

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004

COMING EVENTS

- November 9th** **Meeting and Garden Gathering**
 At Neil and Sandra Hardwood's
 38 Hilton Road, Claremont
 Time: 2pm
 Please bring something for afternoon tea
 More details below.
- December 7th** **Christmas function** More details page 4.
 At Phil and Di Cooper's
 37 Glenlusk Road, Berriedale
RSVP to Jill Fitzgerald by **Wednesday 3rd December**
 Phone 6234 4752 or email gillfitzgerald@bigpond.com
- 2015**
February 26th **Committee meeting**
 Ken and Lesley's
- March 8th** **Propagation** from cuttings
 To be held at Debbie Farmilo's
 133 Hackford Drive, Kingston
- April 12th** **Propagation** - aerial layering



MEETING - GARDEN GATERING 9TH NOVEMBER 2014

There will be a short meeting conducted within the first half hour.
 We will have our last **blooms competition** for the year, after which all results will be collated and the perpetual trophies will be presented at our Christmas function.
 Judges for this months competition will be: **Debbie** Farmilo and **Lorraine** Grewcoe.
 We welcome any extra **blooms for display** - there should be a significant number available now.
 Our **short talk** will be by Anne Cruise.
 There will be a **raffle** and our regular **auction**.

Available at meeting on Sunday

A small number of
 Garden Clubs of Australia
 2015 Calendar @ \$10 each

RUSTICA
 \$2.50 per kg

IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

These few days in late September when temperatures reached into the 20 degrees, definitely denoted that Spring was here, although there will again be periods of cold when we wish for more sunshine but our gardens need an adequate amount of rain as well as the warmth of the sun to keep our plants happy. Trouble is the lawns keep growing then need a cut. This week I raked up the clippings on the lawn which Ken has cut and he removed three barrow loads which go onto the garden as mulch.

Our golden display of Daffodils is done for another year although a few clumps of late flowering pink ones are still blooming. *Tecophila* are also done for the year but I see a few seed pods are setting. *Chionodoxa forbesii* is in bloom. It is very much like *C.sardensis* but a little taller with a white centre. In the same bed at the front of the house is a small group of *Primula denticulata*. Known as the Drumstick Primula, we have the mauve-pink form only. At Longley we also had a reddish one and a white form. *Anemone x seemannii* puts a bright creamy yellow splash of colour nearby.

Fritillaria are at their best now. We have a bright orange form of *F.imperialis* in flower for the first time and a light orange form also. This last mentioned is the only one left from four we had last year. It is a tricky bulb to keep happy. *F.carica* is a sweet little one only about 20cm high with clear light yellow flowers. We saw this growing in the wild in Turkey years ago near the top of a mountain ridge. There are several *F.meleagris* with chequered mauve, pinkish and white flowers in the rock garden where Ken scattered them two years ago. *F.tuntasia* and *F.obliqua* are very similar with their blue-black bells. *F.obliqua* has a bloom on the outer petals and the leaves twist and twirl from the stem.

Erythronium californicum has produced its creamy white flowers. They have pretty lemon markings inside the petals and a white throat. *E.revolutum* is a favourite with pink flowers and lemon yellow markings inside the petals. There is a mixed group of these two forms planted near the creek where they have made a colourful display. *Trillium ludlowvicianum* has opened its purple majenta flowers with pretty marbled trifoliate leaves. *T.chloropetalum* is a few days later in opening. They are similar in colour and habit. *T.erectum* has not shown up yet. It will be nice to see it again when it comes up. A few minutes ago I saw a flower of The American Bloodroot – *Sanguinaria canadensis*. It has a small white flower and a pretty glaucous leaf. Lamentably we no longer have the double form which is superior.

There is a *Daphne tangutica* flowering in the rock garden and another in the garden near the house. *Aubretia* are looking bright this year with light purple-blue masses of flowers. The ones in the retaining wall below the garage are also in flower.

Rhododendron 'Golden Bee' in the side garden is still only small but has produced several delightful little golden flowers. It is near a perennial plant of *Epimedium* 'Cherry Tart' with pink flowers. *Rhododendron* 'Bibiani' is covered with rich red flowers. It is at the top of the rock garden where it looks out of place as it is two metres high now but it will not be moved as we do not observe strict rules re a rock garden of small shrubs and groundcover plants only. In the garden near the creek, *R.* 'Ann Teese' is just opening her white heavily flushed pink, scented flowers. Nearby is *Magnolia yunnanense* 'Scented Pearl' with lovely white flowers.

I have never been overly enthusiastic with *Buddleja* but there are exceptions. *B.crispa* has silvery leaves and light blue-mauve flowers. It looks particularly pretty at present at about two metres high and is a mass of colour. *Weigelia middendorffiana* although only about 45cm high at present has produced several bright yellow flowers. We have two plants here as it is a favourite. We could not grow it well at Longley but it is quite happy here in the warmth of Kingston. We imported it many years ago when we had the nursery in operation



STORYBOARD
W.A.G. WALKER RHODODENDRON GARDENS - LALLA



BUS TRIP TO LALLA

What a great day. Perfect weather, good company and a bus driver like no other, accompanied by his dog Shep. It was an early start and required numerous coffee stops before reaching The Red Dragon Nursery at Karoola around 11.30am. Andrew was ready and waiting to assist our enthusiastic Members with their many purchases. Specialty nurseries such as this, offering the more unusual rhododendrons, azaleas, maples, magnolias and many other rarer plants are few and far between these days, especially at such reasonable prices. With the shopping frenzy over we headed for the WAG Rhododendron Gardens only a few bends away from the nursery. Fintan declared he was unsure of the route but we know he is a renowned stirrer!

