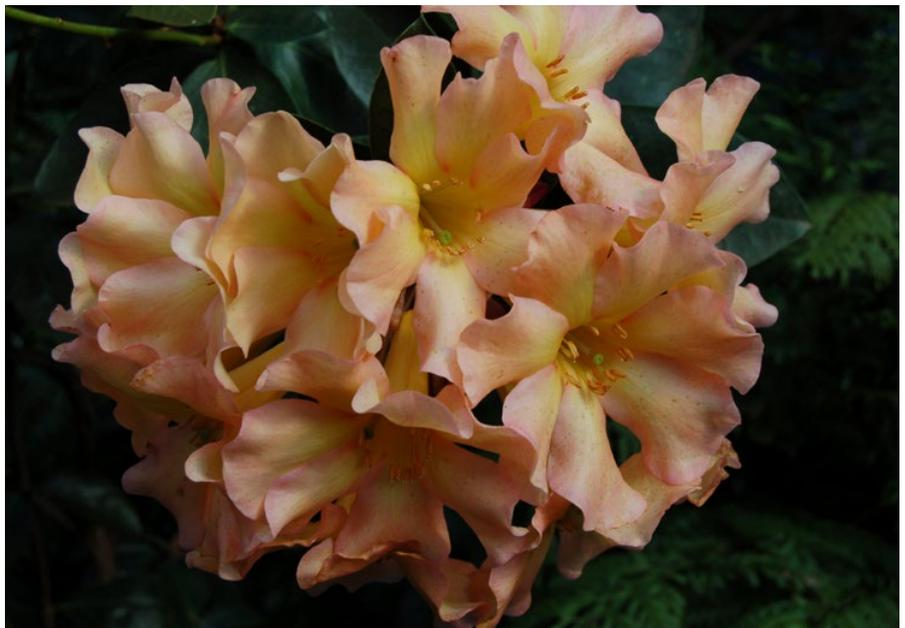
He, of course, still has a consuming passion for plants and a special love for the rhododendrons for which Pukeiti has earned an international reputation. And he has favourites among them.

Graham also has a strong conservation ethic and has done much to restore the forest at Pukeiti.

A leader in the rhododendron world he was appointed Vice President of the International Rhododendron Union in 1988, chaired the Taranaki Rhododendron Festival Committee for



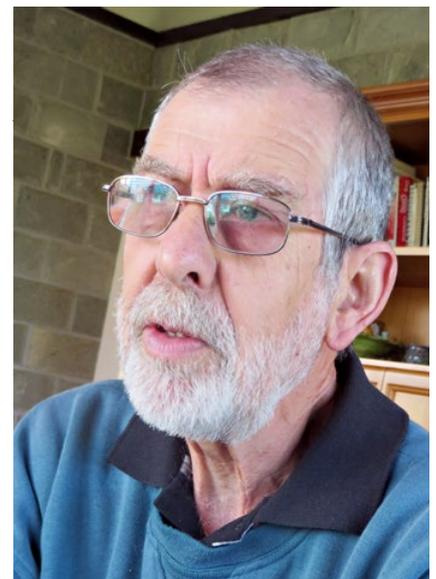
R. 'Simbu Sunset'

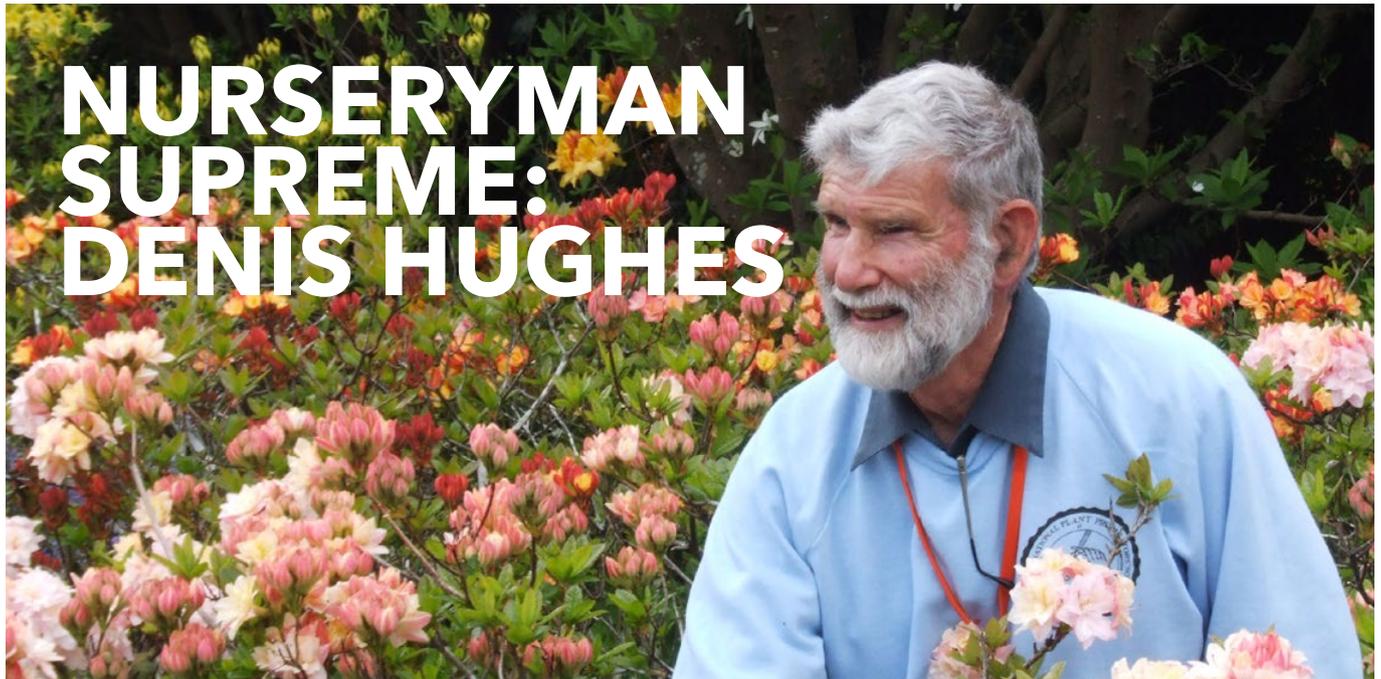


R. 'Beverley McConnell'

nine years following its inauguration and has served on the Council of the New Zealand Rhododendron Association. Profitable and rewarding relationships have been honed between Pukeiti and the Kunming Botanical Institute, The American Species Foundation, Edinburgh Botanic Garden, the Australian Rhododendron Society and kindred other rhododendron organizations. An outstanding plantsman Graham is modest about his plant knowledge but is always willing to share it.

Graham’s work has been rewarded. He has been made an ‘Associate of Honour’ by the New Zealand Institute of Horticulture for his distinguished





Denis Hughes amongst his azaleas

I congratulate Denis Hughes on his appointment as a Patron of the New Zealand Rhododendron Association. I cannot think of a person better suited for the role than this quiet man from Southland with the southern burr in his voice, a man who listens and considers, who shares world class knowledge with beginner and expert alike, a man who conserves all plants from tiny treasures to forest giants, and who has travelled widely to learn, and to locate plants for you the gardening public. At NZRA Conferences ever since I can remember members have been asking Denis questions. Enjoying people, plants and places is something he is very good at. He treasures his land, his family and his friends and associates – you the readers and members of the New Zealand Rhododendron Association, and Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust. A man who grows everything: I once saw a fruiting chilli – or was it a pepper? – on a coffee table in his house during winter.

I first met Denis at Daresbury Rookery during the Christchurch based conference of 1975. My friend Cynthia Perkins, the best plants sleuth

I have ever known, said to me “Mollie says he is great”, referring to plants-woman Mollie Coker, a lifelong friend of her Mother. Denis had helped in Mollie Wood’s garden during his years as a Lincoln University student. Also present that day was Mr Stan



R. ‘City of Dunedin’

Hughes who established the Blue Mountains Nursery in 1932. He was described by Glad McArthur as “the greatest plantsman the south has ever known”. As chance would have it, this past week in the azalea section of the Canterbury Rhododendron Society informal show, Azalea ‘Mollie’ [Ilam] was the winner. It has deep red flowers and rich red autumn colour. Mrs Coker sent cuttings to Denis in 1964, considering it the best red in her garden at the time. Every year Azalea ‘Mollie’ stops garden

visitors in their tracks, a tribute to two gardeners each with that extra something of successful plant selection. Catalogues produced by Blue Mountain Nurseries in the 1970s and 80s were encyclopaedic in the range of plant material carried; pages and pages of small close type, listing plants never seen nowadays. The rhododendron list in particular contained plants now revered as conservation items. My bet would be that Denis has one of each somewhere in a back paddock at Blue Mountains. The 1992 Catalogue includes a low key entry: “‘PAVLOVA-NEW’ a double white with large scented flowers in mid- November. The first of the Blue Mountain double azaleas”. My goodness we did not know what was to come with development of the Blue Mountain strain resulting from crossing double Ghent azaleas imported from the UK, with large flowered Ilam azaleas.

Denis has referred to himself as a “plantaholic”, qualifying that by saying “if it was green and grew I was interested in it”. Over a lifetime of discovery he has collected out of interest, and for you his fellow enthusiasts. One or two genera spring to mind – a Kowhai (*Sophora*) collection of significance, similarly the rowans and white beams (*Sorbus*). He gave a sorbus collection to Heritage Park in the late 1990s.

A memory of Denis in the field relates to an International Dendrology

Field Trip in the Wairau Valley. The *Pachystegia rufu* form of Marlborough daisy, with dense felt like tomentum of rusty red, had been found only in five small gullies located on private property. We made our way through the driest little gullies you could come across. The sharp-eyed Denis could see seed down a cliff. Out of reach you might say. Not at all. Flat on his stomach, with an associate holding his feet he could reach down to seize the prized seed. We held our breath - the result a rare plant multiplied for conservation.

When one of my friends heard I was writing these words she said “you must tell about the petrol and the downhill savings”. Some years after giving the Canterbury Rhododendron Society collection a pink *Magnolia delavayi*, Denis was planning to meet me at the garden (Charteris Bay), and stay overnight at our Diamond Harbour bach. His trusty car of an illustrious make was low on petrol when he began the ascent of Dyer’s Pass from Christchurch. Not daunted at all he resorted to petrol savings which involved acceleration and therefore use of petrol during the challenging steep uphill stretches of road, then coasting downhill. The nearest petrol station was across the harbour in Lyttelton, a twenty mile round harbour journey. We feasted on harbour caught fish and chips and talked down the moon chatting plants. Next morning, not the least daunted Denis returned the way he had come (same technique) and arrived for his fill up at the BP Service Station at the foot of Cashmere Hills. My husband recalls that like many of us Denis was collecting points.

Another memory is of 2010 and a Beyond the Rubicon business trip. Having met NZRA President Gordon Bailey in Queenstown, I drove to Tapanui for a planning session with associate editor Denis Hughes, before visiting Geoff Genge, to talk trial rhododendrons and view the plots. “Follow me” Denis said. Could I keep up in my speedy little Merc rental? Not a bit of it. Occasionally he disappeared altogether leaving me with not the foggiest idea how to find West Plains. That car and Denis travel very fast. Little did we know that later that year, significant earthquakes in the Christchurch

and Canterbury regions would put a stop to completing that update.

His no fuss contributions have given so much pleasure to NZRA members, the blooms conveyed from Southland to Conferences no matter where in NZ, often extending the boundaries of breeding and selection to beyond the beautiful. Plants for decoration and display including sought after plants are shared with members at Conference closure. Treasures are made available for the Dunedin RG plant list. I happened to be at the home of Gretchen and John Henderson in 2013 when Denis pulled in, the unloading of a packed van an indication of hours of selection and checking pre-loading. How often have you been lucky enough to receive a Conference Plant with his hand in its breeding; e.g. at Wanaka the stunning double azalea ‘Pink Chiffon’? How often have you listened to a world class lecture or visual presentation, or experienced a workshop with Denis?

From ‘Crossing the Rubicon’ I quote, “the Hughes family have hybridized a range of quality plants. The azalea section of this handbook mentions the azalea programme. Mention should be made of ‘Graeme Hughes’ and ‘City of Dunedin’ both hybridised by Margaret Hughes”. Margaret Hughes died on 19th August 2008. She was a quiet caring person with a multitude of talents, remembered with affection by all who knew her.

In 2009 Denis became one of only two people to receive the Royal Institute of Horticulture’s highest award – that of Associate of Honour. He had previously received the Award of Merit of the New Zealand Region of The International Plant Propagators’ Society.

Denis is a Life Member of the New Zealand Rhododendron Association. He served on the NZRA Council for some years during the period 1974 to 2004. He is a Life Member of The Southland Rhododendron Group and an Associate Advisor of the Canterbury Rhododendron Society’s Garden.

From the Dunedin Conference of 2014, NZRA Vice President Rob Singleton sent me a photograph of Denis surrounded by Blue Mountain Azaleas, writing “a



R. ‘Pink Chiffon’



R. ‘Midas’



R. ‘Soft Lights’



R. ‘Pavlova’

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Photo: Rob Singleton – Denis at Dunedin 2014

RAIN, MUD AND RHODODENDRONS:

EXPLORING ARUNACHAL PRADESH (NORTH-EASTERN INDIA) IN THE MONSOON SEASON

Hartwig Schepker and John Roy

In terms of plants and especially rhododendrons, the northeastern part of India has been a rather unknown territory until the turn of the millennium. Since then at least two dozen documented trips by Western botanists (Clarke 2012, Cox, P. 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, Cox, K. 2003 and 2005, Gallavan 2007, Heasman & Roy 2005, Hootman 2006 and 2008, Richardson 2006, Petton 2011, Petton & Petton 2012, Rouau 2009, Roy 2006 and 2010, Schepker 2008 and 2010, Schepker & Roy 2011, Sweetman 2006) and unpublished excursions by Rushforth and others have proven the immense richness of rhododendron species in “the seven sisters of India” – a name applying to the seven states which are attached, like an appendix, to the north-east corner of India. In the last years also Indian botanists have intensified their work on the flora of this part of India and added their share to the constantly increasing knowledge about the occurrence and distribution of rhododendron species. (Mao 2012a, 2012b, Paul et al. 2010, Sekar & Srivastava 2010).

The results of these investigations have shown that the Himalayan state

Arunachal Pradesh is special in that it consists of a huge assortment of rhododendron species, much larger than, for example, that stated by one of the old sources of rhododendron information, the *Rhododendron Handbook*. The 51 species mentioned in the 1996 version are less than 50% of what is now known to grow in Arunachal. Today, the number of taxa published by Indian botanists range from around 80 (Sekar & Srivastava 2010) to 109 (Mao 2012b) and recently to 118 (Mao 2013), with several new to science. But it is reasonable enough to expect the occurrence of even more species, since many regions of Arunachal have not yet been properly explored.

The reason for the inadequate knowledge about this part of the world is easy to describe: nobody wanted to go there! Frank Kingdon Ward's experiences in 1924 explain why he avoided Arunachal: “perpetual rain, snakes and wild animals, giant stinging nettles and myriads of biting and blood-sucking tids, hornets, flies and leeches”. Nothing has changed much since then. Arunachal Pradesh is one of the wettest areas in the world with annual precipitation easily exceeding 4,000 mm. An amazing array of obnoxious insects is still around, e.g. the nasty dimdams (small, black, blood suckers), or the unpleasant 73 different species of leeches that make the area the world's capital in terms of leech biodiversity. Kingdon Ward only scratched the surface four times, in the

most Eastern or Western parts of what is today called Arunachal Pradesh. Like other well-known plant hunters, Frank Ludlow and George Sherriff, he only had a glance at the border areas. The rest of Arunachal remained neglected.

The inaccessibility of the terrain and the harsh weather conditions have resulted in only small human populations. This in turn has assured a minimum impact on nature resulting in an immense treasure of animal and plant species. A recent World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) report announced that Arunachal Pradesh (AP) was the second biggest hot spot in terms of plant diversity. Between 1998 and 2008 scientists have described 353 new animal and plant species.

Curiosity and the appeal to find new plants were the major reasons for us to explore another unknown part of Arunachal in June, 2012. John, Scottish dentist and keen plantsman from Ballachulish (west Scotland), and Hartwig, director of the Botanic Garden and Rhododendron-Park in Bremen (Germany), have both been on several Arunachal expeditions before. Together, in 2009 we re-did parts of John's 2002 trip with Peter and Kenneth Cox and explored new areas in central Arunachal east of Mechuka (Schepker & Roy 2012). That year we stopped on our way from the Tibetan border back to the lowlands of Assam in the small town of Tato. Standing high up above the Siyom River and looking eastwards we

spotted a dirt road leading into a side valley. We assumed that this would be the way to get even deeper into another yet unexplored area – a huge mountain range with peaks of 4,000 metres and more, stretching for about 50 kilometres from the Siyom Riyer to the Siang River. To our knowledge this range had not been visited before by Western or Indian botanists.

Three years later we found ourselves again in Tato, in a wooden hut, after a long trip on winding roads “enjoying” another meal of rice and dhal with or without bony chicken pieces.

With us were Ulrich Pietzarka, curator of the Forest-Botanic Garden in Tharandt near Dresden (southeastern Germany), with a deep interest in trees and shrubs, and Franz Besch, pharmacist and plant lover from Munich (Germany). Both of them had AP experiences. Ulrich was together with Hartwig on a trip to the western parts of Arunachal (Schepker 2008), whereas Franz had joined John on two trips to western and central AP (Cox, P. 2004 and 2006).

