

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004

COMING EVENTS

November 6th-7th **Rose, Iris and Floral Art Show**
Hobart Town Hall

November 8th **General meeting**
Kerry and Harry van den Berg
'Woodbank Gardens'
2040 Huon Road, Longley
Time 2 pm
Please bring something for afternoon tea
More details below.

December 6th **Christmas function**
At Phil and Di Cooper's
37 Glenlusk Road, Berriedale
RSVP to Gill Fitzgerald by **Wednesday 2nd December**
Phone 6234 4752 or email gillfitzgerald@bigpond.com

2016
February 25th **Committee meeting** - Ken and Lesley's
1 Willowbend Road, Kingston 6229 2351
6pm BYO take-a-way

OCTOBER WINNERS

Rhododendrons: Joy Stones
Companion plants: Pat Mavromatis
Peoples choice: Joy Stones
Raffle: R. Scandinavia won by
Lesley Eaton



MEETING - GARDEN GATHERING 8TH NOVEMBER 2015

- ◆ We will begin with a brief meeting.
- ◆ **Main talk** by Kerry van den Berg "Getting to know the garden". No doubt a daunting task for Kerry and may end up being an extended tour of the garden! Each season would bring surprises, excitement and joy and we are keen to hear about Kerry's experiences.
- ◆ **Blooms competition** will be our final for the year. Results will then be collated and the perpetual trophies presented at our Christmas function.
- ◆ Judges for this months competition will be:
Karina Harris and **Rhondda** Bull
- ◆ **Raffle**
- ◆ **Auction** - contributions please.
- ◆ **Rustica** will be available at \$2.50 per kg.

**REMINDER - HAVE YOU PAID YOUR
MEMBERSHIP FEE??**

See previous newsletters for details.

IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

A splash of gold from a *Helianthemum* with bright golden yellow flowers is trailing over the retaining wall beside the ramp at the back of the house. Near it is the shining gold flowers of *Ranunculus cortusifolius*. Further along the wall is a soft pink *Helianthemum* also one with good deep rosy pink coloured flowers. In this bed *Paeony delavayi* has several carmine-red blooms open and beside it grows *P. peregrina* with glowing single red flowers.

As you come up the drive from the gate, *Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Frisia' has produced its golden leaves and a little further up is *Cistus* 'Bennetts White' putting on a pleasing display with large 10cm white flowers. Also in this garden is *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' with purple leaves just coming. It has small pink flowers but produces only one or two in this form. The normal green form of *Cercis*, which we saw in Turkey was a mass of pink flowers.

On the opposite side of the drive our *Paulownia kawakamii* 'Sapphire Dragon' is a mass of blooms. It is quite spectacular with lavender blue upright 20cm conical trusses of flowers. We were amazed last year when it flowered for the first time at two years of age. At three years it is superb. Now that the *Grevillea robusta* plus a large Liquidamber and equally large Acer have been removed, this garden should flourish. *Rhododendron* 'Taurus' a brilliant red and *R.* 'White Gold' which is white with a yellow throat have finally come on well. Just below the garage Ken built a long retaining wall of Besser blocks and planted the whole length with yellow *Helianthemum* and blue *Aubrieta* which are very colourful. *Weigelia middendorffian* has creamy yellow blooms, with an orange throat, is growing well in the side garden. *Azara lanceolata* with long lance-shaped leaves is covered in golden tufted flowers of clusters of stamens. *Sophora toromiro* from Easter Island has produced its large pea-shaped yellow blooms. This is a very rare plant and now extinct on Easter Island. We were given this plant by a reputable nurseryman in Victoria.

At last we have a small plant of *Rhododendron valentinianum*. We had it years ago and lost it. It has attractive golden flowers and hairy foliage. Ken planted it in the rock garden along with small growing *R.* 'Moth' with deep yellow flowers, *R.* 'Oban' with pink flowers and *R.* 'Wee Bee' which is also pink. One of my favourite plants is *Rhododendron orbiculare* with rosy pink bell shaped blooms. We have two plants, one in shade which is growing well. The other is in full sun but in a drier position and not quite as robust.





Viola Irish Molly

Viola 'Irish Molly' is a delight. The unusual colour is hard to describe. It appears to be brown but is more of an amber shaded with green and gold. *Dryas octopetala* is an interesting prostrate ground cover. The tiny *Oak*- shaped leaves are attractive and the white flowers rise on 10cm stems. This plant is widespread in some of the mountain regions of Europe. We have in flower a nice specimen of *Clematis aristata*, a native of Tasmania with pretty star shaped small white flowers. There is a specimen of *C. 'The President'* growing with it. The large deep blue flowers are quite a contrast.

