



Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society Newsletter

A Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society
PO Box 904 Duncan BC, V9L 3Y2

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, 7:30 pm @ the Mckinnon building Providence Farm 1843 Tzouhalem Rd.

2005 Directors

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Refreshments:	Etta Cook	748 8293
	craigends@seaside.net	
Newsletter:	Judy Gloster	746 5643
	e-mail jg10@telus.net	

Speaker for November meeting:

Glen Jamieson of Parksville; his topic (Part I)- rhododendron-hunting with Steve Hootman of the Rhododendron Species Foundation at Federal Way Washington U.S.A. Part II to follow in January

Coming Events: Nov. 2nd. Election of new executive officers and directors for 2006

Christmas Party Dec 7th. to be held in Toad Hall at Pine Lodge Farm 3191 Muttter Rd. Mill Bay

Plans are shaping up for this event, it will be a **POT- LUCK DINNER**, the club provides the turkey, ham, wine and non-alcoholic punch.

Members bring appetizers, salads, vegetable dishes, rolls and desserts. Sign up sheets will be passed around at this wed. Nov. 2nd meeting please sign your name and state what you would like to bring. We are also asked to bring our own plates, cutlery, glasses and cups-and of course lots of **GOOD CHEER**.

Anyone needing a ride please bring this up at the meeting so arrangements can be made. MAYBE A CAR POOL!!!!
Continuing a Christmas Custom there will be an Auction of a gift (under \$15.00) from each member, tickets being sold and placed in a dish near each gift, proceeds to go to Salvation Army. A silent auction of two prints of species rhododendrons obtained from the Western Regional Conference at Newport Oregon. The program will include contests, so sharpen your pencils and your wits!!!

Tea & Goodies: Anne/Roger Slaby,** Anne Springford and Sharon Tillie

November Directors' Meeting:

Will be held - Nov. 23rd 7:30 pm at the home of Ian Efford 1435 Georgia Park Hgts off Osborne Bay Rd. Crofton, tel # 246 1453

Last Call November is the deadline for membership dues....Election of officers will be held at this Wednesday nite's meeting..

North Cowichan Composting:

The Environment Committee of the North Cowichan Municipality is discussing the possibility of having the municipality provide the means to chip woody garden refuse for residents. This discussion is held in the context of reducing the need for backyard burning. The Environment Committee visualizes the chipping service as free for the residents of the municipality.

If this service is of interest to you please contact the person below to suggest what time(s) of the year to provide this chipping service.

J.W. Van Barneveld
10373 Old Victoria Rd.
Chemainus BC V0R 1K2
tele # 250 246 3085
jvanb@shaw.ca

Proven Performers

As well as the "Rhododendron of the Year" list all ARS Chapters have been requested to submit candidates for a "Proven Performers" list. The criteria is somewhat more relaxed than for the ROY since candidates do not have to be registered to be eligible. The list should contain both rhododendrons and azaleas, species and hybrids. The purpose of the list is to provide other members of the gardening public with some guidance in the selection of rhododendrons and azaleas which will do well in each Chapter's geographical area. This may be of help to any new members looking for information on their rhodos.

This article was copied from the Yak Oct. issue.

Summary of 2005 Plant Sale

Grower	Total	To Grower	To Club
Bakker	56.00	42.00	14.00
Cherry Point	919.00	689.25	229.75
Firwood	1,144.00	858.00	286.00
Kearns	541.00	405.75	135.25
Muir	325.50	244.13	81.38
Maple Creek	2,126.00	1,594.50	531.50
Mayo Creek	434.00	325.50	108.50
Members Table	172.50	0.00	172.50
Totals	5,718.00	4,159.13	1,386.38
Total Proceeds	5,611.20		

Income:

Sales:	5,718.00
Raffle:	<u>137.40</u>
	<u>5,855.40</u>

Expenses:

Growers	4,159.13
Rent:	300.00
Advertising:	116.86
Short:	<u>106.80</u>

To Club: **1,172.61**

Did you know that.....

