

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004



COMING EVENTS

- November 8th/9th** **Rose and Iris Show**, Hobart Town Hall
 We are hoping Members will participate in this activity in an effort to promote rhododendrons. Joy has managed to secure a special section for our Society and we hope her efforts will not be in vain.
 Setting up your blooms can be done on Thursday 7th from 6pm to around 9pm. There should be some parking available at that time.
 You must bring your own bottles/vases but if you are not able to collect them at the completion of the show we suggest you use bottles of little value or see Karina or Joy about collection.
 If you have any blooms you feel are worth exhibiting, including any companion plants, please bring them along. There will be stewards available to assist.
- November 10th** **General meeting**
 Peter and Maruta Boyd's garden
 354 Summerleas Road, Kingston
Time: 3:00 pm
 More details page 4.
- November 24th** Weston's Peony Farm - an invitation by Heritage Roses Southern Tas Group to join us on our visit to the Peony Farm at peak flowering time.
Time: 1:00pm - 155 Fergusson Road, Brighton. Cost \$15
 Please RSVP to Dorothy by Thursday 14th November. Contact details page 4.
- December 1st** **Garden visit** - Gill Fitzgerald's garden. See invitation below.
- December 15th** Our Christmas function venue has been **changed**.
 Since it would not have been possible to have our usual activities the venue has been changed to: Karina Harris's home at Longley. More details on page 5 digital version only.
- 2020**
February 27 **Committee meeting** at Ken's
 1 Willowbend Road, Kingston
Time: 2 pm

REMINDER - have you paid your subs. Please check.

5th - 7th November 2020
 An International Rhododendron
 Conference will be held at Emu Valley
 Rhododendron Gardens
 Garden visits on the 7th
 Online bookings - more later

Garden visit and afternoon tea - 2pm Sunday 1st December Gill and Blane Fitzgerald's bush garden at South Hobart

43 Old Farm Road, South Hobart.

Directions: Cascade Road to the brewery into Old Farm Road. Drive around the back of the buildings which leads to the beginning of the road. No. 43 is 1.5 ks on right. Parking on road.

PLANTS FOR SALE in aid of Quakers Service Australia. Ph. 6234 4752 Please bring a plate.

Woodbank Plant Fair Report - by Jenny Skinner

The Woodbank Plant Fair hosted by the Rhododendron Society on 5th and 6th October was a great success, with over 900 visitors across the whole weekend. We were blessed with a perfect spring day on Saturday and only a few rumbles of thunder and dark clouds till about 2.30 on the Sunday when the heavens opened. Several Southern Zone Garden Clubs, other Societies and Nurseries had wonderful displays and stalls selling plants and other garden related items. On Sunday Her Excellency the Governor and her husband enjoyed a walk around the garden and displays, regularly stopping to chat to people and to buy plants etc. Ken had a lovely display of Lesley's cards for sale and enjoyed talking to many old acquaintances. Wendy did an amazing job in the cottage on both days, managing the dispensing of free tea and coffee to the many volunteers and visitors. Special thanks to Karina, Joy and all the other members who set up and manned the Rhododendron Society display in the glasshouse, to Kerry and Harry for the wonderful venue and Heather and Bernard Pryor for their fantastic organising skills without which the whole event wouldn't have run so smoothly. Kaye did a great job advertising for the event and taking on the mammoth task of organising the 30-odd stall holders. It was a lot of hard work by a lot of volunteers but well worth the effort. All in all a great community event.

VIPs at the Plant Fair



Her Excellency the Governor Kate Warner and her Husband taken at the Government House stall



↑ Ken Gillanders

↓ Karina and Joy - happy stall holders



In My (Adopted) Garden by Jenny Skinner

What a difference a week and a bit make to the look of the garden. Since my last visit so many plants have exploded into flower. The eye is drawn upward away from the tired looking spent bulbs (after all they've done their bit for the year), to the trees with fresh new foliage and of course, the rhododendrons. One particularly nice combination that visitors to the recent Plant Fair were attracted to, was *R. Mrs G W Leak* below the spreading *Cornus nuttallii*. Perfection! Another crowd attractor is the South African everlasting daisy *Edmondia pinifolia* (formerly *Helichrysum humile*) with its brilliant pink buds and flowers. There is a white form which Ken and Lesley saw growing in the wild on the top of Mt Kilimanjaro. Perhaps there's a white one growing at Woodbank that I haven't found yet! While I was scrabbling around in the shrubbery trying to get a good photo of the yellow tree peony, *Paeonia lutea* var. *ludlowii*, which is unfortunately flowering out of sight of the casual passerby, I came across the gorgeous dainty little flowers of *Jovellana violacea*, commonly named either the violet teacup or violet slipper flower. It's from Chile and is an upright mound forming plant ideal for hanging baskets, I would have thought. In the shade and out of the wind though! From one extreme to the other, this enormous anything but dainty flower on *Puya chilensis* has grown like the proverbial bean stalk over the past few months and has finally reached its peak of flowering. As the name suggests, it's a terrestrial bromeliad that grows on the dry arid hillsides of Chile where it's called 'the sheep-eating' plant because of the sharp hooks on the edges of the leaves which trap unsuspecting animals that then die and decompose, providing fertiliser for the plant. Clever plant. Perhaps we could use it to trap possums. Three more pink flowered trees in bloom worth mentioning are *Cornus florida* *Rubra*, a gorgeous pink dogwood from the USA, in fact the state flower of Virginia, a red horse chestnut, *Aesculus x carnea*, (an artificial hybrid between the American *A. pavia*, the red buck-eye and the European *A. hippocastanum*), and the endemic New Zealand tree, *Aristotelia serrata*, with its wonderful arrays of frilly pink lanterns. It seems like spring has been sprung upon us far too early but let's hope the hot weather doesn't put an end to it too quickly.