We enjoyed our lunch as we viewed an expanse of 'aged' rhododendrons sprawling the hills below, with amazing views of the Lalla country side in the distance. Margy Dockray explained the history of the gardens, the difficulties and the hard work involved in restoring the gardens to its present state. Margy then chauffeured some Members around the gardens, whilst others took to the trails to discover many more swathes of rhododendrons in more distant hills. It seems that in its nursery days, when the rhodos became too large to dig up for sale, they were abandoned and new plantings were established in a different location, hence the large massed plantings still being discovered throughout the property.

This remains a huge project for the Dockrays as they continue to restore the old and make new plantings, many being vireya rhododendrons, frost protected by the tall timbers of the forest. It will be well worth another visit in the future. After much meandering and all a little weary, we boarded the bus for our return journey but NOT BEFORE another essential coffee break at Lilydale.

A HUGE THANK YOU to Fintan for making this day possible and so enjoyable. Also for allowing us to befriend his canine friend who had no problems at all with all the attention. A very obedient dog is Shep and a great seeing eye dog to boot!!!



CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

Sunday December 7th

Venue: Phil and Di Cooper's
37 Glenlusk Road, Berriedale (6249 8717)
Phil and Di will provide a **spit roast** and Members are asked to bring a **salad** or **dessert**. There will be some wine and soft drinks available or BYO preferred beverage.

Time: From 12.30 - allowing time for pre-luncheon drinks and a chance to view the garden.

There will also be:

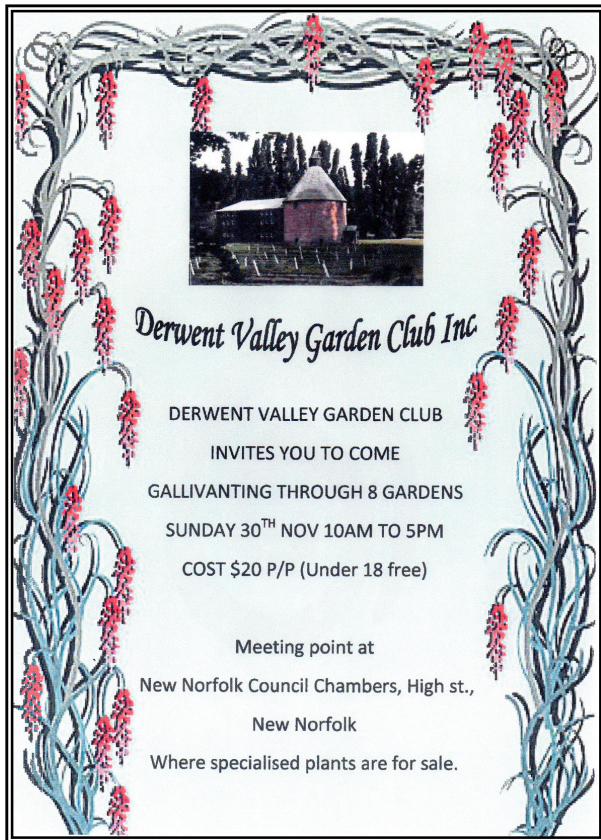
A **Blooms Competition** (as a separate identity from our usual monthly competition). Just a single bloom in your own bottle/vase. There will be a small Reward for the winner.

An **auction** - contributions of something 'special' or 'rare' always makes for feisty bidding.

Presentation of shields. These were originally awarded at our prestigious annual Rhododendron Shows, the main shield for the Grand Champion Rhododendron and the Essie Huxley Memorial Shield was awarded for the Best Bulb, Perennial or Shrub exhibit. At our recent monthly Blooms Competition scores have been allocated for each bloom submitted, the criteria being: (1) quality of bloom (2) degree of difficulty in growing conditions and rarity of the particular genus. Scores for the year will be tallied to determine the winners.

OPEN GARDENS

Below are two open garden events you may be interested in.
If you have any queries re the Derwent Valley Garden Club the only contact I have is this email address lizfraser1960@hotmail.com



Derwent Valley Garden Club Inc

DERWENT VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
INVITES YOU TO COME
GALLIVANTING THROUGH 8 GARDENS
SUNDAY 30TH NOV 10AM TO 5PM
COST \$20 P/P (Under 18 free)

Meeting point at
New Norfolk Council Chambers, High st.,
New Norfolk
Where specialised plants are for sale.

Curduatta Spring Garden Open Day 2014

19 Loinah Road
Montagu Bay

Saturday 15th November
10am - 4:30pm
&
Sunday 16th November
1pm - 5pm

Entry Fee: \$8
(Includes Refreshments)



Location



19 Loinah Rd Montagu Bay

Parking
Please use the upper level of Loinah Road as No.19 is on a "Property Access Only" road

For Sale
Potted Plants

Enquiries
Raie & Trevor Semmens
Ph: 6244 2586

Proceeds will go to an Overseas Safe Water project by



BAPTIST WORLD AID AUSTRALIA
Be love. End poverty.

Welcome to four new members who joined us on our bus trip to Lalla. They are:

Gail and Richard Yellowley, Di Hope and Frances Millar

Apologies to Lesley Gillanders for having commandeered just a little too much space in this issue. For the new members, R. Obiculare is the one seen in the large pot at the Red Dragon Nursery. It has gorgeous loose bells.

YOUR EXECUTIVE

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Committee

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