- David Wilson of Wilson's Heather Nursery (where the heathers come from for the Vancouver Island Heather Society Spring and Fall sale) will be speaking on Heather gardening at Dinter's Nursery on October 22 at 10 am. Some of you may have a "Ken Wilson" or "Tracy Wilson" heather in your garden (father and daughter of David). He is probably the most knowledgeable expert on heather in Canada and it would be well worthwhile attending his lecture.
 - The Fraser Valley Orchid Society is holding its orchid show and sale at the Fort Langley Community Hall, 9167 Glover Road on Saturday, October 22 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Admission is \$5 for Garden Club members who show a current membership card.
 - The annual Mason Bee Workshop will take place at the Youth Hall, Watson Ave, Cobble Hill on Sunday, November 6 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. To register call toll free @1-800-794-2144 or email Margriet at events@beediverse.com.
 - The Horticulture Centre of the Pacific will be holding the following Christmas Workshops: Wreath Making (November 26, 10-noon), Christmas Swags (November 27, 10-noon), Contemporary Flower Arranging (November 29, 1-3), Traditional Flower Arranging (November 3, 1-3), Evergreen Flower Arranging (December 1, 1-3), Wreath Making (December 3, 10-noon) and Fresh Winter Baskets (December 4, 10-noon). Take your secateurs, wire cutters and your ideas and return home with a glorious creation. All other material and inspired instruction are supplied. The cost is \$35 for HCP members or \$45 for non-members. Call 479-6162 to register.
 - The Vancouver Island Judges Group is offering a Beginners' Course in Judging on Saturday, January 28, 2006, 10:00am – 4:00 pm at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific. Introduction to judging, the ethics of judging and the staging of exhibits will be covered. Call 479-6162 to register.
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It is now 100 years since Sir Edmund Loder made that most famous of crosses between *Rh. fortunei* and *Rh. griffithianum*, and this centenary is being celebrated at Leonardslee. Of course, the cross had been made before and called *Rh. x kewense*, but it is always said that the results were definitely inferior and it is good that the taxonomists have allowed the later name to be used, when the earlier would normally take precedence.

To produce this world-famous cross, Leonardslee teamed up with Col. Godman at South Lodge, on the other side of the road, as he had a particularly fine form of *Rh. griffithianum* growing under glass. This plant is alas long-since lost, though there are other plants of this species still growing there, in the gardens of what is now a hotel. I often wonder whether these are from the same batch of seed as that famous parent. They seem perfectly hardy there, despite the tender reputation that this species has. It is recorded that the cross was made 3 times, with pollen being carried across the road in both directions but that the best results came from *R. griffithianum* pollen onto *R. fortunei*, which was done twice. The reverse cross produced flowers that were much like *R. fortunei*; was this chance or could there be a genetic reason?

Apparently, the cross was first done in 1901, and the first flowers were seen in 1907, probably on 'Diamond', now known as 'White Diamond'. Robin Loder is certain that the best clones come from this first batch. 'Diamond' and 'Pink Diamond' were first to be shown and both were awarded the FCC, in 1914. 'King George' had to wait for the FCC until 1970.

Quite a number of different clones have been registered and although it is the name of 'King George' that everyone knows, I have long felt that, as they are all closely related and indeed many are 'sisters', it would be a braver man than me that would walk up to a plant and identify which clone it is! The differences are very slight, and you could easily think two trusses are from different clones when in fact they came from opposite sides of the same plant. I certainly feel that the descriptions one generally reads are inadequate for positive identification. As they are so similar and so popular, and therefore widely propagated and planted all over the world, it is inevitable that they have become confused and so many plants are grown under the wrong name.

It has been a privilege to have spent several idyllic evenings in 2001 & 2002 looking at as many of the original plants as I could, and also looked at younger plants, especially in the Coronation Garden at Leonardslee, where a collection was planted in 1953, and in the gardens at Wisley and Windsor. One hopes that we can rely on the original plants to be correctly labelled, but probably not on any other, even in their home garden. I looked for a truss in which the last flower was nearly fully expanded and then examined the oldest flower in that truss, noting:-

1. the size,
2. the colour of the petals,
3. whether there was any colour in the veins
4. the presence of any markings in the throat.

The general pattern is that they nearly all open from pink buds but rapidly fade to white and I was surprised that even the ones that I had thought of as pinker were in fact nearly pure white by this stage. The colour lasts longest in the veins, particularly towards the outer edges of the petals, and this does seem to be a useful diagnostic character, as do the throat markings. None of them show more than two or three thin lines of small spots and speckles, which are confined to the throat and lead upwards for perhaps one-third of the length of the petal. They do not show the pronounced markings that one sees in some of their offspring, such as 'Avalanche' and 'Albatross'. I measured the width, from the tip of one lobe to the tip of the opposite; I did not stretch or flatten it. The range was 12.0cm to 14.5cm; most are between 13cm and 14cm. The clones seem all equally scented.

