



VANCOUVER
Rhododendron
SOCIETY

Membership News

May 2010

Vol 1, No 3

Greetings VRS Members

This month's newsletter is a few days late, because we just returned from a one-week tour of member's and other gardens on the Sunshine Coast and Vancouver Island. In an upcoming newsletter, we will present an account of the experiences, but for the moment, we would like to convey our thanks to Eva & Erwin Diener, David Smith & Sari Spencer, Paul & Lynn Wurz, Harry & Gwen Wright, Bob & Jean Rhodes, Norm and Jean Todd, Bill & Theresa MacMillan, Ken & Madeleine Webb, Les & Radojka Harris, and Evelyn & Nick Weesjes. Although all their gardens are very different, they all display the passion, and love of rhodos, that make this all so much fun.

President's Message

The Show and Sale was a success once again, thanks to our members, our growers, Park & Tilford Gardens (especially Chris Foran, the Head Gardener), and the weather. The contribution of the ink-stained wretches in the Vancouver Sun (Steve Whysall) and the North Shore News (Todd Major) also must be acknowledged and recognized.

While Dana Cromie is counting the costs that are continuing to trickle in, it seems the VRS probably did as well as last year for the Sale. There were at least 60 buyers lined up when we opened the wrought iron gates at 9:55 am on Saturday and buyers/enthusiasts kept coming, for a while. As usual, 50% of the sales for the weekend occurred before noon on Saturday and more than 75% before we closed at 3 pm on that day. Sue Klapwijk and Les Clay did extraordinarily well.

The juried show, which is still the hidden treasure of the weekend for members and the general public, had, as every year, a magnificent array of examples of what rhododendrons were blossoming that week in Vancouver, that differed substantially from what was offered the year before. See Karen Shuster's report in this newsletter for the results. Alan Cheung brought in



R japonicum ... UBC Garden

numerous trusses and sprays from Dart's Hill which were shown, but not entered into the competition.

The set-up, operation and sale, and break-down occurred smoothly; but we (the VRS) still have to learn how to incorporate new volunteers gradually with significant (meaningful) contributions, without crossing a divide and swamping them with more work than is welcome. Signage for the "Show" portion will improve next year; as will attendance by volunteers to answer questions at the Show portion.

There were numerous energetic volunteers, but extraordinary contributions were provided by Sean Rafferty and Brenda Macdonald, Toni and Jacquie Clayton, Dana Cromie and Greg Brown; Bob and Jo Wright, Karen Shuster, Kathy Lau, and Norah Hall. Bentall Properties and Starbucks Coffee at Park & Tilford also contributed in unique ways.

This year's event was a two-day affair; however, every other Chapter in BC of the American Rhododendron Society (the "ARS"), the Van Dusen Gardens, and the Alpine Garden Club have only one-day sales. The concern is always about volunteer and grower burnout. After consideration, the VRS Executive has decided to experiment next year with a one-day sale on the first Saturday in May.

The second issue that has arisen is whether members of the VRS should be given advance entry into the Show and Sale (with perhaps a celebratory breakfast or some kind of similar bonding activity as happens with the Alpine Garden Club sale); or whether, as with the UBC/FOG sale of last weekend, there is a prohibition of volunteers buying before the general public. The price of plants is already substantially lower at our monthly meetings to Members, but it is an issue that should be addressed. Although all three clubs have important cross memberships, it is interesting that their positions are so different.

But that is for the Fall. In the meantime drop to your knees and get to know more intimately your weevils, nematodes, and neighbourhood pests and if that does not cause a horticultural epiphany, join us on the UBC guided walk with Andy Hill this month, and our pot-luck/raffle in June.

Cheers, Don

Upcoming VRS Meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, May 20**, at the **UBC Botanical Garden**. We will assemble outside the garden shop at **6:30 pm** (note earlier time), for a tour by our own Andy Hill. The paths can be soggy in places, so bring suitable footwear ... and raingear, just in case ...

Proven Performers List

The following note, sent to us last month by Garth Wedemire, ARS Director, was left out of the newsletter, due to space limitations

American Rhododendron Society Proven Performers List

The Public Education Committee of the ARS has asked chapters to compile lists of the best performing rhododendrons in their areas. The lists give plants with good form, foliage and flowers that are hardy and resistant to pests and diseases for the given area. The listed plants have proven their ability to perform well in members' gardens and are recommended to others. The following



R yakushmanum ... Van Dusen

page on the ARS website gives the Proven Performers Lists that have been submitted for the twelve districts of the Society: http://rhododendron.org/performers_intro.htm

In District 1 – British Columbia, seven of the nine chapters have their Proven Performers Lists published by the ARS (the two missing chapters are the Fraser Valley and the Vancouver chapters).

