

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004

COMING EVENTS

- April 8th** **Garden visit**
 Botanical Gardens for autumn colour
2:00pm meet at Main Gate (Domain side)
- April 19th** **Committee meeting** - Ken and Lesley's
 1 Willowbend Road, Kingston (6229 2351)
 Dinner 6:00pm
 Kingston Hotel (near Shiploads)
- May 6th** **General meeting**
 Woodbank Gardens
 Kerry and Harry van den Berg's
 2040 Huon Road, Longley
 More information page 4.
- May 31st** **Committee meeting**
- June 10th** **General meeting**
- June** **No committee meeting - no July Newsletter**
- July** **Mid – year luncheon**
- July 26th** **Committee meeting**
- August 12th** **AGM and General meeting**



Propagation day at Woodbank Gardens - 11th March

Once again we had very successful day. Ken gave us handy tips for preparing our cuttings and a demonstration of the finer details. Peter Boyd provided some "home made" propagation powder from which we expect superior results!! Thank you for that Peter. Harry had a propagation medium and tables prepared then it was over to us. I always feel the best thing about this is being able to share all the different plant material brought by members.

The raffle was **R. Meadow Gold** won by **Anne Pyke**. We had a bumper auction raising a total of \$227. A guest visitor was Heather Pryor from Garden Clubs Aust. Heather is the new Zone Coordinator. Karina and Joy will represent our group at their meeting on the 21st April.

IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

All these lovely autumn days passed me by this year as I sit once again in hospital with a new hip and Ken will try his best to type these notes on the computer before sending to Dorothy.

Each day I ask Ken what is in flower in the garden. There is a good clump of *Crocus pulchellus* with pretty lavender flowers. *Sternbergia lutea* with its intense bright yellow globular flowers makes a pleasing patch of colour in the bulb bed. Near the *Sternbergia* is a patch of *Colchicum agrippinum* producing their delightful chequered flowers, there is a second patch higher up in the garden also. A spectacular species *Colchicum speciosum alba* with huge goblet shaped flowers is also in flower. The large leaves of *Colchicum* are not always welcome as they smother nearby little plants. Some of the more recently collected species are much smaller with leaves to match and are definitely worth having.



A hypertufa tub on the back patio has responded to a heavy shower of rain and now has a lot of pale pink flowers and attractive leaves with pink shading this is *Cyclamen mirabile*. Near the *Buddleja crispa* there is a clump of *Amaryllis belladonna* Hathor with huge white flowers. It is in a warm spot that dries out and this seems to suit it. A new *Clematis* with us is *C crispa*, an American species, it has soft lavender reflexed flowers. It seems to prefer a cool spot with some shade. On the same fence the trumpet honeysuckle is flowering well with its orange scarlet trumpet shaped flowers which are shaded yellow within.

The Chilean *Desfontania spinosa* has been flowering for several weeks now with orange and yellow funnel shaped flowers which looks rather strange with its holly like foliage, no relation to holly though. We saw this growing in southern Chile years ago where it made a much larger plant than in our gardens. Several *Protea* have been flowering, they don't mind getting dry where they are planted. *P cynaroides* the king *Protea* is performing well near our front gate. Finally our *Fasicularia bicolour* is just starting to flower. The lower part of the leaves suddenly turn a bright red and the clusters of sky blue flowers form in the base of the rosettes of rigid leaves.



Special thoughts go to all those Members who have been in hospital or are in fact still there. We wish you all a speedy recovery. And thank you Lesley for producing yet another In My Garden from your hospital bed. You are indeed a legend!



Lonicera sempervirens



Desfontania spinosa



Clematis crispa



Fascicularia bicolor



Amaryllus Hathor



Protea cynaroides

GENERAL MEETING 6th May

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

Time: **1:30pm** Please bring something for afternoon tea.

There will be:

- ◆ **Blooms competition: WITH A CHANGED FORMAT**
You can bring up to 3 rhododendrons and one (1) only companion plant. The setting up process will be the same using your own vases/bottles.
The aim is to concentrate on rhododendrons and to ease congestion on the display table.
HOWEVER we would still like you to bring flowers for show and tell. It can be a bunch, a basket/box full or one single stem. Anything of interest that might generate discussion. You may even simply want a plant identified. These plants do not need to be in water.
- ◆ **Peoples choice**
- ◆ **Main talk:**
- ◆ **Auction** - please bring a contribution
- ◆ **Raffle**

REMINDER RE LIBRARY BOOKS

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 (6266 4716) who is now our librarian. Both Wendy and Kerry are happy to take requested books to meetings. Kerry's no. 0448 007 525

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