

# AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004



### COMING EVENTS

**March 17th**

**Propagation day**

To be held at Kerry and Harry van den Berg's 'Woodbank Gardens'  
2040 Huon Road, Longley  
11:00am BYO lunch  
More details page 4

Note: This propagation day will be advertised outside our group in a couple of local newspapers. A fee of \$5 will apply (no fee for Members).

**March 28th**

**Committee meeting** - Ken and Lesley's

1 Willowbend Road, Kingston  
6:30 meeting

**April 14th**

**General meeting**

Venue: Jenny Skinner's at Lucaston (directions next newsletter)  
Our topic for the meeting will be Rhododendrons in general ie:  
Diseases, watering, soil preparation, potted plants - will include demonstrations, question time, discussions.

**April 25th**

**Committee meeting** - Ken and Lesley's

1 Willowbend Road, Kingston  
6:30 meeting

#### **Christmas function 9th December 2018 THANK YOU TED AND JOY**

Nearly 30 Members attended our Christmas function which was held at Joy Stones and Ted Cutlan's Jubilee Gardens, Cascades. The weather excelled, lovely company, fantastic food, great hosts and the garden beautiful and flourishing as usual - sadly though it may be our last visit as Ted and Joy are 'moving on' with dreams of a smaller garden and more recreational time. The day was enjoyed by all and a fitting finale to a very busy year.

Thanks also to Lorraine who made the cake for the raffle which was won by Kate McDermott. For the blooms competition I think Joy and Dorothy were equal winners - I believe we amicably shared the prizes.

**Shield winners for 2018 were:**

Rhododendrons: Kaye Hagan  
Blooms other than Rhododendrons: Joy Stones

## IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

The drought we experienced through January and February had Ken outside each day hand watering different parts of the garden as some plants could not stand the heat and collapsed. There is not much colour at this time but a few flowers tried to open up. *Gladiolus saundersii* is in full bloom. It has vermillion flowers and the three cream lower petals are speckled vermillion. *Gladiolus dalenii* flowers did not last long as it was trying to open their flowers on two scorching days. *Cypella coelestris* on the other hand did not mind the heat.

The blackbirds have been churning up the *Cyclamen hederifolium* bed. There are only two or three plants showing up even after four birds have been exterminated.

A little shower of rain in late January got the *Cyclamen hederifolium* enthused and several corms have opened their flowers. As the summer progressed there has been an abundance of pink and white flowers with signs of more to come. What takes my eye with their lovely blooms appearing now is *Cyclamen hederifolium*. The flowers have five petals and reflex right back with a slight twist to each petal, which gives them a rather graceful look. They have what is termed a “nose” and this is evident at the mouth of the flower. This is easily seen if you look carefully at the shape of the flower. General colour is soft pink with a magenta nose. White flowers are equally lovely. If you look inside the mouth of the white flowers you will generally see a soft pink shading. When the flower has been pollinated courtesy of the bees, it drops off and the little seed capsule gradually comes down to ground level by means of the 12cm flowering stem coiling itself into a tight spring, starting from the top, until the stem is about 2-3cm long. The capsule sits through autumn, winter and spring slowly increasing to the size of a marble. Then as summer approaches, it starts to soften and splits on the end revealing the enclosed 20 or so seeds. The coiled stem, when tested by a slight pull on it, becomes lax and the seed is ripe and ready to harvest and be sown.

Now when the capsule splits, nature sends in its predators – small ants! They love the sweet sticky coating around each seed and carry off their prize to their nest or perhaps a snack on the way, as we often find a corm has grown in an unexpected spot, such as against a wall or along the side of a path. The seed itself is abandoned so obviously not to their taste, which is of some benefit to the garden. The name, *C. hederifolium*, refers to the leaf being shaped like an Ivy leaf. Ivy is botanically named *Hedera*, hence hederifolium, the folium refers to foliage not flowers. They can vary in shape from classic Ivy-shape to lance-shape and some more oval but all have toothed or slightly toothed edges. There is generally a light flush of pink or reddish colour to the reverse side of the leaf. The exquisite marbled pattern on the leaves can vary from corm to corm and are an added bonus as the flowers fade, as they last from early autumn to early summer.