The following email from Ray Smith, Chairman of the ARS Plant Awards Committee was forwarded to each chapter president by Ron Knight on March 22, 2010.

Subject: Proven Performer Updates

Dear District Director,

The time has come again for the chapters to examine and possibly revise their Proven Performer lists. This is one of the most popular parts of the ARS website and a great aid in introducing rhododendrons to a new audience. Please contact the chapter presidents in your district and ask them to look over their Proven Performer lists. Have some of the plants listed been surpassed by newer introductions? Perhaps some are no longer available on the retail market. Maybe everything is still fine with the list, and no changes are needed. Whatever the situation, a timely review is important.

If there are any changes, the easiest way is to have the chapter representative send the list to the ARS webmaster, Bob Weissman (weissman@arsoffice.org) directly. A copy to me would be appreciated, but is not necessary

Thank you for your help.

Ray Smith, Chairman

ARS Plant Awards Committee

I would like to encourage all District 1 chapters to review their “Proven Performers Lists” and send revisions to Bob Weissman. The year 2010 would be a good time for all nine District 1 chapters to revise their lists.

by Garth Wedemire, Director - Fraser Valley Chapter, March 29, 2010

Time was not available at the April club meeting for discussion, so the subject of Proven Performers is deferred until September ... now you have lots of time to compile a list of your personal favourites, after a full blooming season ...

Other Chapters

Guests are always welcome at these other chapters, and, as a member of the VRS, you can get a year's associate membership for \$ 10 or 15 ... a bargain !



- **Fraser South** ... Wednesday, May 19 ... 7:30 pm
United Church Hall, 5673 – 200th Street, Langley
17th Annual '**Beer Bottle Truss Show**' No speaker, just a lot of fun!



- **Fraser Valley** ... Monday, May 24 ... 7:30 pm
St. Andrew's Heritage Hall, 22279 - 116th Avenue, Maple Ridge
(off the Haney by-pass)
Speaker ... Garth Wedemire
Topic ... Garden tours at last year's ARS National Convention at Everett, Washington



- **Peace Arch** ... Tuesday, May 25
The PARS group has planned an all-day visit to Ron and Carla Knight's **Caron Gardens**, combined with their annual picnic

Ultimate Rhododendron Conference

This conference, organized by Ron Knight and Douglas Justice, was held at UBC last month. Many of our members were in attendance. The following report, by Ron Knight, is to be submitted to the ARS executive:



Rhododendron Walk,
Van Dusen Garden

According to the evaluation questionnaire results, and comments from participants, this local, drive-in conference was a huge success. Forty people were registered in Level 1 classes and fifty at Level 2. Delegates came from Vancouver Island, the Greater Vancouver area, and all 3 western US states. Many people commented that they especially liked the classes being held in a large rhododendron garden that was available for field work and hands-on experiences.

Not one penny was spent on paid advertising and most delegates reported that they first heard about the event through a garden club or ARS chapter meeting, newsletter, or website. All budget objectives were exceeded and the conference likely generated more revenue per delegate than most ARS conventions. A donation of \$2000 was given to UBC Botanical Garden. Two-thirds of the delegates had more than a decade of gardening experience but 40% were not members of rhododendron clubs. This provided an excellent opportunity to promote the ARS, and the membership table signed up several new members.

The Ultimate Rhododendron Conference used several innovative strategies that made it simple to organize. In fact, it was planned by a committee of two, and all the business details were handled over the

course of a year by one person. On the conference weekend, four helpers were brought in to handle the food, setup and cleanup (which took one hour after the final class).

This type of learning conference could easily be duplicated in other districts and could provide a means to attract new members, raise money, and educate gardeners about rhododendrons.

The conference organizers are grateful to the ARS Executive Committee for designating the Ultimate Rhododendron Conference as a pioneer venture and allowing free advertising in the ARS Journal and on the ARS website. In return, Ron Knight will be writing an article about the conference in JARS and presenting a workshop at the 2012 Nanaimo convention on how to organize a similar conference.