So, can one be definite in identification? I feel that I still cannot, but that certain patterns have emerged which can be used to group the clones, which I have shown in Table 1. At this point, a word of caution in that these observations were made in one place and in two seasons and that in different conditions, especially temperature, each clone might appear quite differently. Warmer conditions would quite possibly make the flowers open faster and so be smaller and fade faster. Also 2001 was an exceptionally late season, with the Loderis opening between 2 and 3 weeks later than usual.

So is 'King George' the one that everyone should have, or is it just that that is the name everyone can remember? I incline to the latter view, although the 'King George' were particularly floriferous in 2001. At 14 cm, it is of average size and is certainly not the largest, that honour going to 'Sir Edmund' at 15cm. It is the purest white, having virtually no throat markings. The scent is outstanding - just like all the others!

I have become particularly taken with 'Sir Edmund', as it was heavily laden with large (14 - 15cm) flowers, and is very much the pinkest of the originals, with definite pink veins, and is the only one to really retain the colour and appear pink in the landscape. But it is still only a pale pink. 'Pink Diamond' rivals it, though smaller and Sir Giles Loder thought it the darkest. The others that are reputedly pink, such as 'Pink Coral', 'Pink Topaz', 'Venus' and 'Princess Marina', are really only pink for a short period as they open. However, there are real pinks in the subsequent generations:- 'Georgette' is a rich pink that fades only slowly in the semi-shade and 'Irene Stead' from New Zealand is very similar.

'Sir Edmund', 'Patience' and 'Venus' are also slightly different in that they open a few days later, and 'Gamechick' seems to be regularly about a week later than most, so is of value.

Controversially, Bean tells us that the original plant of 'Venus' was at Exbury, suggesting it is not one of the 1901 crossing. Neither is 'Princess Marina', which is 'King George' x 'Sir Edmund': this clone is a distinctive shell pink with PALER edges. Another distinctive form is 'Dairymaid', (as seen at Wisley) - the palest in bud, showing little or no pink colouring, and opening to milky white (Sir Giles thought it greenish)

There are several clones that are relatively little known but which are just as valuable. 'Spearmint' has recently been re-discovered in the Coronation Garden, growing near 'Fairy Queen'. Millais mentions a clone called 'Queen Mary', who was of course the wife of 'King George', but this clone is long-since lost and forgotten at Leonardslee. 'Pretty Polly' may well have also died out. Anyone ever seen either? 'Stag's Head' grows elsewhere and should soon return. 'Titan' was raised by Reuther's Nursery at Sevenoaks in England and 'Olga' ('Pink Diamond' x 'King George') by Brandt in the USA. 'Julie' is well-known as the cream form, and is very different from the rest, but her origin remains rather a mystery, though Bean says she was raised at Lord Swathling's Townhill Park, Hants from 2 Loderi parents. There are only two quite young plants that are probably of this clone at Leonardslee. As 'Julie' lacks the characteristic purple leaf stalk (petiole) that Loderi inherits from *Rh. fortunei* and the flowers are smaller and more tubular, one must question the given parentage. South Lodge has forms which seem slightly different, so are likely to be other, unnamed seedlings of this most distinguished of hybrids, and there seem to be such seedlings in many Sussex gardens, no doubt distributed from Leonardslee. Several were named from The High Beeches, (at that time owned by others of the Loder family) and these tend to be named after racehorses.

Sources

Loder, Sir Giles - Rhododendron Year Book, 1951

Reprinted in current Loder Plants catalogue and online at www.rhododendrons.com

Bean, W.J. - Trees and shrubs hardy in the British Isles

Millais, J.G. - Rhododendron species and hybrids (1918)

Salley H. & Greer H. - Rhododendron hybrids

Table 1

Colour	Throat markings R = red dots, G = green dots	Slight throat marking	Throat markings absent or only very faint
White	White Diamond (R) Gamechick (G)	Sir Joseph Hooker (R+G) *# Helen(R)	King George **Dairymaid
Blush, i.e. very nearly white	Venus(R) Pink Coral (R+G) *Patience(R+G) Pink Diamond(R+G)	Loderi South Lodge (- not registered, but propagated by Alan Clark) **Fairyland (R) *Fairy Queen(R) *Spearmint(R) **White Pearl(G)	Princess Marina
Pale Pink	**Pink Topaz (G)	Sir Edmund(G)	Another South Lodge form,
Pink	Georgette (R)		

* = From plant in the Coronation Garden

Table 2

A list of all the Loderi clones known to me.