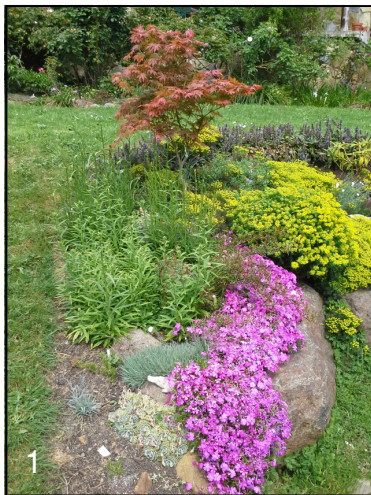
We have several plants of *Lewisia cotyledon* in full flower. The colour range is amazing with shadings of orange, yellow and various pinks. There is also a nice white one. They like a well drained spot and are tolerant of both sun and shade. *Iris attica* has sweet little blue flowers only 5cm high. There is a plant of *Penstemon 'Pink Dragon'* in the rock garden with lovely pink blooms. This only grows to 10cm high.

Moraea lurida is an interesting bulb. The small *Iris*-like flowers seem to last a day but have a succession of soft mushroom pink flowers with a bright golden spot at the base of each petal. The three upright have a blue central stripe.

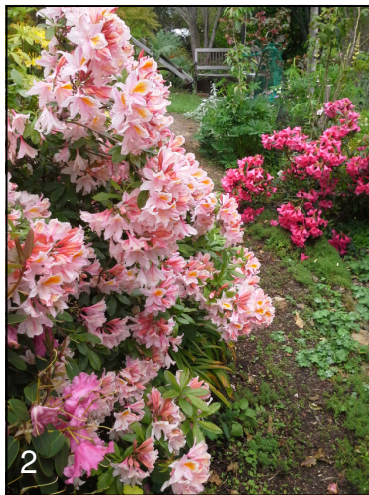
Diplarrhena latifolia 'Amethyst Fairy' has decided it likes its position. We named this selection when we had it at the nursery at Longley. The purple markings on the intense white flowers are quite pronounced. We actually lost our main plant when we moved to this garden but a former customer in Northern Tasmania has grown it prolifically and we were able to accept his generous offer of a few plants, which proves the point that to share your garden with friends, when you lose something, there is a chance of obtaining one again.



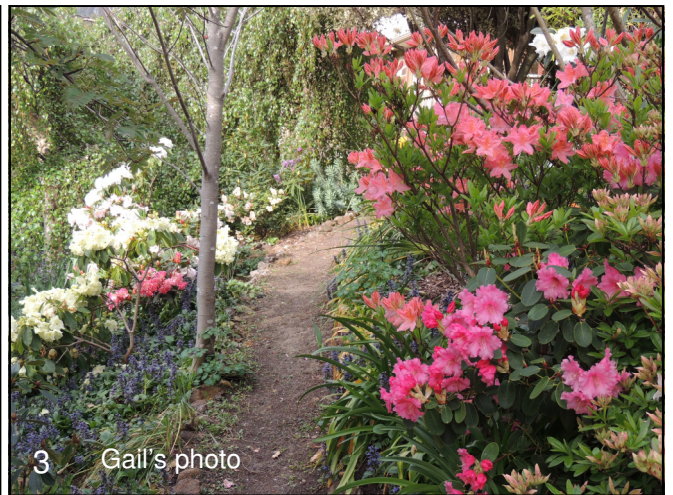
Moraea lurida



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3 Gail's photo



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CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

Sunday 6th December 2015

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 a **dessert**. There will be some wine and soft drinks available or BYO preferred beverage.

Time: From 12 noon - allowing time for pre-luncheon drinks and a chance to view the garden before lunch at 1pm.

There will also be:

A **Blooms Competition** (as a separate identity from our usual monthly Competition). There will be a small reward for the winner.

An **auction** - all contributions are appreciated but something a little special makes the bidding interesting!

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 are tallied to determine the winners.

Meeting and Garden Gathering - Sunday 11th October

Another gorgeous day for a garden visit, this time Dorothy's place at Neika. 20 plus members followed the History of 'Woodbank Gardens' as Ken took us on the journey from it's inception through to the very productive nursery stage and finally as a garden of botanical significance. This included the building of the home, the dams, the nursery infrastructure, developing the nursery, raising a family and not to be forgotten, the adverse weather conditions of raging bush fires and massive snowfalls.

We had an overwhelming number of blooms for our competition for which we were not quite prepared. This is fantastic, please do not stop bringing them, we will address any problems.

Photos 1,2 & 3 page 3.

Garden visit - Sunday 1st November

'Cloud 9', Alexi and Rick's garden in the hills at Franklin was a cool retreat from the 26 degree day, when around 18 members visited last Sunday. The garden is an eclectic mix of exotic shrubs and companion plants in a natural bushland setting and is totally dependant on natural rainfall. New areas continue being developed although this is a challenge due to the marauding wild life, particularly whilst the plants are young. Our group took the opportunity to stock up on free range eggs, enjoyed afternoon tea and a good chat.

Photos 4 and 5 page 3.

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