

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004

COMING EVENTS

October 14th

Garden visit

Penny and Pav's 'Crawleighwood' nursery and garden
51 Underwood Road, Nicholls Rivulet
More details page 4.

October 18th

Committee meeting

Ken and Lesley's
1 Willowbend Road, Kingston 6229 2351
6 pm Kingston Hotel (near Shiploads)



October 24th/25th

North West garden trip - see information in September newsletter.

November 2nd/3rd

Our Society would like to make an effort to promote the Rhododendron by entering a display in the Hobart Horticultural Show. (Rose, Iris and Floral Art Show). We are seeking members who are prepared to assist with this project. Please contact Joy Stones on 6223 2116 for more information.

November 11th

National Council meeting - to be held at Woodbank Gardens
Details next newsletter.

December 9th

Our Christmas luncheon will be at Ted and Joy's "Jubilee Gardens",
69 Jubilee Road, Cascades
More details closer to time.



Vale - Karl Van de Ven

We are sad to announce the passing of one of our life members Karel (Karl) Van de Ven who was laid to rest at Lilydale on September 18th 2018. Karl was a noted hybridizer and produced such stunning plants as "Maria's Choice" and "Bloodline".

(Extract from Aust. Rhododendron Society Victoria Branch newsletter)



IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

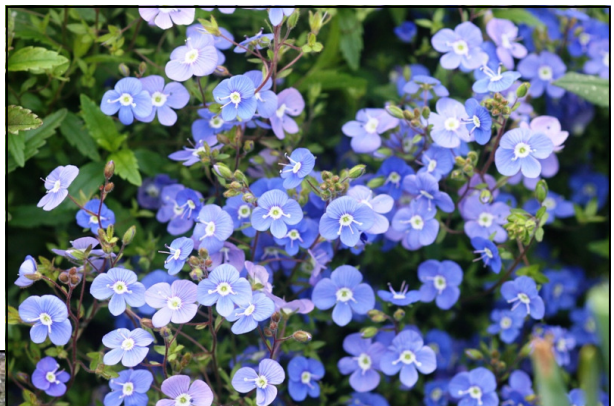
The early Daffodils are finished but there are still mid season ones producing their golden blooms. The little hybrid of Kens which he named *N.*'Camp Hill' after the campsite used by the men making the road from Huonville to Hobart in the early days. Woodbank now occupies the area. The little Daffodil is white with a golden trumpet and only grows 15 cm high. Next to it is *N.*'Pink Blossom' with white blooms to 40cm high and a deep pink trumpet. *N.*'Russ Holland' is a favourite of mine with large flowers which open yellow then the trumpet fades to white. A new hybrid Ken has obtained is *N.*'Regina' a pretty pink in contrast to the small white flowers of *N.*'Xit' and the gold of *N.*'Ferdie'

Chionodoxa forbesii we saw in flower in Turkey. It is a paler blue than *C.sardensis*. Years later Ken was able to obtain seed and it has grown so well that he has been able to divide the clump and place them around other parts of the garden. I have noticed over several years that when *Fritillaria imperialis* and *F.persica* produce their tall flowering stems we experience strong winds which flatten both if they are not staked. *F.imperialis* made an unbelievable sight in Iran, where it covered several hillsides with its majestic orange to red flowers. I carefully gathered some pollen from some of the red shaded blooms but unfortunately, they went into a battered envelope which was discarded before coming home. *F.persica* has numerous small black flowers up the 60cm stems.

Ken has a preference for blue flowers, so there are quite a number of blue flowers in our garden. *Veronica umbrosa* is a pretty light blue prostrate plant growing in a sunny spot. Other blues in the garden are *Gentiana* in several forms and hybrids. *Lithodora* which cascades over a wall. *Campanula*, some rampant, some quite neat. *Myosotidium hortensia* the Chatham Island Forget-Me-Not from New Zealand. *Rhododendron* 'Blue Diamond', *R.*'Blue Ensign', *R.*'Florence Mann' to name a few. *Cyclamen persicum* and *C.repandum* are two species which are always welcome. *C.repandum* seems to appear where unexpected.



