

# **A BRIEF HISTORY of CAMELLIAS VICTORIA INC.**

formerly the

**AUSTRALIAN CAMELLIA RESEARCH  
SOCIETY VICTORIAN BRANCH INC.**



**YEARS 1955 TO 1976**

**Compiled by MR. A. W. JESSEP**

**YEARS 1976 TO 1999**

**Compiled by DR. R. M. WITHERS**

**YEARS 2000 TO 2011**

**Compiled by MR. C. BAIRD and  
MRS. S. SHALLCROSS**

**YEARS 2012 TO 2022**

**Compiled by MRS. S. SHALLCROSS**



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OF CAMELLIAS VICTORIA INC.**  
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**AUSTRALIAN CAMELLIA RESEARCH SOCIETY  
VICTORIAN BRANCH INC.**



The following history, which was written by Mr. A. W. Jessep, appeared in the Victorian Branch Newsletters up to year 1976 and was produced in booklet form by Mr. Geoff Sherrington.

The popularity of camellias in the latter part of the 19th century had waned to such an extent that the nurserymen had stopped propagating them and the majority of the plants, and their names, in most nurseries had disappeared.

In the late 1930s the value of camellias as a garden plant in Australia was again becoming appreciated, and there was a steady demand for them in the early forties. Some of the nurserymen, such as Nobelius in Victoria and Hazlewood Bros. in New South Wales, were again propagating them, but were finding difficulty in their correct nomenclature.

In 1941, Nobelius had 94 different named cultivars in his catalogue and in 1945 Hazlewood Bros had put out a special camellia catalogue with 205 camellia cultivars in it. In both cases, some of them were duplicates, but it indicated that there was a distinct revival and in 1938 some had been imported from Japan.

Fortunately, a large collection of over 130 camellias had been planted, from 1875-1880, in the Melbourne Botanic Gardens and practically all of them had labels on them, but a few were found not to be correct. This assisted in the nomenclature and many cuttings were given to nurserymen from these plants for propagating. The revival of the popularity of the camellia was well on its way by the late forties.

In September 1949, Mrs. Austen Gatehouse and Dr. C.R. Merrillees - both very keen camellia growers - contacted the then Director of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens - Mr. A.W. Jessep - and suggested that a camellia society was a possibility as there were several specialist flower societies, such as rose, gladiolus, dahlia and chrysanthemum. Camellias were becoming popular and a society would create interest and disseminate knowledge of their correct nomenclature and local cultural requirements.

In 1950, the Director of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens attended the Camellia Conference in England where interspecific hybrids were seen and 18 reticulatas from Kunming were illustrated in colour and described by Dr. H. Hu from the Yunnan Province of China. It was realised that the nomenclature of camellias was even more confused in the United Kingdom than in Australia.

A camellia society had not materialised in Victoria, but in July 1951 a group of enthusiasts staged a small display in the Melbourne Lower Town Hall in which the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria was conducting its meeting. Professor E.G. Waterhouse, from Sydney, who had also attended the London Camellia Conference, was in Melbourne and attended the R.H.S.V. meeting. When he realised that a Victorian Camellia Society was contemplated, he suggested that it be enlarged to an Australian body and this was accepted in preference to a Victorian Society.

**In 1952**, the following agreed to form an Australian Society with  
Mr A.W. Jessep (Victoria) as President  
Professor Waterhouse (New South Wales) as Hon. Secretary,  
Mr. Walter Hazlewood (New South Wales ) as Treasurer, and  
Dr. C.R. Merrillees ( Victoria) as Organiser.

From April 1953, the members in Victoria met regularly for meetings in the Herbarium Hall at the Melbourne Botanic Gardens with the President (Mr. Jessep) as Chairman.

In 1954, it was thought that such meetings should be put on an official standing with the Society. In September 1954, the Victorian members requested that the President call a meeting to discuss the Constitution and other matters concerning the Australia and New Zealand Camellia Research Society. The meeting appointed a sub-committee to report back, not later than the end of November. The sub-committee met on 11th October and reported its findings to the adjourned meeting on 22nd November 1954. Among other matters, it recommended that the Constitution be adjusted to provide for the formation of State or local branches.

At the A.N.Z.C.R.S. **Annual Meeting in June, 1955** (held at the home of Professor Waterhouse at Gordon, NSW ) it was resolved that the Society make provision in its Constitution for Branches to be formed and **the members in Victoria were granted permission to form a branch to be known as the A.N.Z.C.R.S. (Victorian Branch).**

**The first Chairman of the Branch was Dr. C.R. Merrillees with Mr. J. Moses as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, and they remained in office until the Chairman became very ill and died on 7th April, 1959.**

During this period, the membership of the Branch increased from 30 to 98 members. The research and investigational problems included the nomenclature of the cultivars found in Australia, experiments in the general cultivation of the plants, forming classes and conducting an annual camellia show.

**In 1957, Dr. Merrillees originated the Victorian Newsletter** and the Secretary posted it to all the Victorian members. This popular Newsletter has continued to date with nine issues per annum. Other Branches have followed this example and it is sought after outside the local Branch.

Late in 1958, Dr. Merrillees had a grave illness which caused his death on 7th April 1959.

**1959** Mr. Alfred Stewart was appointed Chairman with Mr. J. Moses Secretary and Mr. T. Savige Treasurer.

During 1959, emphasis was placed on propagation by grafting — aerial, inarching, tip grafting, side grafting and cleft grafting. It was decided that cleft grafting was the most successful for reticulatas, the seedlings of which were now available.

'The Czar' history was finalized regarding who and where it originated.

The Branch Newsletter was widened to include overseas news.

Branch membership was 102.

**1960 and 1961** Dr. R.E. Harvey was Chairman, Mr. Alf Stewart Honorary Secretary and (in 1961) Mr. Tom Savige Treasurer.

**The monthly meetings were transferred from the Herbarium, Botanic Gardens, to a more central room at Hardware House in the city. (Mr. Stewart was an active member of the Hardware Club.)**

Investigations on synonyms and sports were continued — such as the 'Otome', 'Badgen's Beauty', 'Pink Perfection', etc and the 'Prince Frederick William' - 'Lady Hope' complex. Plastic pots versus earthenware flower pots were tried. Mr. Calder presented an ELMO 25mm projector to the Branch. Field days at Clover College and Camellia Lodge Nursery were arranged.



Following is an extract from a letter dated 10/6/1992 from Mr. Thomas J. Savige, International Registrar, to our Editor, Beth Bortolin, commenting on the preceding notes that were published in our newsletter at that time:

Dear Beth,

I enjoyed your June Newsletter, especially the part on the start of the Victorian Branch.

What we had originally was a very active Camellia Section in the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria with Dr. Merrillees as Chairman. It used to meet in Hardware House, Little Bourke Street, in the offices of Alf Stewart's hardware business. Alf was a keen camellia grower and a foundation member of the ACRS. He was an officer of the RHSV and took over as Secretary later on. He used to have an hour of classical music on the ABC on Sunday known as the "Classical Hour" that was very popular.

*(Continued on page 6)*



Most of the early members of the ACRS from Victoria were members of the RHSV Camellia Section and for a number of years after the formation of the ACRS Vic. Branch, there were two monthly meetings on camellias.

This continued until the year I was Chairman of both bodies when the meetings were combined and for some years afterwards members of the RHSV attended our Branch meetings.

The paragraph in the Newsletter which says that a group of enthusiasts staged a small display in the Lower Town Hall is inaccurate. The Camellia Section of the RHSV from 1951 on staged two shows a year in the Melbourne Town Hall. The earliest one was in the Lower Hall, but the second one, which was called the Camellia and Daffodil Show used both the upper and lower halls and had large displays from the nurseries.

I remember one where a nursery display in the centre of the hall featured many hundred heads of a new liliu. They were certainly not small shows, in fact, I think the 1955 show was bigger than any of the present day exhibits. However, the effort of getting all that material into the Melbourne Town Hall, with the ever increasing motor traffic (*even in those days!*) became too great and we went to St. John's Church Hall, Toorak, then when this became too small the show was moved to Malvern. While these shows were largely run by the RHSV the bulk of the workers and exhibitors were members of the ACRS Vic. Branch.

The story in the Newsletter mentions Dr. Merrillees, Alec Jessep, J. Moses and Mrs. Gatehouse, but I can bring to mind other stalwarts of the time such as Alf Steward, Dick Paul, Fred Tuckfield, Bill and Pearl Eggleston, Fred Spencer and Eric Winston, who were the ones who got the Branch kicking in those early years. There was an influx of members in 1955. These included the McMinns, Kay Kairlie, Harry Henty, Dr. Biddle, Charles Cole, whose camellia entries and displays gave a great boost to the shows.

I think the first Council Meeting I attended was 1958 when I stood in as a Victorian Councillor. The early meetings were all held at Erydene in the Prof's drawing room. We drove up to Sydney by car with Dr. Merrillees as a passenger. The Doc. loved to play the devil's advocate, so no matter what your opinion was, you could always get an argument. He entertained us most of the way to Sydney with his stutter and occasional clack of loose dentures! Nothing phased him, he loved to talk. The 1958 meeting was the start of the SA Branch and my representation of Victoria which continued until I moved to NSW in 1963.

.... Regards, Tom Savage.

**1962-63** Mr. F. Tuckfield was Chairman, Mr. Matt Matthews Honorary Secretary and Mr. Ivan Hays Treasurer.

**Branch meetings were transferred to St. Johns Church Hall, Toorak Road, for more convenience and better parking.**

Activities were enlarged to assist camellia show classes at the Australian-American, Box Hill Garden Club and the Ferny Creek Garden Club and judging was carried out for the camellia classes. There were investigations on reticulata seedlings and on variations in the Tea plants plus Bonsai experiments with camellia plants. Floral arrangements started for competition at the meetings.

**1964-65** Mr. A.W. Jessep was Chairman, Mr. Matt Matthews Honorary Secretary and Mr. Ivan Hays Treasurer.

There were studies on the transmission of virus by grafting — spotted ‘The Czar’ from virus-infected ‘Gauntletti’; ‘Latifolia Variegata’ when grafted on ‘Elegans’ cuttings. A Question Box was tried, but was not very successful. Items of Interest were introduced at meetings. Problem varieties were investigated — ‘Lady St.Clair’, ‘Otome’, ‘Sode Gakushi’, ‘Fred Sander’. The check list of older camellias was card indexed.

Camellia show classes and judging rules for camellias were adjusted and instigated. There were demonstrations of show staging and judging and competition classes at monthly meetings enlarged.

