

VIREYA VINE

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FOUNDATION

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This is a special issue of the Vireya Vine.

But first, I need your e-mail address so I can send you the Vireya Vine by e-mail. Send your e-mail address to info@bovees.com We for sure will not sell or send your address to anyone, wouldn't even know how to do that. This will save us a lot of money in the long run and I can include color photos. Here's the deal - we send out 299 Vireya Vines to people all over the world. 78 of them go outside the USA and the postage on them is \$0.98 each and they have to be put into envelopes. The total cost of VV86 was \$289.39 which included a few extra stamps, extra envelopes (that I got on sale) and seals for the edges of the US copies. The printing cost \$88.80 and that is in black and white. Color pages cost about \$0.35 each and I will do some color in the future but I just don't like spending too much of your money. Right now we have about \$1,800 in the VV fund that the RSF holds for us. SO we don't need money, we need your letters. We need your letters!! **About your subscription. If you have not paid anything or written a letter in the last 10 years, I will take your name off the mailing list. Is that fair?? \$10 for ever or 10 years whichever comes first and letters to the Vine count as money. What a deal!**

Here are some photos of the new Rutherford Conservatory located near the entry gate at the Rhododendron Species Foundation

garden. As of September 2009 the building is finished. Water, electricity, paths, planting soil. and many other items are yet to be added.

It will take a while before any planting is done, but things are moving along as fast as the RSF staff can move. Getting plants for the building might be a little slow even though the RSF has many plants that can be used. Donated plants can only come from growers who are certified to be in compliance with the Federal SOD (Sudden Oak Death), *Phytophthora remorum* agreement. The RSF understandably is very careful about that problem. Black and white for now, not much color to see yet



Some of the parts to start with



Boxes of glass



Just the frame is up



Nice rocks set in place



Getting close to being done



Finished and cleaning up



Heat system and shade system



Heat system again



Main front door



One front side, September 2009

Here are some facts about the building.

Cost about \$500,000 - 4,800 square feet under glass - all glass is "Safety Glass" which added a lot of cost to the structure - there will probably be hard surface paths - there will be a water feature or more - The heat will be propane and (see the photos) is blown down a stainless steel pipe and radiates from the pipe.

From Lyn Craven

Cambria Australia

A friend of mine, Frank Zich, recently spent some time in Flores, Indonesia. Flores is in the Lesser Sundas. The attached photographs are of *R. renschianum*, a subsection *Euvireya* species. Frank found the species at one of the tourist spots although it is probably safe to say that most tourists would not know what an interesting plant they were walking by.

Rhododendron renschianum has corollas about 30-40 mm long that in colour are much like those of *R. christi* from New Guinea although the latter has quite a distinct gestalt due to the very hairy corolla and quite different foliage.

Frank provided the following notes:

"The Rhodo was growing at ca. 1600m alt (close to 8deg 45min 55 secS, 121deg 49min 16sec E - only taken off Google Earth) near the summit of Keli Mutu, a volcano in central Flores famous for its three coloured crater lakes, near the town of Moni. To find the Rhodos start walking from the car park on the mountain where the track to the summit starts. The walk to the summit is relatively short and easy and along a good path. Moni and Keli Mutu are easily accessible tourist attractions in Flores and most foreign tourists to Flores would visit this area, though tourism is still fairly light. When the track reaches a T-junction take the left track and follow it around to the summit lookouts. But, at this T-junction (straight ahead as you approach from the car park) there are Rhodos on the low-shrubby slopes of the crater.

After taking the track to the left and walking a few hundred metres there are more and taller (ca. 2m) plants to be found on the right side of the path in the shrub layer at the top of and along the sides of a roadside cutting (?south-facing slopes). All the plants I saw were terrestrial, many-branched shrubs. "



R. renschianum

See Chris Callard's wonderful Web site at www.vireya.net (it has been redone and is very nice. Good job Chris.

**Get into this group and let's talk about Vireyas
www.groups.yahoo.com/group/vireya**

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They have bought and are growing John Kenyon's plants in Kerikeri
where they have established a wholesale tree and shrub nursery.

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