After meeting at Delhi airport on June 11th we spent 2½ days on the road, on the water, and in the air. The internal flight to Dibrugarh with a stop in Guwahati, ran to schedule – a surprise for all of us since we were used to endless delays on former trips to India. At Dibrugarh airport in Assam we were met by Kibu, one of the many cousins of Oken Tayeng, the head of Abor Country Travels, the tour company in charge of our well being. He took us to a ferry crossing the River Brahmaputra near to a bridge construction site. We had arranged to complete this part of the journey as quickly as possible, including on a ferry hired solely for ourselves. So when we were shoe-horned with our vehicle into a standard, shared, scheduled ferry, a nagging doubt about the arrangements started to germinate. On the other side of the river, Anong awaited us. On the 2005 trip to the Upper Siang River (Richardson 2006, Sweetman 2006, Hootman 2008) Anong started his guide career as a helping hand, hardly speaking English. Since then he has improved a lot and has led several expeditions for Westerners. Anong would act as



Hartwig Schepker in Tannock Glen, Dunedin Oct 2014

chief guide throughout our trip.

A three-hour drive on fairly bad roads brought us to Pasighat. Pasighat is the stepping off point for exploring the eastern half of the state. Here we spent a night in the same hotel we used in 2009. The next day the equipment was picked up and loaded on two jeeps. Before setting out, a very important member of our party, the cook, Gombu, joined us.

Not far out of town, the road climbs, and there are fine views down to the plain of Assam, where the Siang River meets the mighty Brahmaputra. This catchment drains a huge area of the eastern Himalaya, plus the Tibetan Plateau. Not far up the valley the humidity increased, and mist obscured the river below. Some interesting roadside arums were spotted in the form of *Amorphophallus* and *Colocasia*.

Our journey time in mid-June meant that we were right in the middle of the monsoon season. We had picked this date because John’s son was getting married on June 9th, so he could not go trekking until after that date. And we thought it could be interesting to go later than usual, when alpine plants, not previously seen in flower, could be displaying at their best. During the night it rained cats and dogs, and when we started next morning, a constant slight rain still fell. Mountain roads in this part of India are tortuous, winding around

the contours, mostly with steep drops of hundreds of meters on one side. The surfaces are loose and potholed and due to the non-stop rain, flooded with water. The section between Pasighat and Aalo (formerly Along) is definitely one of the worst in Arunachal. Every bump directly finds its way into your bones, especially when sitting on the rear bench seats. Cars break down frequently, and our first encounter was when a track rod end came adrift, causing steering failure. Fortunately it happened on a slightly better stretch leading to our destination, and repair was completed with little delay. We reached Aalo in the late afternoon, with shops still open for buying provisions. It was the last chance to make a phone call back home in one of the few ISD/PCO shacks with their international lines working. Another welcome modern asset were Indian TV stations broadcasting the European Championship soccer games.

One June 13th we started very early at 5:30 am, expecting another long driving day. Outside of town just after the last police checkpoint we picked up the Political Interpreter (PI) for the Manigong area. The PI is an important government figure, and we felt reassured at his presence to smooth our way into a valley that foreigners had probably never visited. The roads beyond Aalo were much better due to the Border Road Organization (BRO). Roads near the borders are

always of military importance and therefore much better maintained. Around noon we reached Tato for our lunch stop. From here we had to use the road we had seen in 2009 from the distance. After crossing the Siyom river we followed a side stream named Shifu. Our first view of the valley revealed much deforestation above and around the scattered villages.

During the first hour the road was in an amazingly good shape, but it deteriorated rapidly the further we moved into the Manigong valley, partly because the track was hammered into the rock, with water pouring from the roof and walls. More and more potholes showed up and deep ruts were filled with mud. Our driver was getting really nervous when the underbody of the jeep hit the ground for the first time. About one hour before we reached our final destination the first of many following disasters happened. The suspension broke: the jeep came immediately to a halt right in the middle of the one lane dirt road. No way back or forth, the road was blocked. A quick inspection made clear that we had no chance of getting this repaired. Anong decided that we all switch over to the second jeep and leave the equipment behind. It was 12 more kilometres (7.5 miles) to the village of Manigong – 12 very long kilometres! Anong drove his jeep very carefully since he already had to repair his track rod end and didn't want to lose another vehicle. One of the worst sections was a very muddy passage. The jeep lurched back and forth – this is not a nice experience especially when you sit on that side of the vehicle with a perfect view of the abyss. Anong was afraid as well and mumbled: "I hate Manigong".

Eventually we arrived in Manigong shortly before dusk. Our accommodation was the Inspection Bungalow, a prominent government building to be used by visiting officials,

but also hired for self-catering. It was situated right next to a muddy sport field with the youth of the village curiously watching our activities. We piled the mattresses to one side, preferring to sleep on hard surfaces rather than attract any bed bugs. Anong had to drive back to the broken jeep and get our backpacks and the other members of our group. On his way back it started to rain and our equipment got wet since it wasn't covered. Anong arrived late in the evening with a few locals on the loading platform. Our jeep was still blocking the road with the result that several vehicles including military trucks and the regular "sumos" (taxis carrying passengers between Tato and Manigong) had to wait at the site.

Early next morning Anong's local contact, the village teacher, showed up together with a bunch of young men who were hired as porters and guides. They weighed our luggage and started to argue with each other about who had to carry how much. We loaded everything on the truck and were ready to leave for our trailhead. But behind the scenes, things were not going smoothly. Like everywhere in Arunachal the land is controlled by "clans". Our PI. belonged to a clan from lower down the valley and was not popular in Manigong. This made hiring porters awkward. The locals did not want to join us unless he was left behind. Clans other than the one we picked were obviously annoyed because they couldn't make any money out of us, the first foreigners in this valley for ages. They complained to the local military. One thing you don't want to deal with when you choose to hike along the Tibetan border is, of course, the military. Bad luck for us, the local commander personally showed up and asked for our permit. That was the beginning of a long day waiting on the veranda of the government house. We were

asked to sit down and relax until he got our permit confirmed by his superiors. Two privates strolled back and forth in front of the building for the next five hours. In between, the commander came back, asked for our passports and started to interrogate us about the details of our journey. We didn't feel very comfortable and Anong was starting to become really nervous, as he was responsible for us. Late afternoon we received the message that we were not allowed to trek either north or east of the valley. That was a great disappointment. We really wanted to trek east, away from Manigong, towards Tuting in the Siang valley. This would complete the jigsaw between the two areas already explored.

We moved with all our gear to the teacher's private house, still closely watched by the military. Our options had to be balanced. We checked the maps and discussed several different routes west of Manigong. None of the options really made us feel happy. The original plan was not possible any more and anything to the west would mean that we covered roughly the same area we had already explored in 2009. Finally, we had to accept the circumstances. The clans to the east would not let us cross their lands, and the military didn't want us in Manigong at all, despite a valid permit. But the clan we eventually made an agreement with belonged to the west side of the valley and that was the direction we would trek the next day. We picked an area directly west of Manigong and decided to hike a loop. Within the next ten days we would try to get as far into the mountains and as high up as possible, and return on a different route to a village a couple of kilometres south of Manigong.

We had a good night of sleep in the classroom and a nice shower in a clean "mani" – a shack with a concrete floor and a bucket and a bowl for a cold



Camp 3, jungle camp at 2,230 m

shower. A tasty omelet with a mixture of potatoes and onions, roti (Indian bread) and black tea and coffee made a good start to the day. It was John's birthday: he was turning 59. We set off at dawn, before the army could change their minds. We finally started our botanising trek at an elevation of 1,905 metres (6,200 feet). Travelling down to the river we lost 300 m, almost 1000 ft. A swinging bridge was waiting for us, looking quite safe. From this point it was a constant hike up the hill on deforested slopes that were almost completely covered with bracken. There is hardly anything more sweaty and at the same time more boring than walking through endless fields of *Pteridium aquilinum* in sunny 30°C (86°F) and high humidity. The water bottles got emptied very quickly and our guide's announcement that the next stream was still quite far away did not make things easier. Franz was not performing very well and nasty leeches had attacked him. We found the first interesting plants, *Cardiocrinum giganteum* in full flower, *Gaultheria hookeri*, and some oaks identified as *Quercus acutissima*. Three and a half hours after crossing the river and just 1.8 km as the crow flies we arrived at a stream and immediately filled up our bottles. We rested for some time and prepared ourselves for the first of several "danger points" we would encounter in the next days. A narrow ledge had to be passed with a very steep drop; the porters strung

a rope to make the passage easier for us. More bracken followed before finally a subtropical forest appeared. It started to rain. New plants like *Acer hookeri*, *Clematis montana* and *Daphniphyllum himalayense* were accompanied by a nasty bamboo. This is an unspectacular species with internodes covered in spikes. On the muddy and slippery trail one is often tempted to grab the bamboo, but that is painful, and not recommended. Around noon we reached a small clearing next to a stream at 2,230 m (7,300 ft). We were told that we would camp there: the next possible campsite with running water was too far away. These "jungle camps" are made by hacking down scrub, bamboo, small trees and bushes, and using the debris to flatten areas for pitching tents. Bamboo can be tied together to make a frame for a tarpaulin to make shelter for cooking and eating. Other debris with logs etc. can be made into a bonfire for cooking and drying gear.

Among unpacked our tents. In preparation for the trip we had asked for one tent each. Two were brand new, one was rather used and one was filthy and rotten looking. The tents were distributed by age, giving the new ones to our oldest members and the mouldy one to Ulrich, the youngster. The constant rain in the afternoon was the first test for the two older tents. Some time was spent fixing the holes and adding additional plastic

covers – fortunately John brought a couple of extra plastic rubbish bags from Edinburgh's City Council. An interesting assortment of animals had to be removed from the inside: spiders, beetles, caterpillars and dimdam flies. John recapitulated the botanical results of our first day in the field: *Arisaema* species – four, *Rhododendron* species – zero. Disappointing! Again, heavy rain fell overnight. We later learned that Ulrich didn't sleep at all. The rain constantly found its way into his tent. He covered everything inside with his rain gear and sat all night long next to his equipment.

Next morning, the oldest and most experienced trekker of our group was having doubts about continuing. Franz's boots had burst, and he was unsure about his fitness to continue. There was much discussion with the porters who were unwilling to take him back to Manigong for fear of further problems with the military. Franz was persuaded to continue: there were no alternatives in the terrain. Porters tied his boots with bamboo to keep them together.

Much later than we wanted to, we started to climb a steep muddy slope. The first rhododendrons appeared as we gained height to about 2,400 m (8,000 ft): *R. kendrickii*, *R. monanthum*, *R. vaccinioides*, *R. boothii*, a *Maddenia taxa* John had seen in 2002 which was then called *R. walongense* aff. and the Falconera Subsection species *nova* found in 2002 and 2009. *Arisaema tortuosum*, *A. nepenthoides* and *A. consanguineum* also lived at this altitude. We found too, a lovely *Acer campbellii* with large palmate leaves and an *A. hookerii* which has three lobed leaves and beautiful red stems on new growth.

Two and a half hours after we left our first camp we reached the second one, just 150 m (500 ft) higher. The porters had fooled us, we could have

easily hiked that distance the previous day despite the muddy trail. Now we had lost a whole day. After a dry morning it started to rain again. A cliff above the camp provided shelter. The porters had started a fire with fresh bamboo shoots that burn astonishingly well. We spent hours sitting close to the flames to dry our gear. They also built a bamboo platform to enlarge their sleeping surface. *R. kasoense* was growing epiphytically on the rocks above the cave, so in our second day we had found two rhododendron species of the unusual autumn-flowering *Monantha* subsection.

Franz showed us his boots. The soles were completely off now. Franz borrowed John's spare footwear, a pair of trainers, not ideal but better than the burst boots which were left behind on stakes as a reminder for future trekkers to bring good equipment. It continued to rain, and discussions with the porters indicated it would be a very long following day. It was time to go to bed early.

Next morning we set off at 6:30 am. The flora in the jungle became richer as we gained altitude. John's favourites turned up. *Podophyllum aurantiocaulis* and *Impatiens urticifolia* and *I. bicornuta*, mixed with *Smilacina*



R. edgeworthii

oleracea and *Streptopus simplex*, which puts up arching stems with small pink/white flowers in the alternate leaf axils, all surrounded the trail. The *Smilacina* here was very impressive, with some of the stems extending to 2 metres (6.5 ft) and large terminal racemes of pink flowers.

Epiphytic *Rhododendron edgeworthii* in full flower was abundant around 2,500 m (8,200 ft), and where we could reach it, we could appreciate its rich scent. *R. arizelum* with its

beautiful cinnamon indumentum started at this level. As in the Mechuka area, where we found it from approximately 2,400 to 3,750 m (7,850 to 12,300 ft), it continued here also over a large altitude range. Many seedlings of *R. grande*, with leaves up to 35 cm (1.15 ft) in length, carpeted the forest, with some mother trees flowers long finished. Also finished flowering was *R. hookeri*, but we appreciated its lovely mahogany trunks reaching up to the canopy. Even a few *R. lindleyi*



Pink *R. maddenii*

with their large calyces were spotted. Another epiphyte and the second species in flower was *R. leptocarpum*, a charming plant with small cup-shaped, creamy flowers on long red pedicels. A form of *R. maddenii* with large, bright pink, scented flowers grew epiphytically from branches of fir and hemlock above our heads, as did the plentiful *R. megeratum*.

Other epiphytes were beautiful orchids in the form of *Pleione hookeriana* and *Coelogyne corymbosa*. A yellow flowering terrestrial orchid grew beside the trail: *Calanthe tricarinata*. Other interesting trailside plants were the arisaemas. *A. galeatum* lived up to its name with "helmet" shaped spathes and curiously long thread-like spadix appendages, and *A. asperatum* with white-veined, purple spathes and stubby spadix appendages. A third arisaema was another of the trifoliolate group, one especially John has seen many times in Arunachal, but never positively identified. It flowers earlier with a green spathe, but the leaves are spectacularly large. It can grow to a metre (3.2 ft) tall, and as much across.

More rhododendron species appeared above 2,800 metres (9,200

ft) together with *Ilex nothofagifolium*. The bristly new foliage of *R. glischrum* ssp. *rude* glistened in the moisture. A few *R. neriiflorum* Ssp. *phaeodropum* grew near the trail. Gorgeous clusters of tubular, orange flowers dangled from large bushes of *R. keysii*. For a couple of hours we followed a rim, slowly but constantly gaining altitude. Drizzle fell incessantly, and these massive trees dripped water constantly. The dimdam flies were left behind at lower altitude, but were now replaced by midges. We reached our jungle camp at 3,000 metres (10,000 feet). That night our beds were cushioned by spreading leaves of *R. sinogrande* under our tents. This species was observed on this slope only in a small altitudinal section.

It had been a long but successful day. We had seen about 20 different rhododendron species including a strange thing we had seen in small numbers before in 2009 on the western slope of this mountain range. It was *R. dekatanum*. This was a great find!



R. dekatanum

R. dekatanum is a Ludlow and Sherriff discovery from 1936 from Chayul Chu, Natrampa. In the last years it has been seen for the first time since 1936 in Arunachal (Mao 2013) and in the border area between Arunachal and Burma (Ernebjerg 2013 [personal communication]). It is a shrub of 1-2 metres, with only the young branches being hairy. The very young leaves are velvety with hairs on the under- and upper side. Once they mature they lose the hairs on the upper and lower surfaces but keep many hairs on the rim. Last year's obovate leaves (3.5 cm wide, 7-8 cm long) had no hairs along the rim any more. The vesicular scales on young leaves seemed to have two different colors, black ones and many red-golden shining ones. On

older leaves almost all scales turned black. The scales were very dense, rarely touching, but mostly 1-2 times their diameter apart. We didn't see a flower but the remaining parts of a withered flower showed that the ovary is very scaly, again with two different types of scales. The style is 1.5 cm long and glabrous, the calyx almost 1 cm long and round shaped.

We were promised a shorter day the following morning, so delayed setting off till 7:30 am. Big mistake! The trek took us up a very steep slope of about 300 m (1000 ft), then the going became less steep as we walked along the top of a ridge. The overhead canopy of *Abies*, *Tsuga*, and *Rhododendron arizelum* contained forest floor plants of more *Podophyllum aurantiocaulae*, *Bryocarpum himalaicum* (both finished flowering) and a *Smilacina* with very dark flowers. This was *S. purpurea*. Gradually the *Rhododendron glischrum* Ssp. *rude* was replaced by *R. exasperatum*.

Suddenly around 3,400 m (11,200 ft) the canopy cleared and the flora changed immediately. New species not seen before emerged, mostly finished flowering and often difficult to identify. The new leaves of a new rhododendron had the same bluish color as the fresh shoots of *R. cinnabarinum*, but John pointed out that it belonged to subsection *Thomsonia*. We were familiar with this species, as again we had seen it before in 2009 on the western side of the mountain range, on the trek leading to a place called Damjin La. It was *R. populare*, which is much more common in this part of the Himalayas than previously known. Again, Ludlow and Sherriff discovered this plant for the first time in May, 1936, at Natrampa, Chayul Chu, in South Tibet, but it was not introduced at that time. Kenneth Cox was the next to find it in 2001 on the northern side of the Yang Sang Chu. He named it provisionally *R. viscidifolium* aff. (KC 0126) but changed the name after seeing the pictures of our findings of 2009. It is red flowering and has attractive red bracts accompanying the new shoots. It shows a smooth reddish-brown bark. The flowers have 5 nectar pouches and 10 black colored stamens. Both style and ovary are glabrous and the

disk-like calyx measures about 1 cm (0.4 in). *R. populare* is very common on this mountain between 3,400 m (11,200 ft) and 3,750 m (12,300 ft).