There were visits to the Botanic Gardens, Clover Cottage, Camellia Lodge and Camerons in the Dandenongs.

The number of members was 149. Subs. were 30 shillings Single.

**1966-68** Mr. H.P. Matthews was Chairman, Mr. Jim Simpson Honorary Secretary and Mr. Fred Spencer Treasurer.

Activities included: reticulata seed and seedling experiments; opportunity table established; camellia display at State Savings Bank by Miss Syme and Mr. H. Davis; show schedules for camellias brought more up to date; classes for varieties in the schedules.

Subscriptions were \$3—Single, \$5 Family.

**1969** Mr. Bell was Chairman, Mr. Jim Simpson Honorary Secretary and Mr. H. Davis Treasurer.

**1970** Mr. Bell was Chairman, Mr. Ern Kettle Honorary Secretary and Mr. H. Davis Treasurer.

\* The Alfred Stewart Memorial Library was established in honour of the great service given by Mr. Alfred Stewart to the branch, and to camellias in general. Mrs. Stewart made a valuable donation to the Library.

- \* A collection of plants was donated to the E.G. Waterhouse National Garden Society at Miranda, New South Wales.

There were 136 branch members.

**1971** Mr. H.P. Matthews was Chairman, Mr. E. Kettle Honorary Secretary and Miss Howeiron Treasurer.

- \* A position of Membership Secretary was created with Miss McDonald appointed.
- \* There was a segregation of duties for committee members of the branch.
- \* There was a new format with illustrations in the Newsletter.
- \* A display at C.B.A. was managed by Mr. Morgan.

**1972** Mr. E. Kettle was President-Chairman (a new title according to the Constitution of the A.C.R.S.), Mr. K. Brushfield Honorary Secretary, Mr. R.A. Ball Sub-Secretary, Mr. Greenwood Newsletter Editor.

**In 1972 the Merrillees Medals became available to the Victorian Branch. The Committee decided that the Gold Medal was to be presented by the Branch as the top prestige award for Outstanding Service to Camellias in Victoria.**

- \* The first recipients of the Merrillees Gold Medal were Mr and Mrs Fred Spencer.

**First combined Waverley Camellia Show with the Waverley Garden Club was held in the Waverley High School Hall in August, 1972. Initially it was a one day show. Mr. Ray Garling was Show Manager.**

**The Silver Merrillees Medal is to be awarded to the Aggregate Points Winner of the Named Cultivars at the Waverley Show and the Bronze Merrillees Medal is to be awarded to the Best Australian Raised Cultivar at the Waverley Show.**

**1973 and 1974** Mr. E. Kettle was President, Mr. R. Straughan Honorary Secretary, Mrs. Sperandeo Editor, Mr. R.A. Ball Subscription Secretary.

- \* First International Camellia Society Conference in Australia hosted by ACRS Vic. Branch. There were visits to Healesville Sanctuary, Sebire's reticulatas, Clover Cottage, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Simpson's, Camellia Lodge, Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens, Cowes (koalas and penguins).
- \* The Waverley Show was held with Waverley Garden Club.
- \* Mr A. W. Jessep was awarded the Merrillees Gold Medal in 1973.

**1974 The first A.C.R.S. National Conference hosted by the Victorian Branch was held in August, 1974.**



- \* A portable library cabinet was installed.
- \* The floral arrangement competition at the monthly meetings was revived.
- \* A class for a group of three blooms was added to the monthly competition.
- \* The Waverley Show was held with Waverley Garden Club.
- \* Mr. I. Hays was awarded the Merrillees Gold Medal in 1974.

Branch membership was 181. Subs. were Single—\$4, Family \$6.50.

**1975** Mr. F. Spencer was President-Chairman, Mr. R. Straughan Honorary Secretary, Mr. D. Gilmour Treasurer, Mr. E. Kettle Newsletter Editor and Mr. R.A. Ball Sub-Secretary.

- \* A special seedling class was added to the monthly competition.
- \* Members took blooms to the Canberra Camellia Show.
- \* Quarantine was arranged with the Australian Rhododendron Society.
- \* There was a discussion with that Society concerning space for camellias in their Gardens at Olinda. A display and table were arranged at the Rhododendron Show at the Olinda Gardens.
- \* Camellia seeds and seedlings were researched.
- \* There were cuttings for research from the U.S.A.
- \* The Waverley Show was held with Waverley Garden Club. Over 900 passed through the doors. Lady Winneke, wife of the Governor, opened the Show.
- \* Membership was 183.
- \* Mr. E. Kettle was awarded the Merrillees Gold Medal in 1975.

**1976** Mr. L. Hobbs was President-Chairman, Mr. R. Straughan Honorary Secretary, Mr. D. Gilmour Treasurer, Mrs. Ball Sub-Secretary and Mr. E. Kettle Editor.

- \* The proposed camellia area at the Rhododendron Gardens was prepared. There was a programme of propagation and maintenance of plants for the Garden.
- \* Contacts were made with U.S.A. people. Preparations were made to receive a U.S.A. Camellia party.
- \* Work commenced on preparing the site for the Society's Camellia Garden within the National Rhododendron Garden at Olinda, but it was held up pending further discussions with the Forestry Commission.
- \* A Research Group was formed to further the aims of the Society.
- \* Registration procedures were revised.
- \* Project OIL (Once In a Lifetime), a visit by members of the American Camellia Society, was led by Mr. Milton Brown.
- \* Mr. H. P. Matthews was awarded the Merrillees Gold Medal in 1976 and the medal was presented at the Waverley Show by Mr. Jessep after he opened the Show.

In 1976 Mr. A.W. Jessep was invited to become a Patron by the National Council of the A.C.R.S.



The following, continuing record of our history to 2000 was compiled by Dr. R. M. Withers with some additional information from the minutes in the 2012 printing.

**1977 and 1978** Mr. L. Hobbs was President, Mr. R. Straughan Secretary, Dr. D. Lush Treasurer, Mrs. N. Ball Membership Secretary, Mr. E. Kettle Editor.

- \* There was a further import of scions from America as a result of contacts made during Project OIL.
- \* Mr L. Hobbs visited New Zealand and arranged for the import of scions of a wide range of New Zealand raised camellias.
- \* **Waverley Show was changed to a two day Show with great success. Increased number of blooms exhibited and nearly double the number of people through the door over the two days.**
- \* Mr and Mrs L. Hobbs were awarded the Merrillees Gold Medal in 1977.

In December 1977, there was the initial planting of camellias in a nursery setting, in the Camellia Garden within the National Rhododendron Garden at Olinda.

**1978** On 26th May, 1978 initial planting out of camellias in a permanent landscape setting in the Camellia Garden was carried out. 20 or so members braved gale force winds to carry out measuring, staking and finally planting of the first camellia plants. Working bees continued for many years. Branch funds were used to purchase plants and gardening supplies to set up the Garden.

- \* **Waverley Show was held over two days with Waverley Garden Club and the date was changed from fourth weekend in August to third weekend.**
- \* The first of a series of annual displays over 11 days and nights with 2 days of competition were staged at the Royal Agricultural Show in 1978. Display at Commercial Bank in Melbourne.
- \* Mr. E. Kettle won national seedling competition with a retic. seedling to be called 'Westfield'.
- \* Visit by a group of members of the Japanese Camellia Society.
- \* **Victorian Branch hosted the National Congress of the A.C.R.S., in September 1978.**
- \* Mr. & Mrs. N. McMinn were awarded the E.G. Waterhouse Medal by the National Council of the A.C.R.S.
- \* Mr. R. Straughan awarded the Merrillees Gold Medal in 1978.
- \* Mrs. N. Ball awarded the R.H.S.V. John Pascoe Fawcner Silver Medal for Services to Horticulture.

**1979 to 1981** Mr. R. Garling was President, Mr. R. Straughan Secretary, Dr. D. Lush Treasurer, Mrs. N. Ball Membership Secretary. Mrs. S Shallcross was Editor

- \* Ray Garnett came onto the Committee as Research Rep.
- \* First amount of \$1500 received from Camellia Lodge from sale of new retic. 'Pavlova' raised by Mr. L. Hobbs. Plant was released in May. Money to be used in the establishment of the Camellia Garden within the National Rhododendron Garden at Olinda.
- \* A Registration Committee was appointed.
- \* May/June—Branch Constitution amended to comply with Taxation Department requirements for exemption from liability for income tax.
- \* Olinda Garden working bees were held regularly throughout the year.
- \* Competitive shows held by R.H.S.V., Waverley Garden Club/ACRS Vic. Branch and at the Royal Agricultural Show, displays at Sun Home Show and Commercial Bank in Melbourne.
- \* Visit by a group of members of the American Camellia Society and Mr. and Mrs. L. Rigall from South Africa on their way to the I.C.S. Congress in New Zealand in 1979.
- \* **Mr. E. Kettle was National President and Mr. J. Hunt National Secretary.**
- \* Mr. & Mrs. E. Sebire were awarded the E.G. Waterhouse Medal by the National Council of the A.C.R.S.
- \* Mr and Mrs R. Garling were awarded the Merrillees Gold Medal in 1979

**1980** Afternoon field days were introduced for Society members—two were held. The first to the Garden at Olinda and the second to the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Kitchen at Merricks..

- \* Working bees continued to be held at Olinda during the year.
- \* Competitive Show of Camellias staged at Westfield Shoppingtown, Doncaster, also shows jointly with R.H.S.V., Waverley Garden Club and at the Royal Agricultural Show.
- \* The first of a series of annual Camellia displays was staged at Chadstone Shopping Centre and also a display at the Commercial Bank in Melbourne.
- \* Mr. & Mrs Julius Nuccio visited from the world-famous Nuccio's Nurseries in America.
- \* End of year social get-together at the Village Green Hotel.

Statistics in November, 1980 Newsletter:

For the eight monthly meetings so far we have had a total of 541 attendances (average per meeting, 68). This compares favourably with 1979 when 488 members attended the same eight meetings for an average of 61. Total membership for both years was 1980 — 240; 1979 — 236. Subs. were Single \$7, Family \$10, Societies \$10.

### **1981 The official sponsor of the Vic. Branch was *NITROSOL*.**

The Camellia Garden at Olinda progressed. Open days and working bees were held to keep members informed of the progress.

