

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004



COMING EVENTS

June 9th

General meeting

Venue: Ken's place

1 Willowbend Road, Kingston

Time: 1:30 for 2:00 pm meeting

Main talk - by Ken - 'Woodbank Gardens' from the beginning.

Short talk - topic will focus on rhododendrons.

June

No committee meeting - no July Newsletter

July 14th

Mid-year luncheon - Aura Cafe at Southern Lights Hotel
19 Kingston View Drive, Kingston

Time: 12:00 for 12:30 lunch

RSVP: to Lorraine by June 30th - lgrewcoe@bigpond.net.au
6247 7774

July 25th

Committee meeting

August 18th

AGM and General meeting - at Woodbank Gardens

August 29th

Committee meeting



Members enjoyed two refreshing new gardens in the Channel area on Sunday May 12th. Jana's garden presented a spectacular display of maples and more. Whilst the view from the lounge room at Gail and Richard's, overlooking Bruny Island, left us in awe. Gail's rhododendron collection is growing rapidly and we are very much looking forward to our next visit!



Kaye's vireya was the only Blooms Competition entry. It's known as Hunstein's Secret x White Giant but is not registered.

Photos by Jenny

Vale Lesley Gillanders - horticulturalist, botanical artist

Lesley was born in 1932 in Swan Hill Victoria and moved with husband Ken to Tasmania in 1975 to start a specialist plant nursery. She shared 37 years at Woodbank Nursery with Ken, where her love of horticulture was displayed working alongside him as true partners in life and in business. Ken and Lesley travelled widely over 32 years, being known for attending and speaking at international conferences and collecting and introducing plants to the horticultural industry. Lesley also contributed greatly to seed distributions of the societies she was a member of world-wide.

Lesley travelled to every continent climbing mountains to see plants in their natural habitat and collecting seeds including the sub-Antarctic islands. Her travels encompassed unique places including climbing Mt Kilimanjaro, the glaciers in Tierra Del Fuego, camping in the highland steppe of Kyrgyzstan, the Andes and the Rockies, bamboo forests in Japan, Easter Island, Canada, USA, UK, Ireland, NZ, China, Chile, Equador, Egypt, Bolivia, Peru, Lesotho, Kenya, safari plains in South Africa and the Galapagos Islands.

Lesley was also a gifted artist, and her beautiful botanical and bird watercolour paintings have been enjoyed worldwide, and recognised in many displays and competitions. She shared much with plant enthusiasts as a respected and recognised regular writer in numerous Australian and international botanical magazines. Her last article was published in April 2019.

Lesley passed away very peacefully in May 2019, and is survived by her husband Ken, 5 children and a tribe of grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Lesley with *Rhododendron yunnanense* in China



Rhododendron
Red Admiral

In My (Adopted) Garden by Jenny Skinner

Following on from Lesley's monthly articles will be no easy task and I apologise in advance, particularly to Ken and Lesley for any mis-identification of plants! Of course it's Woodbank that's my adopted garden and I'll be presenting a snapshot of what's been in flower (or leaf) in the past few weeks, on a monthly basis.

Autumn is my favourite time of year. It somehow feels more peaceful than spring which seems to



Left: davidia and cornus

Centre: Acer opalus

Right: Nysa sinensis

me to be a rather hectic and busy time in the garden. My impression this year is that the autumn colour has not lasted for as long because of the unseasonably high temperatures and strong winds but there have still been some glorious displays. The *Nysa sylvatica* on the edge of the lake coloured up beautifully and reflected well in the water. *Nysa sinensis* turned more red in colour. More wonderful colour came from *Aesculus x carnea*, the red horse chestnut, *Davidia involucreta*, the handkerchief tree and *Cornus nuttallii*, mountain dogwood. I know the Japanese maples are wonderful but have a look at *Acer opalus*, the Italian maple. Just a little further along in the same bed is the grey leafed hawthorn *Crataegus orientalis* var. *tanacetifolium*. If you were at the Rhododendron Society meeting at my place you would have seen a branch displayed on my window ledge. The big fat berries are now plonking all over the floor! The Mollis azaleas are putting on a good show, their leaf colour almost reflecting the colour of their flowers in spring.

