

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004



COMING EVENTS

March 8th

Propagation day - To be held at Kerry and Harry van den Berg's 'Woodbank Gardens'
2040 Huon Road, Longley
11:00 am BYO lunch
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March 26th

Committee meeting at Kens
1 Willowbend Road, Kingston
Time: 2:30 pm

April 5th

General meeting
Venue: Anne Cruise's
70a South Street, Bellerive
Time: 2:00pm - please bring something for afternoon tea.
Main topic for the day "Can you grow a rhododendron in a pot?"
There will be a potting up demonstration with advice from the experts and of course general discussion.
More information about this day in the April Newsletter.



Calceolaria



Japanese water iris

April 30th

Committee meeting

May 10th

Autumn garden visit
Venue: Cascade Gardens (which is on the lower side of the Brewery)
Time: 2:00pm
Meet at the bottom car park.
Please bring something for afternoon tea which will be at Gill and Blane Fitzgerald's home following the garden visit
43 Old Farm Road, South Hobart

May 28th

Committee meeting

June 14th

General meeting
Presentation by Ken on Chile
More information later

June

No committee meeting
NO JULY NEWSLETTER

July

Mid-year luncheon
Date and details TBA.

July 30th

Committee meeting

August

AGM and general meeting

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
**See attached email forwarded from Emu Valley
Rhododendron Garden Inc.**

Christmas Function - December 15th 2019

Twenty Members and three guests gathered at the home of Karina & Ken Harris for our end of year function. We were welcomed by beautifully decorated tables which seemed to extend the length of the house. The benches in the kitchen and adjoining room were soon laden with everyone's contributions, a veritable feast. As always, with everyone cooking up their favourite recipes, we all enjoyed a wonderful lunch. There was much to talk about over the food, catching up with old and new Members, and to the delight of some, lucky door prizes.

After lunch it was the presentation of the Shields, awarded to the two recipients who had scored the most points over the year. Congratulations went to Anne Cruise who won the Rhododendron Shield and Karina Harris who scored highest receiving the Shield for Companion Plants.

There was an impressive display of blooms for the Flower Competition, which was judged by Ken and won by Karina with another gem from her garden.

We had the usual raffle and a lively auction, resulting in many eagerly taking home plants, 'there is always space for one more.'

Afterwards many people ventured out into Karina's garden with many interesting plants, including an extensive bed of paeonies. Unfortunately, as we had been so busy indoors, it was by then trying to rain and getting late.

I think everyone would agree that it was a lovely way to wrap up the year for our group.

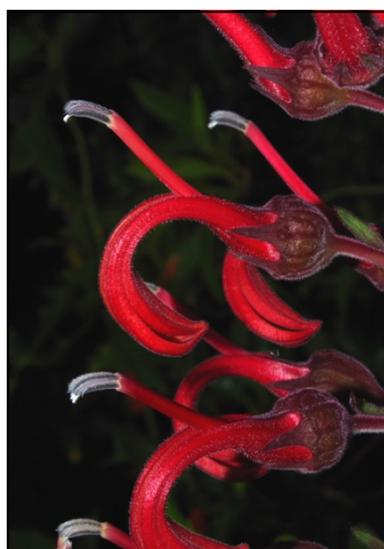
A big 'Thankyou' to Karina & Ken and helpers for all the work put into making it such a successful event.

Gill Fitzgerald, Secretary.



In November a number of Rhododendron Members joined the Heritage Rose Group for a visit to Westons Peony Farm at Brighton. Above right - peonies in the cool room ready for delivery. Left are bags of petals prepared for petal jelly and peony roots that are used to make ice cream - yes you read that correctly. Pics by Dorothy

Below left - Lobelia tupa. From In My Adopted Garden - pics by Jenny Middle - close up of Lobelia tupa. Right - Lobelia bridgesii



In My (Adopted) Garden by Jenny Skinner

After the glory of the springtime rhododendrons has faded, along come the leatherwoods. There are 7 known species and Woodbank has them all, plus 10 cultivars and hybrids. The only mostly deciduous species is *Eucryphia glutinosa* from Chile. This has beautiful big white blooms in summer and has been used as one of the parents in a number of hybrids produced by nurseries in the UK. The other South American leatherwood, *Eucryphia cordifolia*, produced a natural hybrid with *E. glutinosa* and a seedling was selected in the 1920's by the head gardener at Nymans. This is the very beautiful *E. nymansensis* 'Nymansay' of which there are 2 growing and flowering at Woodbank. A hybrid between 2 Australian species, one from Tasmania (*E. lucida*) and one from the mainland (*E. moorei*), has produced *E. x intermedia*, a tall evergreen tree with gorgeous small white flowers. And if you fancy pink flowers for a change, the Gillanders have introduced a number of cultivars, as well as some variegated leaf forms.



1. *Eucryphia glutinosa* 2. *Eucryphia x nymansensis* 'Nymansay' 3. *Eucryphia lucida* 'Ballerina'
4. *Eucryphia lucida* 'Lesley' 5. *Arctostaphylos Manzanita*. Pics by Jenny

The rarest tree in the wild is probably *E. jinksii*. Woodbank's very special specimen was rediscovered recently when some large overgrown rhododendrons were pruned back to expose a very tall tree doing extremely well! Also in flower over the summer months, have been 2 of the 5 known species of *Lobelia* from Chile. *Lobelia tupa* is a tall evergreen species with spikes of red flowers while the much rarer *L. bridgesii* with pink flowers, will have to be carefully nurtured as it is considered vulnerable in the wild. It's range is restricted to an area of about 50km radius! We'll now move north into the USA for the next treasure. While scrabbling around in the undergrowth weeding, I looked up and saw this amazing bark which was quite hidden from view, unless you were scrabbling around in the undergrowth weeding. It was the trunk of *Arctostaphylos manzanita*. Spectacular. Lime green with burnished reddish brown curls. Surprisingly the garden seemed to cope well with the summer temperatures. Lots of mulch has kept the soil moist so all the beds are looking lush and green. And SO many shades of green! I just love this garden.

PROPAGATION DAY Sunday 8th March 2020

Venue: Kerry and Harry van den Berg's
'Woodbank Gardens'
2040 Huon Road, Longley
In the glass house.

Time: 11:00am Ken will get us started with the dos and don'ts of most suitable cuttings and how to prepare them.

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.

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 (ie those with smaller leaves), 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 is best in the lower area near the cottage.

We will also have:

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

SPECIAL NOTE

To help save some time at our gatherings, we ask that Members sign the Attendance Book on arrival and at the same time purchase their raffle ticket. Both will be readily available. This also allows those helping to enjoy the activities as well.

OTHER EVENTS

Friday March 13th and Saturday 14th is the Dahlia and Floral Art Show at the Hobart Town Hall. Members are reminded that all are welcome to enter flowers from their garden. Staging details available on line - Hobart Horticultural Society.

EXECUTIVE FOR 2019/2020

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Committee

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