

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004

COMING EVENTS

- April 6th** **Meeting and garden gathering**
At John Tooths
16 Bracken Lane, Fern Tree
Time: 2pm. Please bring something for afternoon tea.
(See more details page 4)
- April 24th** **Committee meeting** - Ken and Lesley Gillanders
1 Willowbend Road, Kingston Ph 6229 2351
6pm Beachside Hotel, Kingston Beach
- May 11th** **Garden gathering**
'Greenslades'
Garden of Wyn and Rupert Manners
4685 Channel Highway, Gordon Ph 6292 1310
On left - water side
Past Turnbulls Road on right hand side. If you reach Dulcia Road
also on right then you have gone too far.
- May 29th** **Committee meeting**
- June 8th** **Meeting and garden gathering**
If anyone has any suggestions please contact a committee member
Would need to be at a Member's garden to be able to have
our regular activities — Blooms display etc.
- July 13th** **Mid-year luncheon**
For venue suggestions for the luncheon please
contact a committee member. We will also be
asking for suggestions at our next meeting.
- July 31st** **Committee meeting**
- August 10th** **AGM**





A splash of colour in Ken and Lesley's garden in March

IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

On this cool morning thinking about what I can write, I look out the windows and see a damp moist garden after a full day of light rain yesterday and then overnight giving the parched soil an inch of gently soaking rain. An inch for my old head but 26mm for younger heads. This has given Ken a rest from every second day watering the young plants. Now he is



Astrantia Ruby wedding

busy potting on seedlings and cuttings of his favourites which will be given to friends, planted out or contributed to the Societies plant auction each month.

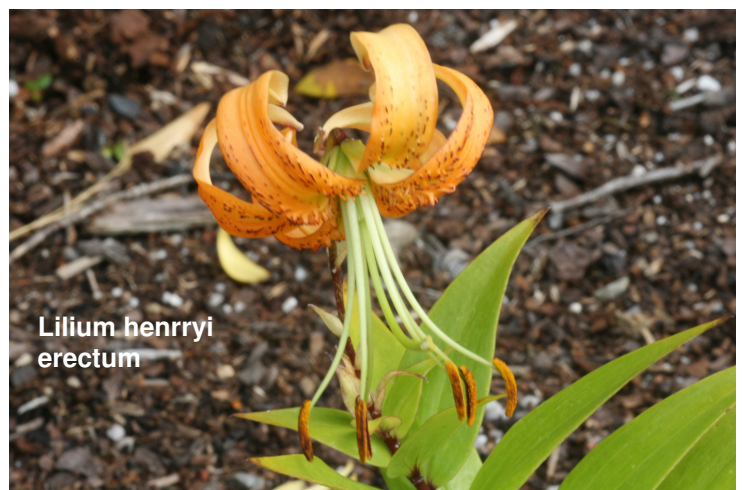
I have been cleaning seed for Ken as it ripens *Astrantia major* had pretty red flowers which last well in the garden but have tiny little spikes which prick the fingers when cleaning the seed from the dried flower head. Several different *Lilium* species have been gathered and some already sown but they will not come up until spring. Ken will be able to plant more around the garden, also some of the established clumps will be

divided. *Lilium callosum*, *L.duchartei*, *L.mackliniae* have grown well and *Lilium lankongense* which has a suckering habit has spread modestly. *Lilium speciosum alba* is still in flower also *L. henryi* with orange slightly reflexed flowers.

At this present time we have the blackbirds fooled. Their favourite patch under the flowering cherries was covered with a large swathe of black weedmat netting and pegged down all round the edges. It worked well – but – the weeds have grown under and through it.

Cyclamen hederifolium alba and *C.h.* 'Ruby Red' are in flower under it. Now the decision must be made – do we leave the cover on or take it off and chance the return of the birds who will turn everything over again. We have a trough planted with *C.graecum*. They have several pink flowers open and their magnificent marbled leaves are starting to open.

Telopea 'Shady Lady' which was here when we moved in had produced lovely red flowers and long new growth. To our surprise and disappointment it died two weeks ago. We will get another later and try it in a different place as there may be a fungus in the old position. *Rhododendron* 'Blue Diamond' has a small truss of blue flowers open. It is obviously out of season but a welcome splash of colour.



Lilium henryi erectum



Crocus pulchellus



Colchicum speciosum album

Now we are into autumn you expect to see a few bulbs thrust their blooms through. *Colchicum autumnale* and *C. agrippinum* were the first to appear. Then they are quickly followed by *C.a.alba* and *C.speciosum*. The

white form of *C.speciosum* is quite spectacular with its large white goblet shaped flowers. two new ones flowered for us – *C.lingulatum* and *C.microphyllum*. They have quite small pink flowers and should build up into a neat clump. *Crocus pulchellus* with very pretty lavender flowers has appeared up in the rock garden and *C. karduchorum* had two blooms in the bed at the front of the house. It is similar to *C.pulchellus* but is slightly pink with a white throat.

Our *Sarmienta repens* that Ken has in several pots in the shadehouse produced their brilliant little flowers over several weeks. He has kept the slugs away from them. *Salvia patens*, a perennial with intense deep blue flowers has created a bright



Salvia patens



Daphne arbuscula

splash of colour in the top garden. We thought we had lost it as when they become dormant they look completely dead. There is a compact little plant of *Daphne arbuscula* in

the rock garden. It has pretty pink heads of flowers while the plant is only 12cm high. At last, our Lapagerias have produced some flowers. There is a double red one and another we raised from seed with brilliant red flowers. They are on the posts at the front verandah. Hopefully when they keep growing they can be trained right across to each post. Then Ken found that the one he had planted near his passionfruit has a large white flower open. And - no his passionfruit has not flowered yet, so he is still waiting for his pavlova.



What!! No passionfruit!!

MEETING - GARDEN GATHERING 6TH APRIL 2014

- ◆ Short meeting
- ◆ **Blooms competition** (Judges for April will be Karina and Lorraine)
Last month we had a good selection for our Blooms Competition with contributions from four members. One even produced rhododendrons. Let's see if we can better this. You can bring up to (3) blooms for each section ie. Rhododendrons and/or Blooms other than Rhododendrons. If possible blooms for the competition would be best set up prior to 2pm. Please remember to bring your own vases/bottles. We will also continue with Peoples Choice.
- ◆ **Short talk** - by Gill Fitzgerald. Will be rhododendron related.
- ◆ **Problems in the garden** are welcome.
- ◆ **Raffle**
- ◆ **Auction** - we had a very successful auction last month at Ken and Lesleys. Was it that everyone was starved plant purchasing or was it that they were tired of looking after their stock through the summer heat - it doesn't matter really, we had fun and our group benefited. Don't forget some contributions for this month.

March winners

Gill Fitzgerald won Peoples Choice
Anne Cruise won the Rhododendron section
Dorothy Lane won Plants Other than Rhododendrons

Raffle winner for March

Anne Cruise

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Sadly - no responses!

YOUR EXECUTIVE

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Committee

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