

# AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004

### COMING EVENTS



**October 8**

**General meeting**

John Tooth's garden  
16 Bracken Lane, Fern Tree  
More details page 4.

**October 21/22 Display at Mitre 10 Huonville**

A display of rhododendrons, organised by Joy and Karina, will be set up in the garden section in the Mitre 10 store. This will be Saturday and (maybe) Sunday between 10am and 3pm. Membership forms and information on rhododendron culture will be available.

Joy and Kerry will take rhododendrons for the display but we encourage all members to contribute. Sturdy buckets or containers suitable for making up large displays are also needed. Oasis is available.

If you are able to help in any way please contact Joy (6223 2116) or Karina (0419 903 312). Support would be appreciated.

**October 26**

**Committee meeting**

7:30 Ken and Lesley's  
1 Willowbend Road, Kingston  
Dinner: 6:00pm dinner at Kingston Hotel (near Shiploads)

**November 3/4 Rose and Iris and Floral Art Show (Town Hall)**

Hobart Horticultural Society

We encourage members to enter blooms in this event. There are sections available for other garden clubs to participate. A good opportunity to promote the rhododendron genus.

**November 12**

**General meeting**

Joy Stones and Ted Cutlans'  
Jubilee Gardens, 69 Jubilee Road, Cascades  
1:30 for 2:00 pm meeting  
More details November newsletter

**December 7  
(Thursday)**

**Christmas function**

Will be at Fintan Downhams  
6:00 pm  
Woodbridge  
Further details later.

#### September Blooms Competition

**Karina Harris** won the Rhododendron section

**Karina Harris and Joy Stones** had equal point for Blooms other than Rhododendrons.

**Anne Cruise** won Peoples Choice  
**Peter Davies** won the raffle which was R. 'Dalkeith'

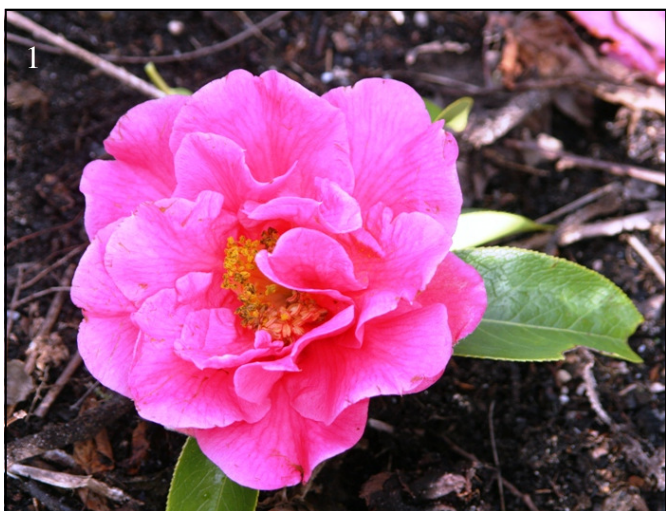
## IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

A glorious day of sunshine signalled the arrival of spring throughout our garden at the beginning of September. There are bulbs in flower and the shrubs and trees are breaking into leaf. The two specimens of *Prunus* 'Mount Fuji' have flower buds exploding into double white flowers. There are the pretty tufts of white and yellow stamens on *Fothergilla major*.

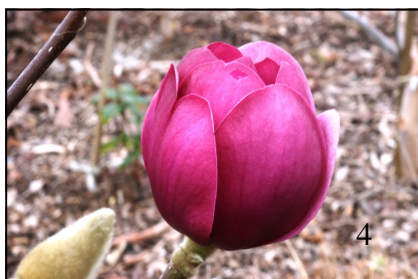
Our plant of *Camellia reticulata* 'Alan Watt' is covered with large double red flowers. The sister plant of this *Camellia* is *C.r.* 'George Wittbreuk'. They were both raised from seed years ago by the late Alan Watt, a former member of our Society. Alan kept one plant and gave a second one to his neighbour, George. When they first flowered, George had the better one of the two. Cuttings were offered to Ken and he successfully propagated more plants from each one. To distinguish between them, as the leaf was the same, we named the red one *C.r.* 'Alan Watt' and the other one, which is a slightly paler red, and has a suffusion of pink, *C.r.* 'George Wittbreuk'.

*Camellia* 'Sweet Jane' is a most attractive shrub with the unopened flower buds being the most appealing feature to me. These buds show as a white flower to open but the tips of each bud is a pretty deep pink. When the whole plant is covered with these unopened buds, it is quite eye catching. When Ann brought along a specimen of *Camellia* 'High Fragrance' to a recent garden visit, we were all taken with it. Then to my delight I found that Ken had planted one in a large tub at home where it had six flowers just opening.