- \* Mr. R. Garling was elected a Director of the International Camellia Society.
- \* \$300 donated to National Council to be used for colour plates in "Camellia News"

- \* Shows at Westfield Doncaster and Chadstone Shopping Centres, and also with the R.H.S.V. and Waverley Garden Club. R.H.S.V. Show moved to the Herbarium and due to reduced space it did not have commercial displays.
- \* We also supported shows put on by Cheltenham Garden Club and Box Hill Horticultural Society.
- \* Mrs S. Shallcross was awarded the Merrillees Gold Medal in 1981.

**1982** Dr. R. Withers was President, Mrs. W. Snell Secretary, Dr. D. Lush Treasurer, Mrs. N. Ball Membership Secretary and Mrs. S. Shallcross Editor.

### **Burnley Horticultural College became the venue for monthly meetings.**

- \* Patron, Mr. A.W. Jessep, celebrated his 90th birthday.
- \* The first Grafting Afternoon for members was held in July at the home of David Lush and then a Hybridizing Afternoon was held at the home of John Hunt. in August.
- \* Visit by a group of members of the American Camellia Society, led by Judge Hulyn Smith.
- \* **Import of a number of the recently-described Kunming reticulata camellias from Dr. Bruce Bartholomew in the U.S.A.**
- \* Shows at Westfield Doncaster, Waverley, and Royal Agricultural Show and display at Chadstone Shopping Centre, .
- \* Work at the Olinda Garden continued using funds from profits from our yearly shows and with help from the Rhododendron Society

**1983 and 1984** Dr. R. Withers was President, Mrs. S. Shallcross Secretary, Dr. D. Lush Treasurer, Mrs. N. Ball Membership Secretary and Mr. R. Atkinson Editor.

- \* Displays at The Pines Garden Centre and Chadstone Shopping Centre.
- \* Shows at Westfield Doncaster and Waverley. New show put on by East Malvern RSL Home Garden Club was supported by our members, also show put on by Cheltenham Garden Club. Royal Agricultural Show was late September. This was the last year we participated in this show.
- \* Record attendance of 2745 at the Waverley Show.
- \* Maintenance of the Camellia Garden at Olinda was transferred back to the Committee of Management of the National Rhododendron Garden. The number of field days for members per year was increased.
- \* Visit to Edgar and Beryl Sebire's property at Wandin to see their reticulatas.
- \* We started to purchase small plants and rooted cuttings to be grown on by members for sale at meetings and shows. This continued for many years. Plants were initially looked after by David Lush and then by Laurie Hardingham and with working bees by members.
- \* Mr. E. Kettle was awarded the Walter Hazelwood Award of Honour by the National Council of the A.C.R.S.
- \* Mr. T. Atkinson was awarded the Merrillees Gold Medal in 1983.

**1984 The Victorian Branch hosted the A.C.R.S. National Congress centred at the Park Royal Motel in Parkville from 31st August to 3rd September. National Show was held at Box Hill.**

**The Branch's culture booklet "Successful Camellia Growing" first edition was published.**

- \* Mr. Nicholas Margetts was awarded a Society Scholarship to cover his three year course on Horticulture at Burnley Horticultural College. This was extended in 1986 for another year to cover his final year.
- \* 3 Field days were held with a Grafting Afternoon at David Lush's home, and visits to both Camellia Lodge and Pasadena Nurseries.
- \* Displays were put on at The Pines Nursery, Ringwood Square and Mt. Eliza. Competitive shows were held at East Malvern, Waverley, Box Hill (National Show), Cheltenham. Chadstone Shopping Centre cancelled.
- \* Honorary Life Fellowship of the R.H.S.V. was conferred on the Branch's representative on the R.H.S.V. Executive, Mr. L. Hobbs.
- \* Dr. D. Lush was awarded the Merrillees Gold Medal in 1984.

Membership was 108 Single, 43 Family. Subs. were \$7 Single, \$10 Family.

**1985 and 1986** Mr. E. Kettle was President, Mrs. S. Shallcross Secretary, Dr. D. Lush Treasurer, Mrs. N. Ball Membership Secretary, Mr. R. Atkinson Editor.

**In March 1985, The Ashburton Senior Citizens' Centre became the venue for Branch monthly meetings.**

**New Purposes and Rules were adopted and the Society became incorporated on 22nd. July 1985. The official name became "The Australian Camellia Research Society, Victorian Branch, Inc." Dr R. Withers was Public Officer.**

- \* At the Camellia Garden at Olinda a gazebo was erected at a cost of \$2,480 from the proceeds of the Mr. L. Hobbs 'Pavlova' Trust Fund.
- \* Shows were held at Westfield Doncaster Shopping Centre, Waverley, Box Hill, Cheltenham and Southland Shopping Centre.
- \* Liz Elms was Waverley Show Manager
- \* The first of a series of competitive Camellia Shows staged at Southland Shopping Centre in conjunction with the Cheltenham Garden Club was held
- \* Displays at The Pines Nursery, Doncaster and Nunawading Garden Centre.
- \* Field days continued for members with a bus trip to Nyora to the garden of Jim and Doreen Horsburgh, and to the Olinda Garden
- \* A number of branch members, being Mr. & Mrs. L. Hobbs, Mr. & Mrs. T. Atkinson, Mr. & Mrs. G. Snell, Dr. & Mrs. K. Moody, Dr. J. Rouse, Mr. A. Teese, Mr. & Mrs. F. Waghorn and Dr. & Mrs. R. Withers, were honoured by the Committee of Management of the National Rhododendron Garden at Olinda with Honorary Life Memberships of the Garden for their services in the development of the Camellia Section of the Garden.
- \* Mrs. P. Shepherd was awarded the Merrillees Gold Medal in 1985.

**In 1986 a Gold Medal was struck by the Victorian Branch in honour of the Patron, Mr. A.W. Jessep. It was to be made available to affiliated garden clubs and societies and interstate branches of the A.C.R.S. to be awarded to the Best Camellia Bloom at a Show with a section for camellia blooms. The first Medal was presented to Mr. A.W. Jessep at the April 1986 meeting.**

Mr. G. Stocks won the first Jessep Medal at the East Malvern Show.

Mr. A.W. Jessep resigned as National Registrar and Mr R. Garnett was appointed his successor.

**The venue for the combined Waverley Show between the Victorian Branch and the Waverley Garden Club, which was at the Waverley High School Assembly Hall for 14 years, was changed to the Mount Waverley Community Centre. Ray Garling was Show Manager again.**

Mr. P. Ludwig won the first Jessep Medal at the Waverley Show.

**\*\*A combined Camellia Show with Waverley Garden Club has been held every year since its inception in 1972 until it was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions.**

- \* Grafting day at Len Hobbs' home at Doncaster.
- \* Shows were held in Doncaster and Southland Shopping Centres, and with RHSV, East Malvern RSL Home Garden Club and Box Hill Hort. Society.
- \* In September, following the I.C.S. Congress in Sydney, eleven delegates from the U.S.A. and two from South Africa visited Melbourne and spent a number of days viewing Camellias here.
- \* The Camellia Garden in the National Rhododendron Garden, Olinda was extended.
- \* Dr. R. Withers was awarded the Merrillees Gold Medal in 1986.

**1987-88** Mr. Rob Atkinson was President, Mrs. Shirley Shallcross Secretary, Mr. Fred Hawkins Treasurer, Mrs. Nulma Ball Membership Secretary and Mrs. Pat Atkinson Editor.

**The Branch published Warwick Kimber's book "Camellia Species in Australia" which was compiled from articles written for our Newsletter.**

- \* Our plants were moved to L. Hobbs' and M. McKoy's properties as L. Hardingham could no longer look after them due to ill health.
- \* The first flowering of *C. chrysantha* in Victoria was on September 15th, 1987.
- \* Field day to Olinda Garden, where members commented on how well the plants were growing, then a visit to Doongalla Gardens. A field day was also held at Pasadena Nursery in June.
- \* Training afternoon for stewards and judges was held in July at East Malvern RSL.

- \* We participated in displays at the RHSV Extravaganza at Chirnside Park, The Pines Nursery, Ringwood Square and The Glen.
- \* Shows were held at Waverley, East Malvern, Box Hill and Southland Shopping Centre.
- \* **Mr. Ray Garling became National President of the A.C.R.S. and Mrs. Nola McLean became National Secretary.**
- \* Mrs N. Ball was awarded the Merrillees Gold Medal in 1987.

**Following the sudden death of Committee member Mr. Len Hobbs in January, 1988 the blooms competition became “The Len Hobbs Memorial Blooms Competition.”**

- \* The Victorian Branch commenced to grow and propagate plants in a shade house on the property of Mr. Keith Smith at Gembrook in March 1988 and regular working bees were held monthly. Plants were moved there from other members' homes. Plants were for sale to members and at Waverley Show.
- \* Grafting day was held at Gembrook in July.
- \* In July 1988 there was a visit by a group of 41 members of the New Zealand Camellia Society.
- \* In August 1988, there was a visit by 3 Chinese Botanists from Kunming Botanical Institute and Shanghai Botanical Institute and Gardens. A lecture evening was co-hosted with the Rhododendron Society to hear them speak.
- \* Camellia Lodge Nursery moved from Princes Highway, Noble Park to Bakers Road, North Dandenong and we had a field day to visit in July..
- \* Displays were held at Chirnside Park (last one), The Glen, and Ringwood Square.
- \* Shows were held at East Malvern, Waverley, Box Hill and Southland Shopping Centre, Cheltenham.
- \* Microphone was purchased for use at meetings.
- \* Mr. R. Garling awarded the R.H.S.V. John Pascoe Fawcner Gold Medal for over 25 years service to horticulture.
- \* Mr. R. Garnett was awarded the Merrillees Gold Medal in 1988.

**1989** Mrs. Shirley Shallcross was President, Mrs. Sheriden Page Secretary, Mr. Fred Hawkins Treasurer, Mrs. Nulma Ball Membership Secretary and Mr. Rob Atkinson Editor.

- \* February 1989 saw the closure of the Pasadena Nursery owned by Lindsay and Jean Allison and we purchased a lot of rooted cuttings and plants to grow on at Gembrook.
- \* A second Society Scholarship was awarded to Mr. Geoffrey Tease to cover his 3 year course in Horticulture at Burnley Horticultural College.
- \* Grafting Day and get-together at the home of President Shirley Shallcross.
- \* We joined the Ornamental Plant Collections Association and Dr. R. Withers and Mr. K. Brown started documenting their camellia collections for registration.

