

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004

COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| September 14th | Meeting and Garden Gathering
At Jubilee Gardens
69 Jubilee Road, Cascades
Time: 2pm
Please bring something for afternoon tea |
| September 25th | Committee Meeting - Ken and Lesleys
1 Willowbend Road, Kingston 6229 2351
6pm Harmony Chinese - Channel Court |
| October 12th | ? |
| October 25th
Saturday | Bus Trip to WAG Walker Heritage Rhododendron Gardens
Details page 4. |



MEETING - GARDEN GATHERING 14TH SEPTEMBER 2014

- ◆ Short meeting
- ◆ **Blooms competition** Expecting a good selection of both rhododendrons and other spring treasures. You can bring up to (3) blooms for each section ie. Rhododendrons and/or Blooms other than Rhododendrons. This will include Peoples Choice.
- ◆ **Short talk** - Lesley Gillanders will revisit an article on their trip to Iran
- ◆ **Main talk** - Joy Stones' topic will be camellias. Joy has a great selection available for show and tell. Reticulatas have been a favourite for Joy in recent years.
- ◆ **Problems in the garden**
- ◆ **Blooms on display** - love to see any interesting plants, large or small and in between
- ◆ **Auction** - contributions always appreciated
- ◆ **Raffle**

IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

For a short time I debated if it was autumn, winter or spring. Common sense proved that we had passed autumn and we were in the colder months of winter but the warm days in late August showed promise of an early spring, if there is such a thing. After weeks of inspecting the bare patches in the garden a few bulbs began pushing their inquisitive noses through the soil and after checking the world above decided it was time to produce their enchanting display of colours of blues, pinks, whites, yellows, reds and all colours you could wish for.

Iris 'Harmony', a lovely sky blue, *I. reticulata* and *I. Pauline*', both are purple and the unusual *I. Katherine Hodgkin* which has a mix of pale olive-green, yellow and blue. *I. 'Alida'* which we bought from a supermarket and had our doubts that it would survive, has proved very hardy. It has increased well enough to allow us to plant out two patches. *Anemone blanda* with bright blue daisy type flowers has made a largish patch. There are also a few stray bulbs in various places but they are never a problem. I was worried that a large patch had been lost when Ken remodelled the garden outside the back door where the steep steps had been. They have come through a week or so later than the undisturbed group and I see there is a white flushed blue one among the numerous seedlings.

Muscari macrocarpum with yellow flowers is in bloom but not in a spot where it is easy to see. I would expect everyone to have some form of Daffodils in their garden. *Narcissus cyclamineus* is a delightful little yellow one with reflexed petals. Ken has planted a patch down near the creek as well as the group in the back garden. Next to it is one he hybridised many years ago and named *N. 'Lesley'*. *Crocus* in several forms are coming up. *C. sieberi* 'Tricolour' has pretty tricolour flowers.

I am beginning to doubt that there will be any bulbs still open when spring officially arrives!

All the numerous deciduous trees and shrubs are on the move with their growth and flower buds swelling. I see the Cornelian Cherry – *Cornus mas* has a generous amount of flowers, so I will be able to make at least a pot of jam which will be more than the one tablespoonful I produced last year. Some of the Maples have their young leaves already. They have survived the few frosts we have had but will need to be covered if necessary.

The whole garden has been mulched with the accumulation of bark from the four Eucalyptus trees here, plus prunings and discarded shrubs which had been in this garden when we came here. Ken spent several weeks putting all of this through the shredder. This will keep the weeds down and keep the soil moist. He has been installing a watering system throughout the garden and has only one more bed to finish. That should make it easier to keep watered through the summer without hand watering and dragging a hose around.



TIME TO FERTILISE

**RUSTICA will be available at
our next gathering on the
14th September
\$2.50 PER KG**



We have two plants of *Daphne bholua* and both are in flower. They are just over one metre high so far but will grow and produce more flowers next year. It is a delightful perfume which wafts around the garden on the warm breezes. A rather rare shrub is *Abeliophyllum distichum*. It has become an endangered plant in China. The dainty white flowers open along the bare stems before the leaves are produced. Our plant in this

garden is only small and just starting to open its buds. Unfortunately the little birds rarely come up into the garden. They prefer the shelter of the trees along the creek but as our garden attains some size, we should expect them to come more often. The biggest problem is a grey cat from next door which comes over our fence and hunts along the creek. We put the hose on it if we can but it has become wary of us now.



YOUR NEW EXECUTIVE

President	Lesley Eaton	6267 9961
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Committee

Debbie Farmilo	6229 3001
Lesley Gillanders	6229 2351
Ken Gillanders	6229 2351
Karina Harris	6239 6048
Rhonda Bull	6239 6416
Doreen Gill	6239 1124
Anne Cruise	6244 2965

DAY BUS TRIP TO THE NORTH EAST



**SATURDAY
25TH OCTOBER 2014**

The Committee has arranged a day excursion to the W.A.G. Walker Rhododendron Reserve at Lalla. This property was originally established in the early 1900s as a nursery to propagate apple and pear trees. Over the years it expanded to include exotic tree species, rhododendrons and commercial cut flowers. It became known locally as the Flower Farm. From 1982 to 2007 the property was leased to the Tasmanian Government for use as a public reserve. Over this period many Tasmanians visited the 'rhododendron gardens at Lalla' to enjoy a family picnic and to absorb the breathtaking beauty of the rhododendrons in full bloom. In 2007 Chris and Margy Dockray bought the 44ha property and began the massive task of restoring the garden to its former splendour. It was once again opened to the public in the Spring of 2012. The garden has a long history and it will be exciting to partake in exploring the next phase of its future life.

Whilst in the area we will visit the Red Dragon Nursery at Karoola.

Cost: No charge for Members however there will be a garden entry fee of \$8.00 which will be collected on the day.

Confirm: To confirm your booking by **Friday 3rd October**, please complete the attached application and post to Lorraine Grewcoe, PO Box 88, Rokeby 7019 OR simply email Lorraine the required details. lgrewcoe@bigpond.net.au

Please do not delay your decision as we plan to extend an invitation to other garden clubs.

Departure Times:

6.30 am	Woodbridge High School
7.00 am	Huon Highway (A6)/Summerleas Road, junction
7.15 am	Campbell Street, opposite Grand Chancellor
7.45 am	Granada Tavern Claremont

Car parking: For those who may need to park in the city, the Argyle Street and Market Place car parks are open late (the latter overnight). To check costs phone HCC on 6238 2780

Lunch: Please bring your own lunch including the thermos if you wish. There will be a comfort stop at Campbell Town - both ways.

If you have any queries please phone Dorothy on 6239 6671 or 0408 127 189 or Lorraine on 6247 7774

Next month: There may be some fine tuning but firstly we need to have an idea of numbers. Details for the procedure for the day will be published in our next Newsletter.