

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004



COMING EVENTS

August 11th

AGM and General meeting

1:30 for 2 pm - Woodbank Gardens
Kerry and Harry van den Berg's,
2040 Huon Road, Longley
More information page 4.

August 29th

Committee meeting at Ken's

1 Willowbend Road, Kingston
Time: 2:30 pm

September 8th

General meeting at Ken's

We are planning an interesting activity for this day. Ken is going to introduce us to making hypertufa pots. You will recall seeing many of these pots scattered throughout Ken's gardens, with colourful displays of cyclamens. They are ideal for smaller plants particularly rockery plants and those treasured bulbs that seem to disappear when planted in large garden beds.

More details in our next newsletter.

September 26th

Committee meeting at Ken's

1 Willowbend Road, Kingston
Time: 3:00 pm

October 5th & 6th

Plant Fair to be held at Woodbank Gardens

October 20th

General meeting

Fintan's garden at Woodbridge

Please note that this is the 3rd Sunday in the month (a) to allow recovery time from the Plant Fair and (b) more blooms in Fintan's garden.

Our agenda for this day will include 'How to prepare blooms for display on the show bench'. We have been allocated a section for rhododendrons at the Rose and Iris Show at the Town Hall in early November and we hope that members will be supportive in an effort to promote the rhododendron genus.

October 31st

Committee meeting at Ken's

1 Willowbend Road, Kingston
Time: TBA

November 10th

General meeting

Peter and Maruta Boyd's garden
354 Summerleas Road, Kingston

Here is a little
Observation
test for you.

Which one
of these 3
photos is NOT
a rhododendron?

Answer Pg. 2



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - August 11th

Our AGM will be prior to our August 11th General Meeting. **All** executive positions will become vacant. We cannot assume that those already holding positions are happy to continue. Please consider. Both Kerry (President) and Lesley (acting Secretary) will definitely be standing down. Is there anyone willing to take on either of these roles? New committee members are most welcome too.

Attached are some nomination forms. If you would like to nominate someone for a position it can be handed to our President or Secretary before the meeting begins.

In My (Adopted) Garden by Jenny Skinner

Autumn lingered on for a bit in a warmer, drier than usual start to winter. Some trees were still displaying gorgeous coloured leaves like the special *Nothofagus x eugenananus*, the hybrid southern beech that originated in the Tasmanian Arboretum up north and selected and planted at Woodbank by Ken. There are two trees in the garden, one tall stately one that tends to have lovely yellow autumn foliage and another smaller but much more colourful one up in the top part of the garden. This hybrid sport has maroon leaves even in summer and then turns a beautiful red into early winter.

But with the onset of proper rain, the wet bark on trees like *Acer davidii*, the snake bark maple, *Myrtus luma*, a native of Chile and Argentina, *Arctostaphylos manzanita*, and *Betula nigra*, the river birch from the USA, really come alive and show their true colours.

1. *Acer davidii*
2. *Myrtus luma*
3. *Arctostaphylos Manzanita*
4. *Betula nigra*



Answer from page 1:

1. *Rhododendron* 'Woodbank Hybrid' - one from the batch of seedlings Ken grew.
2. *Rhododendron macrosepalum* 'Linearifolium' a most unlikely specimen for a rhododendron and very challenging to keep alive.
3. *Lapageria rosea*, pale pink form

There were some surprises for me too in the early flowering of some rhododendrons (surely June is too early?) Some of Ken's mysteriously labelled RWB's (Rhododendron Woodbank) were flowering their heads off in all shades of pink, from almost red in bud to palest pink in full bloom. And the gorgeous R. 'Christmas Cheer' named for a northern hemisphere Christmas of course but equally welcome in 'Christmas in July' down under. Another interesting rhododendron that doesn't look at all like one, is also flowering at the moment. *R. macrosepalum Linearifolium* with a spidery pink flower. Quite unusual. (Photos front page).

Woodbank is full of hellebores (*Helleborus x hybridus*, *H. x sternii*, *H. foetidus*, *H. angustifolius*) popping up in beds all over the garden. Doubles and singles in a kaleidoscope of colours from pure white through green and pink to the darkest purple. As well as snowdrops (*Galanthus sp.*) and of course *Cyclamen sp.* (even spreading to the lawn!) I photographed one particularly interesting leaf with white spots. Perhaps a new cultivar? The beautiful blue *Salvia corrugata* that Ken and Lesley collected in Ecuador and introduced into cultivation in Australia, is still flowering despite the cold. And if you venture into the secret shady parts of the garden you might suddenly come across the tubular flowers of the Chilean bellflower, *Lapageria rosea*, that despite its specific name, also has white flowers and white flowers speckled or rimmed with pink. What a treasure of a garden!



A 'Woodbank' treasure trove

- 1, 2 & 3 - a selection of *hellebores x hybridus*
- 4. *Galanthus sp.*
- 5. *Lapageria rosea*
- 6 & 7. *Cyclamen sp.*



AGM and GENERAL MEETING - 11th August

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

Time: 1:30 for 2:00 pm meeting - please bring something for afternoon tea.

Annual General Meeting followed by General Meeting

We will have:

- ◆ **Discussion re the Plant Fair**
- ◆ **Blooms competition:**
You can bring up to 3 rhododendrons and three (3) companion plants. We have changed the number of companion plants for this month to boost numbers of entries at this time of year. There should also be time for discussion on any 'special' flowers you bring. Don't forget your own bottles/vases for setting up the blooms.
- ◆ **Peoples choice** - for the blooms competition
- ◆ **Auction** - please bring a contribution

COMING EVENTS

GCA Plant Fair

October 5th and 6th 2019

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

Committee

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