Other *Ericaceae* were *Cassiope*, *Vaccinium retusum*, and a *Lyonia* with amazingly bright pink flowers. Ulrich provisionally named this *L. ovalifolium*. It resembled the descriptions of this species in the "Flora of China", but the flower color is different. Some shrubs were familiar like *Prunus rufa*, *Juniperus recurva*, and *Viburnum nervosum*, but we also saw a strange *Sorbus* with a whitish leaf underside and a very interesting *Araliaceae*. Unfortunately we were not able to identify any of them. Also here was a rhododendron of about 1 m in size which we tentatively placed into subsection *Boothia*. It had finished flowering, but the spent flowers looked saucer shaped, and pale yellow or cream. It was 2-4 flowered, with 10 stamens and a glabrous style of 0.5-0.8 cm. The ovary was densely packed with light brown scales. It was sending out new growth of bronzy hairy leaves, but the mature oblong-oblancoelate leaves were green. The main vein on the upper side of the leaves had, in the lower half, bristly hairs. The petiole was about 0.7 cm long with bristly hairs and mostly black scales. The lower leaf side was very densely



R. nova of subsection *Boothia*

packed with two different types of scales, black and brown, of different sizes and sitting very close together (0.5-1.5 times their diameter apart). Young branches were covered with bristly hairs; older branches were mostly without these bristly hairs.

This plant was a mystery not only for us. After our return Steve Hootman thankfully looked at our pictures and descriptions, and it was new to him as well. It was neither *R. boothii* nor



R. charitopes tsangpoense

tephropeplum nor *xanthostephanum*. For the moment we keep it as *R. "Subsection Boothia"* with an affinity to *R. boothii*, which it is clearly not.

We trekked back into *Abies densa*, *Rhododendron arizelum*, and bamboo. Then as the canopy cleared again, *R. charitopes* Ssp. *tsangpoense* with lovely pink thimble-shaped flowers vied with *R. populare*, now with occasional red flowers as we gained altitude. *R. charitopes* Ssp. *tsangpoense* was in its peak bloom and it was easily one of the most common species. We noted a fungal growth on the *R. populare* leaves leaving them a bright orange-red, but hideously swollen. During a short break at 3,500 m (11,500 ft) we enjoyed warm noodles and grape juice. The surrounding of our resting place should have been spectacular, at least we assumed a fascinating landscape around us. But there was nothing but dense mist and no view at all. What a shame! Shortly after the break we found the first of many *Rhododendron chamaephytum*. We had seen this species in abundance on the Damjin La in 2009. It was another un-introduced Ludlow and Sherriff



R. chamaephytum

find, at that time called *R. haematodes* Ssp. *chaetomallum* var. *chamaephytum*. It was introduced for the first time as HECC 10066 in 2002 from the Tochoch La side of the Mechuka Valley. As it looks distinct, this "*R. chamaephytum*"



Camp 4, ridge top camp among the rhododendrons at 3,700m

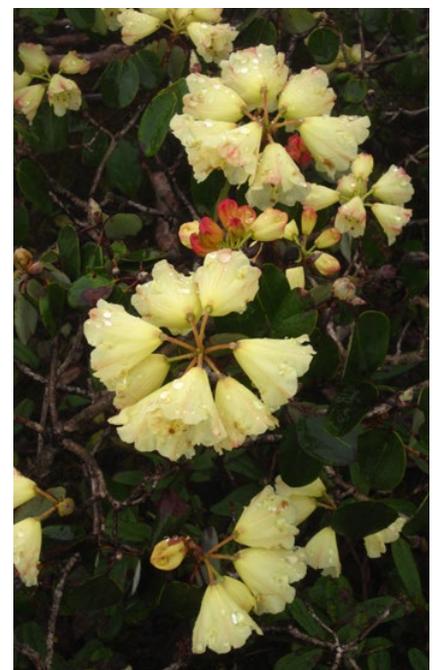
probably deserves its own species rank. It shows attractive, hanging, blood-red, 5-lobed flowers (length 4-4.5 cm (1.6-1.8 in) with black nectar pouches. The ovary is covered with white hairs, the style is red, the stamens are black and in the lower half, red. The flowers either have a very small disk-like calyx or a 1 cm (0.4 in) long, frayed calyx. The obovate leaves are rugose and have a very short petiole of less than 1 cm (0.4 in).

In the misty distance John noticed the highlight of the day, an orange object close to the ground. In 2009 we were fascinated by an *Arisaema* with a bright orange/pink spathe, quite the most showy of all arisaemas. John's research since then had not produced any identification, but this was the same plant. This gave it a wider distribution to the east, the second great discovery until now. Alongside the *Arisaema* grew *Clematis* with pink cup shaped drooping flowers on upright stems, and a

plant that resembled *Smilacina* with sheathed stems, alternating leaves, and terminal racemes of purple flowers. A little higher up near to a cliff we saw the last white to pink flowers of *R. arizelum*, plenty of *R. cinnabarinum* Ssp. *cinnabarinum* with superb orange flowers, and a few *R. cerasinum* with blood-red flowers.

This was where we were supposed to camp, but in spite of the incessant rain, there was no reliable stream to tap into for drinking water. It was 1:00 pm, and the next possible camping spot was three hours away. It may seem strange that in such high rainfall, camping spots are scarce for lack of water. The reality is the terrain is very steep and the rock is porous, so few streams are formed at high altitude. We walked, clambered, stumbled, and slid onwards. The next 400 m (1,300 ft) upwards was probably the most difficult for all of us. We were tired, rain started again and it was no longer a recognizable trail. We had

to pull ourselves up by grabbing on rhododendron and blueberry branches.



R. campylocarpum

Several “danger points” had to be passed. At one point the ridge was less than 1 m (3.3 ft) wide and on both sides the terrain dropped steeply down into the mist. Fortunately we couldn't see how far down we would fall.



Primula tanneri ssp. *tsariensis*
(Photo: Ulrich Pietzarka)

This was a particularly rich altitude botanically. We wished we were more relaxed to study things in this rhododendron fairyland, instead of striving to reach a suitable camp before dark. *R. charitopes* Ssp. *tsangpoense*, *R. chamaephytum* (some with deep black-red flowers) and *R. populare* were everywhere. *R. cinnabarinum* showed up with yellow-orange flowers (Blandfordiiflorum Group) and the first *Rhododendron tsariense* appeared on rocky outcrops, and tops of boulders. *Rhododendron campylocarpum* clung to the edge of precipices, its bright yellow flowers just visible through the constant rain and mist. Here the *R. chamaephytum* and *R. campylocarpum* hybridised to make some very pretty pink-flowered bushes.

At 3,900 m (12,800 ft) we reached a plateau called “Paker”, a crossing point where different treks meet. The ground here was carpeted with alpines. Yellow-flowered *Diapensia himalaica*, dwarf *Bergenia*, tiny white-flowered *Primula hookeri*, *P. rubicunda*, *Anemone biflora*, *Lloydia flavo-nutans*, *Rhodiola* sp., flowering *R. pumilum*, *R. anthopogon* (the Betty Graham form), *Ribes glaciale*, *Vaccinium sikkimense* and *P. tanneri* Ssp. *tsariensis* all decorated the ground, where there was a thin soil between the huge boulders.

At last we camped on the top of a ridge, where water could be collected from melting snow. The ridge was full of rhododendrons, cut to make space for our tents, and the bright red resting buds of *Primula*

elizabethae carpeted the ground. To John's dismay there was no alternative but to camp on the top of them, hopefully protected by a layer of *Juniperus* and rhododendron branches. *P. elizabethae* was originally found by Frank Ludlow and his friend Dr. Lumsden, crossing the Lo La between Arunachal and Tibet in 1926. Ludlow was so impressed with it, he named it after his mother. It remained an enigma until the last ten years, when further explorations into Arunachal rediscovered it further south. It has the most perfect scented, large, yellow flowers, and we were most fortunate to find a large amount in flower, on a south facing slope, not far from camp. It has never been successfully introduced into cultivation.

We explored two days at this top camp. A rhododendron species not seen before was *R. lepidotum*, growing next to several of the fantastic orange *Arisaema*. The rain continued to fall, and at this altitude of nearly 4,000 m (13,100 ft) it was cold. Walking to the north took us down into a snow-filled valley. The snow was soft and slippery, and we found descent was quicker than we would have liked! Our porters enjoyed the snow in a different way, using plastic bags to glide down the slope. The top of a boulder was covered with spectacularly blue flowering *Primula tanneri* Ssp. *tsariensis*. On the second day, two of

us explored the ridge further, finding *Rhododendron forrestii* Ssp. *forrestii* Repens Grp. growing in the wettest conditions of melting snow, and falling rain. Its bright red large flowers lit up the hillside. Ground creeping *R. ludlowii* (only a few plants) and *R. trilictorum* (masses) were still tightly hiding their flower buds. These were two rhododendron species we thought we could see in flower with our later trek. Magnificent though was *Primula valentiniana*, forming a carpet of dark purple flowers, each like upside down cups. This is closely related to *P. kingii*, also found in Arunachal and Bhutan. After climbing a very muddy and steep slope consisting of almost nothing other than boulders and *Bergenia* we reached a ridge, packed again with *R. chamaephytum*, masses of cream-yellow flowering *R. tsariense*, *R. campylocarpum*, *R. anthopogon* and, surprisingly, a few scattered *R. cerasinum* with their last red flowers of the season. Around noon we reached the highest point of our trip at 4,130 m (13,550 ft). It was worth it to go up there as mature *Rheum nobile* sent yellow spires towards the sky. Despite the rain it was a beautiful sight!

In the afternoon we spent several hours sitting under a simple plastic sheet that was attached to a boulder, drying the equipment and of course ourselves. Besides the tents this was the only place to hide from



R. repens (Photo: Ulrich Pietzarka)



Hartwig views *R. anthopogon* and *Rheum nobile* at 4,130m

the never-ending rain. You just needed to duck down as much as possible to avoid smoke poisoning.

New problems had developed during our absence. The porters had approached Anong and pressed him for more money. They wanted their daily salary doubled and obviously used some hard “arguments” as Anong seemed to be daunted. None of us had been in a situation like this and we discussed our prospects for quite some time. Finally we agreed to give most of our cash rupees to defuse the situation. The idea of being stuck in the mountains far away from any roads without porters and guides was not very comfortable....

This incident didn’t improve our feelings towards the locals and we were happy to start our descent the next day. The third and last morning in our base camp was the nicest one. Wake-up call at 4:45 am and surprise: no rain! Even better: the clouds opened for a few minutes and rays of sunlight lightened up our surroundings. Suddenly we could get a glimpse of the landscape, more snow covered peaks emerged and we were able to identify the ridge we had explored the day before – it lay just a few hundred metres away as the crow flies.

We made an early start to descend from the top camp. Anong and one of the porters went back the same way to get our jeep from Manigong. The rest followed a track descending

along a ridge slightly to the south of our ascent route. That way we could explore a new ridge, and emerge into the valley below, away from the military presence. We made an appointment to meet Anong again in two days. As we negotiated the slippery, boulder strewn hillside, a patch of *Rhododendron pumilum*, about 60 cm (2 ft) across, was poking its pink thimble like flowers into the damp morning air. Not far down this ridge we spotted *R. cinnabarinum*, with new leaves emerging on bare twigs that had already dropped their funnel-shaped purple flowers. We were puzzled to start with, then Hartwig identified it as the semi-deciduous *R. cinnabarinum Ssp. tamaense*, a rare form found in upper Burma by Kingdon Ward and new to AP. Most of the plants were the same as on the ascent, though some were in different concentrations. *R. hookeri* and *R. grande* were not as common as on the way up, whereas *R. lepidotum* and *R. neriiflorum Ssp. phaeodropum* appeared on this ridge more frequently. Another *Arisaema* caught John’s eye. It was a trifoliolate species, *A. speciosum var. mirabile*, with a short flowering stem and a spathe with a plump white appendage narrowing to a thread. It resembles a “beast” that is struggling to swallow a white mouse.

It was a very hard day trekking, first on a steep, slippery and sometimes dangerous trail along the ridge,

followed then by muddy sections through a rhododendron forest. As usual it was raining. Due to different hiking speeds our team split up into several smaller groups, with Franz and his two personal porters falling far behind. Our campsite for the night was a boggy pit with the flattest ground of the whole trip at 3,300 m (10,800 ft). The youngest of our porters felled several trees of *R. arizelum* with their machetes. Two trees would have been enough for firewood, the rest were obviously cut just for fun. Bamboo shoots and rhododendron leaves were piled on the wet ground before we set up the tents. Fortunately it was the last night sitting at the fire and drying wet shoes and clothes.

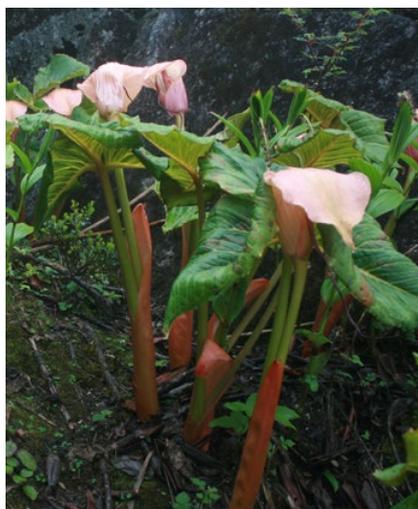
There is not much memory of the last day in the field except several meetings of our heads with low hanging branches. The trail took us back to the village system of the valley, where deforestation had resulted in bamboo thickets. Before stepping into open ground we had to slide down through a very long tunnel totally made of the thorny bamboo. The following trail through bracken fields, again aerated with *Cardiocrinum giganteum* in full flower, became very muddy and slippery. A giant *Arisaema consanguineum* was the last botanical highlight before we were happy to be welcomed into a village house for the night, with a chance to dry out beside a fire. These wood and bamboo houses have a central fire in the living space, on a sand pit. The smoke percolates out through the roof through any gap it can find in the bamboo thatch. So you not only dry out, but get kippered, and the idea of having a fire, open on all sides, in a house made of very flammable materials is “interesting”.

Next morning it was a short but again slippery walk down to the Shifu river. After crossing the river on another rope and bamboo bridge we walked up the road, hoping to meet Anong there as agreed. It was 7:30 am and we waited. Some jeeps passed by, but none driven by Anong. After some time it was obvious that he had been delayed, so we were made welcome in a small settlement just above the road. The local farmer offered us a modern hut that had potatoes spread out to dry. It was a wooden structure,

with a corrugated galvanised roof, and the necessary sand pit in the middle of the floor for the fire. Sanitary facilities were composed of a small wooden hut with a hole in the floor over a small stream. This same stream flowed to houses further down the hill, where it was used for washing and cooking. This is a normal arrangement in many parts of the Himalaya.

We waited in vain for Anong to arrive. Around noon an elderly local showed up, handing over a letter to us. It was from Anong. After arriving in Manigong just after one long day of descent, he spent the whole of the next day trying to get the jeep out of the teacher's garden where it was hidden – to no avail. The vehicle was completely bogged down, by the mud caused by the heavy rain. “Stay where you are – I will get another vehicle. Wait for me”, he wrote. Our porters left immediately, there was no reason for them to stay. It was a rather frosty farewell.

With nothing else to do and an unscheduled overnight stay ahead of us, we cleaned our potato hut and lit the fire, making the best out of another unsatisfying situation. John walked down to the next village, a place called Shiet, to get us beer and beverages. Dinner was cooked; Ulrich prepared dried potatoes with onions – not bad. We tried to settle down in our sleeping bags. In spite of the modernity of our abode, it leaked rain in many places. But it was good to have a fire in our midst, and by 8:00 pm we were warm, drier, and sleepy..... Midnight.



Orange arisaema, one of the many arisaemas seen on the trip. (Photo: Ulrich Pietzarka)

Uli awakes. There are flames licking between the floor planks. He shouts. Gombu, our cook, runs outside with pots and pans to get water to douse the flames. The fire is extinguished and we try to settle down again.

We were up by 5:00 am next morning, so we would be ready if Anong should arrive with a vehicle. He arrived on foot at 6:30 am. There was no vehicle available, but he had made an arrangement for the next day. It was June 24th and we were supposed to be in Dibrugarh at the airport on June 27th at noon. With everything working well, it was still possible to cover the whole distance in time. But nothing was working well and this continuing delay made us all nervous.

It was not going to get any better. The local rumor machine told us there was a landslide about 10 km (6.2 miles) down the valley. Another reason to stay where we were, hoping for the Border Roads Organization to clear it shortly. Whilst waiting, John had a look under our hut. The fire pit was pathetically shallow, and the main supporting beams were charred. If Ulrich had not raised the alarm when he did, the hut would have been engulfed by fire and there would never have been a report about our expedition.

There was no further progress that day. Anong had returned to Manigong to attempt to free our truck, or possibly hire a car to take us to the landslide, where we could be met. The day passed slowly. Anong did not return. Boredom was alleviated with another excursion to the beer shop. This was 3 km (1.9 miles) downhill, so the beer had to be carried back uphill. Also we were running short of ready cash, so the amount of beer purchased was restricted. To enrich our potato dinner we bought eggs from the local farmers. Not happy at all about the circumstances we went to bed early.

Very heavy overnight rain rattled on the metal roof of the hut. We were once again ready to depart early in the morning, but more landslides were reported. Two of us checked the situation and walked down to Shiet. The ongoing rainfall had caused 10 landslides on this short stretch alone, two of them not passable by any

vehicles. In one place half of the dirt road had sagged, and the hillside below threatened to slide completely. Huge lumps of rock blocked another part. It was totally clear to us that there was no way to get out of this valley except by foot. We had to move, or miss our flights home. We wrote a note to give to a messenger, who was to find Anong. We were going to leave our belongings, take what we could carry, and walk out. But before we could start, the door of our potato-home opened and Anong stepped in. He had come to the same conclusion, walking to the roadhead at Tato was our only chance.

He arrived with enough porters to carry our bags. They included the brother of the teacher in Manigong and some friends. Before we left we handed over an envelope with our last cash to the local farmer who had tolerated our presence and our use of his potato-hut. Just imagine some Indians in mud-decorated clothes knocking on your door and asking for shelter in your “warehouse”.

