

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004



COMING EVENTS

June 11th

General meeting

Ken and Lesley Gillander's
1 Willowbend Road, Kingston
A DVD presentation of Kaydale Lodge Gardens at Nietta
Time 2:00 pm
Full details page 4.

June

No committee meeting - No July Newsletter

July 9th

Mid-year luncheon

Venue: Huon Manor Restaurant (licensed)
Main Road Huonville - right hand side just before bridge.
Menu: Huon lamb roast and choice of two desserts - \$30
Please advise any specific dietary requirements
Time: 12:30 - Partners welcome
RSVP to Gill by **Monday 3rd July** on 6234 4752 or
email gillfitzgerald@bigpond.com

July 27th

Committee meeting - Ken and Lesley's
1 Willowbend Road, Kingston
Time: 1:30pm

August 13th

AGM and general meeting
Kerry and Harry van den Berg's
2040 Huon Road, Longley
More details in August newsletter.

August 31st

Committee meeting - Ken and Lesley's
1 Willowbend Road, Kingston
Time: 1:30pm

September 10th

General meeting
Barbara and Peter Davies
Pelverata
More information later

Rustica

The last of the Rustica has been sold and as interest in this product has waned it will no longer be available for members to purchase. Of course it is still available at retail outlets.

May Blooms Competition

Kaye Hagan won the Rhododendron section
Joy Stones won Blooms other than Rhododendrons.

Barbara Davies won Peoples Choice
Sandra Harwood won the raffle which was R. Carpet of Snow - perfect when you are building a new garden.

IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

The leaves are still falling from the deciduous trees and shrubs as I write these notes. The golden *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* set a copious amount of seed. Ken gathered a quantity of them and kept in our warm lounge room until they spilt open, enabling the seed to fall out but not one was viable. Maybe next year there will be fertile seed.

The two *Prunus* 'Mt Fuji' have practically no leaves left on them but there is a carpet of gold beneath them covering the Cyclamen. If the weather stay dry Ken will be able to blow the leaves off the bed with the large blower he has. It is a powerful machine and getting too heavy for him to hold. There are more Cherries along the side fence. *Prunus serrulata* 'Tai Haku', *P.s.*'J H Veitch' and *P.s.*'Yukon', known as the Green Cherry.

Cornus kousa and all forms are worthwhile for the beauty of their flowers in Spring but in Autumn they are equally pleasing with brilliant red foliage. We have had a plant of *Cercis silaquastrum*, known as The Judas Tree, in the garden at the side of the drive. The form we have is *C.s.*'Forest Pansy'. It produced maybe one or two flowers instead of masses of them for the first three years here. Ken cut it back to half its original size of over 1m high and now it has a prolific amount of leaves which are turning from deep red to bright red. Nearby, the *Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Frisia' has dropped its rich golden leaves.

Our *Paulownia* 'Sapphire Dragon' has long since had its lavender coloured flowers and now at the end of autumn has discarded its large leaves. There are huge bunches of sticky seed pods on the upper part of the tree but Ken cannot reach them even with his long cutters. They could easily fill a barrow with the quantity of them that is there. Ken has made a stick with a spike so he can pick up the leaves without having to bend down. They have covered the lawn and garden bed beneath the tree with their leaves.

There is a native planting of hardy shrubs along the path near an enormous Eucalyptus tree. *Correa* 'Annabel' has pretty bright pink bells with reflexed tips. A large tree near the little stream is *Hoheria populnea* with clusters of white flowers. It is part green and part *H.p.*'variegata'. It has been in flower for some weeks now and the birds seem to like it for cover and perhaps feeding on insects. There are two plants here of *Viburnum bodnantense* 'Dawn'. One has flowers on it at this time and there are none on the second one. Ken is going to remove one of them so I suggested he keep the one in flower.