- \* Displays were put on at The Glen, Westfield Doncaster and Southland Shopping Centres, and Bulleen Nursery.
- \* Shows were at Waverley, East Malvern and Box Hill.
- \* This was Ray Garling's last Waverley Show as Show Manager after managing all but one show since its inception in 1972.
- \* Judges training day was held at East Malvern.RSL.
- \* Field day held at Sebire's property at Wandin.
- \* 50 Camellia plants were planted at the Victorian Schools Nursery at Glen Waverley.
- \* Mr. R. Atkinson was awarded the Merrillees Gold Medal in 1989.

Membership was Single—117, Family—72, Garden Clubs and Nurseries—12  
Subs. were \$12 Single, \$15 Family.

**1990** Mrs. Shirley Shallcross was President, Mrs. Sheriden Page Secretary, Mr. Paul Ludwig Treasurer, Mrs. Nulma Ball Membership Secretary, Mr. Rob Atkinson Editor.

**Our culture book "Successful Camellia Growing" was reprinted during 1990 with more colour pages than in the original.**

**Victorian Branch hosted the A.C.R.S. National Congress and Council Meeting at Box Hill, 30th August to 2nd September. Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Fraser were our guest speakers at the dinner. Mr. Jessep's medals were mounted in a special case and presented to National President to deliver them to Eryldene for perpetual display.**

- \* Potting days continued to be held at Gembrook to look after our plants. M. Hughes organised these days and looked after the plants in between working bees and over the holidays.
- \* Grafting day at home of President.
- \* Camellia bed was planted at the Victorian School's Nursery at Glen Waverley.
- \* New display at The Greenery Nursery, Heidelberg and also display at The Glen.
- \* Shows were at Southland and Doncaster Shopping Centres, East Malvern and Waverley and National Show at Box Hill.
- \* Mrs V. Watts and Mrs S Shallcross were the new Show Managers for Waverley show.
- \* Open day at Glamorgan, Nyora at the home of Jim and Doreen Horsborough.
- \* \$500 donated towards cost of colour photographs in "Camellia News".
- \* Dr. R. Withers awarded the R.H.S.V. John Pascoe Fawcner Gold Medal for over 30 years service to horticulture.

**1991** Mrs. Shirley Shallcross was President, Mrs. Sheriden Page Secretary, Mr. Rob Atkinson Treasurer, Mrs. Nulma Ball Membership Secretary and Mrs. Beth Bortolin Editor.



**In March 1991, our Patron, Mr. Alex Jessep, passed away one week before his 99th birthday.**

**At the National Congress and Council Meeting in Sydney in August, Mrs. Jessep was made a Patron of the Society.**

**E.G. Waterhouse Medal was awarded to Dr. R. Withers.**

- \* Potting days continued to be held at Gembrook.
- \* Mr. K. Smith took over as Trading Table Manager.
- \* Grafting day at the home of the President.
- \* Judges Training Day at the East Malvern RSL.
- \* Westfield Doncaster cancelled our show as they could not pay us.
- \* Displays at Bulleen Nursery and The Greenery Nursery.
- \* Shows were RHSV, East Malvern, Waverley, Box Hill and Southland Shoppingtown. This was the last show at Southland.
- \* In 1991 Mr. Les Rosenberg became the first member to win all four A.W. Jessep medals available in shows within the one year.
- \* Bus trip to Kitchen's garden at Merricks and then to "Glamorgan" at Nyora.
- \* At the Annual General Meeting Mr. Ern Kettle and Mrs. Dorothy Paul were awarded inaugural **Honorary Life Memberships** of the Victorian Branch.

**1992** Mr. Paul Ludwig was President, Mrs. Sheriden Page Secretary, Mr. Rob Atkinson Treasurer, Mrs. Nulma Ball Membership Secretary and Mrs. Beth Bortolin Editor.

In February 1992 Dr. Bob Withers travelled to London to receive the Veitch Gold Medal, the highest award made by the Royal Horticultural Society to a non-resident of Britain.

At the I.C.S. banquet at the Congress in New Orleans, the President of the American Camellia Society, Mr. Greg Davis, awarded a Certificate of Commendation from the A.C.S. to Mr. Edgar Sebire of Australia, received on his behalf by Dr. Bob Withers. The award was presented to Mr. Sebire at the March meeting of the Victorian Branch.

On 30th May, a plaque was unveiled in the Gazebo in the Camellia Section of the Rhododendron Garden at Olinda in Memory of Mr. Len Hobbs.

At the National Council Meeting in 1992, Mr. Ray Garling was awarded a Hazlewood Medal for his services to the Society.

**It was decided the June meeting would be our Birthday meeting from now on.**

- \* In July a grafting day was held at Paul Ludwig's home.
- \* Displays were put on at Bulleen Nursery, The Greenery, Holmesglen TAFE Spring Festival, The Glen Shopping Centre, Mitcham Nursery and "Labassa House".

- \* Shows were at RHSV, East Malvern, Waverley, Box Hill and Rhodo Show. Numbers through door at Waverley down to 600.
- \* Bus trip to Fernglade Nursery, Belgrave, and then on to the Ferny Creek Hort. Society Gardens and the Olinda Gardens.
- \* Ken Brown, Tom Savage and Bob Withers helped to name camellias in the Botanic Gardens.
- \* At the Annual General Meeting, Mr. Russell Ball and Mrs. Nulma Ball were awarded **Honorary Life Memberships** of the Victorian Branch.

Membership was Single — 108      Family — 48,      Garden Clubs — 9  
 Life Memberships — 4.      Subs. were \$14 Single, \$17 Family.

**1993 and 1994** Mrs. Shirley Shallcross was President, Mrs. Sheridan Page Secretary, Mr. Rob Atkinson Treasurer, Mrs. Pat Atkinson Membership Secretary and Mrs. Beth Bortolin Editor.

**Newsletter to be printed commercially in future. It had been printed by Waverley Garden Club for us since the early 1970's.**

- \* Over the summer break our plants were moved from Gembrook to the Victorian Schools Nursery at Glen Waverley. It was increasingly difficult to provide enough man power to look after our plants at Gembrook and it is hoped that being closer to Melbourne we would get more help from members. Working bees commenced to be held there.
- \* In March 1993 The International Camellia Register compiled by Mr. Thomas Savage became available to members. Mr. Savage was awarded a Gold Veitch Memorial Medal by the RHS in England in recognition of his work.
- \* During the year a grafting afternoon was held at Holmesglen TAFE (formerly the Vic. Schools Nursery)
- \* Judges' Training Day was held at East Malvern R.S.L.
- \* Neville Hayden and Oz Bloomhardt from New Zealand visited and spoke about cultivars bred in New Zealand.
- \* Displays were held at Garden Week, Bulleen Nursery, The Greenery, Labassa House and Holmesglen TAFE.
- \* Bus trip for 20 members was held to view camellias at the garden of Mr & Mrs. Cornthwaite at Mirboo North.
- \* At the National Congress of the ACRS held in Adelaide in 1993 Mr. Ray Garnett was awarded the E.G. Waterhouse Medal.

**In 1994 three members passed away who had been great supporters of our Branch:**

Mr Alan Raper of Warren Glen and Rhodo Glen Nurseries in April

Mr. Edgar Sebire on 22nd August

Mrs. Valerie Watts co-show manager of the Waverley Show for some years, in September.

**In 1994 National Judging Rules and Procedures were adopted, with just a few alterations for our own local application.**

**Mrs F. Wilkins and Mrs. S. Shallcross were Co-Managers for Waverley Show.**

- \* A grafting day was held at the home of Malcolm Hughes.
- \* Judges' Training day was held at East Malvern R.S.L.
- \* Displays were put on at Bulleen Nursery, Poynton's Nursery Essendon (new), The Greenery at Heidelberg and the Holmesglen TAFE Spring Festival.
- \* Shows were at Waverley, East Malvern Cheltenham and Box Hill. Disappointment with lack of people attending the shows recorded.
- \* In the Branch Newsletter of August 1994, Mr. Thomas Savage was congratulated on having been conferred an Honorary Degree of Master of Science by the University of Sydney on June 10th in recognition of his academic achievement in the compilation of the International Camellia Register.
- \* An Open Garden day was held in six members' gardens.
- \* Mrs. Dorothy Jessep celebrated her 100th birthday on 26th September 1994, and she was presented with a certificate by the Australia Day Council, and also with a special photograph by the Society.
- \* In 1994 Dr. Bob Withers and Dr. John Rouse both received the Order of Australia Medal in the General Division for services to Horticulture.
- \* At the National Congress in Hobart, Mr. Ray Garling was made a President Emeritus and Mr. John Hunt was awarded the E.G. Waterhouse Medal.
- \* In 1994 Mrs. Beryl Sebire was awarded an **Honorary Life Membership**.

**1995** Mrs. Shirley Shallcross was President, Mrs Nola McLean Secretary, Mr. Rob Atkinson Treasurer, Mr. Geoff Sherrington Membership Secretary and Mrs. Beth Bortolin Editor.

**The 40th birthday** of the Branch was celebrated on Wednesday 14th June, 1995.

We lost two members during 1995.

Mr. Ford Kitchen on 23rd June and our long standing, much respected member and very enthusiastic exhibitor Dr. Percy Jenkins passed away suddenly on 23rd October.

- \* Field trip to Rhodo Glen Nursery, The Patch.
- \* A grafting afternoon was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs Malcolm Hughes.
- \* In September visits were made to the gardens of three members and to Camellia Lodge Nursery.

- \* Large displays were put on at Poynton's Nursery Essendon, Gardenworld at Keysborough (new) and The Greenery Heidelberg and the International Garden Fair, at Caulfield
- \* Smaller displays and talks at The Garden Centre Mitcham and Pinewood Nursery Mount Waverley.
- \* The usual shows were held at East Malvern, Waverley, Box Hill and Cheltenham.
- \* We participated in the International Garden Fair at Caulfield Racecourse with a display and question answering table. We were awarded a Bronze Medal for our stand.
- \* The first Spit Roast Dinner was held at our November meeting.

**1996** Mr. Rob Atkinson was President, Mrs Shirley Shallcross Secretary, Mrs. Pat Atkinson Treasurer, Mr. Geoff Sherrington Membership Secretary and Mrs. Beth Bortolin Editor.

**At the April meeting Mrs Shirley Shallcross was presented with a John Pascoe Fawcner Gold Medal by the President of the RHSV for her considerable contribution over many years to our Society, the Waverley Garden Club and the Judges Association.**

- \* \$500 was donated towards the cost of colour photos in "Camellia News".
- \* Barry Johnson started writing his Committee Commentary for the newsletter.
- \* Displays were put on at Pinewood Nursery, Beasley's Nursery, Poynton's Nursery, Gardenworld, Atrium Nursery and The Greenery and the Spring Garden Festival at Caulfield.
- \* Shows were Waverley, East Malvern, Cheltenham and Box Hill. This was the last show put on by Box Hill Hort. Society.
- \* At the National Council Meeting in 1996 New General Procedures and Rules for the Registration of New Camellia Cultivars were adopted.
- \* Ray Garnett's hybrid 'Sweet Jane' was chosen by the National Council to be propagated for a special release as Camellia 2000.

