

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004

COMING EVENTS



**September 8th
(Sunday)**

Meeting and garden gathering

At Ken and Lesley Gillanders
1 Willowbend Road, Kingston Ph 6229 2351
Time: 2pm. Please bring something for afternoon tea. (See more details below)

September 26th

Committee meeting Ken and Lesley Gillanders
1 Willowbend Road, Kingston Ph 6229 2351
6pm at Beachside Hotel, Kingston Beach

October 13th

Meeting and garden gathering

Sue Wallbank (Pen-lan Plants)
Sue specialises in Auriculas . This follows a wonderful talk that Sue gave at our meeting last November.
636 Summerleas Road, Fern Tree
Time 2pm. Please bring a plate.
More details in October Newsletter.

BLOOMS COMPETITION

for August
Rhododendron section - Anne Cruise. Blooms other than Rhododendron section - Anne Pyke. Anne Cruise also won Peoples Choice and Anne Pyke won the raffle which was R. Winter Morn.

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE ANNES**

MEETING - GARDEN GATHERING PROCEDURE

As we will no longer be holding evening meetings at Legacy House in Hobart we will incorporate a short meeting at the commencement of our monthly garden meets. It will only address items that require input from Members and a Treasurer's report. It will be conducted within the first half hour of our meet. At this stage we plan to continue our regular Committee meetings.

An item we would like feedback on is **How to Promote the Rhododendron**. One suggestion is a mini display at the Fork in the Road nursery at Kingston as we did last year with some success and possibly the Royal Horticultural Shows at the Town Hall which we also took part in but was not well supported. Please give some thought to other ways we may be able to create interest in re-establishing the popularity of the Rhododendron.

We will also have our regular **blooms competition**. You can bring up to (3) blooms for each section ie. Rhododendrons and/or Blooms other than Rhododendrons. Please remember to bring your own vases/bottles just as we did at our evening meetings. We will also continue with Peoples Choice. Note: No pinching any specimens from Ken's garden please!

We will also have our regular **auction** and **raffle**. Please bring rhododendrons or a 'special interest' plant for **blooms on display**. Books from the **library** will be available. More details on page 4.

IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

After ten weeks recovering from a major heart attack Ken is allowed to work in his garden again - at least being confined inside while the bad weather was with us, was acceptable. Now as Spring progresses there is much pleasure for both of us to see all the little bulbs producing their flowers. There are two floriferous patches of *Narcissus cyclamineus* in the raised garden at the back of the patio. Ken also planted a patch of these near the creek. Luckily they were safely above the waterline when the creek flooded but some of the *Erythronium californicum* were washed away.

Tecophilaea cyanocrocus have several flowers open with more to come. It is a native bulb from Chile with intense deep blue flowers. Once thought to be extinct in the wild, a recent discovery of a population in a remote area of the Andes has been preserved. A few years back Ken raised a blue flowered *Tropaeolum azureum*. It has a pretty mid blue open flower, larger than the red and black blooms of *T. tricolor*. He has plunged it, still in its pot, in a spot where we can see it from the lounge. There are a lot more flowers to open in the next few weeks.

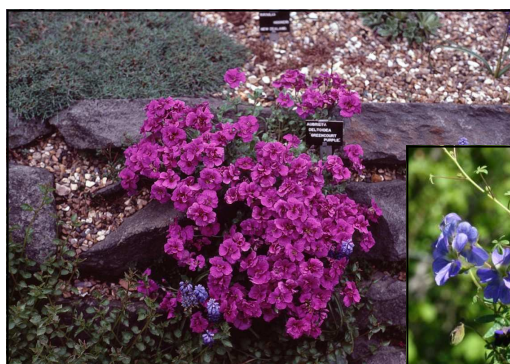
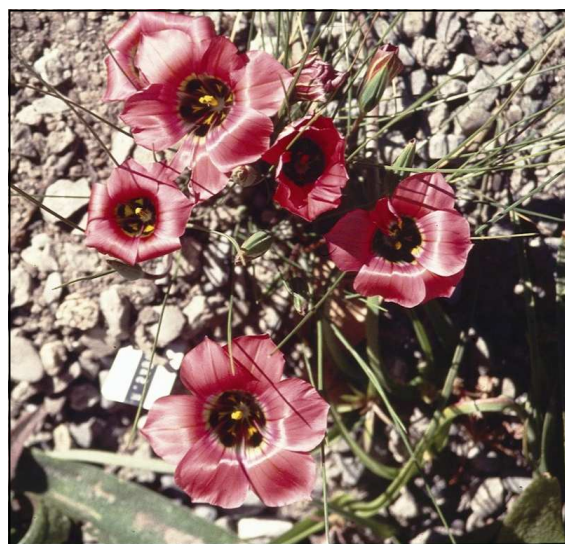


There seems to be blue flowers all along the raised bed above the patio. *Chionodoxa sardensis* and *Scilla bifolia* have come on well. *Iris* 'Harmony' has increased into a nice large patch and *Anemone blanda* in several groups make a bright deep blue splash. A few stray bulbs of these have shown in odd places but will look fine as they increase. We were lucky to have a pure white one given to us by a good friend.

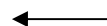
The retaining wall below the garage has pockets of soil where little plants of *Helianthemum* were inserted. They have grown well and are showing buds. They need some sunny days to bring on a good display of colours. Also in some of the pockets are seedling plants of *Aubrieta*. Years ago, in 1989, when on our first trip to UK, we were entranced with this genus where they were growing in troughs and hanging over the edges of walls. Bright splashes of blue in various shades, purple and red were quite striking. We had never been able to grow it at Longley but the climate is warmer here and of course there is more time to look after them. A batch of named ones have been planted up in the rock garden so we look forward to a few flowers later.