*Magnolia* 'Star Wars' is covered with large pink flowers. The strong winds we had a few days ago damaged the first two flowers which had opened earlier but the later opening buds are fine. *M.* 'Black Tulip' lives up to its name in both colour and shape of the flowers, although the black is more a deep purple red when the sun is behind it. *Magnolia doltsopa* was formerly known as *Michelia doltsopa*. The botanists, with their expertise have now placed it into the *Magnolia* family. This has not altered the plant or the flowers. The form we have is *M.d.* 'Silver Cloud' with large creamy white blooms. These three *Magnolias* grow to about four metres. Another plant we have in flower now is *Gordonia longicarpa*. This small evergreen tree grows about two and a half metres high. It has large white flowers with a prominent boss of golden stamens.



1. Camellia George Witbreuk
2. Camellia Sweet Jane
3. Magnolia Star Wars
4. Magnolia Black Tulip
5. Gordonia longicarpa



*Rhododendron* 'Cornubia' put on a good show with bright red flowers which are fading now. It always comes into flower early. Our plant of *R.* 'City of Burnie' has large leaves 25cm long and is in flower now with deep pink flowers fading to pale pink. There are three more trusses to open. The whole plant is only 60cm high at present.

I guess everyone has at least one Daffodil in their garden. They really brighten all corners with their varying shades of golden yellow, white or white with pink or orange cups. The old standby *N. bulbacodium* in the rock garden is growing so well, some will have to be moved out. We have yet to find the real *N.b.* 'Obesus' again, with its fat flowers. We had it years ago but lost it. *N.*'Camp Hill' has made a nice clump. It is low growing to 15cm high and has a cream perianth with a yellow trumpet. Ken raised it from seed and we named it *N.*'Camp Hill' as many years ago when the road was being built, the property of Woodbank at Longley, which was then only bush, was used as a camp for the road workers.

*Fritillaria imperialis*, the 'Crown Imperial' always flowers when strong winds arrive. Fortunately Ken staked both the orange flowered form, also the yellow one just in time before the wind snapped the stems. *Chionodoxa forbesii*, we saw growing in Turkey. Ken had raised a batch of seedlings a few years ago. They have grown so well, he has divided and planted two more patches. The flowers are very similar to *C. sardensis* with deep bright blue flowers. *Tecophila cyanocrocus*, a very rare bulb from Chile, with intense deep blue flowers, have been in flower in a couple of hypertufa tubs Ken made. We had them in a warm spot against the house. There are also several in the rock garden, the bulb bed and in another bed at the street side of the house. More are in styrene boxes in shade. The ones in the hypertufa tubs have finished flowering, the ones in the garden are in full flower and the ones in styrene boxes in shade are still to open. I have not yet produced a satisfactory painting of it yet but will have to try again.



Narcissus Camp Hill



Chionodoxa forbesii



Fritillaria imperialis



Narcissus bulbacodium

### LAUNCESTON BUS TRIP - 23rd September 2017

Our Launceston excursion began early with light rain most of the way. The Albert Hall was buzzing and we soon joined the crowds to browse the many stalls displaying trendy garden related items, promotional material and of course plants. Late morning a fire alarm scattered patrons into the surrounding parkland where there were more stalls of plants, garden implements, heritage seeds, food and beverage etc. Some of our group escaped to the Farmers Market close by.

At 1pm we gathered our clan and moved on to the Red Dragon Nursery at Karoola. Oh my, what damage was done to the bank balances and a logistical nightmare to get it all loaded and still have room for our passengers - but we DID IT!! Home bound by 4:30pm. GREAT DAY - THANK YOU FINTAN

PS Lorraine is still lamenting having mislaid a bag of special purchases - hazelnuts, honey and other small items.

## GENERAL MEETING 8th October

Venue: John Tooth's garden  
16 Braken Lane, Fern Tree  
(Contact no. Dorothy 0408 127 189)

Time: 1:30 for 2:00pm meeting allowing time to set up blooms for competition.  
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. Please remember to bring your own vases/bottles. Judges this month will be Barbara and Gill.
- ◆ **Peoples choice** - your selection from the competition blooms.
- ◆ **Short talk:** Ken will explain how to present blooms for judging. This will also help those who volunteer to judge from time to time. A great learning curve.
- ◆ **Main talk:** As there are a number of members who have not seen this garden, Lorraine and others will give some background information about John and the formation of the garden.
- ◆ **Auction** - please bring a contribution
- ◆ **Raffle**

### OTHER GARDEN EVENTS

Also on the 8th October 'Sojourn' 173 Redwood Road, Kingston will be open to the public. This is the garden of Nicole and Stuart Clutterbuck who have been members of our Society for many years. They are younger members with family commitments hence we don't see them all that often. We have seen the garden develop over the years and recommend it to be very worthy of a visit. Why not make a day of garden visits and slip this one in before the Tooth garden. Brochure attached.

Also attached are brochures for

- ◆ Open Garden at 8 Kandos Drive, Otago Bay
- ◆ Australian Plants Society plant sale 14th October
- ◆ Open Garden at 2 Dodges Hill Road, Dodges Ferry 19th October

### General information

**Library** - Kerry and Harry have kindly allocated a section in 'The Cottage' for the library to be accessed. You will be able to select books from the library on Wednesdays between 10am and 3pm or by contacting Wendy Ebsworth who is now our librarian. Wendy would take requested books to our meetings.

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