Spring Plant Sales

The **Vancouver Rhododendron Society** held its Spring Show and Sale on Saturday and Sunday, May 1 and 2, at Park and Tilford, North Vancouver. The following report was provided by Karen Shuster.

2010 VRS TRUSS SHOW REPORT

This past year presented Vancouver rhododendrons with exceptional growing conditions and thusly we were rewarded with an outstanding group of entries for our annual truss show. Even though there were not a lot of competitors, those who submitted blooms made up for this lack in the number and quality of their submissions. Thanks go to Tony & Jacquie Clayton, Vern Finley, Norah Hall, Ed & Lilli Ann Hemminger, Karen Shuster and Bill & Suzanne Spohn for their entries. Choosing not to enter the competitive fray, Sean Rafferty & Brenda Macdonald submitted a display with some truly outstanding trusses and Alan Cheung provided an equally lovely display from Darts Hill Garden Park.

The judges gave out many ribbons; the major Awards were:

Novice (First Time Entry)

- * Award for highest aggregate points in Novice Class: Tony & Jacquie Clayton
- * Award for best novice truss or spray: Tony & Jacquie Clayton for 'Crest'

Species Trusses/Sprays

* Award for highest aggregate points for species trusses/sprays: Ed & Lilli Ann Hemminger tied with Margaret Charlton & Charlie Sale, with Vern Finley just 3 points behind

* Award for best species truss/spray (excluding triflora species): Vern Finley for *R decorum* 'White Leather'

* Award for best triflora species truss/spray: Margaret Charlton & Charlie Sale for *R augustinii* 'Lavender Lady'

Hybrids Trusses/Sprays

* Award for highest aggregate points for hybrid trusses/sprays: Ed & Lilli Ann Hemminger tied with Vern Finley

* Award for best hybrid rhododendron truss/spray: Vern Finley for 'Apricot Fantasy'

* Award for best evergreen hybrid azalea truss/spray: Vern Finley for 'HH Hume'

* Award for best deciduous hybrid azalea truss/spray: Karen Shuster for 'Lloyd Smith'

* Award for best azaleadendron truss: Vern Finley for 'Glory of Littleworth'

... by Karen Shuster, May 03, 2010

New Members

At the Ultimate Rhodo Conference at UBC, 6 new members joined the club. They are, in no particular order:

Barb Archer & Rob Oliver ... from Saltspring Island, near Ganges

Patricia Henderson ... from West Vancouver, near Maple Leaf Gardens Nursery

Carole & Ron Fox ... Although Carole is an Advanced Master Gardener, and member of the West Vancouver Garden Club, the Alpine Garden Club and Hardy Plant Club, she is new to rhododendrons. Ron and Carole recently moved to their present location, a shady woodland garden lot, on a ravine near St David's Church, in West Vancouver. Their previous garden, on Westport, won the 1999 Award of Excellence in the North Shore Gardens contest, and was on the cover of Gardens West in 2000

Libby & Blake Kelley ... according to Libby, "I'm a retired lawyer, and in 2002 finished the Master Gardener program and later the Advanced MG program. I garden in North Vancouver, love hostas and hate root weevils."

Sheila Martin ... from Erica Enterprises, in Pitt Meadows, a nursery specializing in propagating rhodos.

Margaret Rudolf & Dana Vanier ... from West Vancouver, near Lighthouse Park ... according to Margaret, she and her "husband and teen-age son recently moved from Ontario to beautiful West Vancouver after having talked about it for many years. I am the gardening enthusiast, and am now involved in a committee managing the gardens in an Arthur Erickson development in Middle Caulfeild. Since rhodos were an important Erickson landscape feature (as suggested by Erickson's landscape architect, Cornelia Oberlander), I am thrilled to learn



R campylocarpum ssp. *campylocarpum* ... UBC
... Nepal, Sikkim, Tibet, Myanmar

about this plant and understand how to care for it properly. So my interest is practical as well as aesthetic!"