After four hours constant walking we stopped in a little village. A single phone line was working and Anong was able to get a message out to his brother in Pasighat. He asked him to immediately hire a vehicle and meet us as soon as possible in Tato. We shared 2 litres of Pepsi coke with our porters before we moved on. Shortly before dawn we reached another little village called Buray. We were allowed to stay overnight in a hut built on stilts next to the road and just 50 m away from the last landslide. Only a thin bamboo mattress separated us from the steep gradient below. We were too tired to care about such nullities.

Shortly after 5:00 am we started walking again. At one point another mudslide was still moving above us. We sank deep into the red mud as we crossed it as quickly as possible, ignoring the deep precipice only a few steps away. Eight and a half hours after our departure we reached the bridge crossing the Siyom River, exhausted. On the Tato side an excavator was trying to rebuild the road. The Indian driver was waving at us when we passed the last of the dangerous moving mudslides.

Finally, Anong's brother was waiting there for us – a big relief, at last the tide had turned. Fifty-five km (34 miles) were lying behind us. We had vastly underestimated the state of the road. We had passed through more than 100 rockfalls, landslides, and mudslides, many of them not passable for vehicles. We were happy to leave all this behind and from now on enjoy again a relaxed drive in an Indian jeep.

We should have known better. Shortly after, Tato the driver realized he had problems with the brakes. Looking for a specific screw-wrench he stopped at a military post. Instead of handing out the equipment the soldiers asked if we were the foreigners that were reported from the Manigong valley. Nobody wanted any more trouble, and Anong forced the driver to keep going. In a small village along the road he then asked a well-dressed local for a screw-wrench. Within a minute the vehicle was jacked and the brake pads removed. Fortunately some spare pads were on board, but these were hardly any better than the depleted ones.

At 10:00 pm we finally reached Aalo. During a short break in Tato we had already learned of a strike that was announced for the very same day. Fortunately there were no signs of any riots. In the local governmental Circuit House we were able to rent the last two rooms. Some of us had to sleep on the floor but that was better than nothing. A cold shower and cleaning our dirty bodies helped to relax us a little bit.

Again, we made a very early start at 4:00 am. Thirty-four hours were left to reach our flight back home scheduled to leave at 2:00 pm the following day in Dibrugarh. Anong again approached us with more bad news. Due to the heavy rainfalls and the landslides the direct road from Aalo to Pasighat had been closed. And even worse, the monsoon rain had caused massive flooding in the Assam lowlands. The ferries crossing the Brahmaputra were not running anymore after a ferry had sunk with 10 people dead. The nearest bridge was the one in Tezpur, in the Western part of Assam, a couple of hours away from Guwahati. We discussed our options. There was no

chance of reaching the Dibrugarh airport in time. We finally voted for heading directly to the airport in Guwahati. Our plane was scheduled for a stopover in the capital of Assam: hopefully we could board our flight there. But it was a 650 km (400 mile) drive from Aalo to Guwahati on roads also affected by the monsoon rains! Anong immediately made phone calls trying to contact the airline to inform them of our situation. In the meantime we started for Itanagar. Due to some very specific Indian regulations we had to change vehicles in the capital of Arunachal Pradesh. Our jeep had no permission to drive on Assam roads. This resulted in another detour since the main road from the National Highway 52 to Itanagar was closed, this of course due to more landslides. We had to use another very bad road and were joined by long columns of jeeps and trucks. The atmosphere deteriorated even more when Anong received a call. It was not possible to change our tickets, we were asked to show up personally at the airline counter in Dibrugarh! In Itanagar we paused at Oken's house and changed the vehicle. The international phone lines were not working. We were now three days behind our original schedule: our families at home were definitely getting nervous. John took the opportunity to buy some new shoes. He was desperate to change his wet hiking boots. Franz still had his spare pair of trainers.

At 7:00 pm we left Itanagar on the same crappy road. Once we reached the National Highway in the lowlands the driving situation improved a lot. Anong picked up an additional driver. He himself was too tired to drive all the remaining 340 km (210 miles) to Guwahati. It was an extraordinary trip during the dark night none of us want to experience again. Our chauffeur was driving fast. Nightly users of the road included pedestrians, bikers, chickens, dogs and cows, none of them clearly visible. The biggest challenge were unlit trucks parked in the middle of the road. Reflectors seemed to be unknown in this part of the world.....

In the middle of the night we reached a hotel in Guwahati at 3:00 am. Anong had made a reservation in an apartment complex, and nice cool

rooms were waiting for us. Three hours of sleep remained before we had to get up again. At the airport in Guwahati we approached the airline counter. For quite some time it was a constant seesaw: no, the flight is fully booked; ok, let's see what we can do. Finally we were allowed into the terminal and after more explanations and some phone calls with Dibrugarh airport a friendly airline employee handed over our boarding passes. What a relief! The person most relieved was definitely Anong. He had struggled so hard to get us back in time and he had made it! It was a quick but hearty farewell. Anong was not allowed into the terminal, so we had to say good-bye through the windows of the airline counter.

When leaving Guwahati we were able to recognize the dimensions of the flooding in Assam from the airplane windows. Almost every little bit of lowland except the major roads seemed to be under water. A couple of hours later we arrived at Delhi International Airport. We had arranged for a driver to taxi us into the city for one last Indian dinner. The outside temperature was 42°C and there was no sign of rain!

This was the most difficult trip any of us had been involved with. The outcomes were deeply disappointing in comparison to the invested efforts. Instead of hiking through a totally unexplored area as planned, we had to cover the eastern sides of a mountain range we had already explored partly in 2009. Not surprisingly the list of rhododendron species is quite similar. Confirming the existence of already known species in hitherto unexplored areas is also an important part of the botanical work, but still a slight disappointment remains. In total, we had seen 38 different taxa including a conspicuous natural hybrid and two forms of *R. cinnabarinum*. The best finds were *R. dekatanum* and *R. cinnabarinum* *Ssp. tamaense*. The best sights were the carpets of *R. forrestii* in flower and the slopes packed with yellow-cream flowering *R. tsariense*, blood-red *R. chamaeopyhtum*, yellow *R. campylocarpum* and others. The greatest mystery is the "Subsection Boothia" find – a new species? Beautiful also were the primulas, the arisaemas and the *Rheum*. But

not seeing any of the landscape we were walking through because of the clouds, really reduced the fun. The mixture of never-ending rain, muddy trails, leaking tents, constant wet equipment, broken cars, disastrous roads and flooded plains, added to by the problems with the military, the local clans and the porters made this trip a disastrous one. Thanks to the immense efforts of Anong, we came through all of this without any major harm. Anong was a hero and the best companion you could wish to have on such a trip, however, we do not want to do that sort of thing again - at least not during the monsoon season!

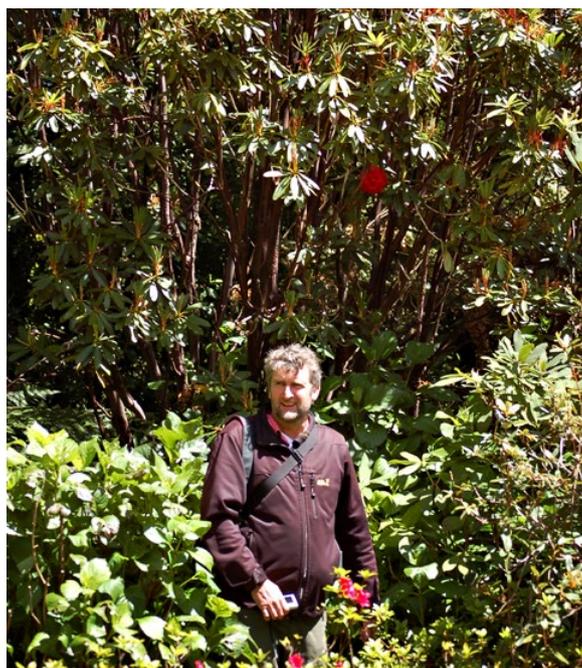
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The Authors

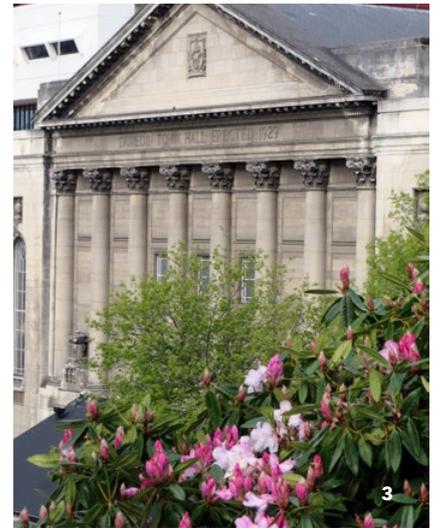
Dr. Hartwig Schepker, director of the Botanic Garden and Rhododendron Park in Bremen, is also Managing Director of the German Rhododendron Society. He has been to Arunachal Pradesh four times.

John Roy, editor of the Scottish Rhododendron Society publications, has been on nine rhododendron trips to the Himalayas and China. This was his fifth trip to Arunachal Pradesh. Hardly any westerner has seen more of this country than John.



Hartwig Schepker and *R. subansuriense*

This article formed the basis of the lecture given to the 70th NZRA Conference in Dunedin, October 2014, and has also been printed in the American Species Foundation Journal.



RHODODENDRONS - THE GEMS OF DUNEDIN

Driving from the airport plants of rhododendrons are dotted along the highway - some plantings quite recent. City planners have made them a focus in street planting. They, too, are popular with home gardeners and businesses which have used them to brighten their premises. They have been part of the city landscape since the 1860s. William Martin of Fairfield Nursery was the doyen in those years. He raised the first New Zealand hybrid, in the late 1870s, which he named 'Marquis of Lothian'. This was the symbol for the New Zealand Rhododendron Association Conference 'First in Rhododendrons' which marked the seventieth anniversary of the Dunedin Group. An international

gathering, it was attended by 230 delegates, some from Japan, Canada, USA, UK, South Africa and Australia.

Visiting gardens and driving around the city, rhododendrons were in full display, often peeping over hedges and fences of homes throughout the city. The peak display was on show at the Botanic Garden's Rhododendron Dell, which nurtures some 2221 rhododendrons representing 128 different species, 223 named hybrids and 518 unnamed ones. Dunedin is certainly a centre for these wonderful plants.

Here are a few 'gems' of the City:





1. *R.* 'Mrs G W Leak'
2. *R. neriiflorum*
3. *R.* 'White Pearl' in front of the Dunedin Town Hall
4. *R. thomsonii*, Dunedin Botanic Gardens
5. Gnarled trunks of *R. elegans*, Dunedin Botanic Gardens
6. Students enjoying deciduous azaleas, Dunedin Botanic Gardens
7. *R.* 'Marquis of Lothian'
8. *R.* 'Hotei'
9. *R.* 'Mrs Percy McLaren'
10. *R. aberconwayi*



MADDENIA IN NEW ZEALAND:

A TENDER GROUP OF RHODODENDRONS, MANY OF WHICH HAVE PROPERLY EARNED A PLACE IN NEW ZEALAND GARDENS

The story of this beautiful section of rhododendrons starts far from New Zealand shores. None are native to New Zealand nor any country close by, and like so much of our horticultural traditions have been UK based. There too botanists associated with first describing our native flora had their roots firmly planted. Among them of course was Sir Joseph Hooker who as a young man travelled to New Zealand in the HMS Erebus in 1839. The main purpose of the voyage was to find the South Magnetic Pole. He did not enjoy Antarctica but his visits to many places en route compounded his love of botany. He collected some 250 herbarium specimens of New Zealand plants and using these, field descriptions, and Darwin's and Bank's collections and drawings produced the first 'Flora of New Zealand'. He of course also collected the first *Maddenian* rhododendrons.

Hooker sailed to India in 1847 on the frigate HMS Sidon on a free passage as part of the entourage of Lord Dalhousie who was travelling to take up the post of Governor General of India. While plant collecting in Darjeeling among three rhododendrons discovered one, which he wrote to his father was "the loveliest thing you can imagine". It was an epiphyte cascading from a rocky ledge, eye-catchingly beautiful. He later named it after Lady Dalhousie, *Rhododendron*

dalhousiae. Unfortunately his wife died of sea-sickness whilst sailing back to the UK from India. But the plant although difficult to grow lived on. A painting by Fitch graces the frontispiece of Hooker's 'The Rhododendrons of Sikkim - Himalaya'. This contains copper plate prints of the rhododendrons collected which include a magnificent example of *R. dalhousiae* made more glorious by Fitch and based on sketches and descriptions by Hooker.

Other *Maddenian* collected included *R. ciliatum* and a leathery-leaved robust species which was later named by Thomas Booth *R. maddenii* and after which the whole section is named. Lt. Colonel Edward Madden also collected plants in India.

Other species trickled into cultivation and although tender and regarded as greenhouse plants were caught up in the frenzy of hybridisation of the time in an endeavour to produce vigorous and less tender plants. Early hybrids include 'Countess of Haddington', 'Fragrantissimum', 'Princess Alice', 'Tyermannii', 'Suave' and 'Countess



R. lindleyi



R. 'Countess of Haddington'

of Sefton', their high class names demonstrating the association with the rich and the upper classes. Rhododendron collections were jealously guarded and some plants were even enclosed in locked cages.

These early hybrids found their way to New Zealand along with some species, among them *R. maddenii*, particularly the clone 'Virginales' - later registered as 'Kotuku'. These became popular garden plants and are still widely grown in many suburban and country gardens, while in the Northern hemisphere the plants require a glasshouse, or the shelter of a south facing wall to ensure success. In her book 'The Rose Tree' Jane Brown highlights this, "In the Exbury rhododendron house Hooker's delicate and scented *dalhousiae*, *maddenii*, *lindleyi*, *edgeworthii* - the names are becoming mantra-like - and exotic also epiphytic *nuttallii*, the most magnificent of rhododendrons, were a collection more precious than any picture gallery's."

I have grown all of these outside, albeit some not successfully, not for issues of cold temperature but



R. ciliatum

rather an insufficient number of winter cold days. These will further decrease as the climate warms.

Most of the well documented species are grown in New Zealand. The best place to see them is at Pukeiti. There grown and well displayed are over 30 *Maddenia* species, along with a number of varieties which were once given species status. But because in the wild, some species can be found in only a narrow habitat range, and some are often epiphytic, they are difficult to grow well even here. Other species have only recently been discovered and named, some by Chinese botanists, but have not yet been seen in the West. Because of changes in regulation and their rarity in their natural habitat, sourcing material, collecting seed and importation is difficult.

In New Zealand paralleling the enthusiasm for gardening, or even in some cases promoting the popularity of some plants, has been the nursery trade.

Duncan and Davies, the New Plymouth nursery, first offered *Rhododendron* 'Virginales' (now 'Kotuku') in 1909, the first record of a *Maddenia* offered through the trade. Many of course followed, and Sir Victor Davies, by networking with a range of enthusiasts and importing stock, was one of the driving forces which under-pinned their popularity. My mother purchased, from D. and D. of course, 'Countess of Haddington', the spark of my interest. D. and D. no longer exists but there are a number of nurseries, particularly wholesalers, which produce popular *Maddenia* rhododendrons.

The importation of seed, whole plants and scions continued and reached its peak after the Second World War. So did hybridisation. Even better plants were imagined

and the names of the hybridisers reads like a lexicon of New Zealand rhododendron enthusiasts.

Twenty-eight hybrids or clones of species have been registered, and in addition at least twenty others have been propagated and marketed. The first set registered included 'Maurice Skipworth' an *edgeworthii* x *burmanicum* hybrid (1977). Many others were offered through the trade prior to this time, but were unregistered. These included 'Tupare' and 'Steads Best' both *nutallii* x *lindleyi* hybrids raised by Edgar Stead prior to 1950. Both were later registered, 'Steads Best' only in 2013.

The early hybrids were registered with the RHS mainly by Dunedin Botanic Garden. Then Graham Smith, the Curator and later Director of Pukeiti encouraged the registration of outstanding hybrids and clones



R. nutallii

with the NZ Rhododendron Association. Most were registered in the 1980s. Many had been proven at Pukeiti. Conditions there suited the *Maddenia* and in addition to the species collection over fifty named hybrids are now grown.

A number have been propagated from seed, sent from the UK and the USA. Some of the species grown from seed have been found not to be true species but natural hybrids and the naming of them because of the confusion within some sections, particularly the *pachypodum/ciliicalyx* section, has been fraught. Even some grown from seed collected by Kingdon Ward on his last expedition are doubtful species although they are some of Pukeiti's notable plants. They include a yellow *R. burmanicum* and *R. ciliicalyx*, the latter of which is, no doubt, in that Species Alliance but to overcome the confusion has

NEW ZEALAND RAISED AND REGISTERED MADDENII HYBRIDS

Felix Jury

'Bernice', 'Barbara Jury', 'Felicity Fair', 'Moon Orchid', 'Bernice', 'Katie', 'Floral Dance', 'White Doves'

Maurice Skipworth

'Loveloek', 'Maurice Skipworth'

Robert Balch

'Blue Mist', 'Kotuku'

Bruce Campbell

'Bruce Campbell', 'Cream Delight', 'Rothesay', 'September Snow', 'Waireka'

Edgar Stead

'Ilam Pearl', 'Steads Best'

Mark Jury

'Platinum Ice', 'Floral Sun', 'Floral Gift'

Barry Sligh

'Lemon Honey'

Graham Smith

'Charisma', 'Tupare', 'Prue White', 'White Waves'

Ken Burns

Raised 'Bullocky' registered by Joan McLaughlan as 'Ken Burns'

Alistair Duncan

'Durham light', 'Eyebright'

Ian Gordon

'Floral Fete'

Ron Gordon

'Opal Dawn', 'Snow Mantle', 'Love Song'

Brian Morris

'Orton Bradley', 'Snow Cloud' (Susan Davies)

Heaton Rutland

'Spicil'

C.A. McLaughlin

'Stonelaw'

Colin Spicer

'Silent Shadows'

Eric Wilson

'Eric's Triumph'



R. maddenii 'Kotuku'



R. burmanicum

been registered as 'Charisma'. This is a fine plant, readily available through the trade and is the only *Maddenia* to earn a NZ Award of Distinction.