**1997** Mr. Rob Atkinson was President, Mrs. Shirley Shallcross Secretary, Mrs. Pat Atkinson Treasurer, Dr. Ann Marks Membership Secretary and Mrs. Beth Bortolin Editor.

**Victorian Branch again hosted the ACRS National Congress from July 31st to August 3rd at the Rydges Riverwalk Hotel at Richmond.**

**At the Council Meeting of the ACRS a Fellowship was awarded to Dr. Bob Withers.**

- \* At the Seminar it was announced that an Australian National Reference Collection of Camellia plants was being established at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne.

- \* Displays were put on at Pinewood Nursery, Poynton's Nursery, Beasley's Nursery and The Greenery.
- \* Shows were a National Blooms Comp. at the Congress, Waverley, R.H.S.V., East Malvern and Cheltenham.
- \* At the ICS Congress in New Zealand it was reported that DNA testing had proved without doubt that C. 'Brushfield's Yellow', C. 'Jury's Yellow' and C. 'Gwenneth Morey' were distinct varieties.
- \* Dr. R. Withers released his retic 'St. Patrick' at the centenary celebrations of St. Patrick's Cathedral in October. 30 plants of the new retic hybrid were sold plus other camellia plants.
- \* Mr. N. McMinn and Mrs. E. McMinn were each awarded a Merrillees Gold Medal in 1997.
- \* At the Christmas Meeting in November 1997, Mrs. Shirley Shallcross was awarded an **Honorary Life Membership** of the Branch.

**1998** Mr. Rob Atkinson was President, Mrs. Shirley Shallcross Secretary, Mr. Graeme Atkins Treasurer, Mrs. Pat Atkinson Membership Secretary, and Mrs. Beth Bortolin Editor.

On March 3rd, 1998 Mr. Lindsay Allison passed away. Lindsay was proprietor, with his wife Jean, of Pasadena Nursery until its closure in 1989. They supplied plants and helped judge at Waverley Show.

**Roving Judges and new voting procedures for Champion Blooms were introduced at the Waverley Show.**

- \* In the April, 1998 Newsletter is an article by Val Bielecki from New Zealand on C. hybrid 'Sweet Jane' raised by Mr. Ray Garnett and it is reported that this camellia had been selected by the National Council for special release as Camellia 2000 in the year 2000. 'Sweet Jane' is the first camellia bred in Australia to have been patented.
- \* Shows were at Waverley, East Malvern and Cheltenham.
- \* Displays were put on at Poynton's Nursery, Beasley's Nursery, Pinewood Nursery and The Greenery.
- \* Marj Baker organised for us to supply plants to the Royal Children's Hospital for their Rooftop Children's Garden.
- \* It was agreed to incorporate the new National Blooms Classifications into the Victorian Branch Judging Code. These classifications were replaced at the next Council meeting with the ICS Classifications.
- \* Mrs. M. Baker was awarded the Merrillees Gold Medal in 1998.

**1999** Mr. Andrew Raper was President, Mrs. Shirley Shallcross Secretary, Mr. Graeme Atkins Treasurer, Mrs. Pat Atkinson Membership Secretary and Mrs. Beth Bortolin Editor.

**During 1999 we lost three of our most longstanding and valued members.**

On 20th February Mr. Neville McMinn from Camellia Lodge Nursery passed away suddenly.

On 8th March Mr. Ray Garling a former President of the Branch, Show Manager of Waverley Show and former National President passed away.

In October Mrs. Nulma Ball passed away after many years as Membership Secretary and work for the Society.

- \* During 1999 the President of the Branch, Mr. Andrew Raper visited North Vietnam on plant collecting expeditions on two occasions. The first was in late January—early February and the second in December. Both trips were successful with many new plants being introduced.
- \* A grafting day was held at Rhodo Glen Nursery in July. Over 50 members and friends attended.
- \* Displays were put on at Warringal Orchid Show Greensborough, Poynton's Nursery and Pinewood Nursery. Unfortunately The Greenery was cancelled.
- \* Waverley Show was opened by Jane Edmanson. Shows also at East Malvern and Cheltenham.
- \* 1999 was Ray Garnett's 21st year of writing the Culture Notes for our newsletter.
- \* At the Annual Council Meeting of the ACRS held in July 1999 in Richmond N.S.W. Mr. Rob Atkinson was elected National Vice President of the Society.
- \* National Council decided to adopt the blooms classifications of the International Camellia Society and we changed our classifications to conform to the National Code.
- \* \$500 donation sent to N.Z. Camellia Society to help finance the fight against petal blight.

Membership was Single—56, Family—40, Organisations—11  
Subs. were Single \$18, Family \$22.

**2000** Mr. Andrew Raper was President, Mrs. Shirley Shallcross Secretary, Mr. Graeme Atkins Treasurer, Mr. Colin Baird Membership Secretary, and Mrs. Beth Bortolin Editor.

In the March Newsletter of the Branch the passing of Mr. Thomas Savige O.A.M. is recorded. He passed away on 18th December 1999. He had been a member of the Victorian Branch before moving to Albury when he joined the Hume Branch. He produced the International Camellia Register for the camellia world.

In June, Mrs Dorothy Paul, an inaugural Honorary Life Member, passed away.

- \* 100 ACRS spoons have been made for use as trophies in the monthly Blooms Competition.
- \* A new ACRS Vic. Branch badge using 'Sweet Jane' in the design was produced for sale to members.
- \* Hybrid 'Sweet Jane' bred by Ray Garnett is released as first ACRS promotional variety. Funds from this release greatly helped the national finances.

- \* As part of the Warringal Orchid Show at Greensborough we had the opportunity to display and talk about camellias in a new location.
- \* Displays at The Greenery Heidelberg and Poynton's Nursery Essendon.
- \* Shows were Waverley, East Malvern and Cheltenham.
- \* Bus trip to Langwarrin to Malcolm and Edna Hughes' garden, Coolart Homestead and Wetlands and Una Kitchen's garden at Merricks.
- \* Guided tour at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne to see the National Camellia Reference Collection and other camellia plantings.
- \* Judges Training Day held at East Malvern RSL.
- \* Members — Fay Wilkins, Val Hocking and Colin and Nancy Gray received R.H.S.V. Gold John Pascoe Fawkner Medals for outstanding service to horticulture through their respective garden clubs.
- \* \$500 donation sent to National Treasurer to go towards the cost of colour printing in Camellia News.
- \* \$300 donation sent to New Zealand to continue research against petal blight.

Subscriptions were \$20 Single, \$24 Family and Garden Clubs.



The following Brief History of Camellias Victoria to the 2012 printing was compiled using information from our Newsletters and Minutes by Shirley Shallcross and Colin Baird.

**2001** Mr. Andrew Raper was President, Mrs. Shirley Shallcross Secretary, Mr. Graeme Atkins Treasurer, Mr. Colin Baird Membership Secretary, and Mrs. Beth Bortolin Editor.

- \* Camellia Lodge Nursery moved to Officer.
- \* Dr. A. Marks talked on the ICS Congress in U.S.A.
- \* New camellia badge was very popular.
- \* Andrew Raper organised a weekend trip in July for 23 members to Paradise Nursery, Camellia Grove and Eryldene in New South Wales.
- \* We put on displays at Warringal Orchid Show Greensborough, Pinewood Nursery, Poynton's Nursery Essendon, The Greenery Heidelberg.
- \* Competitive shows at Waverley (680 through the doors), East Malvern, Cheltenham, Leongatha and Rivers Nursery at Yarrambat (new venue to spread the word on all things camellias).
- \* Royal Botanic Gardens awarded I.C.S. Garden of Excellence award.
- \* New member Helen Burrows, a botanical artist, produced three camellia cards from her original paintings—'The Czar', 'Great Eastern' and 'Margaret Davis'.
- \* Our Patron, Mrs Dorothy Jessep, celebrated her 107th birthday.

**2002** Mr. Barry Johnson was President, Mrs. Shirley Shallcross Secretary, Mr. Graeme Atkins Treasurer, Mr. Colin Baird Membership Secretary, and Mrs. Beth Bortolin Editor.

**NAME CHANGE**—it was proposed to change our name from ACRS Vic. Branch to CAMELLIAS VICTORIA INC. A special general meeting was held to vote on name change. Amended Statement of Purposes and Rules were adopted in July.

**Patron, Mrs Dorothy Jessep, passed away, age 107.** Mrs. Jessep bequeathed \$10,000 to Camellias Victoria for the allocation of trophies on behalf of her late husband, Alex, and herself in our Blooms Competition and at the Waverley Show.

**Dr. J. Rouse OAM, long standing member of 30 years, passed away.**

**Mr. W. Kimber passed away.** Warwick wrote a series of profiles on camellia species in Australia, which were later published in book form.

- \* \$300 donation sent to New Zealand to continue research against petal blight.
- \* New procedures for assessing seedlings implemented at meetings.
- \* New small prize cards were introduced for the Blooms Comp.
- \* Busy year again with displays at Warringal Orchid Show, Poyntons Nursery Essendon, Pinewood Nursery Glen Waverley, The Greenery Heidelberg..
- \* Shows at Waverley, East Malvern, Cheltenham, Rivers Home & Garden Nursery and Leongatha Hort. Society.
- \* Bus trip to Gippsland with stops at Camellia Lodge, Judith Pugh's Neerim East garden and Jean and Neil Saltmarsh's garden at Warragul.
- \* Rob Atkinson elected National President.
- \* National ACRS web site went online. Barry Johnson was webmaster.
- \* Ray Garnett made a Fellow of the A.C.R.S. for services to camellias in his breeding programs and his service as the National Registrar.
- \* Helen Burrows produced new camellia cards— 'St. Patrick', 'Samantha', 'Lady Loch', 'Lady Clare', 'Yours Truly', 'Paradise Belinda' and 'Helenor'.
- \* Mrs. Erica McMinn was made Patron of Camellias Victoria.
- \* \$500 donation sent to National Treasurer towards the cost of colour printing in Camellia News.

**2003 and 2004** Mr. Barry Johnson was President, Mrs. Shirley Shallcross Secretary, Mr. Graeme Atkins Treasurer, Mrs. Nola McLean Membership Secretary, and Mrs. Beth Bortolin Editor.