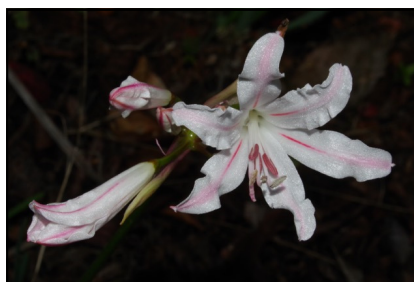
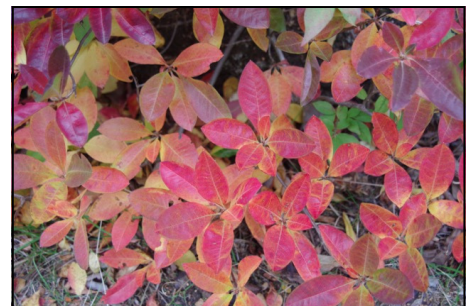


Left: Nysa sylvatica

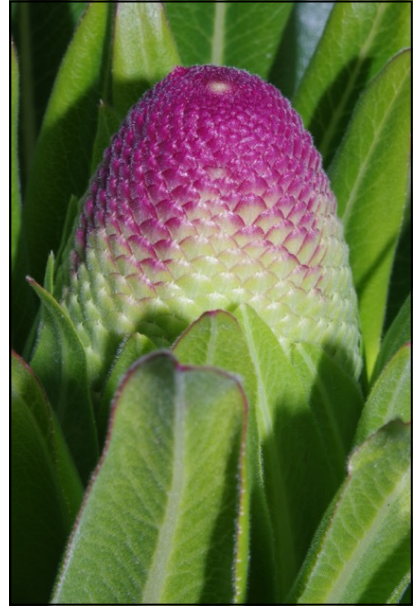
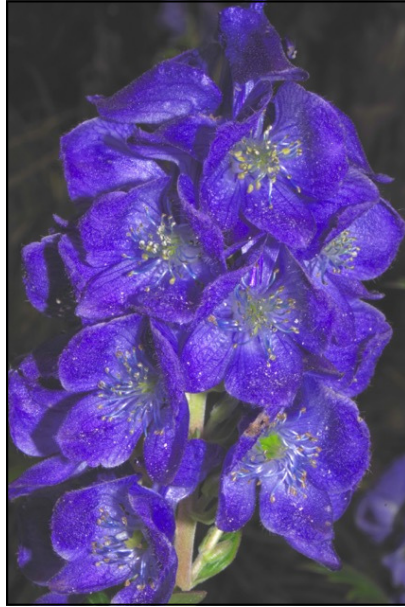
Top right: azaleas

Bottom right: Nysa sylvatica near the dam

Below: nerine



And now some flowers. *Aconitum napellus*, wolfsbane, is standing tall in the waterfall beds, towering over the much shorter blue flowers of *Gentiana triflora*. *Escallonia bifida*, a large bush from South America, is covered in white blooms and looks stunning where it's growing in front of tall dark greenery. A curious looking plant that many visitors comment on is actually a lobelia, *Lobelia aberdarica* from Kenya and Uganda. The purple dome will lengthen into a tall flower spike with many pale blue and white flowers in spring. Various coloured nerines have been popping up for a while, these lovely pink and white ones being particularly attractive.



Top left: *Escallonia bifida*
 Top Centre: *Aconitum napellus*
 Top right: *Lobelia aberdarica*
 Left: *Crataegus orientalis* var. *Tanacetifolium*
 Below right: *Gentiana triflora*

Photos by
 Jenny



And last but not least, animal rather than vegetable. A highly Coloured skink sunning itself on the rocks outside the cottage.



GENERAL MEETING - 9th June

At Ken's request this meeting will go ahead as planned.

Venue: Ken's place

1 Willowbend Road, Kingston

Time: 1:30 for 2:00 pm meeting

Main talk - by Ken - 'Woodbank Gardens' from the beginning.

Short talk - topic will focus on rhododendrons.

We will have:

- ◆ **Blooms competition:**
You can bring up to 3 rhododendrons and one (1) only companion plant. Please bring your own bottles/vases for setting up the blooms.
- ◆ **Peoples choice** - for the blooms competition
- ◆ **Auction** - please bring a contribution
- ◆ **Raffle**

COMING EVENTS - to be considered

GCA Plant Fair

October 5th and 6th 2019

See attached flyer

Rose, Iris and Floral Art - Hobart Town Hall

Early November 2019

In order to attract more Members to display rhododendrons at the above show Joy has approached the Hobart Horticultural Society for the Rhododendron Society to have a dedicated section. At our October general meeting Joy will introduce the categories for entry and will show us how to prepare blooms for display.

2020

There will be an
International
Rhododendron
Conference held at Emu
Valley Rhododendron
Gardens

**Watch this space for
further information**

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