Bill & Carla Bischoff ... Bill is the current president of the Fraser South Chapter, and both Carla and Bill are orchid experts, Carla specializing in tropical forms, while Bill is more interested in temperate forms ... many of you will remember Bill & Carla from their display and sale of cyclamens in the Fall ... Bill is something of an expert on the subject, and wrote an article in the last ARS Journal. The Bischoff garden is amazing - it is a small lot in a cul-de-sac and every inch is used. The variety of cyclamens in bloom, the flowers and leaf colours and shapes are incredible. The rich collection of shrubs and trees, shade house, arbours, decking with ponds, shelving for garden paraphernalia and so on, are fitted in like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. And then there are the orchids. There is a warm greenhouse - really warm - full of the most exotic collection of orchids we have ever seen. There is also a cool greenhouse with a different variety of equally beautiful orchids ... and another greenhouse full of cyclamen seedlings. I could go on and on. [*some the preceding was 'borrowed', with editing, from Joan Bengough, of PARS*]

... and a later arrival

Brent & Andrea Robertson ... Brent writes "my interest is species rhodos ... Many years ago I was given various books on the early plant hunters - Wilson, FK Ward, Veitch, ... - by a wonderful and generous boss. That got me interested in rhodos and in the species kind you might come across as you hiked across Tibet. I never forgot those stories. They entranced me. By chance a recent visit to the UBC Botanic Garden found me leafing through a newish book by Kenneth Cox on Frank Kingdon Ward - 'The Riddle of the Tsangpo Gorges'. I am once again engrossed in these fascinating stories with a renewed desire to learn more about a subject I set aside quite some time ago. I bumped into that old boss at the Alpine Garden Club Plant Sale this afternoon and of course he has me lined up for a work detail next week! You may know him: Alleyne Cook ... I worked for Vancouver Parks and Burnaby Parks in various capacities starting back in 1982 but am now retired ... starting to pick up where I left off some 20 years ago ... Andrea and I have even signed up for the next Master Gardener Program at VanDusen - just to get back into it! Andrea is a nurse - still working part time, but she likes plants. She's determined to beat me on the MGP exam so that will give me the push I need!" [*thanks Brent ... and thank you Alleyne*]

Please welcome these new members to our club ... they can be readily identified by the green dots on their name tags. All new members are instructed to remove the green dot when they feel that they are no longer 'newbies', so if we see green dots, we have work to do ... [*of course, Jill Newby gets a special exemption ... sorry, Jill, I couldn't resist it...*]

Remember that we encourage guest visitors, so please make an effort to invite friends and fellow gardeners to our upcoming meetings. As always, if you give us their names a day or two before the meeting, we will prepare guest nametags, to facilitate their full enjoyment of club hospitality. [*and to ease our work load at the start of the meetings*]



R trichanthum ... Van Dusen

2010 Membership Directory

No new members signed up at the show and sale [!], so the last directory distribution is up to date. A number of friends of members have expressed an interest, so there may be a June revision in the works ...

Member News

Apparently, none of our members did anything noteworthy last month ... or at least they're not talking about it ... *please remember that this is the 'Membership News' ... our entire reason for existence is to fill this space ...*

Darts Hill Garden Tour

The tour of the Darts Hill Garden in Surrey, in May, has been cancelled, due to lack of interest. Our thanks to Alan Cheung for the invitation ...

Members' Garden Tours



Some of you were curious about whose garden was shown in last month's item on garden tours ... it's Blenheim Palace, near Oxford, England, home of the Duke of Marlborough ... sort of an inside joke? ... Anyone care to guess where this month's garden photo comes from? ... a hint: it's world famous... and English.

Judy Williams and Rob Stevenson have offered to open their garden in May. They are located in Kerrisdale, near the Point Grey golf course ... no dates or times specified ... please phone (604) 443-1214, or contact jwilliams@maclaw.bc.ca

Stop the Presses! ... a last minute arrival from Glenda Powroznik & Mark Lamont ... You are invited to a garden tour and plant sale at the Lamont's garden ... 17918 – 68th Avenue, Surrey, BC ... **Sunday, May 16, 2010** (1:00 pm to 5 pm) ... for more information, contact the Lamonts @ (604) 574-4252, or Glenda & Mark @ (604) 294-9841, or Glenda's cell (604) 779-2799, or Mark's cell (604) 418-9518 ... We wish to invite you to tour Mark's

parents' 1-acre lot near Cloverdale consisting of hundreds of rhododendrons, azaleas and other botanical pleasures for you to enjoy. Please join us while we share this wonderful garden with you. You may also bring your family and friends, the more the merrier. We will also have a few rhododendrons and possibly some other plants for sale. Hope to see you there.

