

# AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



## SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004

### COMING EVENTS

- 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**  
6:00 pm dinner at Kingston Hotel (near Shiploads)  
7:30 pm meeting to follow at the hotel  
Any apologies to Lorraine who will be making the Hotel booking. (6247 7774)
- June 10th**      **General meeting**  
Anne Cruise's  
70a South Street, Bellerive  
Lambley Nursery seasonal video  
Meeting will include blooms competition, peoples choice, auction and raffle.
- June**            **No committee meeting - no July Newsletter**
- July 8th**        **Mid – year luncheon**  
Southern Lights, 19 Kingston View Drive, Kingston (opposite Sports Centre)  
12 noon for 12:30 luncheon  
If attending contact Karina on 0419 903 312 or [telozea44@gmail.com](mailto:telozea44@gmail.com)
- July 26th**      **Committee meeting - venue to be advised**
- August 12th**    **AGM and General meeting**  
Woodbank Gardens - more info later
- September 9th** **General meeting**
- October 14th**   **Garden visit - in progress**



#### NORTH WEST TRIP

**October Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th 2018**

Due to the high costs for bus hire we have agreed that travel by car pooling is our only option. We have block booked accommodation at the Best Western Murchison Lodge at Sommerset.

Twin room \$125.00 per room

With continental breakfast buffet for 2 daily \$145.00. Please note these costs are special rates for a block booking.

Confirmation that you will be attending is required by the **12th August**. Please contact Karina on 0419 903 312 or [telozea44@gmail.com](mailto:telozea44@gmail.com)

The two main gardens we will visit are Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens at Romaine and Kaydale Lodge at Nietta. There will be some other treats in between.

**IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders**  
(ably assisted by Ken)

One would think that being in hospital for weeks would be boring. First comes 6am and I am wide awake, then my breakfast arrives with my choice of cereals. After breakfast it's shower time then a rest until I am escorted to the gym for exercises. After 30 minutes here I am taken back to my room for more rest of maybe 30 minutes again. Morning tea is always welcome nurses pop in now and again to give me pills and an injection. Lunch comes about 12 noon, more rest after lunch then take a long walk or do more gym exercises. Back to my room for afternoon tea, more rest till 5pm when the evening meal arrives followed by supper at 7pm and the day is done after one more injection. Meanwhile my mind walks around the garden visualizing the flowers I am missing out on.

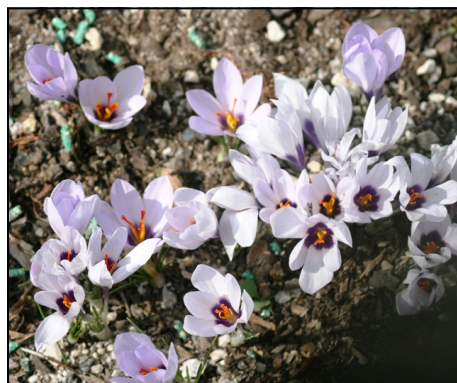
*Crocus longiflorus* has finished producing its lilac bluish flowers and *C. mathewii* which was named after our good friend Brian Mathew in England. It has attractive white flowers with a deep purple base in the interior on them. *C. hadriaticus* has large white blooms which catch the eye. I have probably mentioned the intense blue of *Salvia patens* several times but the same deep electric blue is also seen in *Aconitum napellus*. The common name is monkshood. There is a nice clump of them in the garden at the front of the house.

Sometimes Ken has brought in a flower or two from the garden while I have been in hospital, the latest surprise a spray of *Lardizabala biternata* with its deep chocolate flowers and creamy stamens which I have mentioned before. With these delightful hanging panicles was a contrasting flower of rich golden yellow heavily spotted on the interior of the bloom with terracotta red. This is a perennial from Japan which is growing in the shade under the flowering cherries outside the back door and its name is *Tricyrtis macropoda*.