**New edition of culture book “Successful Camellia Growing” in full colour was produced with copies available at the June meeting. 4000 Copies were ordered. With the help of Warwick Forge from Bloomings Books, they were printed by Midas Printing in Hong Kong.**

**A new Gippsland affiliate was formed on 19th June. To be known as Camellias Gippsland, President was Mrs. Shirley Cornthwaite.**



- \* During holiday break Mrs Shallcross and Mr Johnson were invited to Government House to present a plant of newly registered camellia J. 'Federation' for inclusion in Government House gardens.
- \* Stamp with hybrid 'Hari Withers' pictured was included in new issue of postage stamps with different flowers depicted .
- \* Judges Training Day was held at .East Malvern R.S.L.
- \* Another busy year with displays at Poynton's Nursery Essendon, Pinewood Nursery Glen Waverley, The Greenery Heidelberg.
- \* Shows were held at Waverley, East Malvern, Leongatha, Cheltenham and a new show at Burdett's Nursery in Langwarrin.
- \* Bus trip was to Geelong, Ceres and Winchelsea.
- \* Helen Burrows produced four new camellia cards—'Fiona Capp', 'Federation', 'Paul Jones Supreme' and 'Lady Pamela'. Also numbered sets of 6 camellia prints were produced and sold to members.
- \* Camellias Victoria authorised to stage the International Camellia Congress in 2006.

**In 2004 Beryl Sebire, wife of Edgar and Honorary Life Member, passed away.**

**Mr. Richard Straughan passed away. Former Secretary and long time member.**

- \* A working bee was held at Garfield for Norm Prentice who was very ill. He had a new home and new garden and he and wife Judy needed help. Unfortunately he passed away later in the year.
- \* Busy year with displays at Pinewood Nursery Glen Waverley, Warran Glen Nursery Warrandyte, The Greenery Nursery Heidelberg .
- \* Shows were held at Waverley, East Malvern, Cheltenham and Leongatha.
- \* Barry Johnson visited Camellia Society Tasmania to conduct a judging seminar.
- \* Bus trip was to gardens in the Yarra Valley and Warburton.
- \* Mr. Barry Johnson was awarded the Gold Merrillees Medal in 2004.

**2005, 2006 and 2007** Mr. Keith Smith was President, Mrs. Shirley Shallcross Secretary, Mr. Graeme Atkins Treasurer, Mrs. Nola McLean Membership Secretary, and Mrs. Beth Bortolin Editor.

**Dr. R. M. (Bob) Withers O.A.M. passed away—he was a long serving member who served as President, Public Officer and Committee member.** He held the O.P.C.C.A. collection of species camellias (which were donated to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne) and was awarded the Veitch Gold Medal by the R.H.S. London, Merrillees Gold Medal from Camellias Victoria and E. G. Waterhouse Medal from the Australian Camellia Research Society.

**Camellias Victoria celebrated its 50th anniversary. Special commemorative glass was given to all members.**

- \* The Open Section of the monthly Blooms Competition was divided into two sections, A1 for the top 5 scorers from last year's comp. and A2 for all other Open exhibitors.
- \* Grafting Day at Rhodo Glen Nurseries, The Patch.
- \* Judges Revision Day was held at Camellia Lodge Nursery at Officer.
- \* Displays at Warran Glen Nursery, and The Greenery Heidelberg.
- \* Shows at Waverley, East Malvern, Leongatha and Cheltenham.
- \* Bus Trip to Ballarat to visit three gardens.
- \* Camellias Victoria put up a stand at the ABC Gardening Expo in October. We had some late blooms and plants and were awarded a Bronze medal for our effort.
- \* Camellias Victoria website up and running in August. Always more work to be done, but it has started. Barry Johnson is webmaster.
- \* We purchased our own Projector and Computer for club presentations.
- \* It was decided to combine the I.C.S. Congress, the A.C.R.S. National Congress over the Waverley Show weekend in August, 2006.

In October 2005 subscriptions were increased to \$25 Single and \$30 Family.

**In 2006 the meeting venue changed to East Burwood Uniting Church Hall as the Ashburton Hall had been remodelled and was now too small to stage our meetings. The Ashburton Hall was still used for our November Spit Roast night until November, 2011.**

**National Congress and Council Meeting was held in Melbourne at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, along with the I.C.S. Congress held at The Grand Hyatt. They were run over the same weekend in August as the Waverley Show so that visitors could attend the Show.**

**The Australian Camellia Research Society Inc. changed its name to Camellias Australia Inc. and we had to amend our Purposes and Rules accordingly. We also changed our financial year to 30th June. Voted on at our A.G.M.**

- \* New camellia group formed in Geelong, known as Camellias Geelong & District Inc.
- \* Camellias Gippsland had a meeting in Walhalla and planted some camellias around the railway station. Meeting supported by CV.
- \* A new product for all camellia fans—Camellia Tea Oil was imported commercially by Phase 5 and it was made available to members.
- \* Shows were held at Waverley (National Show this year), East Malvern, Leongatha, Cheltenham, Ferny Creek. Fay Wilkins retired as Co-Show Manager of Waverley Show after this show.
- \* We put on display of blooms and plants at the ABC Gardening Expo in October and answered many questions from the public.
- \* Bus Trip was to Korumburra and Leongatha visiting gardens, hosted by Camellias Gippsland.

- \* We purchased our own PA system for meetings at cost of \$1700.00.
- \* Mrs. B. Bortolin was awarded the Merrillees Gold Medal in 2006.
- \* Mr. B. Johnson was awarded an Honorary Life Membership.
- \* Presentation of original camellia painting by Helen Burrows made to Shirley Shallcross for her commitment to the Society.

\*

**In 2007 Mrs. S. Cornthwaite passed away.** A long time member of CV and also inaugural President of Camellias Gippsland.

**Camellias Victoria Newsletter, from the July issue, was printed with two pages of colour photos in every issue, and occasionally four pages.**

- \* Due to the severe drought and watering restrictions, instead of a night meeting we started the season with Wanderings in Waverley — visit to Mr and Mrs Norm Powell's garden in Glen Waverley to see rare maples, hellebores and camellias amongst a very lush garden. Then we moved on to Mrs Shirley Shallcross's garden in Mount Waverley to view her camellias and partake of afternoon tea. Great start to the year. Donation made to Drought Relief Appeal in lieu of meeting rent.
- \* More planting area was carved out at Walhalla by members of Camellias Gippsland.
- \* Shirley Shallcross was Show Manager of Waverley Show.
- \* Unfortunately East Malvern RSL Home Garden Club Camellia Show was cancelled. Show was still held at Cheltenham.
- \* We again participated in the ABC Gardening Expo in October.
- \* Grafting talks and a special day at Rhodo Glen Nurseries.
- \* Bus trip to Neerim via Powelltown, visiting two gardens and a nursery.
- \* New blooms classification and sizes were brought in by the National Council.
- \* Noted that C. 'Betty Ridley' is to be classed as a Non Retic Hybrid.
- \* Dr. A. Marks awarded a Merrillees Gold Medal.
- \* Mr. and Mrs K. Smith awarded a joint Merrillees Gold Medal.

Subscriptions remained unchanged at \$25 Single and \$30 Household.

**2008** Mr. Andrew Raper was President, Mrs. Shirley Shallcross Secretary, Mr. Graeme Atkins Treasurer, Mrs. Nola McLean Membership Secretary, and Mrs. Beth Bortolin Editor.

**Mr. R. Ball, Honorary Life Member, passed away .**

- \* We started the year with a midweek visit to Warner's Nursery at Narre Warren North and then on to Ellie Bruce's garden.
- \* Blooms Competition Open Classes were changed back to just one section, due to loss of some of our Open exhibitors.
- \* New rings with the new sizes, were made for judging and exhibiting.

- \* Agreed that Best Seedling in the Blooms Comp. each month would only be put on the Honour Table if it scores over 7 in the judging and if it is sufficiently meritorious.
- \* Displays were put on at a new venue, Banksia Nursery, Wantirna South and also at the ABC Gardening Expo.
- \* Shows were held at Waverley, Cheltenham (this was last one), and Leongatha.
- \* Waverley Show was co-managed by Barry Johnson, with assistance from Colin Baird and Fay Wilkins (Camellias) , Nancy Gray (Cut Flowers) and Pat Stephenson (Floral Art) in Shirley's absence overseas.
- \* Bus trip was to Mt. Macedon to visit two special gardens and a couple of nurseries.
- \* Ray Garnett retired from writing the Culture notes for our Newsletter and Malcolm Hughes took over.
- \* Mr. R. Garnett presented with the Gold John Pascoe Fawcner Medal for services to horticulture—both to CV and CA as National Registrar and Fellow.

**2009** Mr. Andrew Raper was President, Mrs. Shirley Shallcross Secretary, Mr. Graeme Atkins Treasurer, Dr. A. Marks Membership Secretary, and Mrs. Beth Bortolin Editor.

**The months preceding our first meeting were terrible, with extreme record-breaking temperatures, continuing drought and bushfires.**

**National Congress and National Show was held at Warragul, hosted by our affiliate, Camellias Gippsland.**

**Since our visit to Warner's Nursery last year, they have given CV a donation of \$200 each year which is used towards the cost of colour pages in our Newsletter.**

- \* Early culture talks focused on care of our sun-scorched camellias. These included talks given by Bluescope Steel rep. on water tanks, and by Mr. B. Durrant on new water saving products for our camellias.
- \* CV made a donation of \$500 to the Red Cross Bush Fire Appeal.
- \* Grafting Day was held at Rhodo Glen Nurseries.
- \* Camellia Lodge closed its doors after 60 years of serving the public with camellias and azaleas as well as general nursery plants. They are missed for their variety of camellia cultivars.
- \* Display at Banksia Nursery and at the ABC Gardening Expo.
- \* Shirley Shallcross was Waverley Show Manager for Camellias.
- \* Bus trip was to Gippsland Baw Baw Garden Expo & Home Show at Lardner's Park.
- \* Mr. G. Atkins was awarded the Gold Merrillees Medal.
- \* Mrs. E. McMinn presented with Gold John Pascoe Fawcner Medal for services to horticulture.

**2010** Mr. Andrew Raper was President, Mrs. Shirley Shallcross Secretary, Mr. Graeme Atkins Treasurer, Mrs. Ellie Bruce Membership Secretary, and Mrs. Beth Bortolin Editor.