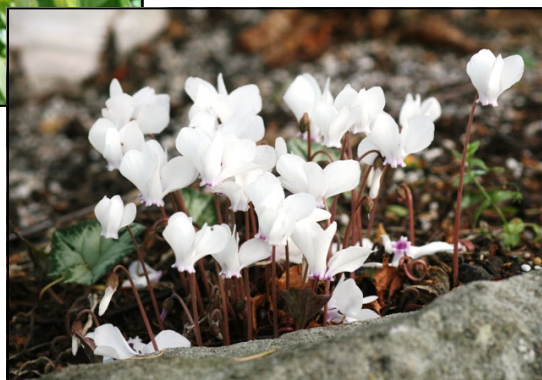


Left: *Gladiolus dalenii*

Right: *Cypella coelestris*

Below R: *Cyclamen* coils  
(photo by Dorothy)

Below L: *Cyclamen hederifolium* alba



Photos by  
Ken Gillanders



Above: *Origanum Kent Beauty*

Above R: *Origanum Bellisimo*

Right: *Lewesia cotyledon*

Below R: *Ceratopetalum Johannes Christmas*

Below: *Carpentaria californica*



*Origanum 'Bellisimo'* It has very colourful mauve pink bracts which are the main attraction and hidden inside are the tiny flowers. The second plant is *Origanum 'Kent Beauty'*. It has softer coloured bracts and is more pleasing to the eye. Both have been in flower for a few months. *Lewesia cotyledon* hybrids have produced their colourful flowers for several months. a pretty broad colour range of white, cream, pink, apricot and various shades of pinks and reds.

A plant we collected in South Africa in *Relhania pungens* has bright yellow flowers and prostrate grey green spiky foliage.

*Carpentaria californica* has budded up. The common name is Anemone Bush. It grows up to 2m and prefers semi-shade or shade. The lovely white flowers brighten the garden in early summer. This is one of my favourite shrubs. The fat round buds open to 20cm flowers with a boss of yellow stamens - but- 'that's not all ' as the TV advertisement says. When the petals fall you have the perfect shape left of the starry calyx in pale green. Colour contrast in evergreen shrubs can lighten the intense green of the winter garden. *Azara microphylla 'Variegata'* brightens up a corner in our garden, The small leaves are an attractive creamy golden yellow. One day as I walked past it in spring I noticed a delicious smell of chocolate or vanilla. It took a few minutes of checking to find that the Azara had tiny yellow flowers just like tufts of stamens with no obvious petals giving off this mouth melting aroma.

*Ceratopetalum gummiferum* known as the NSW Christmas Bush. This normally will grow to 5m. Recently a new form has become available called 'Johannes Christmas' This only makes a shrub of 1 1/2 m. It is very drought hardy and covers itself with bright red bracts. With us here in Tasmania these appear in February. This is putting on a good show at present.

## PROPAGATION DAY Sunday 17 March 2019

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

Time: 11:00am Demonstrations on preparing your cuttings and discussion on suitable methods of ongoing care. The 'Joy Box' may even resurface again!!

Lunch: BYO - coffee and tea will be available.

What to bring:

Secateurs, pots 5" or 6" (12 or 15cms), labels and pen/pencil (a 2B or Chinagraph), sharp knife (a small Stanley knife is good), hormone gel/powder if you have any. There will also be some hormone powder available.

Please bring cutting material to share. It doesn't have to be rhododendrons. It has been suggested that generally the rhododendrons are difficult unless you have suitable conditions at home to keep them. They require bottom heat and regular misting. However, the smaller rhododendrons, vireyas and most evergreen shrubs are suitable.

Joy suggests that cutting material is best stored in labelled plastic bags, misted and closed securely to retain the moisture.

**PLEASE** label them clearly and **PLEASE** try to avoid getting them mixed when preparing your cuttings so they don't become nameless and homeless.

You may also need some trays or boxes to make handling and transport easier. **Potting mix will be available.**

Parking: Parking may be best in the lower area near the cottage. You may park up near the house as long as you don't mind walking down to the green house.

We will also have:

**Auction** - please bring a contribution to help make it the success it usually is.  
**Raffle**

## EXECUTIVE FOR 2018/2019

President: Kerry van den Berg	0448 007 525	Treasurer: Lorraine Grewcoe	6247 7774
<i>kerry.vandenberg@utas.edu.au</i>		<i>lgrewcoe@bigpond.net.au</i>	
Vice President: Gill Fitzgerald	6234 4752	Newsletter editor:	
<i>gillfitzgerald@bigpond.com</i>		Dorothy Lane	0408 127 189
		<i>djlane67@bigpond.com</i>	
Acting Secretary:		Librarian: Wendy Ebsworth	6266 4716
Lesley Eaton	6267 9961	<i>wendyebsworth@yahoo.com.au</i>	
<i>lesley.eaton@bigpond.com</i>			

## 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