The June meeting is a potluck, to be held at the home of Richard and Heather Mossakowski in Lions Bay, on Sunday, June 13. Some of the other Lions Bay gardens will be open earlier in the day (not during the potluck) ... details next month.

The March Bouquet ... by Douglas Justice

... notes by Don Haslam

Due to one of those computer glitches that defy explanation, the second instalment of Don's notes went into the Junk email folder, and was not discovered until after the last newsletter was distributed. We include the entire article below, with our apologies to Don ...

1. **Magnolia sprengeri** of two types:

(a) var. *sprengeri* from western Hubei at 1310 -1800 m which is the pink-flowered form and can reach 50 feet tall in cultivation; and

(b) var. *elongata* also from western Hubei at 910-1200 m. which is the white-flowered form and suitable for areas in which space is limited.

2. **Rhododendron sutchuenense** (Fortunea subsection) ...

UBC has 10 to 15 forms ... Corolla widely campanulate, pale pink, pale pinkish lilac to mauve pink with red spotting but without blotch. *R. praeevernum* is smaller growing, has a glabrous midrib on the leaf underside and the flower always has a blotch. This is one of the toughest larger-growing species with trusses of long-lasting flowers, but it grows best with shelter from the wind.



R sutchuenense ... UBC

3. **Rhododendron argipeplum** (Barbata subsection) a fine

early-flowering species differing little in garden value or appearance from *R. barbatum* apart from the presence of indumentum (thin continuous, loose indumentum, white at first turning to buff to rufous or greyish-white. Bristly stems and petioles.

4. **Skimmia** ... In Spring bears terminal panicles of white star-shaped flowers, strongly scented in some species. Followed, on female or hermaphrodite plants, by fleshy, spherical, red or black fruits. Skimmias tolerate shade and neglect. Douglas showed *Skimmia japonica* "Rubella" which he described as "exuberant" and reaching 8 feet at UBC after 25 years with flowers showing for 6 weeks.

5. **Rhododendron formosanum** (Argyrophylla subsection) found in Taiwan only. Erect rather sparse shrub. Free-flowering from a young age but in cultivation is not living up to its Taiwanese reputation of being their most beautiful native species.

6. **Rhododendron morii** (Maculifera subsection) barely hardy at UBC; often bears purple spots illustrative of cold damage. Found in Taiwan from 5,500 to 11,500 feet. One of the most free-flowering species, in its best forms, setting buds on every shoot every year. Quite easy to grow and fairly robust, but some forms come very early into growth.

7. **Rhododendron floribundum** (Argyrophylla subsection) Erect shrub or small tree. branchlets densely white floccose (loose tufts). Leaves: upper surface olive green, bullate; lower surface with a white to greyish, woolly indumentum. Corolla widely campanulate, pink to purplish-lavender, with a large blotch and spots. The species is related to *R denudatum*, but differing in its narrower leaves, matte upper leaf surface and paler indumentum. Douglas said the indumentum is very variable. It is often chlorotic in foliage, which can be treated with dolomitic lime.

8. **Rhododendron arboreum ssp arboreum** (Arborea subsection) Leaves with lower surface with compacted white or silvery indumentum. Found in foothills of the Himalayas. Quite tender, and too tender for most of Britain. *R arboreum ssp delavayi* is hardier and has more spongy indumentum.

9. **Rhododendron 'Rosevallon'** [form or possible hybrid of *neriiflorum*] Small leaves with a persistent purplish-red underside. Compact, with small, bright, waxy-red flowers. Early-flowering.