Maddenia is one of the key collections of rhododendrons at Pukeiti and is a tribute to the work done by Graham Smith who has forged links with various associations world-wide, including the US Species Foundation, hybridisers and collectors such as the Coxes and the Kunming Botanical Institute.

Other places which have good collections of *Maddenia* include Orton Bradley run by the Canterbury Rhododendron Association. Their foundation plantings included *ciliicalyx* seedlings, the best of which were selected and registered in 1998 as *R. 'Orton Bradley'*, 'Te Harinui', 'Ken Burns', and various forms of *R. veitchianum*. Favoured plants include 'Lovelock', 'Waireka' and 'Steads Best', 'Lady Dorothy Ella' and 'Tupare'. Other good collections can be seen in Dunedin, at the Botanic Garden and at Tannock Glen; Heritage Park at Kimbolton, Crosshills, also at Kimbolton and Guavas, Tikokino, the latter two both being private collections. A number of private gardens in Dunedin, particularly those in sheltered north facing valleys display a number of species and hybrids well, especially *R. formosum* and 'Princess Alice'.

The naming of hybrids and clones carry interesting stories too. Some reflect places of origin, others try to be descriptive, and others are named after people of interest. Hooker was not the only person to match an attractive flower to an attractive woman of standing. A pink *R. maddenii* caught the attention of Lady Galway, the wife of the Governor General, when visiting the Esplanade at Palmerston North

and one of the finest pink *Maddenia* was named for her. The names given by Felix Jury to the range of beautiful hybrids he developed cover all bases: 'White Doves', a peace offering, 'Sirius', the brightest star in the firmament was apparent for 'Moon Orchid', 'Bernice', 'Katie', 'Barbara Jury' family members and friends, 'Felicity Fair' a play on his own name, and 'Floral Dance', where there was a real jig around who made the successful cross - Mimosa, his wife, or Felix himself. Mark has been more prosaic and two of his best *Maddenia* hybrids are 'Floral Gift' and 'Floral Sun'. Not all the hybrids raised or registered have survived the popularity stakes. Many of the early flowered varieties, because their buds and flowers were frosted, have lost favour. In some places the problem is not enough cold: their buds form but fail to open. I first realised this in my own sheltered garden as *R. dalhousiae* ssp. *rhabdotum* rarely flowered and *R. megacalyx* flowered only twice in 20 years. Even 'Charisma' after a few years of superb flowering deteriorated. Increasing shade was also a factor.

Many of the *Maddenia* are epiphytes and need plenty of light. Although in full sun, one year the buds on 'Chrysomaniacum' did not open either. Heavy clay soils both in Dunedin and Auckland are not conducive to some varieties. Thus to try to grow the full range of these in any garden is difficult if not impossible. Selections must be made to suit the conditions of the garden. It must be remembered, too, that many species are restricted to a narrow altitudinal range and enjoy only a narrow range of other environmental conditions.

As well some plants have become more susceptible to pests and diseases which as a result of climate change have extended their range. Mildew has become more prevalent and *edgeworthii* and *veitchianum* hybrids such as 'White Gift' and even 'Fragrantissimum' are particularly susceptible. Phytophthora in wet conditions will become an increasing problem. Thrips, a problem in northern gardens, particularly in dry autumns, are making an



R. 'Floral Dance'

MADDENII RHODODENDRONS - MY FAVOURITES

<i>R. veitchianum</i> (formerly <i>cubittii</i>)	'Chrysomanicum'
<i>R. veitchianum</i> (clone collected by Os Bulmhart)	'Curlew'
<i>R. nuttallii</i> (<i>sinonuttallii</i> form)	<i>R. johnstonianum</i> 'Ken Burns'
<i>R. maddenii</i> ssp <i>maddenii</i>	'Opal Dawn'
Polyandrum group 'Golden Dawn'	'Martha wright'
'Countess of Haddington'	'Mi Amor'
'Bernice'	'Eric's Triumph'
	'White Waves'



R. 'Bernice'



R. Chrysomanicum



R. johnstonianum 'Ken Burns'



R. johnstonianum 'Double Diamond'



R. 'Mi Amor'

appearance even at Pukeiti.

Susceptible plants soon loose favour. Robust plants are always garden favourites and future hybridists will have to consider a greater range of factors when selecting parents from which to breed plants of outstanding garden quality.

Some of the more robust hybrids are second generation crosses with at least one parent a hybrid. They include 'Felicity Fair' (*maddenii*, polyandrum group, x 'Sirius'), 'Bernice' (*maddenii*, polyandrum group, x 'Royal Flush'), 'Eric's Triumph' (*dalhousiae* x *nuttallii* x *lindleyi*), 'Floral Gift' ('Michael's Pride' x *maddenii*, polyandrum group,) to name some New Zealand hybrids.

Not all the best, or popular, hybrids are New Zealand raised. Some from overseas which have proved firm favourites include, from the UK: 'Chrysomanicum', 'Countess of Haddington', 'Cilipinense', 'Fragrantissimum', 'Harry Tagg', 'John Bull' and 'Saffron Queen'; from Australia, 'Anne Teese'; and from USA: 'Dora Amateis', 'Else Frye', 'Humboldt Sunrise', 'Martha Wright', 'Mi Amor' and 'White Waves' which was named by Graham Smith after being grown from material sent from America. These are only a fraction of the over 50 other *Maddenii* hybrids raised in the USA.

There are many other hybrids raised overseas which are not available in New Zealand or which have only a limited presence.

I have my favourites. No doubt you have too, but like me you undoubtedly have room for one or two more specimens of this beautiful group of rhododendrons.

Lynn Bublitz

This article and photographs formed the basis of a lecture given to the 70th NZRA Conference in Dunedin, October 2014.

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Early members at Tannock Glen

TANNOCK GLEN: A LITTLE HISTORY

Before the late Phyl Warren left Dunedin she gave me the photograph published here. It was taken prior to 1974 and shows a number of the early members at Tannock Glen, no doubt during a break in a working bee.

The photo would have been taken by Phyl. She was one of the founding members of the Group in 1970. Phyl had very high standards in gardening and in particular accurate identification of plants and this was of value to her in her role as Bulletin Editor and consultant over the years. This was partly due to her background in publishing. Some thought her abrupt but this was only an example of high standards, and once one got to know her you could not meet a more encouraging or generous person. The propagation of choice plants

for our plant sales was a particular skill and I recall the group having to be divided into two to avoid the crush at those tables, such as the quality of the treasures available.

Absent from the photo also is Ralph Markby, perhaps planting a rhodo out of sight. Ralph, also a founder of the Group and prime mover in the creation of Tannock Glen, was the 'young Turk' of the Group. He had boundless enthusiasm for the Group and belief in the special features which made it distinctive from other gardening groups – the Bulletin, Tannock Glen, the plant lists and the hosting of overseas speakers. With his business background and 'can-do' attitude he had real impact in these areas, pushing the boundaries in most of them. Ralph contributed to the Bulletin until his death in 2012.

Returning to the photo, left to right.

Back: in front of the Wellingtonia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) is Gavin Clark who, with his wife Daphne, created a half acre garden in Every Street, Dunedin with numerous special rhododendrons, alpines and maples but particularly vireya rhododendrons and pleonie terrestrial orchids. Both are not easy to grow, but Gavin grows them to perfection, not in houses as had been the practice in the past but in the open using seasonal interventions and other careful management to produce what would be the best collection of vireya species and cultivars in private and probably public gardens in New Zealand. There are no vireyas at Tannock Glen.

At the front with the pipe is Dick King and his wife Wendy to the right. Dick played a tremendous role in the Group from the Plant List to the Bulletin and talks. He created a catalogue of the plants at Tannock Glen almost from scratch and enabled the proper labelling of these. Dick despite later considerable physical

problems always gave 100% to advancing the interests of the Group until his untimely recent death.

At the back behind Dick is Ray Lukeman and beside Ray Margaret Ann Fulton and her twin boys. Margaret Ann is still with us and has been involved in all aspects of the Group but particularly the Bulletin, as Editor, and still assists in this area. Margaret Ann kindly arranged donations of gravel to Tannock Glen over the years and the plantings of snowdrops and ferns (her signature plants) which are a constant reminder of her at Tannock Glen.

Next to Margaret Ann is Margaret Cameron who was another who produced the Bulletin to a high standard and is also a prolific propagator of choice plants, and together with husband Peter a great getter of overseas speakers.

Next to Margaret is my late mother Ethel, a mad plant enthusiast. Other children went on picnics but most of our outings turned into collecting trips gathering pine needles, rocks, plants and cow pancakes; not good for one's image cred when you had invited your friend along. My mother would excuse herself from mealtime preparation by saying 'I'll just take this to the compost' and not return until the meal was done; there was quite a lot of garden on the way there and back! A number of species and a local hybrid from her garden are at Tannock Glen.

Next to Ethel is Chas McLauchlan, a nurseryman from North East Valley. My mother first met him by giving him old wooden propagating boxes (our property had been a nursery). As well as the nursery Chas and his wife Bess had a garden shop. Both had a lively sense of humour. Bess once asked a customer how her health was – because she was asking to purchase



Visitors at Tannock Glen viewing *R. augustinii*, 2014

Magnolia campbellii – and said 'it will take 20 years to flower'. You don't get sales pitches like that now. Chas, I recall, had a ditty he liked to recite:

*“Beverley Nichols and Marion Cran
Weren't around when the world began
That is why you would have to confess
The Garden of Eden was not a success”*

Chas was a most generous donator of plants to Tannock Glen including some crosses he made such as *R. burmanicum x dalhousiae* – the same cross as 'Michael's Pride' but distinctly different and to my mind more appealing. Chas was a great propagator not only of plants but of other propagators such as Geoff Markby, Brent McKenzie and, beside him in this picture, Heaton Rutland, who changed from being a policeman to a nurseryman. I recall going to his nurseries first in Ravensbourne then in Wakari Road. He produced vast numbers of rhododendrons for the domestic market including the NZ Rhododendron Association (which had a plant list in those days) and for export to Japan – I recall seeing the plants with all the soil washed off the roots prior to their departure.

Next to Heaton is Bruce Campbell, also a founding member and a prolific amateur hybridiser and propagator. Bruce had an encyclopaedic knowledge of rhododendrons and would turn up at talks with a handful of rhododendron blooms or foliage and give a short exposition on the particular section of the genus – what an education we were privileged to have from these off the cuff talks. Bruce's nursery was the source of a large number of the choicer species rhododendrons and hybrids in many Dunedin gardens. He used to sell these directly through the list and Woolworths department store in George Street. (The Arthur Barnett department store also sold plants at that time.)

Bruce was an avid hybridiser of rhododendrons both from open pollinated plants (a thousand to one chance of getting something good) and from controlled crosses between species, but often used outrageous parentage such as the *grande x williamsianum* ('Ed Hillary'). More conventional were 'September Snow' (*leucaspis x edgeworthii*)



R. 'Ember Elf'

and 'Ember Elf' (*campylogynum x xanthostephanum*), the latter a captivating dwarf with orange/plum bells of flowers. His breeding work was only just getting going when he died on Flagstaff Hill, a place where a group of rhododendrons planted by him informally in bush are marked by DOC signage as the 'Bruce Campbell Rhododendrons'.

Next to Bruce is Peter Cameron, who as a great organiser made certain that all things he participated in ran precisely, including his involvement with the Bulletin, the NZRA garden visits and conferences, often drawing on connections with overseas speakers. As an organiser of garden visits his navigation



R. 'Ed Hillary'



R. burmanicum x dalhousiae

ORTON BRADLEY:

JOURNEY TO A GARDEN 1985-2015.

THE CANTERBURY RHODODENDRON SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

Memories and people are the tapestry of our Rhododendron Garden and Collections near Charteris Bay, Banks Peninsula; currently we who helped with foundation planting are looking hard at how we can pass the knowledge within those memories to those who come next as carers in the journey of the garden.

‘Some of my favourite Rhododendrons are people’, Lachie Grant of Kapunataki, South Canterbury, titled an NZRA Bulletin article he wrote at my request in 1987. He was right. Our predecessors and mentors were generous, often irascible, and definitely knowledgeable and if one showed keenness to learn and to work then a precious friendship followed.

Ron Coker (uncle of current NZ Registrar Brian Coker) and Hamish Deans of Homebush hatched the idea of the rhododendron garden within the park; I do hope they know how successful beyond expectation it is. Last weekend an open day and fair with the attraction of rhododendrons at their most drippingly beautiful, raised \$20,000 for the Park. Canterbury Rhododendron do not get a penny of that, maintaining our altruistic policy of over 30 years through the generosity of the many whose names I cannot list here. Ron and his wife Mollie raised and registered many of the plants included in the collections. Ron maintained his interest until shortly before his death, and Coker’s Track and a Memorial Seat are named for him.

In 1985 by edict of the then landscape advisor and Board, the Rhododendron Society was not permitted to name the first plantings. This became unacceptable to the public and so we identified almost all of the original plantings and placed name plinths. With me as their scribe, Ron Coker and Gordon Lang performed that arduous identification task with

good humour, good will and many horrendous jokes. Ron and his wife travelled widely; many registrations and well known plants originate from USA seed bought home by Ron in the days when such things were quite legal. They were also talented hybridizers: Azalea ‘Mollie’ (ex Ilam seed) with deep red flowers, was registered and named by Denis Hughes. It was considered by Mollie to be the best in her garden and by popular vote was judged best azalea in a recent show held by the CRS.

Ron Gordon from his garden and farm far away near Taihape selected three teenage-size plants raised from a Kingdon Ward seedling collection

not all recent. As happy recipients of the gifts for the CRS Garden and ourselves, with memories of wonderful conversations about trees, rhododendrons and people, we would leave Ron with Joanna’s slippings and seeds and be on our way.

Inula magnifica with huge leaves not unlike dock in shape and with a tall spike of yellow flowers, was given by two dear friends, David Sumpter of The Cliffs at Blue Skin Bay and the late Ross Wilson, a superb plantsman ex Canterbury University, who said enthusiastically ‘this grows naturally where rhododendrons grow’ and I was won over. In went the plant and when



JOJO plants - Geoff assists.



Ron Coker opening Coker’s walk 1995 June Gardiner in right



at Kimbolton, of *lindleyi* or crosses thereof. Did everyone given plants by the ever generous Ron receive them in recycled 450g Wattie’s fruit tins? The plants came south with Adrian Bliss who had visited Ron, and in subsequent years have fulfilled Ron’s expectations. There were many visits to Rongoiti when Joanna Martin was alive and Rosie Morten and I were her drivers and carriers of ancient baskets overflowing with slippings and plants (not often of a height to easily fit into her car) for friends. Whisky, lists and addresses on assorted pieces of paper, biscuits, cheese and a thermos flask / tea/coffee never used lay on the floor of the car along with unopened mail,

David gave another I was delighted. All was well for a year and then – oh dear – the plant self seeded and shortly the committee realised we had a demon on our hands. I have seen David’s plants high on the cliffs and believe it to be controlled by climate and a home garden position. Our long distance gardening gave *Inula* every opportunity to waft its potential babies everywhere. With zero tolerance, Colin de Lambert and my husband Geoff dug the babies, which rapidly grow roots to Africa; the battle is not quite won. Last week I found a thriving seedling in the Wendrum garden!

Roland Stead has from time to

time picked up the bill for the digger required to clear flood gravel in the Te Wharau stream; his cousin Dermot Richards did likewise with fencing materials required in establishment year when the garden was surrounded by a then working farm.

Alison and the late Dr Ron Ayling were among those who established the garden. Alison is our most recently appointed Patron. *Rhododendron maddenii* 'Te Harinui' was among foundation plantings supplied as a seedling by Bossie – Mrs Eleanor Boswell. A tall slim glossy foliaged bush it did not flower, until one late November day Ron Ayling walked through the garden and there it was – slender white lax trumpets, of a wonderful fragrance. Because the plant first flowered on an Advent Sunday, the name refers to the Christmas hymn which celebrates the preaching of the Christmas Gospel to the Maori, two hundred years ago.

June Gardiner of 'Woodchester'

seedlings which we have in one or two collections. The same happens at Ilam.

Dennis Hughes is a member of our Garden Committee Associates; we value his opinion, expertise and friendship. Some years ago I received a fax from Blue Mountains to say a parcel was coming my way with a plant of *Magnolia delavayi*, clone 6 ex Kunming. Gordon Bailey had emailed

"I am sending you a Magnolia delavayi from seed I collected with permission at Kunming Botanical Institute. Denis has grown them for me and we have taken cuttings successfully from these parent plants, so they look straggly at this stage. These are supposed to be pink flowered but only time will tell".

I planted this prospective treasure adjacent to the rhododendron collections, and though not a flower appeared it thrived. Some years later, during January, Denis was visiting Christchurch, planning to meet us at the CRS Garden, and stay overnight at

genestierianum; to have a grouping of five of the latter is a joy – the public are taking a bit of encouraging to believe they are real rhododendrons.

From time to time the garden takes on a role as Hocken for plants; folk in extreme old age or with a terminal illness offer the jewels of their collection and we note the provenance, add to our data base details of their gift for our memory, and take great care. It is rare for a plant to die, although recently a *R. mallotum* I paid \$100 for as a gift for the garden at the Methven auction did just that.