**Mr. G. Stocks passed away in April. A long time CV member who won the inaugural A. W. Jessep Medal.**

- \* Horrendous hailstorm in March destroyed many of Rhodo Glen's glasshouses.
- \* CV hosted five interstate visitors to our May meeting—Barry and Denise Di Salvia (Hume) Phillip Hough (SA) and Jim Powell and Jenny Donohoe (NSW)
- \* A Grafting Day held at Rhodo Glen Nurseries.
- \* Judge's Revision Day held at our meeting hall at East Burwood..
- \* We put on a small, unmanned display at Banksia Nursery.
- \* Shows were Waverley and Leongatha.
- \* **This was the first year that Single Bloom entries could be entered on the day at Waverley Show without prior entries being taken. Judging starting time changed to 11am. Doors opened at 1pm.**
- \* A Camellia Garden Trip where members travelled to the Dandenongs by car and visited two gardens and two nurseries was very successful.
- \* Mr Andrew Raper and Mr. Colin Baird (both retiring from Committee) were each awarded a Gold Merrillees Medal.

Subscriptions remained unchanged at \$25 Single and \$30 Household.

**2011 and 2012** Mrs. Shirley Shallcross was President, Mrs. Jean Saltmarsh Secretary, Mr. Graeme Atkins Treasurer, Mrs. Ellie Bruce Membership Secretary and Mrs. Beth Bortolin Editor.

**Nola Harland from Gippsland, long time member of both CV and Camellias Gippsland, passed away.**

**Dr. Ann Marks passed away. Ann was a great supporter of CV both on the Committee and at meetings, and also the ICS.** Ann bequeathed her library of camellia books to CV and as most were already in the library they were sold by donation to members.

**As our supply of A. W. Jessep Medals was running low and more would need to be made in the near future, it was decided to offer at the National Council Meeting to change the wording on the medal to Camellias Australia so that it would become a National Medal. CV would pay for the medals and administer the distribution of the medal. This offer was accepted with thanks. The new medal was ready for distribution in May, 2012.**

Second Supplement to the ICS Camellia Register was released.

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne was re-accredited as a "Camellia Garden of Excellence" by the ICS.

- \* Small group of members visited Springvale Botanical Cemetery with Erica McMinn as guide, to see the large collection of camellias growing there.
- \* Shirley Shallcross was Camellia Show Manager for Waverley Show.
- \* Only two other shows including camellias are now held—Leongatha and Ferny Creek.
- \* We had two members open their gardens for a visit—Shirley Shallcross at Mt. Waverley and Paul Ludwig at Eltham.
- \* Ray Garnett retired from Committee after over 30 years service and a presentation was made to Betty and Ray for their great contribution to C.V. and C.A. over many years.
- \* Last year our Spit Roast End of Year Meeting was held at Ashburton.



The continuing Brief History of Camellias Victoria from the 2012 printing was compiled using information from our Newsletters and Minutes by Shirley Shallcross.

**In 2012** two members from the early days of Camellias Victoria passed away. Jan Garling was a Life Member along with her husband Ray and she supported him in all he did for Camellias Victoria and their camellia books have been donated to us.

Marj Hobbs also passed away and she will be remembered for her tireless work at shows and meetings supporting her late husband Len and the club.

**Beth Bortolin retired as Editor of the Newsletter after many years.**

**Cathy Coath agreed to be the Editor.**

Sandra Sexton came onto the Committee.

- \* Malcolm Hughes finished up writing the Culture Notes for the newsletter.
- \* Lincoln (Linx) Webber agreed to take over writing the Culture Notes.
- \* Self drive or car pool visit was to Yvonne William's garden at Leongatha and then on to Jan and Jim Robertson's garden at Foster North in July.
- \* Shows were Waverley (Show Manager Shirley Shallcross), Ferny Creek and Leongatha. Single bloom entries at Waverley again did not require prior entries.
- \* We purchased our first lightweight plastic tables to replace the heavy old wooden trestles for the Waverley Show.
- \* Another self drive visit to the Sebire's garden and also Mont de Lancy Homestead at Wandin and then on to Wolfgang Domes' garden at East Warburton in September.
- \* First Spit Roast meeting held at East Burwood meeting venue.
- \* Malcolm Hughes awarded a Gold Merrillees Medal for his services to C.V.

- \* Many extra pages with colour in the September Newsletter covering Waverley Show and our outings.

Membership at May, 2012 was Single — 63 Household — 35 Garden Clubs — 9  
Total membership was 151.

Subscriptions unchanged at \$25 Single, \$30 Household and Garden Clubs.

**2013** Mrs. Shirley Shallcross was President, Mrs. Jean Saltmarsh Secretary, Mr. Graeme Atkins Treasurer, Mrs. Ellie Bruce Membership Secretary and Mrs. Cathy Coath Editor.

**National Congress hosted by C.V. and sponsored by Grow Better Garden Products, was based at Quest Knox Conference Centre at Wantirna from 29th August to 1st September. Jean Saltmarsh was Convenor. Ferny Creek Horticultural Society agreed to hold the National Show with their Spring Show. Colin Baird was Show Manager.**

**The annual Ray Garnett Aggregate Award for the Best Australian Raised Bloom in the monthly Blooms Competition was started.**

We started emailing our Newsletter to members who requested it in this format. Hard copies are still sent out unless members indicate they don't want it this way.

We purchased a new, more powerful Notebook computer for better presentations at our meetings.

**Graeme Atkins (Treasurer), Beth Bortolin and Jean and Neil Saltmarsh all retired from the Committee at the A.G.M.**

- \* \$1000 was donated the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, to be used for labelling camellia plants in the Gardens. Later in the year Camellias Gippsland also donated \$500 to the Gardens.
- \* Warner's Nurseries continued to donate \$200 to C.V. They have done this since we visited the nursery in 2008. We put this money towards colour pages in our Newsletter.
- \* Shows were Waverley, National at Ferny Creek and Leongatha.
- \* Bus trip shared with Waverley Garden Club to Baw Baw Home & Garden Expo at Warragul, and Wilson Botanical Park at Berwick.
- \* Camellias Australia started a Flickr Photo Gallery of Camellia Blooms at [www.flickr.com/photos/camelliasaustralia](http://www.flickr.com/photos/camelliasaustralia).
- \* Barry Johnson received the Walter Hazelwood National Award at the Congress.
- \* Jean and Neil Saltmarsh were awarded the Gold Merrillees Medal for services to Camellias Victoria.
- \* Andrew Raper received a second Gold Merrillees Medal for his service to CV

**Membership Numbers for 2013** were almost identical to last year : 63 Single, 35 Family, 8 Associations, equating to 149 members. Fees remained unchanged

**2014, 2015 and 2016** Mr. Paul Ludwig was President, Mrs. Nola McLean was Secretary, Mrs. Shirley Shallcross was Treasurer, Mrs. Ellie Bruce was Membership Secretary and Mrs. Cathy Coath was Editor.

**We started 2014 with a colour cover on our Newsletter thanks to Grow Better Garden Products. They paid for a colour advertisement on the back cover and a coloured front cover.**

**New Model Rules under the Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2012 were adopted at the April meeting.**

The first of the name labels from our donation to the Royal Botanic Gardens to facilitate labelling of their camellia collection were put out into the gardens.

**Shirley Shallcross was made Co-Patron with Erica McMinn of Camellias Victoria at the Break Up Dinner.**

It was a very hot, dry summer with burnt leaves and bud drop on our plants.

- \* Malcolm Hughes took over as Blooms Competition Manager.
- \* Erica McMinn moved to Geelong, and we missed her presence at our meetings.
- \* We put on a small display at the Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show.
- \* Mini-bus trip to Walhalla to see old camellias, go on a train ride and visit a nursery.
- \* Shirley Shallcross and Linda Trikarso were co-show managers for the Waverley Show. It was Shirley's last year as Show Manager.
- \* Visit to garden of Jim and Doreen Horsburgh at Nyora, with Camellias Gippsland in August.
- \* We joined Waverley Garden Club on a bus trip to Lardner Park Garden Expo at Warragul.
- \* We had a dead heat between Pam Alsop and Inge Hammer in the Blooms Competition.

**In 2015 we celebrated our 60th Birthday.**

Cathy Coath started taking colour photographs at the monthly meetings and shows that are used in our Newsletters and on the website.

**We started actively encouraging members to receive their Newsletters by email.**

All the labels that we donated to the Royal Botanic Gardens to label their camellia collection had been installed .

**Sandra Sexton was our new Co-Show Manager along with Linda Trikarso from Waverley Garden Club, of the Waverley Camellia and Garden Show.**

John Hunt, originator of Reticulatas 'John Hunt' and 'Tony Hunt' passed away.



- \* We again put on a small display at M.F.I.G.S.
- \* We had a Judges' Revision Day in July and 16 members attended.
- \* We had a drive yourself Gardens Visit to two members in the Dandenongs. Barbara and Hanno Weisert and Inge and Michael Hammer opened their gardens for us to visit.
- \* Lincoln decided not to continue writing our Culture Notes. He had been doing them since March, 2012. Barry Johnson will take over writing the Culture Notes.
- \* We had some Camellia Tote Bags printed with a photo of camellias on the front.
- \* Our Break Up dinner was again a Spit Roast Dinner at East Burwood.
- \* Inaugural meeting of Camellia Ark was held in November.

**In 2016** Shirley Shallcross resigned as Treasurer and from the Committee due to her husband, Harry's poor health. He passed away in March. She returned to Committee as Treasurer in May.

Cathy Coath is the new Webmaster.

Beth Bortolin who had served as Editor and on the Committee for many years, also passed away.

Barry Di Salvia passed away suddenly in August. He was a member of Hume Branch but also of Camellias Victoria and was C.A. National Registrar and Vice-President of the I.C.S.

We lost three long time members and keen camellia growers towards the end of the year: Glory Lloyd-Smith, Alf Bullock and Frank Hocking.

- \* We again put on a small display at M.F.I.G.S., but the location was not very good and it was decided not to participate again.
- \* Garden visit to Jim and Doreen Horsburgh at Nyora with members of Camellias Gippsland.
- \* First Saturday afternoon meeting was held in July.
- \* Sandra Sexton and Linda Trikarso were Co-Show Managers of our Waverley Camellia & Garden Show. It was very successful despite very bad weather, with 902 visitors through the doors.
- \* Guided garden visit was organised to Rippon Lea Estate in October.
- \* Barry Johnson retired from the Committee due to ill health.
- \* Jenny and Keith Smith awarded Honorary Life Membership of Camellias Victoria.
- \* Barry Johnson was awarded a Special Award of Appreciation for his many years of service to CV.