Results not recorded for clones where I have not yet been able to examine flowers at the correct age.

Clonal name	Width-cm-max.	Pink	Pale pink	Blush	White	Pink Veining	Red throat spots - marked	Red throat spots - faint	Green throat spots - marked	Green throat spots - faint	No Throat spots	Comments
Dairy Maid **					Y					Y		Pale buds and petioles
Fairyland**				Y		Y		Y				
Fairy Queen*				Y						Y		Smaller and poorer
Gamechick					Y				Y			Latest to flower
Georgette		Y				Y		Y				Proper pink
Hammerkop												At High Beeches, 1935
Helen *#				Y				Y				Small fl. , paler petiole
Irene Stead *#		Y										Proper pink
Julie												Yellowish cream
King George	14.0				Y					Y	Y	Most floriferous
Olga												
Patience*	13.0			Y			Y		Y			Poorer, later.
Pearly Queen												
Pink Coral	13.0			Y			Y					Most heavily marked
Pink Diamond	13.0			Y			Y	Y	Y	Y		Marks very variable.
Pink Topaz**			Y		Y				Y			
Pretty Polly												
Princess Marina				Y							Y	Shell pink, paler edge
Queen Mary												
Sir Edmund	15.0		Y			Y				Y	Y	Later
Sir Joseph												Red marks persist
Hooker	14.0				Y			Y		Y		Later and floriferous
South Lodge	14.1			Y		Y				Y	Y	Poss. = Sir Edmund
Spearmint				Y				Y				
Superlative												
Stag's Head												
Titan												
Venus	15.0			Y			Y					2 or 3 spot rows
White Diamond	13.5				Y		Y			Y		
White Pearl **				Y						Y		Name questionable

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South Lodge	14.1			Y		Y				Y	Y	Poss. = Sir Edmund
Spearmint				Y				Y				
Superlative												
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White Pearl **				Y						Y		Name questionable

Fall for Rhododendrons by Norman Todd early 1990's

In the gardens of coastal British Columbia the best time to plant broad leaf shrubs and trees is the fall. In October and November, the soil is still warm, the autumn rains have begun, and conditions are the best for the development of new roots. By planting in the fall, plants will become established before the burgeoning demands of spring signal the roots to send more nutrients for swelling blossoms and expanding leaves.

As long as the ground is not frozen the roots of the broad leaf evergreens are purposefully working. To the human eye there does not seem to be much going on above soil level but the plant is still photosynthesizing. Sugars and starches are being manufactured from the nutrients the searching roots are pumping up to the leaves.

When a plant is dug up and replanted, or taken from a container and put in the ground, the roots are always disturbed. To assist them to grow into soil in their new environment, the roots of a potted plant must be teased apart quite vigorously so that they can make intimate contact with the welcoming environment of the new, freshly prepared home. For rhododendrons this means an open, friable soil with a high content of organic matter, located in a well-drained site. Rhododendrons hate standing in water: they drown. Their roots need loose, airy, humusy soil around them.

One of the best and easiest ways to give them this open soil and the right acidity is to incorporate bark mulch. Up to 50% of the mix in the planting soil can be bark mulch – not too coarse and not dust either. Many people like to use peat moss, but much of the moss available today is so fine that if it ever dries out, it is very difficult to moisten it again. Furthermore, peat moss breaks down far more quickly than bark mulch. The number one cardinal rule for growing rhododendrons is that the roots must never go dry.

If your soil is a black humus-rich loam, you are fortunate indeed and no amendment may be necessary. You can plant the rhododendron as deeply as it was in the pot. But if the natural soil is a heavy clay, then 8 to 12 cm of coarse sand should be dug in to a depth of 30 cm before the addition of the bark mulch. Composted leaves, preferably oak, can be used instead of bark mulch. If the soil is heavy clay, you can plant very shallowly, bringing the amended soil higher than the soil level at which the plant was previously growing. Mixing some fertilizer in the planting hole is beneficial. Avoid using animal manures that are less than a year old. An excellent fertilizer you can make yourself is a mix of ground meals: 4 parts of canola, 4 of alfalfa, 4 of blood, 1 of bone and 1 of kelp plus 2 of dolomite lime and 1 of rock phosphate.