Just before the restrictions on importing Rhododendrons into Australia came into effect we got our last shipment from Cox's nursery in Scotland. One particular plant we wanted was a free flowering form of *R. forrestii* with beautiful dark deep red flowers, but it looks like we are going to lose it after this summer.

Several years ago when we had the nursery open, we had a customer who came over from Victoria and carefully looked over the plants for sale and bought several. We thought he had come over for the Royal Show which was the same time he always arrived. A casual remark on my part as that he may be judging cattle produced the reply that he had nothing to do with the Show but was a nurseryman who had a large wholesale nursery. A little plant that we had imported several years previously *Polygala chamaebuxus purpurea* with pea-shaped flowers caught his eye and several years later he sold thousands under the name of Fairy Lights. We now have a white and yellow species *Polygala chamaebuxus* it only grows to 15cm and is happy in sun or semi shade.

I have mentioned *Dimorphanthera alpina* from New Guinea quite a few times previously with its long tubular white flowers tipped with a red edge. We have three plants in the garden and all are flowering now.



Left: *Crocus mathewii*  
Right: *Tricyrtis macropoda*  
Below L: *Dimorphanthera alpina*  
Below R: *Polygala chamaebuxus*  
Centre: *Aconitum napellus*



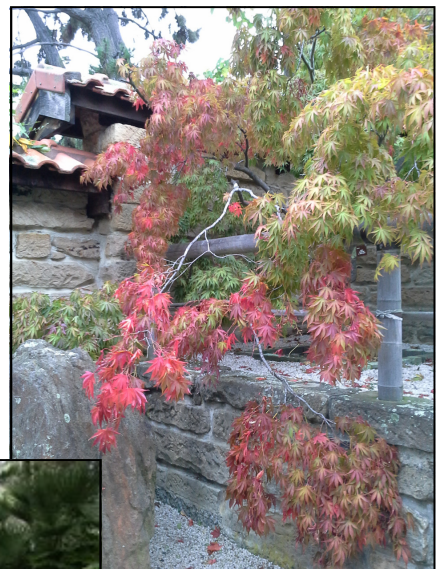
*Nerines* always brighten up the garden with their various shades of pink red and white blooms. I had a lovely surprise with a pretty bouquet of *Nerines*, *Aconitum* and a massive red rose called Altissimo, my thanks to Dorothy. Some of the pink *Nerine* flowers were raised from seed from some of the bulbs we brought back from a nurseryman friend in New Zealand who specialized in perennials and *Nerines*. Of the six colours we selected five grew well and the sixth which was the best colour was stolen. We called them Woodbank Hybrids and they flower late in the season with mainly pink flowers with deeper pink stripes on there backs.

*Abutilon megapotamicum* has been noted before. It always seems to have an open flower with its yellow petals in an intense red calyx and a large boss of deep burgundy stamens. A Hybrid of this is *A x Milleri* with deep golden petals with a reddish calyx. The flower is larger but not as striking as it's parent. *Nyssa sylvatica* provides the most brilliant of autumn colour and where it grows beside the dam at Woodbank the reflection is superb. A small growing *Camellia* is producing a mass of flowers now, it is *Camellia sinensis*. It used to be named *Thea sinensis* and is the plant that is grown for making tea but well worth growing as an ornamental. We have the pink flowered form where as they are generally white.



### Botanical Gardens Autumn visit - 8th April

A small but keen gathering ventured to the Gardens on this mild overcast day. The rain threatened but didn't deter our personally guided tour by Joy, who, having worked there for 12 months had first hand knowledge of significant plants and trees. Joy also told us some interesting stories of her experiences in the gardens. We had the chance to view the new lily pond structure prior to it's opening by Prince Edward on the following Tuesday. The Japanese Garden was of course the most colourful with the seasonal change.



## GENERAL MEETING 6th May

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

Time: **2:00pm** 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, ease congestion on the display table and hopefully be less time consuming for judges.  
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:** Kerry will talk about the Nothofagus in the garden. There is a significant collection from very large to very small and of course - some are rare!
- ◆ **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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