Over the years CRS has collected within the garden many small or unusual trees. A eucryphia hill was planned and the range of species and selected varieties assembled. Joanna Martin 'opened' the collection by cutting a replica ribbon, the same as the one cut at Homebush when she was nine years old and the first *Eucryphia* 'Nymansay' in



JOJO pontificates re when she was nine. 2000



Colin Knight logging Blue Mountain dble azalea 2004



Geoff Millar & Adrian Bliss, plants @ Waverley

Waiau was President at the time we created the first name plinths. Together we agonised over the correct words. I realise now it did not matter for the visiting public ... all they wanted was *R.* 'such and such' – but for us it did matter and the hours spent were worthwhile. June frequently exhibited a lovely form of *R. megacalyx*. This she propagated for the garden and there it is, admired by all. The visiting public usually have no idea that such plants as this, or *R.* 'White Waves' exist – 'certainly not a rhododendron' one hears them say before our volunteers join the conversation. The public continue to have problems with unnamed

our Diamond Harbour bach. When we walked through the garden there was clone 6 with its ethereal pink porcelain flowers just waiting for Denis!

Sir Edward Somers encouraged us to lift our game with regard to species with a generous list of offered seedlings, almost all wild collected. Ted's letter was quite unexpected, and the subsequent visits to Waverley near Rangiora to collect the plants were a real treat for our garden team. Brent Murdoch of Dunedin added to the species collection with choice plants from wild collected seed.

Andrew Young has grown from seed *indigofera*, and *R. wardii* and

Canterbury was planted. We have memories of Joanna and other key players scrambling up the hill to do the deed before the invited guests adjourned to our bach for lunch.

I cannot close without mentioning the stalwarts who currently tend the garden on a regular basis, many since foundation: Alison Ayling, Noela and Colin Knight, Geoff Millar, Ann and Colin de Lambert, Adrian Bliss, Andrew Young, Michael Summerfield, Leona Reid, Robert Duns, Maureen Page, Jenny Gerard and Dick Barnett.

Kathryn Millar

Reference: *Crossing the Rubicon*, pages 10 – 13

THE STORY OF 'HERITAGE PARK', KIMBOLTON

PART 1: PREHISTORY, ESTABLISHMENT AND EARLY YEARS TO 1984



Working bee 1973. Left to right: Eric Wilson, Lachie Grant, Janice Wallis, John Wills, Fiona Wills, David Sumpter, John Yeates, Ewen Perrott, Ron Gordon, Philippa Grigg, Ian Gordon.

In 1970 the New Zealand Rhododendron Association purchased seven acres of land at Haggerty Street, Kimbolton in order to establish a garden. The area was soon expanded to 10 acres and became the basis of the garden that today is known as 'Heritage Park'. While 1970 is a key year for the garden, the events leading up to the land purchase started in 1944 with the formation of the Association itself. Gregor Yeates, archivist for the Association, records these events in his 2004 and 2005 articles (see References).

On 10 August 1944 there was a meeting at the Majestic Hotel, Palmerston North to form the Association. Gregor Yeates provides a detailed list of the 15 foundation members of the Association and they included Edgar Stead, Victor

Davies (later Sir Victor) and Douglas Cook; and also John Yeates and Geoffrey Peren of Massey Agricultural College. One of the objectives of the Association was the importing, propagation and distribution to members of new varieties and species of rhododendron. The Association was very interested in propagation as rhododendrons were not readily available in 1940s New Zealand and Massey College was involved in propagation studies at the time. Soon the Association was cooperating with Massey in the propagation work and funding a rhododendron nursery at the College. The Association's stock plants were grown there, where they were propagated and the young plants grown on for sale to members. The stock plantings also functioned as a trial and demonstration grounds and were part of the general ornamental display in the College grounds.

By 1949 the Association's nursery at Massey had expanded to include

a diverse range of over 300 different hybrids and species. Many of these plants were Ilam hybrids supplied by Edgar Stead, others were grafted from scions or grown from seed supplied by other members. Scions were being imported from Edmund de Rothschild and the Royal Horticultural Society in England and from L.F. Frisbie in the USA. The Association was also sponsoring the plant-collecting expeditions of Frank Kingdon-Ward in the Himalayas and Burma. The distribution of plants to members started in 1949. Initially the propagation was performed by Massey staff, but in June 1957 Colin Spicer was appointed propagator and he was the Association's first full time employee (1957-61), followed by Graeme Petterson (1961-66). The Association continued to import plants, and to propagate and distribute them to members from Massey through to the late 1960s. In 1964 the NZRA's commercial catalogue listed 160 rhododendron varieties

and 72 azalea varieties for sale.

Although the symbiotic relationship between the NZRA and Massey flourished for many years, some members always had the dream of the Association having its own garden. Gregor Yeates (1985) records that “in 1950 the Council of the NZRA pondered the feasibility of the Association establishing its own garden. Members actually offered two different sites in Taranaki, but it was decided that running both a Taranaki garden and a Palmerston North propagation unit was beyond the Association’s capacity”. The Association declined the offers, however one of the sites was subsequently developed by the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust.

Over the years the Association encountered some problems with nursery operations at Massey. Flooding in 1953 damaged the root systems of rhododendrons in the nursery and many plants had to be moved. It was also found that the soils at the College were not ideally suited to the open ground nursery production of rhododendrons. In addition, space constraints prevented the Association from growing on and improving the Ilam azaleas.

In 1967 the Association made the far-reaching decision to lease an acre of land in the township of Kimbolton in order to expand the nursery operation. This necessitated moving many large stock plants from Massey to Kimbolton. Local members Eric and Rodney Wilson cultivated and fenced the land without cost to the Association, and in winter 1967 about 230 rhododendrons were planted. A factor influencing the choice of Kimbolton for the new nursery was that John Yeates had been growing lilies in the area with great success for some years. The lilies had very good root development in the free draining soil and the altitude (420 m) was described as reducing pest and disease risk. These conditions also proved excellent for rhododendron growth. At a meeting in February 1970 the Association’s Council noted that the stock plants were growing very well at the Kimbolton nursery and that Murray Richards (propagator and Massey staff member) was able to take as many cuttings as he could handle.



Large rhododendron plants arriving by truck at the garden 1971.

Encouraged by the good growth of rhododendrons on the leased land, the Council in February 1970 decided to buy at least 10 acres of land and build up a rhododendron garden in the Kimbolton area. Clearly, the Councillors were reviving the idea of the Association having its own garden and they recognised that the acre of leased Kimbolton land, planned for nursery production only, was not large enough for a garden and future expansion. They also had the view that the Association needed its own property as a “home” or permanent base. On the 29th of July 1970 the Association duly purchased almost seven acres of land at Haggerty Street on the northern outskirts of Kimbolton from farmer Francis Gerke. In 1974 more land was bought from Mr Gerke and eventually the Association’s property was consolidated at 10 acres. From 1970 to 1999 the site was known as ‘Kimbolton - the National Garden of the New Zealand Rhododendron Association’ or simply ‘Kimbolton’, although more latterly in the 1980s the informal name ‘Kimbolton Rhododendron Park’ was also used. In 1999 the name ‘Heritage Park’ was formally adopted.

The land purchased at Kimbolton is gently rolling hill country with a valley that has a small stream suitable for creating ponds and there are areas of flat land allowing easy vehicle access. The soil type belongs to the Kiwitea Soil Series characterised by free drainage, yet good moisture retention and was formed from loess

(wind blown deposits) derived from eroded volcanic parent material. The presence of the clay mineral allophane is responsible for many of the favourable soil properties. At an altitude of about 480 metres, the site has a “sharp” cool temperate climate which favours the growth of many types of rhododendron. In addition, the land is on a ridge system with some cold air drainage providing protection from very severe frost. All in all the site is a very good one for growing rhododendrons and for developing a garden.

Establishment of the garden got off to a flying start in the early years of the 1970s. The Association’s 1971 minutes reports “Altogether some 380 rhododendrons were planted out in the week commencing May 17 [1971] and also some 150 Ilam azalea seedlings selected in flower from about 3000 three year olds. A further 150 smaller rhododendrons will be planted from Massey using student labour in the August vacation”. Sir Victor Davies donated 24 magnolias, Eric Wilson 50 rhododendrons and Association members and friends donated many plants and materials. Rodney Wilson recalls members arriving with car loads of plants and planting them directly into the garden. In 1972 about 400 young plants were rowed out near the Chalet for planting in 2-3 years time.

The 1971 year also saw the digging of the reflection pond, which was mainly the brainchild of Bob Perry and Eric Wilson. Over 1971-72 the



Newly built chalet at 'Heritage Park' garden 1971. Subsequently named 'John Yeates Chalet'.

chalet was built and furnished (see photograph). By negotiation with a builder the chalet was constructed for \$10,995 and Stuart Peterson donated \$1000 of this. The chalet had lounge, kitchen, toilets, shower and a divan bed so that someone could stay overnight. Known as the 'rhodo clubhouse', the chalet played a part in the garden's home base role as the Association's Council held their meetings in the building (apart from meetings at the annual NZRA conference). In 1977 a shadehouse was dug into a bank near the chalet. This was used to improve the quality of the plants being sold to members and some of the stock plants used to provide scions were also kept in the shadehouse. Association members were generous in giving their time and labour for major development projects, including the use of their equipment such as cultivators, sprayers, chainsaws, trucks, tractors etc.

The first area to be planted (1970-71) was the long slope to the north and east of the chalet (see 1971 photograph). The land here sloped to the east and provided natural shelter from the prevailing westerly winds. Some large plants of up to 2.5 m in height were planted on this slope. These were dug up from the nursery in Kimbolton township and trucked the short distance to the Haggerty Street site (see photograph). Rodney Wilson was one of those involved in this work and he used a front-end loader to position the big plants at the

top of the long slope. The heavy plants were then dragged down the slope to planting holes, assisted by gravity.

Garden design was decided by committee. In 1974 some members wanted a formal landscape plan drawn up, but in the end a more flexible informal design was settled on with elongated planting beds flowing north and north-east along the long slope. The paths between the beds were wide to provide vehicle access throughout the garden for maintenance and also for driving older visitors around. When the rhododendron hybrids were planted they were not grouped according to flower colour or country of origin. The 1972 NZRA Bulletin records discussion about having a species area separate from the hybrids but this was not practical at the time as there were too few species and not enough sheltered land available.

The garden from 1970 through into the 1980s was managed by an informal committee of local members, although "local" meant some members travelling more than 100 kilometres to the garden. In the 1970s working bees were organised for planting and garden development work, often involving Council members and friends from as far away as the South Island (see 1973 photograph). Routine maintenance work at the garden tended to be done by hired labour, and by a handful of members including Bob and Mary Perry, Ron and Ian Gordon, the Wilsons and John Yeates. In the 1970s and the first

years of the 1980s, John Yeates was growing lilies on areas not planted in rhododendrons at the garden and he was a very regular visitor. He was also breeding rhododendrons and Ilam azaleas at the garden. Coral MacGregor was employed by John Yeates over the years 1977-83 to work on the lilies and she was also involved in crossing the Ilam azaleas. Coral recalls John Yeates doing much of the mowing and weed spraying work in the garden at this time.

Rhododendron planting slowed in the late 1970s and the garden entered a consolidation phase following the establishment period. In 1979 the NZRA Council put emphasis on the garden as a "scion factory" rather than development as a park due to rising costs. Planting and upkeep of the garden was always done at minimum cost to the Association and budgets were tight. Exact planting records were not kept in the 1970s, but it is estimated that by 1980 over 300 rhododendron hybrids and over 100 species and subspecies had been planted, often with two or more specimens of each. The established garden developed rapidly in the 1980s (see 1982 photo) and visitors remarked on how the spring display of flowers was growing in size and splendour with each passing year.

By 1983 change was in the air at the NZRA's Kimbolton garden. Although 1981-2 had seen more scions than ever being taken from the garden and sent for propagation, commercial nurserymen were now importing new rhododendron material at an unprecedented rate. The Council realised that in time the garden would become less important for the supply of plants. Changes were also taking place in the Association's use of the garden as a home base. Travelling costs were a problem for Councillors meeting at Kimbolton and from 1982 meetings were moved around other centres, thus diminishing the garden's role in the Association's affairs. At about this time the beauty of the garden was attracting local people (not NZRA members) from surrounding areas to work as volunteers, with Trevor Lind assisting in the garden in 1983 and being appointed caretaker in 1984. The Kimbolton Rhododendron



The garden in 1971 a year after land purchase

Society of local volunteers was formed and it took over the management of the garden in 1985.

Lindsay Davies

The story of 'Heritage Park' will be continued in Part 2 in the next edition of this journal

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The garden in 1982.

Acknowledgement

The author thanks Judy Yeates for archival work in locating historical NZRA Bulletins and also historical photographs in the John Yeates collection.



The garden and lake 2013.

A WINTER VISIT TO EDEN GARDEN

Auckland is known not to have a climate, or soils, which suit most temperate rhododendrons, but vireyas abound. They were the magnet for this winter visit to Eden Garden.

It was established on a quarry site neighbouring Government House, which on this July morning indicated its function as a residence for visiting dignitaries with a 19 gun salute to honour the Japanese Prime Minister who was in Auckland. This boomed across the garden - a grand beginning to the tour. The site was originally filled with weeds and rubbish, and after nearly 50 years it has been developed into an internationally acclaimed garden.

Ron Bacon, referring to the origins of the garden wrote, 'They looked on a wilderness and dreamed of a garden'. The dream has been realised.

It is a memorial garden, elegant, well kept, planned and planted, sensitive to the needs of the families whose loved one's ashes are interred there. Memorial plaques are effectively placed near the tree planted to remember those who have passed.

Under the original caretaker, Mr Jack Clark's visionary, imaginative and forthright (although often irascible, according to those who knew him) direction, the foundations of the garden were laid. Camellias were the main focus in the early years. They still abound. Cherries, magnolias and other trees form a canopy, which in spring forms a pink cloud, covering what was once the raw ugly rock face of the quarry. Now under this canopy vireyas, and in places bromeliads, carpet the site, and in July the noses of some ten thousand tulips poked their noses through the more sunny beds at the garden's entrance.

In 1990, Liz Morrow, the then curator made the decision to incorporate vireyas into the planting,

changing the emphasis from camellias. It was an inspirational decision. They thrived. There are now over 240 vireyas in the garden representing 140 different types, most of which are hybrids raised in New Zealand. While many are not officially registered most are available through the trade.

The plants looked well. They were neat bushes rarely more than a metre in height, the result of regular pruning, work often done by the many volunteers who help in the garden. Thrips and mildew were surprisingly absent. The plants health was the result of good drainage offered by the hillside site, the volcanic soil and the raised beds in which most were planted. Although many were growing in shade, albeit mostly dappled, they flowered well and most were well budded. One main attraction of vireyas is that many flower on and off over the year although the main flushes of bloom are in the spring and again in the autumn. If you are lucky enough to have a collection of them there would be few times in the year when there would be no flowers. There were a number which had one or two trusses, bright, on this July morning. These included 'Pink Delight', 'Red Adair', 'Calavar', 'Gilded Sunrise', 'Jean Baptise', 'Just Peachy', 'Java Light', and 'Popcorn'. Particularly eye-catching were the rounded bushes of 'Saxon Blush', the most popular hybrid grown in the garden, and 'Red Socks' growing under a large ponytail palm, and the welcome given by 'Kisses' on entering the garden.

Karen Lowther the Curator-Manager has her favourites among the extensive collection including, 'Buttermilk', 'Dawn Chorus', 'Dr Sleumer' x *leucogigas*', 'Golden Charm', 'Hugh Redgrove' and 'Tropic Glow'.

The collection reflects the cream of the results of hybridisation by New Zealand (and Australian) growers who as soon as species became available, many difficult to grow well, could

not resist the temptation to spread the pollen from one to the stigmas of other outstanding species. The jasmine and carnation scent of some and a full range of the tropical palate of colours and hues grace the many resulting crosses. These like many hybrids have a vigour which far exceeds that of their parents and will grow in a much wider environmental range than the original species thus allowing these basically tropical plants, although many come from mountainous areas, to grow outside in the warm temperate, moist climate of the north of New Zealand. Vireyas need protection, cold winters and frost.

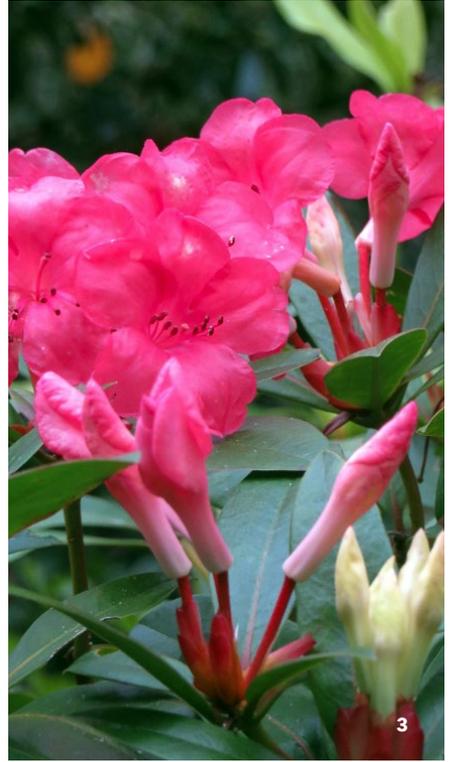
Future years will see many of the better hybrids become common garden plants which will grace home gardens particularly in warmer climates. Perhaps they are a good answer to the future effects of predicted climate changes. Meanwhile if you wish to choose varieties for your own garden, or see just how spectacular vireyas can be, a visit to Eden Garden at any time throughout the year is a must.

Lynn Bublitz

1. *R.* 'Kisses'
2. *R.* 'Jean Baptise'
3. *R.* 'Pink Delight'
4. *R.* *aurigeranum*
5. *R.* 'Red Socks' under a ponytail palm
6. *R.* 'Red Adair'
7. *R.* 'Pavlova'
8. *R.* 'Java Light'
9. *R.* 'Salmon Pancake'
10. *R.* 'Calavar'
11. *R.* 'Popcorn'



R. 'Saxon Blush'



TUPARE

THE MAPLES ARE A TASTEFUL CHOICE.