Most of the rhododendrons we grow are hybrids. Hybrids result when two or more of the plants found growing in the 'wild' – the species – have been combined by cross-pollination. Most of the species that have been used to make these popular hybrids come from climates that have relatively dry winters and high summer rainfall. In the Victoria area, we have the reverse. One of the consequences of our persistent winter rainfall is that the nutrients that are at the surface of the soil get leached downwards quite quickly. Rhododendrons, which are very shallow-rooted can in fact be starved in our winter because all the goodness goes past them before they can catch their fair share. If the roots can't supply the nourishment, then the plant will draw from its stored reserves – its rainy day account, leaving less for production of flowers and foliage. The regime that I follow is to feed sparingly with a chemical fertilizer (10-8-6 with all the minor elements), five times a year. I start in November and feed every two months with the last feed on Canada Day. Rhododendrons are not gross feeders, but they do like three meals a day – light ones in the winter, heavier ones in the spring.

Choosing the right variety for the right spot is important. There are now more than 23,000 registered hybrids. This is a daunting number but, from its very size, you can be sure that the right plant for your particular location can be found. Some need almost no direct sun, some need full sun, some will grow to be trees and some will never be more than 2 cm high, some will bloom in December and some will bloom as late as August, some are deciduous, most are evergreen. Colours range through the entire spectrum except for the pure gentian blue. Even that is now a possibility with our increased understanding of genetics.

One of the convenient characteristics of rhododendrons is that because they're shallow-rooted they are very portable. For gardeners who would really like their plants to come with wheels so that they can move things around until their concept of horticultural artistic perfection is reached, rhododendrons come quite close to being ideal. They can be moved at any time of the year. The huge majority are planted in the spring and they do very well. The very best time, however, for gardeners in our area is the fall.

(This article was discovered in the VRS archives, undated, but probably first published in the early 1990's. It is both timeless and timely.)

R. albiflorum

Most members of the rhododendron society are aware that 90% of the known rhododendron species grow naturally on the Asian continent on the mountain ranges within the Nepal, Yunnan, Burma triangle. Here on Vancouver Island we can claim at least two native species. *R. macrophyllum*, the more well known species, grows only at two known locations on the Island, one at Rhododendron Lake west of Nanoose and the second location being on the San Juan Ridge west of Shawnigan Lake. The lesser known species is *R. albiflorum*.

Perhaps *R. albiflorum* is not as well known as it's larger cousin because it grows in more sub-alpine locals. *R. albiflorum* has been documented as growing at various altitudes from 4000 ft. on Mt. Brooks in Strathcona Park, 3500 ft. on Mt. Arrowsmith near Port Alberni and on Mt. Brenton near Chemainus, 3300 ft on the San Juan Ridge and at the 2300 ft. level on Mt. Benson near Nanaimo.

Many seed collectors and rhododendron species growers, such as the Rhododendron Species Foundation at Federal Way Washington, have tried growing *R. albiflorum* from seed collected from these higher altitudes with dismal success. Perhaps seed collected from the lowest growing forms on Mt. Benson could meet with more success.

In the book *Wild Flowers of the Pacific Northwest* by Lewis J. Clark and edited by John Trelawny of Victoria, *R. albiflorum* is noted to be "... found at the 800 ft. level near Muchalat Inlet." It is this observation that has caused quite a stir with the Rhododendron Species Foundation as well as the members of the Western North America Rhododendron Species Project.

I realize that 'near Muchalat Inlet' covers allot of territory from it's entrance at Nootka Island to it's head at Gold River but this low level form of *R. albiflorum* needs to be verified and seed collected. Surely some hikers, hunters, loggers or other nature buffs familiar with the area or who know of people familiar with or live in the Gold River area could get the word out there and track down this elusive 'lowlander'.

This note has been sent to all ARS Chapters on Vancouver Island with the hope that a member in one or more of these local societies will have more information or knowledge of this low altitude form of 'albiflorum'. Now is the time for seed collection.

Al Campbell
Cowichan Valley Chapter

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

RHODODENDRON OF THE YEAR, 2009

To all District 1, 2 & 3 ARS Chapter Presidents,

It is time to vote on the Rhododendron of the Year (ROY) for 2009. I am contacting each Chapter President and hoping you will assign the job of soliciting the chapter members to establish your candidates for ROY 2009.

If you are a new Chapter President you may not know about the ROY program or why we ask for candidates 3 years in advance. Let me give you a brief explanation.