On top of the wall is a compact growing corm of *Cyclamen coum* with thirty tubby pink flowers which have lasted several weeks. One of the troughs on the back patio is filled with some more in light and dark pinks, white and majenta making a very pleasing colourful splash of colour. There are several corms of *Cyclamen persicum* in another trough there. The white flowers with a deep pink mark on the nose have a strong pleasant fragrance. We saw them growing on the side of a hill in Cyprus years ago. They like a sunny spot. We are lucky to have a pink form in a spot at the front of the house.

Large bright yellow flowers on *Romulea diversiformis* in the rock garden was a pleasant surprise when they opened. *R. sabulosa* with attractive red flowers has been raised again from seed and planted out. We hope this time it will survive as it is notoriously difficult to keep. Several pots of *Crocus* species and hybrids have flowered in their pots and have now been allocated a permanent home in the garden. A small raised bed has been developed at the side of the house and 40 pots of seedling bulbs have been planted there until they develop some size.



Aubrieta



Tropaeolum
azureum



Romulea sabulosa

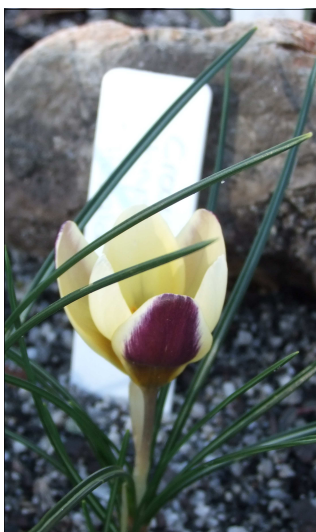


A few months ago Ken moved a plant of *Magnolia* 'Star Wars' from the drive garden to the garden at the back of the house. It was about one and half metres high and finally has opened six of its lovely flowers with more buds coming on well. Buds are swelling on many shrubs so spring is progressing.

One of our sons, Colin, turned over a small area with the rotary hoe for Ken to have a vegetable garden. He also hoed the strip along the side fence line at the back of the house and Ken has planted trees and shrubs out of their pots into a permanent home. Bob and Neil constructed a frame around the raspberries for Ken as he is not yet allowed to do any really heavy work. We will place a net over it when the fruit develops and beat the blackbirds to them.

Garden Gathering at Debbie Farmilo's

There had been rain, rain, rain but on Sunday 11th August we were granted a break in the weather and enjoyed an afternoon of sunshine and a chance to see Debbie's wonderful collection of alpine treasures. Her 'specialty' garden was a sheer delight and her enthusiasm for growing these interesting plants is truly inspiring. Many have been grown from seed that she has purchased from the UK. I'm sure Joan was impressed to see someone younger so keen and motivated. Debbie has most of her treasures growing in specially prepared rock garden beds but her latest venture is two galvanized garden beds (those sold for veggie plantings). They have proven to be an excellent way of controlling the growing medium and protection from those pesky bandicoots. Keep up the good work Debbie.



Some of Debbie's treasures

Would like to say THANK YOU to Doreen Gill and Anne Cruise for accepting positions on our executive committee. Welcome ladies.

RUSTICA
\$2.50 PER KG
 Available at meeting this Sunday

Library

Rhonda Bull has kindly volunteered to caretake our library. Attached/enclosed is a list of books held in our library. Please keep your list handy. If you decide there is a book that interests you please give Rhonda a call on **6239 6416**. **Rhonda will also bring a small selection along to our meets.**



2013 Australian Rhododendron Society Convention

We have had a request from Rob Hatcher, National President of the Australian Rhododendron Society, to remind Members of this forthcoming event to be held in South Australia on Friday 18th October to Sunday 20th October. It will include a wonderful weekend of garden visits. More information is available on the SA Branch website sarhodo.org.au

[Mr Steven E Hootman](#) will be the keynote speaker at the conference dinner.

Steve Hootman is the Executive Director & Curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington where he is responsible for development, maintenance and integrity of world class rhododendron and a companion plant collection. He has participated in or led over one dozen expeditions into the remote regions of Asia looking for rare and new taxa of rhododendrons and other plants and is considered one of the world authorities on the genus. He is also an active collector, authority and promoter of related genera in the Ericaceae including genera such as Vaccinium, Agapetes and Gaultheria

YOUR NEW EXECUTIVE

President	Lesley Eaton	6267 9961
	<i>lesley.eaton@bigpond.com</i>	
Vice President	Doreen Gill	6239 1124
Secretary	Debbie Farmilo	6229 3001
	<i>mdwj@bigpond.com</i>	
Treasurer	Lorraine Grewcoe	6247 7774
	<i>lgrewcoe@bigpond.net.au</i>	
Public Officer	Phil Cooper	6249 8717
Newsletter editor	Dorothy Lane	6239 6671
	<i>djlane67@bigpond.com</i>	
Librarian	Rhonda Bull	6239 6416
Social Secretary	Gill Fitzgerald	6234 4752



Committee

Gill Fitzgerald	6234 4752
Lesley Gillanders	6229 2351
Karina Harris	6239 6048
Rhonda Bull	6239 6416
Doreen Gill	6239 1124
Anne Cruise	6244 2965

Annual Membership is now due. This can be paid at the Annual General Meeting or by posting a cheque, payable to **Australian Rhododendron Society Inc., Southern Tasmania Branch** and mailed to the Treasurer, Lorraine Grewcoe, Clarendon Vale House, Clarendon Vale, Tas. 7019

Single Membership \$20.00

Family Membership \$25.00