Those of us who know Tupare well are often in awe of the mature trees that give the property such majesty. These trees help create an impression of Tupare being much older than the eighty or so years it has been a garden.

The collection of twenty or thirty metre tall conifers and deciduous trees provides an ideal habitat for the under-plantings of smaller trees and shrubs that prefer dappled light and shelter from the prevailing winds. Tupare's maples come to mind when visitors picture small trees revelling in the conditions. We have some delightful maples that, during early spring, showcase their newly emerging leaves in a range of tones from bright amber through to fresh greens. Most are Japanese Maples, *Acer palmatum* cultivars such as; 'Chishio', 'Osakazuki', 'Seiryu', 'Senkaki' and 'Sumi-nagashi', to name a few. They all display variations in their spring through to autumn livery.

This past winter we acquired a number of new maples to add to the property, to ensure we have a succession of this genus that Russell Matthews was so fond of. Appleton's Nursery, inland of Nelson, supplied us with a range of *Acer* species that we had ear-marked planting sites for.

Young plants of *Acer rubescens* have been planted throughout Tupare. Most sites chosen are sloping, free-draining positions, with enough room for its canopy to fully develop. The autumn coloured leaves are yellow, and the clusters of pendulous seeds are an added attraction. At present the branchlets and leaf margins display a hint of red. Appleton's Nursery staff state that this tree is suited to milder areas and is rare in New Zealand.

A. rubescens is commonly referred to as the Taiwan mountain maple. The trees' natural habitat is high up on the rugged mountain ranges, growing between 2000m and 2500m, where it

is significantly cooler than Taiwan's hot coastal environment. Those growing in the mountainous National Park have a relatively protected status outside the threat of degrading air quality issues that the region experiences.

The Korean maple, *Acer pseudosieboldianum* is another species we have added to the Tupare garden. Not to be confused with the Japanese *A. sieboldianum*, the Korean maple is native to the area from north-east China to south-east coastal Russia.

In cultivation it will eventually reach 15 metres tall with the splendid horizontal branch habit that looks so graceful in a garden setting. Autumn leaf colour ranges from golden-orange to deep red. To show these characteristics it is best to select a site protected from strong winds.

The flower colour is distinct; in fact the common name of Purplebloom is sometimes used for this plant.

Another maple that we have planted through various locations in the garden is *Acer pubinerve*. It is apparently rare in New Zealand and we have again planted a number of them in choice positions in the gardens. It prefers mild climates. Native to south-east China, found in low altitude forests, it has a common name of Mao Mai Feng.

Appleton's staff describe *A. pubinerve* as broadly spreading with smooth dark grey bark. This spring season the branchlets and the new leaves are already bright green. The leaves are palmate in shape.

Another species planted here this winter was *Acer cappadocicum* var. *sinicum*. It has a real trans-continental common name of Chinese Cappadocian Maple to explain its botanical name. This variety is found in localities from northern India to south-west China. It can grow to be a broadly spreading tree, but care should be taken to site it where its



Mitch Graham, Tupare Garden Manager

root suckers won't shoot up to cause problems in the garden beds. This is another maple that will exhibit a range of wide palmate autumn leaves, coloured from yellow through to red.

So, as we know that maples grow well at Tupare, the future looks good for these recent additions, and other rarer maples we will collect over the next few years for the benefit of Taranaki.

Mitch Graham
Tupare Garden Manager
Taranaki Regional Council



Acer palmatum 'Sen Kaki' against the sky



Acer palmatum var. *dissectum*



A view of Tupare from Elizabeth Garden

HOLLARD GARDENS

THE LEGACY MAINTAINED

Over the past year Hollard Gardens has had some well needed make overs. The opening of the Hollard Centre in September last year created the need for us to look at the way our paths were laid out and how they influenced our visitor movements around the garden.

We identified key focal areas that needed to have more importance and presence about them and other areas that needed to be simplified. We set about removing old paths and garden beds and creating new ones, all while maintaining Bernie's legacy of planting rare and unusual plants with rock edges and pit metal surface paths.

We felt there needed to be a more obvious pull towards the increasingly popular 'Family Corner' which also needed more lawn space as we keep developing and adding to the playground. So we reduced existing garden beds and turned them back into lawn. This also helped us overcome the problem of forever having to weed out the couch that grew in some of these beds.

In what we term the 'Old Garden' a lot of the areas are overplanted. This is thanks to Bernie cramming plants into every nook and cranny, for which we are forever grateful, as there are so many rare and unusual treasures amongst everything. In order to preserve as much as we can, some plants have had to have some drastic pruning to either rejuvenate them or create space and light for surrounding plants. Other plants have had a total removal, due to years of layering or seeding up or because they now find themselves on the national plant pest record.

In all instances if I am unsure whether or not if I can buy this plant from elsewhere or have no knowledge of this plant existing in other gardens, then I always take cuttings or seed as a back up. This

is where BG Base (Botanic Gardens database) is really helpful.

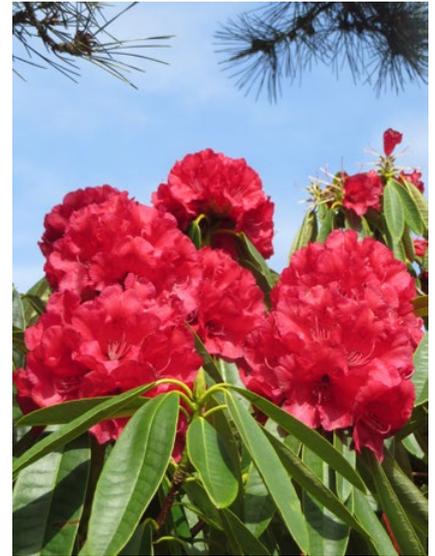
As this database is linked between Hollards, Tupare, Pukeiti and Pukekura Park I am able to find whether the gardens have particular plants that I am looking for and where they may have sourced them from. For example we recently lost our *Illicium simonsii*, a search on google told me it was quite rare in cultivation, and a search in BG Base told me not to fear as Pukeiti had three plants and that they came from the private garden of Pukekura Park's Plant Collection Officer who had originally collected the seed in Yunnan.

By doing these garden makeovers, we have added depth to some beds, discovered some special heritage plants and created opportunities to plant even more interesting species. The challenge ahead lies in obtaining these interesting species that aren't readily available in garden centres.

This year I got another chance to visit Gwavas Garden in the Hawkes Bay to assist Pukeiti's Garden Manager Andrew Brooker in collecting rhododendron cutting material. We also had Graham Smith with his wealth of knowledge accompany us. As we walked around he pointed out plants that might be of interest to Hollard Gardens.

I get very excited when we have visitors to Hollard Gardens who once knew Bernie and Rose who tell me about certain plants Bernie used to have. What is more exciting is when I get an invitation to visit their private gardens and obtain plant material to grow cuttings from. I also came across Dan (from Greenleaf Nursery in the Hawkes Bay) at Hollards one day.

This man has been scouring the length of the country looking for rare and unusual plant material to add to his already fabulous plant nursery. We have built up a great rapport and



R. 'Koponga'

swap plant material as logistics allow. Hopefully we get a few more Dans popping up over the next few years, so special heritage plants can make a comeback into everyday gardens.

The plants and garden will always remain the back bone of this public space, but we are always looking at how we can subtly make changes to increase our range of visitors to Hollard Gardens and increase their enjoyment during their visit. All whilst maintaining Bernie's legacy and vision so generations to come can appreciate the value of one man's dream.

If you think you have some heritage plants growing in your garden that might be of value to Hollards, I would love to hear from you.

Sandy Powell
Gardens Manager Hollard Gardens
Taranaki Regional Council



A view of the garden from the summer house



R. 'Milton Hollard'

PUKEITI

RHODODENDRON FALCONERI SSP EXIMIUM

The rhododendron collection at Pukeiti has been an ongoing love affair with the conservation and cultivation of the genus. From the early imports of the 1950's until the present day the key to the collection's success has been the dedication to building a diverse range of species, from as broad a geographic range as possible. This is the first article of a series tracing this work.

Height to 10 metres as a rounded - spreading large shrub or tree, although generally not as large as *Ssp falconeri*. Leaves oval or obovate – elliptic with semi persistent rusty brown tomentum, lower surface with a deeper cinnamon coloured indumentum. Corolla opens rose to cream flushed rose, fading out to creamy – pink; stamens 10 – 14. Distribution Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh, 2,700 – 3,400 metres in forests and on ridges. Red List Status not yet assessed.

Rhododendron falconeri Ssp *eximium* is one of the large-leaf species doing well in our temperate rainforest conditions at Pukeiti. Various introductions have been made, predominantly as seed from international lists, with varying success.

The first successful introduction was as a live plant purchased from Reuthe's Nursery in England in 1955. It was imported for the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust by Duncan and Davies Nursery, and after a time in quarantine dictated by regulations of the time, this handsome young plant was planted out in the nursery rows lined out in what was to become the expanse of lawn we enjoy today. There it was allowed to grow to a size that would enable it to survive in the evolving garden, and it was placed in its permanent site the following year.

Its first flowering in 1971 was recorded as being creamy – pink bells with a purple blotch in a large truss. It flowered reliably over the

following years and produced several young seedlings until its demise in the mid 1990s. Through thoughtful observation, former Garden Director Graham Smith, established that this was perhaps a natural hybrid, and not true to type at all. The garden still has one of the progeny growing, alongside the Matthews Walk, but this is most definitely a naturalised hybrid, as the flower colour is darker and more variable.

Pukeiti's second *Rhododendron falconeri* Ssp *eximium* was introduced in 1975, when a packet of seed was ordered from the American Rhododendron Society (ARS291-75). This seed was hand-pollinated at the Cox's garden in Glendoick, Scotland. It was sown in the Pukeiti nursery upon arrival and it was not until 1992 that the plant was given a permanent home on a sheltered north-eastern bank, where it still thrives today.

Our first recorded observations of this specimen describe dark green paddle-shaped leaves with dense brown indumentum on both surfaces, and a large open grower. I observed the first truss for this year high up in the tree today, 10 October, with more buds lower down holding further promise.

As with all the large- leaf species flourishing at Pukeiti, *R. falconeri* Ssp *eximium* is most susceptible to New Zealand's native borer insects, and in particular the puriri moth. As shown in the photo, the damage can be quite severe, with the entire trunk effectively ringbarked by the grub prior to hatching. This in turn compromises the vascular system of the tree and its ability to grow. It has been our experience, however, that once in this state, these large trees manage to survive quite well with minimal intervention. If the webbing around the wound is intact, you can treat for the grub with an injection of white spirits or insecticide. This

will not repair the damage but will at least destroy the offending grub.

BG base, the database used by the Taranaki Regional Council to record the gardens' living collections, notes other accessions of both plants and seed to build the collection of *R. falconeri* Ssp *eximium*. In 2004, seed from the American Rhododendron Society (ARS624/04), was received and sown. As a result, we have one very healthy young plant in the nursery and it is destined to be planted out in the next few years. Unfortunately, the live plants purchased for the collection from within New Zealand have not survived.

The future of the one remaining specimen growing in the garden is guaranteed through the implementation of the garden's collection strategy. Through vegetative propagation, hand pollination and the collection of seed from the garden, along with further importation of true-provenance wild collected seed, we aim to continue growing and displaying this wondrous plant in suitable sites in the garden for years to come.

Andrew Brooker
Gardens Manager Pukeiti

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BG Base information



Puriri moth damage



R. falconeri Ssp. *eximium*



Indumentum on the leaves of *R. falconeri* Ssp. *eximium*

IN THE PINK

Andrew Brooker with Steve Hootman, Curator of the American Rhododendron Species Garden, in the Dunedin Botanic Garden during the 70th RNZA Conference October 2014



PUKEITI'S DATABASE NOW BEARING FRUIT

Visitors come to Pukeiti for many reasons – it's a great place for a picnic, everyone loves the new tree houses and it's wonderful to see a variety of native birds. However, the main drawcard is the rhododendrons, especially in the spring when they are absolutely spectacular. The amazing variety of colours and gorgeous scents can be quite overwhelming. Many of our visitors are rhododendron enthusiasts who come to marvel at the diversity of the genus that we have here. It is a world-renowned collection, one of the best in the southern hemisphere.

To maintain and improve Pukeiti's rhododendron collection, it is essential to have a clear understanding of what we have. This is where my role as Plant Collection Officer comes in. I have spent a large part of the past year and a half noting down every plant in the 25 hectares of garden and finding out as much information as possible about each one. The list now contains approximately 3,500 entries, or accessions. I have entered all this data into BG Base (the Botanic Garden Database), building on the work Graham Smith has already done, and have recently started the next stage of this project.

Who would have thought attaching labels to plants could be so exciting? After working for so long compiling the list, it's extremely satisfying to finally be at the stage of labelling the plants. I am producing the labels here at Pukeiti using a metal embossing machine owned jointly by the Taranaki Regional Council and New Plymouth District Council. The labels are embossed aluminium measuring about 3 cm by 9 cm, called accession or lifetime labels, and I am attaching them to every plant or group of plants in the garden.

The labels contain the botanical name of the plant and an accession number. The accession number is a unique code which allows staff to distinguish that individual plant or group of plants from all others in the database, and so access all the information which has been entered. The number begins with T1, T2, T3 or T4. The T stands for Taranaki and 1 indicates the plant is

this is usually A. With larger plants, if several were sourced from the same place at the same time, they will all be given the same accession number but with different letters as qualifiers, according to the order in which they were planted.

These may be in the same bed or spread around the garden. So we end up with a number such as



Embossed aluminium accession labels

at Hollard Gardens, 2 at Tupare, 3 at Pukeiti and 4 at Pukekura Park.

So at Pukeiti all the labels start with T3. There is then a slash followed by an eight-digit number. The first four digits are the year the plant was brought into the garden. As we often don't know when the plant arrived, I have used the planting date, although this still has to be estimated for plants whose records I am unable to find.

The last four digits are assigned in order from 0001 as plants get accessioned each year. After this there is a letter which is known as a qualifier. For a single plant or mass of plants grouped together,

T3/20010078 B. This would be a plant at Pukeiti, planted or arriving at the garden in 2001, the 78th plant or group of plants planted or accessioned that year and the second plant in the batch to be planted.

The labels are positioned at the back left of each plant, generally at about 1.3 m above the ground. If there is a mass of the same plant, the label is on the back left of the front left plant. Sometimes this position is not practical because there is no appropriate branch or it is too difficult to get to the back of the plant. In these cases, it is located just wherever there is a suitable spot, as close as

possible to the back left. The idea is that Pukeiti staff and interested visitors will be able to find them without too much trouble but they do not detract from the appearance of the garden.

I am using three different methods to attach the labels. Most are attached with a black-coated piece of electrical wire. If a tree is too large to reach a branch, I am drilling two small holes and attaching it to the trunk with a copper wire staple. For the perennials, ground covers and so on, we have stainless steel 'pig tails' which are pushed into the ground, again at the back left of the front left plant, and the labels hang from these.

As I attach these labels, I am also updating the condition of each plant in the database and taking photos of the flowers to link to the entries in BG Base. These photos will be added to the many that I already have on file from Graham Smith. In the future, the photos and relevant information will be available to the public, either from a computer in The Gatehouse or via an app they can use while out in the garden, and possibly also over the internet to be accessed from anywhere.

So what have I found out so far? In the garden we have approximately 15,000 plants (not including those naturally occurring here). Of these, approximately 6,000 are rhododendrons. I currently have about 1,200 different named rhododendron species and cultivars and 900 species and cultivars from other genera on the list. Many labels have been lost over the years, so these numbers will grow as we identify more.

Attaching the labels is a great way for me to improve my plant knowledge and it's made me think again about plant names. Many people have the idea that all botanical names are pre-existing Latin names. I used to think that too, and was very disappointed after I finished three years of Latin



Lara attaching labels to a rhododendron

at high school to find that I couldn't understand the meaning of very many plant names at all. It wasn't until I studied taxonomy at university that I found out that the names can come from any language – rhododendron, for example, comes from the Greek words for 'rose' and 'tree', and a large number of plants are named after people or places, and then the ends of the words are changed to 'Latinise' them. We also have several rhododendrons with names of Chinese origin, such as *R. kesangiae* and *R. kyawii* (pronounced choi).

The database has already been helpful in deciding which rhododendrons we needed to propagate this year. As time goes on, and more information is added, it will become more and more useful as a management tool. The labels will enable all the staff here to learn plant names more quickly, as we will be able to check the name of any plant immediately.

My first year as Pukeiti's Plant Collection officer has been a journey of discovery, both personally, as there has been an enormous amount of information to absorb, and for us all here at Pukeiti on our quest to

understand exactly what treasures we have here and how to best manage them. Working towards making this information accessible to everyone over the next couple of years is going to be another interesting challenge.

Lara Coxhead
Plant Collections Officer - Pukeiti
Taranaki Regional Council



Perennial plant labels

RETURN TRIP

TO THE KING OF THAILAND'S ROYAL AGRICULTURAL PROJECT.

In 1972, we received an invitation to join His Majesty the King of Thailand's Royal Project, to assist in the establishment of an agricultural station in the north of Thailand. We were asked to bring backpacks, sleeping bags, and camera, so we duly arrived expecting to "camp out", which is more or less what we did! Just as well we also took our NZ bush shirts as it gets cold (-3C) at 1800m from December to January at Doi Angkhang where we were to be based, just a few kilometres from the Burmese border, and our A-framed bamboo house did little to keep out the cold.