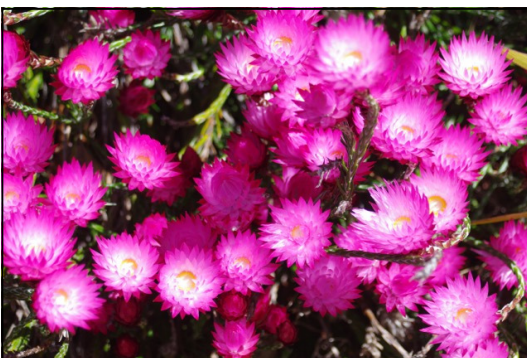
Jovellana violacea
 →
 Couldn't see my specimen in a hanging basket Jenny unless it was well trimmed but anything is possible.



Aesculus x carnea
 →



Puya chilensis
 ←



Edmondia pinifolia
 ←

Photos by Jenny

GENERAL MEETING - 10th November

Venue: Peter and Maruta Boyd's garden
354 Summerleas Road, Kingston
Last property on sealed section. RHS coming from Kingston. (If you go off the seal you have gone too far). Rhododendrons (not balloons) will identify the property.

Time: 3:00pm Please bring something for afternoon tea.

- ◆ Very brief meeting
- ◆ **Blooms competition:**
This will be prepared in the usual manner with 3 rhododendron blooms and 3 companion blooms. Don't forget your own bottles/vases for setting up the blooms.
- ◆ **Peoples choice** - for the blooms competition. Judges - Karina and Gill
- ◆ **Garden walk**
- ◆ **Auction** - please bring a contribution
- ◆ **Raffle**

PLEASE NOTE: The time has been changed to 3pm to allow Members (including Peter and Maruta) to attend the Woodbridge Garden Trail event).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Karina Harris

The plant fair was a huge success. It was a fantastic team effort and congratulations and thanks to the following members in particular - Joy, Peter, Dorothy, Sally, Gail, Clare and Lorraine for manning our information stall and providing blooms. Wendy who was run off her feet providing refreshments. Jenny who acted as garden tour guide. This fair was such a success because of the generosity of Kerry and Harry for providing the venue and making the event so enjoyable. A big thank you to our Rhododendron Society members Jenny, Clare and Wendy who are among the band of volunteers who weed this garden ensuring its attractiveness.

To save meeting time in future, minutes of previous month's meetings will be emailed to all members and a hard copy tabled.

Lesley and Kerry participated in the Rhododendron National Council teleconference discussing the National Rhododendron Conference to be held in Burnie 5th - 7th November 2020.

Two members are being approached to submit an article to be published in the annual Rhododendron Journal.

To ensure our usual programme, the Christmas luncheon for members and partners will be held at my home 2025 Huon Road, Longley

EXECUTIVE FOR 2019/2020

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|--|--------------|---|--------------|
| President: Karina Harris <i>telozea44@gmail.com</i> | 0419 903 312 | Treasurer: Lorraine Grewcoe <i>lgrewcoe@bigpond.net.au</i> | 6247 7774 |
| Vice President: Jenny Skinner <i>jenke@slmember.on.net</i> | 6266 4678 | Newsletter editor: Dorothy Lane <i>djlane67@bigpond.com</i> | 0408 127 189 |
| Secretary: Gill Fitzgerald <i>gillfitzgerald7@gmail.com</i> | 6234 4752 | Librarian: Wendy Ebsworth <i>wendyebsworth@yahoo.com.au</i> | 6266 4716 |

Committee

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Joy Stones | 0419 351 002 | Doreen Gill | 6239 1124 |
| Kerry van den Berg | 0448 007525 | Lesley Eaton | 6267 9961 |
| Ken Gillanders | 6229 2351 0418 867 457 | Anne Cruise | 6244 2965 |



Christmas function

Sunday 15th December

Venue: Ken and Karina Harris's home
2025 Huon Road, Longley

Time: 12 noon

Members are asked to bring a **main course or dessert**.
Some may prefer to consider **nibbles or salad**. Please advise your
host what you intend to bring when you RSVP.
There will be soft drinks available or BYO preferred beverage.

There will also be:

- **Blooms Competition** (as a separate identity from our usual monthly competition). Just a single bloom in your own bottle/vase. There will be a small reward for the winner.
- **Auction** - always extremely popular due to the interesting plants and 'goodies' contributed by our Members.
- **Presentation of shields**. These were originally awarded at our prestigious annual Rhododendron Shows, the main shield for the Grand Champion Rhododendron and the Essie Huxley Memorial Shield was awarded for the best Bulb, Perennial or Shrub exhibit. At our monthly Blooms Competition scores are allocated for each bloom submitted, the criteria being: (1) quality of bloom (2) degree of difficulty in growing conditions and rarity of the particular genus. The scores are tallied to reveal our successful participants.
- **Raffle**

Partners welcome.

RSVP to Karina by the **9th December**
Email: telozea44@gmail.com Phone: 0419 903 312





*Around 'Woodbank' on
Plant Fair day*



*More of 'Woodbank'
from Jenny's
Adopted Garden*

1. *Cornus florida Rubra*
2. *Rhododendron St Breward*
3. *Aristotelia serrata*
4. Mrs G W Leak below *Cornus nuttallii*
5. Yellow tree peony