Subscriptions remained unchanged at \$25 Single and \$30 Household.

**2017, 2018 and 2019** Mr. Andrew Raper was President, Mrs. Nola McLean was Secretary, Mrs. Shirley Shallcross was Treasurer, Mrs. Ellie Bruce was Membership Secretary and Mrs. Cathy Coath was Editor.

Over the summer months our new and improved website was launched by Cathy with the assistance of professional help.

New Camellias Victoria Logo was unveiled and this will be used on our website, and letterheads.

We purchased a new hands free microphone for use at meetings.

Popular member and past Secretary, Jean Saltmarsh, passed away in October.

- \* Barry Johnson retired from writing the Culture Notes, due to ill health.
- \* Jim Rochford took over writing the Culture Notes for the newsletter.
- \* 2 daytime meetings were held in May and July.
- \* Display was put on at Gardenworld Nursery.
- \* Waverley Show—Sandra Sexton was Co-Show Manager. Electronic banking was introduced for the Trading Table and was very successful.
- \* Paul Ludwig was our most successful exhibitor EVER at the Waverley Show.
- \* Bus trip to visit Jan and Jim Robertson's garden in Foster in September.
- \* Malcolm Hughes retired after his second stint on Committee.
- \* Paul Ludwig was awarded a Gold Merrillees Medal for service to camellias.
- \* Cathy Coath and Nola McLean awarded botanical camellia prints for their service to Camellias Victoria during the busy year.
- \* Payment date for Membership fees was changed from the AGM in October to the next March for a calendar year. It is hoped this will save the confusion many members have as to whether they have paid or not.

**On 8th February, 2018 our Patron, Erica McMinn, passed away. We have missed her presence and great camellia knowledge at our meetings.**

Four more long time members passed away during the year : Norm Cornthwaite, Margot Burke, Les Rosenberg and Ern Kettle.

**2018 Congress was hosted by Camellias Victoria on 6-9 September at Foothills Conference Centre, Mooroolbark. National Show was at Ferny Creek in conjunction with their Spring Show. Nola McLean was Convenor.**

- \* Autumn Bus Trip to Blackwood Ridge Nursery, Garden of St. Earth and Frogmore Garden in Trentham and surrounds.
- \* Day time meetings in May and July. July meeting was at Sandra's church at Vermont South as our usual meeting hall was double booked.
- \* Waverley Show was in the newly renovated Community Centre. The space in the hall was different with less space available for exhibits and this meant the layout of exhibit tables was different.

- \* A computer programme designed for the Ferny Creek Horticultural Society's shows was modified so that we could use it for all the book work of entry taking, stewards books, judging sheets, bench cards and awards lists. Thanks to Gary from Ferny Creek Hort. Society.
- \* Our Patron, Shirley Shallcross, was awarded a Walter Hazelwood Medal for outstanding service to Camellias Australia, at the Congress.

**In 2019 the new Fourth Edition of "Successful Camellia Growing" culture book was released in August. Selling for \$10, it is fully revised with new text and coloured photographs. We had 1000 copies printed by a local printer.**

- \* Bus trip in May to gardens and nursery in the Yarra Valley.
- \* July meeting was a Saturday afternoon meeting.
- \* Waverley Show - Sandra Sexton was Co-Show Manager. Layout was different again this year with the Open Camellias in the front lounge area and Novice Camellias and Plant Sales still in the craft area. Waverley Garden Club had the main hall and front foyer area. Over 900 paying visitors through the doors.
- \* A planned Judging Day was cancelled due to lack of interest.
- \* Our November Break Up Celebrations were held at Churchill-Waverley Golf and Bowls Club, Rowville and was well supported by members.
- \* Andrew and Lisa Raper were awarded Honorary Life Membership of C.V.
- \* Nola McLean was awarded a Gold Merrillees Medal.

Life Membership badges were struck and awarded to new and past Life Members at the November meeting.

December/January was a catastrophic bushfire season with fires throughout Victoria and NSW.

Membership was 63 Paid Single, 32 Paid Household and Associations, Paid Life members—2 Single, 2 Family. Totalling 133 Members

Subscriptions remained unchanged at \$25 Single and \$30 Household.

**2020 and 2021** Mrs. Sandra Sexton President, Mrs. Nola McLean Secretary, Mrs. Shirley Shallcross Treasurer, Mrs. Sue Donohue Membership Secretary and Mrs. Cathy Coath Editor.

We lost one of most loved members, Neil Saltmarsh early in the year. Jim and Doreen Horsburgh, from Gippsland, passed away separately, during the year and then we lost Elizabeth Kuebler in August.

**We were shocked and saddened to lose our friend and member Keith Smith, or Smithy, as most of us knew him, in July. A Past President and Committee member, we remembered him as a cheerful and always smiling face behind the trading table.**

**WE HAD A NORMAL MARCH MEETING IN THE HALL THEN FUTURE MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR WERE CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 ARRIVING IN AUSTRALIA AND GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS RESTRICTING MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND THE HOLDING OF MEETINGS.**

**WHILE THESE RESTRICTIONS WERE IN PLACE ON AND OFF OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS WE PUT OUR RESOURCES BOTH FINANCIAL AND FROM COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS INTO PRODUCING A FULL COLOUR AND INFORMATIVE NEWSLETTER TO KEEP MEMBERS INTERESTED.**

**IN JUNE IT WAS DECIDED BY CAMELLIAS VICTORIA AND WAVERLEY GARDEN CLUB TO CANCEL OUR 2020 CAMELLIA & GARDEN SHOW DUE TO STRICT COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AND REGULATIONS AND UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHETHER WE WOULD BE ABLE TO HOLD A SHOW.**

- \* National CA Congress was to be held in Warragul hosted by Camellias Gippsland but in July it was cancelled..
- \* Joe Neuschwanger from Tasmania produced an Australian Nomenclature Book with alphabetical listings of camellias grown in Australia.
- \* In September our member Jim Rochford was elected National President of Camellias Australia.

**2021 We had the same Committee as 2020.**

**In August our Secretary, Nola McLean, resigned as she was due to have major back surgery.**

**We welcomed Shirley Dempsey as our new Secretary.**

We lost another long time member and camellia stalwart in Ray Garnett early in the year. Ray had been National Registrar for many years and also wrote our Culture notes for the Newsletter.

**We had our first face to face Committee meeting in February to plan the year ahead. We were hopeful with the easing of COVID restrictions we would be able to hold meetings subject to special rules.**

**In March we held our first Zoom Committee meeting and we were able to continue doing this when we were restricted from meetings due to COVID regulations.**

**THE 2021 WAVERLEY CAMELLIA & GARDEN SHOW WAS AGAIN CANCELLED DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS.**

**The National Congress that was to be held in Warragul was again cancelled in August.**

**WE HAD BLOOMS COMPETITIONS IN APRIL, MAY AND JULY BUT AFTER THE AUGUST, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER MEETINGS WERE CANCELLED RESULTING IN NO MORE COMPETITIONS FOR THE YEAR, IT WAS DECIDED TO CANCEL THE COMPETITION FOR THE YEAR. THE COMMITTEE DECIDED THAT THIS IS NOT A LARGE ENOUGH NUMBER OF EVENTS NOR A FAIR REPRESENTATION SO THERE WERE NO AWARDS GIVEN FOR 2021.**

- \* We had a new advertiser in the Newsletter after Banksia Nursery indicated that they were probably going to close down. We welcomed Gardenworld Nursery as a new advertiser.
- \* Donna Osbourne took over as Trading Table Manager.
- \* From the May meeting we started to pay a uni student to help set up and pack up the hall for meetings. He is also able to help with the computer and projector
- \* We held normal, face to face meetings in March, April, May where members were pleased to see each other.
- \* June meeting was cancelled due to COVID and a big storm went through the Dandenongs at the same time with destructive winds that caused major damage to homes, gardens and power infrastructure.
- \* July meeting was a Saturday afternoon meeting and was well attended..
- \* The August, September and October meetings were cancelled due to COVID but because October was our A.G.M. we held the meeting on Zoom.
- \* Our participation in the Macedon Garden Lovers Fair was cancelled.
- \* The End Of Year Luncheon at the Waverley Churchill Golf and Bowls Club was cancelled.
- \* An informal picnic was to be held in the Ferny Creek Hort. Society's gardens for our End Of Year break up in November but due to bad weather making the trees unsafe and also COVID regulations this was also cancelled.
- \* The International Camellia Register became available online.
- \* A stock-take of the library cupboard was carried out and the books were culled and surplus books were offered to members. The space was needed for storage of equipment for meetings.
- \* At the end of the year Cathy Coath resigned as Editor but is continuing on Committee and also as Webmaster and Photographer.
- \* Jenny Smith resigned from Committee

**2022** Mrs. Sandra Sexton President, Mrs. Shirley Dempsey Secretary, Mrs. Shirley Shallcross Treasurer and Editor, Mrs. Cathy Coath Webmaster, Mrs. Sue Donohue Membership Secretary.

The first meeting for the year was a Saturday Picnic held at the Ferny Creek Horticultural Society's gardens and hall. 28 members availed themselves of the opportunity to meet together for a catch up and wander in the gardens.

**Cathy Coath was awarded a Gold Merrillees Medal for her nine years as editor and her continuing service on the Committee.**

After only being able to hold our Blooms Competition three times last year Committee decided that this was not representative of the camellia year so no awards were given. **For future reference there will need to be five Blooms Competition meetings as the minimum for awards to be made.**

We have had one afternoon meeting and one night meeting up to April so we are hoping that the rest of the year's meetings will be able to go ahead and will be well supported by members.

We have one more Saturday afternoon meeting planned for July.

Planning is underway for the Waverley Show in August and it will also be the National Show as it can't be held in Hobart with the Congress.

**Membership Numbers for 2022** were a small increase from last year :

57 Single, 28 Family, 5 Associations,

1 Single and 2 Family Paid Life Members

Equating to 128 members.

Subscriptions remain unchanged at \$25 Single, \$30 Household/Family/Association.

**This Brief History of Camellias Victoria was printed in May, 2022 to be distributed to members at the June meeting, which is also our Birthday Meeting.**



This Brief History of Camellias Victoria (formerly Australian Camellia Research Society Victorian Branch Inc) was compiled using information from our Newsletters and Minutes.

If you would like to read a full account of our history, there is a set of bound newsletters from our inception in the club library at our meeting hall.



**The Camellias Victoria History was first printed in 1992.  
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Revised third printing — May, 2012.  
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