My mother-in-law was worried she would not see us again, and to say it was isolated is an understatement. However that very factor alone ensured the success of the project, as there were very few outside influences which needed to be considered. We could not speak the local language and the locals could not speak English so it was a bit like show and tell, using gestures continuously. We did take a short wave radio so at least some one could talk to us! There was no road access, and we were dropped off by helicopter. I was tasked to help introduce crops as an alternative to opium. We took with us strawberries, apple root stock and scion, kiwifruit plants, peach stones and bud wood, and a large variety of vegetable seeds. From this initial visit we have kept in contact over the past 40 years with many different people associated with the project. This has led to 40 years of continued interest for us bearing witness to incredible changes in lifestyle and opportunity for so many hill-tribe people.

In 2012, we planned to re-visit these projects and as it was also Her

Majesty Queen Sirikit's 80th birthday and His Majesty's 85th birthday, we hoped to be able to enjoy this momentous royal occasion! Fate had other ideas however, and the need for major heart surgery superceded any such plans, and after a year of further health complications I was not able to fly and needed time to recover. My enthusiasm for garden care and home maintenance was curtailed and we shifted from Townsville to Melbourne to live with our son and grandson. This was a major upheaval: there were a few more cars around, it takes much longer to get anywhere, and I do miss the 10 minute drive from one side of town to the other, and the 5 minute drive to the hospital. What seemed so accessible now seems a half or full day trip. However my wife thought we should try to revisit our projects before she applied for employment in Melbourne, so she initiated a visit with two of our royal project friends and we went in mid February 2013. Coincidentally, it was flowering season for rhododendrons and some orchids. HOW LUCKY WE WERE! Was it fate, or did they know we were coming, and am I grateful we didn't have to drive in Bangkok!

Over the past 40 years we have kept in contact with staff involved in our original projects at Doi Angkhang, Doi Pui on the hills above Chiang Mai and Doi Inthanon (2556m), south of Chiang Mai. There are now 40 development centres, mostly in the north, and over 400,000 people who benefit directly and indirectly from the projects. When we returned to Doi Ankhang, the staff were fascinated to compare the photos that we took from our work in 1972, which showed the hills bare due to years of slash and burn cultivation, and fields of opium. Now the Royal Agricultural Station boasts strawberry plantations, tea gardens, flower crops, herbs, mushroom houses, and persimmon,

apricot, kiwifruit and peach orchards, as well as the research and development facilities, a restaurant which uses the fruit, vegetables, tea and coffee grown on site, resort and tourist facilities and accommodation. One of the earlier projects was a reforestation program, with much of the area now planted in natives. A firewood woodlot has been established



Gardens at Doi Angkhang



Bonsai Garden at Doi Angkhang



Garden Beds at Doi Angkhang



Gardens at Doi Angkhang



Strawberry Plantation Doi Angkhang



Forestry Nursery Doi Angkhang

for the villagers, as no cutting is allowed in the native area. The enthusiasm, dedication and kindness that the managers at Doi Angkhang showed us was very inspiring.

Over the past 15 years we have also developed a close friendship with past and present Directors of Queen Sirikit Botanic Gardens (QSBG) which are situated about 27 km northwest of Chiang Mai. The total area of these gardens is approximately 1000 ha., however much of it is forest park. It is about 650m above sea level at the entrance and rises to 1200m. The lower section has the public area and display gardens and administration and associated buildings, which include tissue culture labs and a large orchid collection of over 400 native species. It has an Arboretum, Herbarium, Natural History Museum, and an extensive research and educational and training facility. The plant tissue culture unit is used for orchid research and development and propagation of



QSBG Chiang Mai

rare and endangered species, but also includes cultivation of plants with medicinal possibilities, and industry possibilities such as dye and cosmetics manufacture. Some research is in cooperation with other educational institutions. The current Director, Dr Suyanee Vessabutr and her staff were very hospitable, enabling us to spend much time exploring the gardens.

We were also extremely fortunate to visit the highland plant station, a reasonably new part of QSBG at 1200m above sea level and rarely visited by tourists. In this area there is a Rhododendron Garden. This is still in its infancy, having only recently been established and is under the care of Mr Metheewong, who is doing an amazing job of fostering the growth of native rhododendron species and so many other cooler climate plants such as *Agapetes* and *Vaccinium*, genera which belong to the same family as rhododendrons. We were extremely impressed by his enthusiasm and his vision for the future of this project. The continued research and development of this area is very inspiring and we trust the NZRA will be able to encourage this even further.

Recently, the Thai Rhododendron has been revised and placed in nine species, named (1) *R. microphyton*, (2) *R. simsii*, (3) *R. delavayi*, (4) *R. ciliicalyx* (synonyms *R. ludwigianum*, *R. lyi* and *R. surasianum*), (5) *R. veitchianum*, (6) *R. malayanum*, (7)



Rhododendron Garden, QSBG



R. agapetes parishii, at QSBG



R. agapetes megacarpa



R. agapetes lobbii, at QSBG

R. longiflorum, (8) *R. moulmeinense* and (9) *R. taiense* (Watthana per. com). The highland plant station of QSBG has achieved conservation of seven examples of Thai native *Rhododendron* species (but not for *R. malayanum* and *R. taiense*).

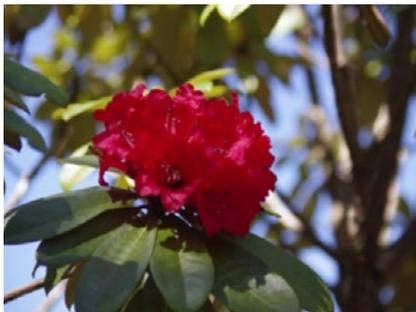
We were also very fortunate to be taken by Dr Weerachai Nanakorn, a past Director of QSBG and now Director at the Crown Property Office in Bangkok, and his associate Dr Santi Watthana, renowned rhododendron researcher, to visit Doi Inthanon, to see the development that has taken place there since 1972. We were dropped off at the top of the mountain by helicopter 40 years ago, and it took five days to walk down to the nearest road. In February this year we were driven up in comfort, on a two-laned highway, and were able to take in the incredible views of massive areas that are now covered in polythene tunnel houses, growing vegetables, fruit and flowers not just for local consumption



R. veitchianum on Doi Inthanon



Coelogyne nitida on Doi Inthanon



R. delavayi on Doi Inthanon

but also for the international market. Produce is collected from the villages by Royal Foundation vehicles, re-packed in Chiang Mai and sent to both Bangkok and overseas markets.

Above the Royal Project Agricultural Station, at the summit of Doi Inthanon, we were very fortunate to see large numbers of native rhododendrons growing in the wild. The main species was *R. delavayi*, a lovely red which many of you may recognise as the plant which grows in the Tibetan area down to 2200m. We understand that Doi Inthanon is its southernmost boundary. We were very fortunate to be able to see very big specimens growing in their natural habitat, a boggy area near the top of Doi Inthanon National Park, circa 2500m above sea level. Another large natural population of this species can be seen in the open and sloped area at around 2200 m above sea level.

The other species seen prolifically

at Doi Inthanon was the white *R. veitchianum* which grows both epiphytically and as a terrestrial plant. Some believe these are two different species, but others consider them one. Perhaps some day DNA research will determine this. The terrestrial plants seem to grow well at about 2000m possibly because the soil composition is shattered rock and mosses, which provides similar growing conditions to epiphytic growth conditions. This species is found only in full sun, and often on road sides in similar microclimates such as those on the tree branches. Both of these rhododendrons are also found at Doi Angkhang. It is understood Os Blumhardt, a renowned NZ plant hunter, reported these species in Northern Thailand in 1979, as did Keith Evans in 1989. We were also, as orchid enthusiasts, thrilled to see that the native white *Coelogyne nitida* was very plentiful at Doi Inthanon, with magnificent displays growing on the branches of the *R. veitchianum*.

Our final major destination was Bangkok, where Dr Weerachai took us to the National Queen Sirikit Park, and King Rama Gardens, two beautiful parks well worth a visit, and right in the middle of Bangkok.

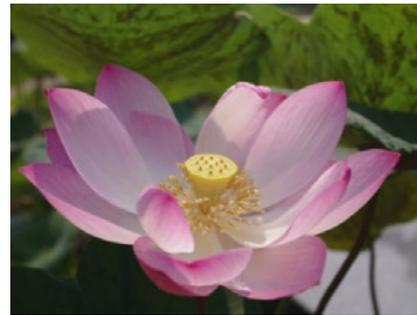
One can often be disappointed returning to visit an area which holds fond memories from many years ago, as often changes have not withstood the test of time. But we were so grateful that we made the



Royal Agricultural Station, Doi Inthanon



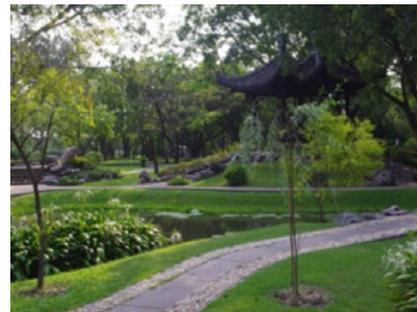
Queen Sirikit Park Bangkok



R. delavayi on Doi Inthanon



King Rama Park Bangkok



King Rama Park Bangkok

effort and that so many people made us welcome. Forty years is a long time to sustain continued growth and development and to see at first hand the substantial changes that have taken place was quite overwhelming. It is truly a reflection of the vision and determination of His Majesty the King and his foresight and commitment to improve the lives of his people and ensure a successful future for generations to come, through agricultural and horticultural research, development and conservation.

Our sincere thanks to Dr Santi Wathana from Queen Sirikit Botanic Gardens for his technical assistance and identification of the plants listed, and to Dr Suyanee Vessabutr and the staff at QSBG for ensuring our visit was so successful.

Brent and Val Forster

RHODODENDRONS AND THE VARIOUS HYBRIDS

BY J. G. MILLAIS (IN TWO VOLUMES 1917 & 1924)



Johnny Millais c 1907

Many would argue that the internet has enabled accessibility to information which renders the need for hardcopy books an historic irrelevance, but for others there remains something tangible and pleasurable in the feel of the printed page, and certainly the beauty of illustrations in many volumes cannot be replicated on the computer monitor.

Helen and I are very fortunate to have recently been given a set of the two splendid volumes by J. G. Millais on rhododendrons. These particular books were purchased by my aunt Molly Coker in London in the 1980s. On her passing they were given to her nephew, Ross Stevenson who was also a rhododendron enthusiast and a member of the Canterbury Rhododendron Society. When Ross became ill late in 2013 he passed the books on to Helen and me.

The books are weighty tomes both in size and in content. At 400 x 300 mm they are certainly not books to take to bed but rather, one can imagine, they are more worthy of the dignity of being properly perused in the reading room of a distinguished library. Each edition was limited to 550 copies with 17 full colour plates of gardens and plants at Millais' home, Compton's Brow in Horsham, West Sussex.

The Millais name is a familiar one in association with rhododendrons. The Millais Rhododendron Nursery in Farnham, Surrey is well respected and has won three consecutive gold medals at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in recent years. The nursery was founded by a relative of J. G. Millais and is still in the Millais family.

John Guille 'Johnny' Millais, the author of these two works was much more than just an author of books on rhododendrons. Wikipedia provides a potted history of him which gives

some indication of the wide extent of his interests. He was born in 1865 and was the seventh child of the Pre-Raphaelite painter, Sir John Everett Millais. He was brought up in London and also Perthshire in Scotland where he developed a lifelong interest in the natural world including both flora and fauna.

Although he joined the army he abandoned this calling after a few years to follow in his Father's footsteps as an artist, but also to travel extensively, and to this end he painted in many parts of Europe, Africa and North America. During the 1880s and 1890s he explored Canada and Newfoundland and was a member of a party charting parts of Alaska. Not altogether consistent with modern day explorers with an emphasis on preservation and conservation, Millais was enamoured of big game hunting and was a founding member of the London based Shikar Club of which the Duke of Edinburgh is a member today.

Millais served in the Secret Service during World War One and was involved in counter-espionage in Norway and Iceland where he stayed until 1917, the year in which the first of his volumes on rhododendrons was published.

In addition to his works on rhododendrons he was also a well-respected ornithologist and bird artist producing a number of books on ducks and water fowl with very fine illustrations.

Millais, with the benefit of a private income, was fortunate in being able to indulge his passions and in 1900 he arranged for the building of his home which he called Compton's Brow in Horsham. It was there that he created a private museum reflecting his broad interests and containing 14,000 items including specimens of big game, deer, waterfowl, bats, seals and even a whole grizzly bear.

At Horsham Millais had as a neighbour Sir Edmund Loder of Leonardslee, and he acknowledges

in the preface to the first volume his good fortune at having the benefit of his tutelage and friendship. It is hard to believe that at the time of publication of the first volume, Millais had been growing rhododendrons only for a period of eleven years but it is also indicative of any activity that he undertook that he studied it rigorously and had a thirst for knowledge and an ability to access most of the acknowledged experts of the day including J. C. & P. D. Williams, Mr Hutchinson of Kew, Professor Bayley Balfour of Edinburgh and George Forrest.

Millais cultivated a number of new rhododendrons, including one that he named after his wife Fanny and another after daughter Rosamond. In 1923 Millais was awarded the Loder Rhododendron Cup, followed in 1927 by the Victorian Medal of Honour by the Royal Horticultural Society. In 1927 Millais published his last great work *Magnolias*.

The house and garden did not survive his death, but a few smaller notable plants were saved, some of which were replanted in the Windsor Great Park by his nephew E.G. (Ted) Millais who founded the Millais nursery.

The opening sentence of the preface to Volume One simply states, "My object in writing this work is to supply a book that may be of practical use to the gardener, who only possesses a love of beautiful plants and does not trouble himself with too much science, and also to consolidate in one volume all that is known of the Genus *Rhododendron*".

He goes on to bemoan the lack of literature accessible to the average gardener on the topic of rhododendrons although he acknowledges Sir J. Hooker's seminal work published in 1849 *Rhododendrons of the Sikkim-Himalaya*.

It does seem a pity however that given Millais' ability as an artist that none of his paintings are used as illustrations in either volume, although

there are beautiful colour plates of illustrations by several artists depicting species, hybrids and garden scenes at Compton's Brow, Leonardslee and nurseries such as Bagshot and Knaphill.

Of greater interest are perhaps the photographs of rhododendrons taken by George Forrest on his expeditions up until 1922. In addition to the accounts of Forrest's expeditions there are also those of Captain Frank Kingdon Ward and Reginald Farrer. There is included in Volume Two a reprint of Farrer's own description of rhododendrons in the Chawchi Pass which first appeared in the Gardener's Chronicle in June 1921. There is also an account from Euan Cox of Glendoick, Scotland of the expedition which he made with Reginald Farrer in 1919/20 exploring the frontier range between Upper Burma (Myanmar) and China.

Volume Two also includes a section on the hybrids created by the late Sir Edmund Loder at Leonardslee. *R. 'Loderi'*, being a cross between '... an exceptionally fine sweet-scented *R. fortunei* and a very large-flowered *R. griffithianum*...' is described as the finest hybrid rhododendron ever raised. At the time of Sir Edmund's death he had been working on crosses between *R. 'Loderi'* and *R. arboreum*

to hopefully produce a red '*Loderi*'.

Throughout both volumes Millais has a freshness of writing style, quite disarming in its frankness which is not often associated with writing of the late Victorian or Edwardian era.

An example is his introduction to Volume Two where he expresses his frustration regarding the difficulty of naming and classifying of species and natural hybrids. He writes as follows:

'Some years ago a great conference assembled at Vienna, where the World Scientists were invited to attend. Plenty of German and Austrian professors were there and not a few from other countries. It was then agreed to conform closely to the laws of priority, and all was lovely in the garden.

What actually happened? Each and all of those learned men went home, and when they wrote new books and profound treatises on their pet subjects they totally ignored the conclusions of that conference. ...We know to-day that hundreds of rhododendrons have been described as species, when they are nothing more than local forms of one plant. I do not say this with the smallest disparagement to their describers, but only wish to point out that the next man who undertakes a revision of a genus may have a terrible lot of work

in front of him, and so the public will have "confusion worse confounded".'

In concluding the introduction to that volume Millais writes in 1924 of a reference to one of New Zealand's most famous sons:

'Recently I met a youth from Cambridge – a twentieth-century product of the 'New Clever' kind – and he said to me: "Is it worthwhile to attempt the impossible? Your book will be obsolete as soon as it is written." He was young, but made me feel humble for what he said was true. But what a creed! Here was Youth and Pessimism combined – a terrible sign of the times....We go on labouring towards our goal through a mist of failure, but live in the hope that our poor efforts are not in vain. One day will come some twenty-first-century "New Zealander" who will sit in his 'atomic' chair and laugh at the imaginings of to-day.

Soon we shall witness the birth of an 'Atomic' Era. In that new day – let us hope – Man will have learned both to understand and to love his fellow-man. So with our lovely flowers we may reach the garden of our dreams and greater earthly happiness.'

These volumes appear to me to be as relevant today as they were when written more than 90 years ago.

NEW REGISTRATION

The following hybrid has been added to the New Zealand Rhododendron register.

376 *R. 'Kerry Gold'*

R. 'Great Scent-sation' x *R. 'Frosted Candy'*

A vireya rhododendron hybridised, grown and named by Edward Lyon of Taranaki.

Trusses of eight tubular funnel shaped flowers with prominent stamens. Each flower having five to six lobes with flat margins. Cream buds open to rich cream within and yellow cream on the outside of the corolla. Flowers have a fawn coloured calyx of 30mm. Oblanceolate matt leaves 95mm in length and 35mm wide with a wavy margin.

Hardiness to zone 9 with flowering all year round.

The plant grows to 1.2m high in nine years.



Contact the Registrar for registration forms and assistance.

New Zealand Rhododendron Registrar

Brian Coker

8b Barnsley Crescent,

West Melton 7618

Phone: 03 355 8395

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New Members Welcome	



The NEW ZEALAND
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Volume Two
2014