A plant that seems to have flowers for most of the year is *Abutilon megapotamicum* 'Variegatum'. This is a low growing shrub with numerous straggly branches and variegated foliage. The most attractive pendulous flowers have a bright red calyx and yellow petals with numerous protruding brown stamens



1. *Viburnum* x *Bodnantense*
2. *Correa* Annabel
3. *Philesia magellanica*
4. *Abutilon* *megapotamicum* var.
5. *Gladiolus cruentus*
6. *Agonis flexuosa* var



There is a very late flowering *Nerine* with pretty soft pink heads of flowers. Sadly we appear to have lost the name but it does not worry us as it is worthwhile growing at this time of the year. The perennial stems have been tidied up over all the garden beds. Ken removed two barrow loads to be ready for the shredder later along with some pruning of shrubs. A surprising *Gladiolus* which is in flower now is *G. cruentus* with brilliant red flowers. It looks like the typical type you expect, only it flowers at a different time of the year.

Erica glauca 'Elegans' known as The Petticoat Erica, has been in flower for some time. It would be great if it set some seed. *Philesia magellanica* has lovely red bell-shaped flowers like a *Lapageria*. In our old garden at Longley there is a large plant with many flowers on it. We collected this originally in Southern Chile many years ago in a stretch of natural forest where it was growing along roadside gutters as well as in the forest.

Gaultheria prostrata has many forms with different coloured fruits. We have one here with purple black berries which is quite attractive. Maybe three or four years ago we purchased an *Agonis flexuosa* 'Variegata' which reputedly is frost prone. Ken nursed it carefully for a year or two then planted it out where it flourished and has now reached over 1m high with no frost damage yet.



Garden visit - 14th May

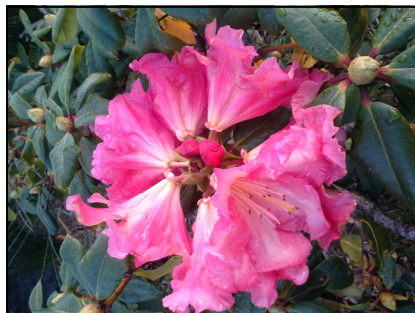
Our visit to Fintan's garden at Woodbridge Hill proved to be a drawcard with a number of Members whom we had not seen for some time in attendance.

Our meeting facilities were top class with that fantastic view of the D'entrecasteaux Channel at eye level and the garden descending into the valley below. Awesome - as the grandchildren would say!

Fintan explained some of the history of the garden and the complex. The struggle with wild life wishing to share his exotic collection continues though admittedly they do maintain the grass to some degree. The cost and maintenance of irrigation has proven too difficult and these days is left to natural resources. "They have to survive on their own" says Fintan. We hope to return sometime when the rhododendrons are in bloom.

A most enjoyable day - THANK YOU FINTAN.

Photos: I even found one rhodo in bloom. At right is an example of the amazing glass work by Ruth Downham which features throughout the complex. This is a door panel.



GENERAL MEETING June 11th

Venue: Ken and Lesley Gillander's
1 Willowbend Road, Kingston 6229 2351

Time: 2:00 pm - please bring something for afternoon tea.

There will be:

- ◆ **Blooms competition** There are two sections (a) Rhododendrons and (b) Blooms other than Rhododendrons. You can bring up to three (3) blooms for each section. Blooms for the competition are best set up prior to 2pm. Please remember to bring your own vases/bottles.
- ◆ **Peoples choice** - your selection from the competition blooms.
- ◆ **Main talk:** Ken and Lesley have a DVD of Kaydale Lodge Gardens at Nietta. It will take us through the four seasons and will most likely present some of the major projects undertaken over the years. There will be time after for discussion.
- ◆ **Auction** - please bring plants and/or produce for our auction.
- ◆ **Raffle**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM will be in August and all executive positions will become vacant. **Please** if anyone is interested in taking on one of the positions listed below, contact our President on 6267 9961. We would love some fresh ideas! New committee members are most welcome too.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP is now due. This can be paid at the Annual General Meeting or by posting a cheque, made payable to **Australian Rhododendron Society Inc. Southern Tasmania Branch** and mailed to the Treasurer, Lorraine Grewcoe, Clarendon Vale House, Clarendon Vale Tas 7019

Single Membership \$20.00

Family Membership \$25.00

YOUR EXECUTIVE



President	Lesley Eaton	6267 9961
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Committee

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