The ROY Program was set up to establish the best Rhododendron performer in each of the geographical regions. It has become obvious that rhododendrons do not perform equally well in different climates, soil conditions, even insect populations. Each Chapter should have already selected the Proven Performers list. From that list a candidate for the best plant in each of the categories (Lepidote, Elepidote, Deciduous Azalea, Evergreen Azalea) should be selected. It is best to have all members vote for their candidate and you provide me with the total count for each candidate from your Chapter. I will then mesh your results with results from the other chapters in our region to determine the ROY for 2009.

The purpose of establishing the ROY 3 years in advance is to allow growers and nurseries to propagate and have the candidates for sale during the year they are announced as Rhododendron of the Year.

The following criteria should be considered in making ROY recommendations:

1. Foliage should have good green color and retain leaves for at least 2 years.
(except deciduous azaleas).
2. Plant should flower and perform well in your region 4 out of 5 years.
3. Full, compact plant.
4. Must be cold hardy, bud hardy, and heat tolerant in your area.
5. Must be registered with the ARS.
6. Easily propagated.
7. Easily grown in the average garden requiring low maintenance.
8. Resistant to local diseases.
9. Propagation material must be available for mass production and availability in 2009.
10. 2009 candidates cannot duplicate previous years ROY selections.

Year	Elepidote	Lepidote	Deciduous Azalea	Evergreen Azalea
2002	Ken Janeck	Ginny Gee	R. scheppenbachii	Hino Crimson
2003	Taurus	PJM	Homebush	Purple Splendor
2004	Percy Wiseman	Dora Amateis	Ameson's Gem	Fascination
2005	Horizon Monarch	Ramapo	Nifty Fifty	Hilda Niblett
2006	Pt. Defiance	Wee Bee	Washington Centennial	Silver Sword
2007	Nancy Evans	Blaney's Blue	Cecile	Mitsuki
2008	Marie Starks	Vibrant Violet	Yukon	Girard's Fuchsia

I will need your selection by March 15, 2006. Please provide the number of individual votes for top 3 candidates in each category. I will merge your votes along with the other Chapter inputs to make the final selection.

continued →

Please contact me if more information is needed. Email, is the best method however you can also send your result to:

Bill Stipe
2970 S. Smugglers Cove Rd.
Greenbank, WA 98253
USA

Bill Stipe
Rhododendron of the Year Committee
bstipe@whidbey.com

P.S. I am looking for pictures of 2008 candidates 'Cecile' and 'Mitsuki'.
If you have one, let me know so we can make a copy for the Journal.

Bill Stipe
Glynneden Gardens
Rare and unusual Rhododendrons
360-678-8740

10/17/2005

Greetings fellow rhododendron enthusiasts!

We are seeking the assistance of all those who share our passion for rhododendrons in spreading the word on a very unique event.

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is hosting the 2006 Pacific Region International Rhododendron Conference in Burnie, Tasmania, Australia from 20th October 2006.

This event provides a great opportunity to visit Tasmania in spring – the peak of our rhodo flowering season, to hear some great international and Australian speakers, to visit the incredible Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden on the occasion of its Silver Anniversary, and enjoy Tasmania in great company.

Relax, unwind, and experience the trip of your life. Our program has been carefully planned to be both informative and very enjoyable, as well as totally stress-free.

You simply arrive on Friday and enjoy the experience - visiting gardens, hearing great speakers, eating superb food, touring Tasmania's unique cool temperate rainforests and central highlands. A week later, you will arrive in Hobart for the Hobart Rhododendron Show, before making connecting flights to more rhododendron activity in New Zealand

We will meet you at the airport and provide all transport whilst at the Conference, linking your hotel with the Burnie Civic Centre and other local venues, all within a few minutes ride. We also include two superb dinners, morning and afternoon teas, & luncheons.

This is a serious rhododendron conference in a real rhododendron paradise, but without all the big city stress.

Please click on the link to our Conference web-site at the foot of this message, to learn more about this great event. Further links are provided there to register your interest, or book early to get the best accommodation and travel plans.

At this time, we have contacted all rhododendron groups known to us, but would greatly appreciate your assistance in forwarding on this communication to everyone you know and helping us in raising awareness among all rhodo enthusiasts.

As you may come to see, we are a long way from most of the major global population centres, in a very tranquil and beautiful part of the world. Your assistance in sharing a few days with others is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to meeting many of you in Burnie next year.

Warmest Regards,

Neil Jordan

Conference Convenor

Our Web-site is ready now on www.jobfuturestas.com/rhodoconf2006