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Additional information to the February Newsletter

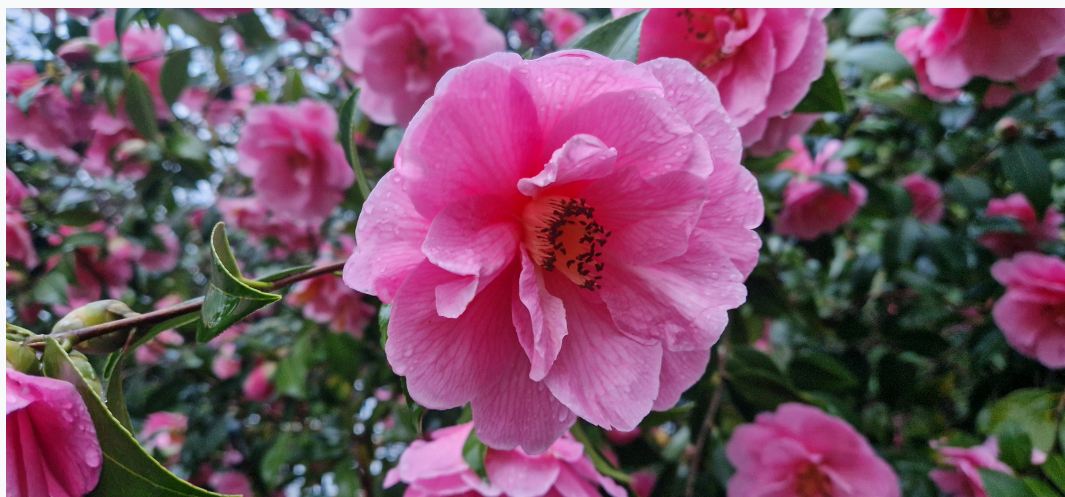
Dear Member

We are pleased to provide additional information to you as part of our newsletter.

Firstly, images and additional text have been provided below from Borde Hill Garden on our Plant of the Month *Camellia* 'Donation' RHS AGM.

Secondly, we are pleased to include details of the **New Zealand Rhododendron Association Festival 2026**. Its Chairman Brian Coker is pleased to invite members and guests to the festival, where John Anderson VMM Keeper of the Gardens at Windsor Great Park will be the keynote speaker. Details below

Finally, many thanks to Gianmario Motta, International Camellia Society President and RCMG member for enabling us to produce a **film of images of the *Camellia* at Villa Motta, Orta Lake, Italy.**

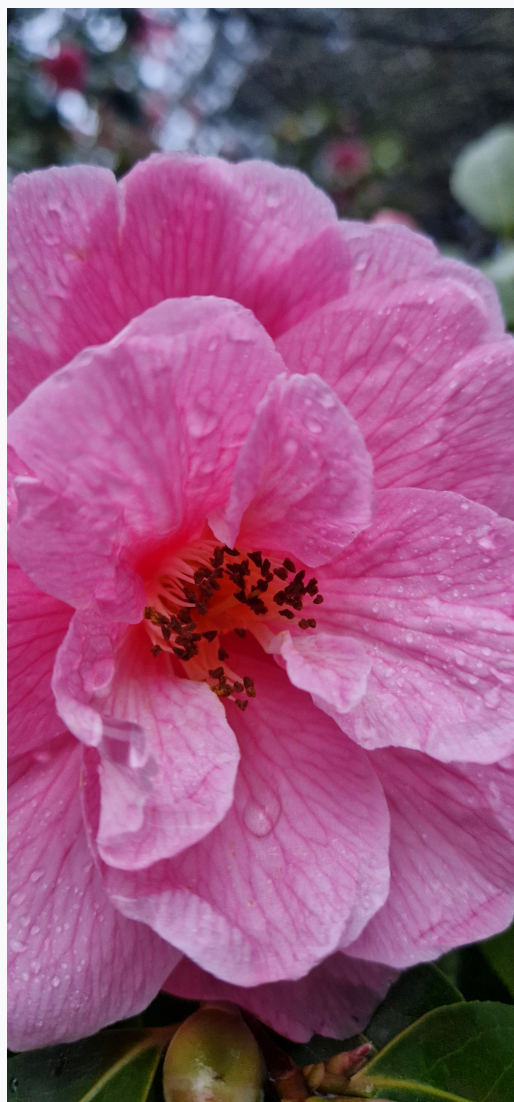


***Camellia* x *williamsii* 'Donation' RHS AGM celebrates its 85th anniversary.**

One of Borde Hill's most celebrated plant introductions is *Camellia* × *williamsii* 'Donation', bred by Head Gardener Walter Fleming during the winter of 1937–38. Fleming crossed the deep red *Camellia japonica* 'Donckelaeri' (now known as 'Masayoshi') with the pale pink *Camellia saluenensis*, a gift from J.C. Williams of Caerhays, a renowned camellia breeder.

1941. The name 'Donation' came from a time of war, and was given by Colonel Stephenson Clarke as a gift to the nation.

Since then, *Camellia* 'Donation' has gone on to become one of the most popular and finest hybrids ever bred – and one of the best-selling camellias worldwide – particularly known for its hardiness, long-lasting flowers, and low-maintenance qualities. Read more [here](#)



Christchurch, New Zealand 29 October – 1 November 2026

The keynote speaker is John Anderson, Keeper of The Gardens, Windsor Great Park . Visiting renowned Canterbury gardens from the formally structured, woodland specialist rhododendron planting, country gardens, and newer gardens.

Workshops and great company. We wish everyone in New Zealand a great festival of *Rhododendron*.

Please send enquiries [here](#) to the Chairman Brian Coker of The New Zealand Rhododendron Association.

Camellias in bloom at Villa Motta, Orta Lake, Italy**Thanks to Gianmario Motta****RHS**Rhododendron, Camellia
& Magnolia Group

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