The April Bouquet ... by Douglas Justice

... notes by Don Haslam

1. ***Viburnum cinnamomifolium*** rounded open evergreen shrub; sometimes small tree. In early summer it produces tiny tubular white flowers 3 mm across, in loose terminal cymes. The flowers are followed by ovoid, glossy blue-black fruit.
2. ***Staphylea holocarpa* var "rosea"** upright shrub or spreading small tree bearing three palmate blue-green leaves with oblong to lance shaped leaflets (3 - 10 cm) long. Nodding panicles are produced from mid to late spring. The "rosea" variety has bronze young leaves and pink flowers.
3. ***Rhododendron glischrum* ssp *rude*** (Glischrum subsection) Endemic to Mount Omi in China. Height to 2.7 metres. Leaf and flower buds are very sticky. Leaves have bristles with glands on upper surface as well as on branchlets, petiole and lower leaf surface. Cherry-pink marked with crimson flowers which are very striking. The plant is rare in gardens and hard to please. Enjoy it at UBC and emulate its success.
4. ***Rhododendron cinnabarinum*** (Cinnabarina subsection) Height to 7 metres, usually less, upright shrub. Leaves lepidote, often glaucous, especially when young. +/- scales which are unequal in size and touching to their own diameter apart. Inflorescence: 2 to 9 terminal flowers. Distinguished from other lepidote species by their waxy, bell shaped, pendulous flowers which are multi-coloured (yellow, orange, red, purple). Unfortunately this species is often subject to powdery mildew in the Vancouver area.
5. ***Rhododendron argyrophyllum*** (Argyrophylla subsection) Two metre to 6 metres in height (and similarly in width), rounded to erect shrub. Leaves on the upper surface are glabrous; but the lower surface has a defining thin, fine textured, white silvery to tawny compacted indumentum. Inflorescence: 4 to 12 flowered; waxy pink or white.
6. ***Rhododendron sanguineum* ssp *sanguineum* var. *cloiophorum*** (Neriiflora subsection) This is almost certainly a natural hybrid. White, yellow-flushed or pink flowers. This species generally has continuous, compacted thin, silvery grey, rosulate (bring your microscope on garden tours) indumentum. It requires good drainage and cool roots even in Vancouver.
7. ***Rhododendron stamineum*** (Section Choniastrum) A shrub or small tree, sometimes straggly. Corolla: narrowly tubular funnel-shaped. The tube is long and narrow: 1 to 1.5 cm with narrowly oblong lobes. Flowers are white to pale pink; often scented. Protruding stamens.
8. ***Acer franchetii*** (my notes failed me)
9. ***Acer carpinifolium*** (Hornbeam maple) Native to Japan. Bushy. Prominently-veined, mid-green leaves which are 15 cm long. The leaves turn golden brown in autumn.
10. ***Clematis montana*** Tiny single white flowers produced for about four weeks in late spring and early summer. The plant is a vigorous climber and early-flowering.



R sanguineum ssp sanguineum var cloiophorum

MEMBERS' FORUM

And now for something completely different ... the following was sent to us by a friend ... we pass it along to those of you who have children, or grandchildren, or who simply like something thought-provoking ... make sure you have the sound on your computer turned on ...

This is only a 1 minute, 44 second video and it is clever. Make sure you read as well as listen...forward and backward. The video was submitted in a contest by a 20-year old. The contest was titled "u @ 50" by AARP. This video won second place. When they showed it, everyone in the room was awe-struck and broke into spontaneous applause. So simple and yet so brilliant. Take a minute and watch it. Control+Click link ... [Lost Generation](#)

And now for something else completely different ... Milton Bowman, our member in Adelaide, Australia, sent us a copy of the Rhododendrons South Australia newsletter ... we have borrowed this photo, with permission of Chris Thomas, editor, to remind us of the change of seasons, and how short-lived the present blaze of Spring colour will be ... if only we could look forward to Fall colours like these! [perhaps some of our readers in the Fraser Valley would like to rise to the challenge, and send in a photo?]



A confession ... this isn't Australia ... but it's a nice photo

Thanks to the following, for contributing to the Membership News, thereby making our job easier : Don Haslam, Garth Wedemire, Karen Shuster, Ron Knight, Libby & Blake Kelley, Margaret Rudolf & Dana Vanier, Ron & Carole Fox, Brent & Andrea Robertson ... and Milton Bowman

Please send your contributions to: ri_wright@telus.net

or by mail to Box 266, Lions Bay, BC V0N 2E0 ...

or by phone to (604) 921-9370

Attribution will be given for all contributions, unless anonymity is specifically requested ... contributions may be edited for spelling, grammar, and length.

Bob & Jo Wright

Editor's postscript ... You will all remember that we started up this cooperative newsletter two months ago, because we thought there was a need for members to communicate with each other. You will note that over 90 % of this newsletter was the work of just 3 or 4 people, the same people who made the last issue possible ... we have 107 memberships, including 175 members ... you do the math ...

We will be back in June, to give you the final details of the Potluck Supper, and because we are busting to tell you all about our trip to visit other members' gardens ... whether we return in September will very much depend on whether we have something to say, and that will depend on how full the 'in' basket is ... if you're a new member, you probably have lots of questions ... if you're an 'old' member, you probably have some answers ... let's get together ...