

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004

COMING EVENTS

2017

March 5th
(changed date)

Propagation day and short general meeting
To be held at Kerry and Harry van den Berg's
'Woodbank Gardens'
2040 Huon Road, Longley
11:00am BYO lunch
See more details page 4

RUSTICA

Will be available at
our propagation day
\$2.50 per kg
Last for the season

March 30th

Committee meeting - Ken and Lesley's
1 Willowbend Road, Kingston 6229 2351
Dinner: 6:00pm Harmony Chinese - Channel Court

April 9th

Due to a number of other events being held on this day there will not be a gathering this month.



April 27th

Committee meeting

Christmas luncheon at Phil and Di's 11th December 2016

Once again Members enjoyed a wonderful luncheon at Phil and Di Cooper's. We also had the pleasure of the company of some members we hadn't seen for a while namely; James and Kate McDermott and John Tooth accompanied by Jonty Oxley. The weather was perfect, as usual and the food - well, what can you say, you couldn't get better at a top restaurant!

Thank you Phil and Di - very much appreciated by all Members.

Another very successful auction and blooms competition judged by Ken. Dorothy managed to score the winning bloom with a spray of *Carpentaria californica* (I think).

Shield winners for 2016 were:

Rhododendrons: Kaye Hagan

Blooms other than Rhododendrons: Karina Harris

As Summer fades and Autumn draws closer, we can be thankful we have not had to be burdened with the excessive heat other gardeners on mainland Australia have endured. Certainly we experienced a few hot (for Tasmania) days with some damage.

Our *Calochortus fimbriatus* flowers were a complete disaster. We have only one bulb and we were looking forward to the speckled flowers setting seed as it did last year. Now the flowers are crisp and brown but the bulb should be all right. In 1999 on a trek up Mt Kilmanjaro we saw a pink form of *Gladiolus dalenii* in flower. Later, we obtained some seed from an overseas garden club which turned out to be an orange form which is quite nice. On a particularly hot day two weeks ago the flowers barely lasted one day. Luckily another patch in a different part of the garden have just opened their orange flowers so we hope to get some seed from them. *Gladiolus saundersii* are still producing their bright salmon-red flowers with a cream throat. They are in the garden at the side of the house.



Gladiolus saundersii



Gladiolus dalenii

We have two plants of *Relhania pungens* a prostrate plant with grey-green *Juniper*-like narrow leaves and bright yellow daisy-like flowers which loves the sun. One plant is at the

top edge of the ramp and the other is in the rock garden. Earlier in the summer *Clematis integrifolia* had its deep blue flowers open. Our plant is only 30cm high and has made a clump. At this time the spent flower heads have turned into a silvery shining mass of fluffy seed heads.

Hippeastrum papilio loved the warm days. Ken had moved the tight clump of bulbs into a sunny position at the edge of the raised bed outside the lounge. They excelled themselves by successively producing eight flower stems each holding two of their large cream and red flowers. We harvested a copious amount of seed from them. The bird net has finally been taken off the garden under the two *Prunus* 'Mt Fuji'. Ken then spread a heavy layer of mulch over the area hoping to deter the blackbirds from scratching out the *Cyclamen hederifolium*. It took only one day for them to start to overturn the area and scratch out the corms. Some rat traps were set with bright red glace cherries with good results. We are hoping to have a colourful display of *Cyclamen* in the next few months.



Hippeastrum papilio

Tigridia pavonia which is sometimes known as "Jockeys Cap" will have to be moved from under the shade of the *Paulownia* to an area where it gets full sun. We had only one or two flowers this year. *Cypella coelestris* has flowers like an *Iris* and produce a succession of attractive pale blue flowers on the tips of the metre high upright stems. The flowers only last one day but are worth waiting for. We had ten flowers open today from a group of several bulbs.



Wahlebergia gloriosa

The floral emblem of the Australian Capitol Territory is *Wahlenbergia gloriosa* Known as the Royal Blue Bell it is a prostrate little plant with bright blue flowers on 20cm wiry stems. The single flowers have pointed petals and are slightly larger than a 20 cent coin. I painted a picture of it years ago and have the urge to paint it again. We had lost it some time ago but thanks to two friends who grew it we now have two plants doing well and in flower.



Calandrina umbellata

In the rock garden there are some plants of *Calandrina umbellata* in flower. They have clusters of brilliant cerise-red flowers on 15cm stems. Several *Lewesia cotyledon* are still in flower. There is quite a variation in colours with cream, various shades of pink, apricots and white. An extremely good plant in the top garden is *Geranium 'Roxanne'* which has spread over a metre wide and only 15cm high with numerous lilac-blue flowers. It has been in flower for several weeks and has withstood the hot days we experienced.

Campanula raineri has just finished flowering where Ken grows it in a pot. It had large blue flowers over the prostrate leaves. When the

plant is large enough it will be planted out in the rock garden *C. carpatica* is a mass of white blooms and quite impressive.

Philadelphus flowered well through the summer. *P. 'Belle Etoile'* and *P. 'Sybille'* are two of my favourites in this genus. They have white flowers with a pink throat and a lovely fruity perfume. A fairly recent introduction is *Ceratopetalum gummiferum 'Johannas' Christmas'* This is a dwarf shrubby form of the New South Wales Christmas Bush. It grows to about one metre high. The most attractive feature is the brilliant red bracts which follow the small white flowers.



Ceratopetalum 'Johannas Christmas'



Campanula raineri



Left: This Japanese iris was taken in Dorothy's garden on 29th January. Seemed very late flowering, everything else had finished.

Other garden events

April 9th

Channel Gardens - Flyer for this has been sent out a couple of times and some Members have committed.

Woodbank Open Garden (with Blooming Tasmania)
Open to the public 10am - 4pm and is Sunday only.
Please pass this information onto friends. Also if there are any Members willing to give Kerry a hand on the day please call her on 0448 007 525.

PROPAGATION DAY Sunday 5th March

Venue: Kerry and Harry van den Berg's
'Woodbank Gardens'
2040 Huon Road, Longley

Time: 11:00am

Lunch: BYO - coffee and tea will be available.
We will have a short general meeting before we begin preparing cuttings.

What to bring:

Secateurs, pots (5" or 6"), labels and pen/pencil, sharp knife (a Stanley knife is good), hormone gel/powder if you have any. Ken will also have hormone powder at hand.

Kerry will have cutting material available. You can also bring your own if you have something in particular you wish to prepare and/or some to share if you wish. You may also need some trays or boxes to make handling and transport easier. **Potting mix will be available.**

Parking: Kerry suggests that parking may be best in the lower area near the cottage. You may park up near the house as long as you don't mind walking down to the green house.

We will also have:

Auction - please bring a contribution to help make it the success it usually is.
Raffle

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