Chionodoxa forbesii



Above: Veronica umbrosa
This photo: Fritillaria imperialis





Far left: *Dryas octopetala*

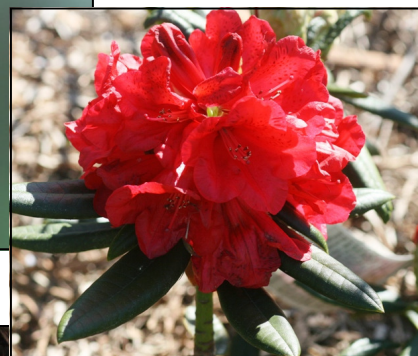
Left: *Dryas drummondii*

Below: R Lady in Red



Above: *Edmondia humile*

Right: *Viburnum x bodnantense* Dawn



Photos by Ken Gillanders



Dryas octopetala is a prostrate plant with white upturned flowers which is widespread across the mountains of Europe. The small leaves are like an *Oak* tree. Ken raised *Dryas drummondii* from seed two years ago and it has flowered this year for the first time. This species has golden blooms with rich crimson hairs covering the calyx, it has the same *Oak* shaped leaves on the prostrate plant with the flowering stem reaching 10cm.

Pulsatilla vulgaris have appeared here and there in the garden where the seed has blown. A nice red one is in the side garden. A white one in the wrong spot has been transplanted to another area. A difficult plant to propagate and grow is *Edmondia humile*, previously *Helichrysum humile*. It likes a well drained warm spot, so after losing several plants in the garden, there are now 3 growing in pots although Ken says one is looking sick and he is treating it with fungicide. The branches are covered with Pine-like needles and the bright red papery flowers are starting to open in the sunshine.

There are several *Viburnum* in our garden. *V. 'Bodnantense Dawn'* opened a few weeks ago. The sweetly scented pink flowers were most attractive on the bare stems. *V. 'Fulbrook'* has large white heads of flowers and *V. 'carlesii 'Aurora'* also sweetly scented, rose pink in bud fading to white. *Rhododendron 'Lady In Red'* making a bright splash of colour in the side garden just past the rock garden. It is still only a small plant compared to *R. 'Bibiana'* which was here when we moved here 6 years ago.

There is sad news here --the Passionfruit vine sadly has died due to a heavy frost and old age. No more Pavlovas.



Photo by Jenny Skinner

SHORT TALK by Ken Gillanders - meeting 9th September

Petunia exserta is a rare member of the genus *Petunia*, endemic to the Serras de Sudeste in southern Brazil. First described in 1987, only fourteen plants were found in the wild during an expedition in 2007. In the wild, the plant is found growing only in shaded cracks on sandstone towers. It is the only *Petunia* species that is naturally pollinated by hummingbirds, and the only red flowered *Petunia* species. Wikipedia.

So by now you have gathered it is a 'rare' plant.. but WAIT... Ken has one! He spotted it on one of his seed distribution lists and through sheer curiosity had to try it. And there we have it - of course we all want one.

GARDEN VISIT - 14th October 2018

Venue: Penny Wells and Pav Ruzicka,
'Crawleighwood' 51 Underwoods Road, Nicholls Rivulet

Time: **1:30pm** - tea and coffee will be available.
Please bring something for afternoon tea.

Garden entry fee \$8.

Directions: From the Channel Highway, turn right at Oyster Cove into Nicholls Rivulet Road (C626) continue 12ks. Turn right into Underwoods Road. Destination 260m on left. Parking on both side of road.

Can also be accessed from Huonville, take B68 through Cygnet, turn left onto the C626 travel approx. 6ks turn left into Underwoods Road. A little bit longer this way.

Dorothy's mobile if lost 0408 127 189.

OTHER EVENTS 2018

Hobart Horticultural Society - 2nd and 3rd November - Rose, Iris & Floral Art

September Blooms Competition

Joy Stones won the Rhododendron section

Lesley Eaton, Kerry Van den Berg and Peter Boyd all had equal points for Blooms other than Rhododendrons

Karina Harris won Peoples Choice

Gill Fitzgerald was the raffle winner. The raffle was R. 'Ooh Gina'

REMINDER - 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

Payment can also be made by Direct Deposit to **BSB: 067000 Account No. 28026437**

Account Name: Australian Rhododendron Society

NEW EXECUTIVE FOR 2018/2019

President: Kerry van den Berg 0448 007 525 Treasurer: Lorraine Grewcoe 6247 7774
kerry.vandenberg@utas.edu.au *lgrewcoe@bigpond.net.au*

Acting Secretary: Newsletter editor:
Lesley Eaton 6267 9961 Dorothy Lane 6239 6671
lesley.eaton@bigpond.com *djlane67@bigpond.com*

Librarian: Wendy Ebsworth 6266 4716
wendyebsworth@yahoo.com.au

Committee

Joy Stones	6223 2116	Doreen Gill	6239 1124
Jenny Skinner	6266 4678	Barbara and Peter Davies	6239 6802
Ken and Lesley Gillanders	6229 2351	Anne Cruise	6244 2965