

# AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004

### COMING EVENTS

- March 9th**                    **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 page 4).
- March 27th**                    **Committee meeting** Ken and Lesley Gillanders  
1 Willowend Road, Kingston Ph 6229 2351  
6pm at Beachside Hotel, Kingston Beach
- April 6th**                      **Meeting and garden gathering**  
To be advised
- April 24th**                    **Committee meeting** - Dorothy Lane's  
86 Betts Road, Neika Ph 6239 6671  
6pm Beachside Hotel, Kingston Beach
- May 11th**                      **Meeting and garden gathering**  
'Greenslades'  
Garden of Wyn and Rupert Manners  
4685 Channel Highway, Gordon Ph 6292 1310  
A large interesting garden by the sea  
More details next Newsletter
- May 29th**                      **Committee meeting**



## IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

The heatwave we have all been through this past summer was indeed hard to experience not only for some of us but also for the garden. Several plants like the Asiatic *Gentiana sino ornata* needed a shade cover to help them survive. Likewise, *Roscoea* in several species were protected by a light covering of shade cloth. As an automatic watering system has not yet been installed, Ken watered every second day and we lost only a small number of plants. Sadly, five of the losses were dwarf rhododendron in the Cox series. We had imported these from Scotland years ago and they grew well at Longley in the rock garden where it was cool. The hot days here heated the soil and as root growth was not established long enough, they succumbed to heat. We had this same trouble 40 years ago at The Basin in Victoria.



Through December and January there were various flowers to be seen, although some did not like the very hot days and their flowers quickly shrivelled. The lovely soft mauve *Iris* which Pat had given me produced one flower and turned brown. Ken has moved it to a different position now as it was too dry near a big tree. *Gazania* hybrids which line the edge of the drive have been prolific. Six plants were originally purchased in assorted colours. Ken grew more from seed and planted out several hundred with spectacular results of colours.

In the cool garden at the front of the house there are several plants of *Meconopsis* lingholm, a hybrid of the Himalayan blue poppy. To our surprise four of the seedling raised plants had white flowers which we had strived for years to obtain and the other three plants had deep rich blue blooms. *Eucomis pole Evansi* with rich purple leaves has produced a nice



head of typical "pineapple" flowers. Barry very kindly gave us a second one and Ken cross pollinated the flower stems on both bulbs.

*Calochortus fimbriatus* has unusual speckled flowers with internal hairs. We have one bulb and it performed well in a hot well drained spot. First time it has flowered for us. Up in the rock garden the tiny little *Aquilegia saximontana* produced pretty little blue flowers. *Codonopsis rotundifolia* and *C.grey-wilsonii* twined through

small shrubs with their unusual bell-shaped flowers, very pretty, but have a "foxy" smell. The *Calluna* plants are growing. We do not have the full range now that we had at Longley but *C.kinlochruel* with white flowers, *C.prostrate orange* with coloured foliage and *C.white lawn* have done well. After several years of growing *Allium christophi* (formerly known as *A.albopilosum*) rather poorly, we had a successful group of flowers with large metallic pink heads. They have dried into good specimens for floral decorations.





Seven or more years ago Ken raised some seed from a friend in South African of *Hippeastrum papilio*. This year we were delighted to have one of the bulbs produce a flower. No doubt the warmer temperature here at Kingston helped. I had tried previously to grow them but it had been too cold in our former garden.

On one of our trips to Turkey, while we were out in the field, we were provided with a delicious lunch of a dish of plain yoghurt with several spoonfuls of jam on top made from the fruit of *Cornus mas* (also known as Cornelian Cherry). Our botanist leader Dr Adel Guiner sourced this jam especially for our group as it



*Hippeastrum papilio*



*Cornus mas* fruit

was very hard to obtain. Our tree this year had 25 fruits for the first time. It took me half an hour to remove the large pips from the fruit and try to make the three tablespoons of pulp into jam. Success, it was a nice strong flavour

but next year I will try a different method of removing the pips as I expect there will be a larger crop to harvest.



*Campanula zoysii*

For forty years or more we had tried to find seed of *Campanula zoysii*. It was practically impossible to obtain seed from distributions of various overseas garden clubs. Once or twice we got some but it would damp off or slugs or snails would devour the tiny seedlings. This year we were overjoyed to get one plant to succeed and produced a profusion of their delightful little flowers. We hope they pollinate but I have not worked out how they do as the flowers do not open their little blue tubes.

## MEETING - GARDEN GATHERING PROCEDURE 9TH MARCH 2014

There will be a short meeting conducted within the first half hour,.

Our **blooms competition** will recommence for a new year. There may not be a lot in your gardens at the moment but please bring anything of interest. Some true summer survivors or maybe a touch of autumn. If possible blooms for the competition would be best set up prior to 2pm. 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. We will also continue with Peoples Choice.

**Problems in the garden** are welcome, and we will also have a **raffle** and our regular **auction**. A contribution towards the auction would be appreciated.

### NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Calling for some contributions to the Newsletter. Even just a short paragraph on a garden you may have visited, here or overseas, with a photo or two. Something interesting that you read, how you've managed to get through summer on water meters, a special companion plant— anything garden related. Since we are no longer having 'short talks' at our meetings, articles relating to rhododendrons specifically would also add interest and continue to nurture the rhododendron species.

Each month without fail, Lesley's 'In My Garden' article arrives and I cannot thank her enough for her support. I know you all enjoy Lesley's articles and contributions from others could add even more interest to our Newsletter.

### YOUR NEW EXECUTIVE



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#### Committee

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