

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004

COMING EVENTS

May 15th

Garden gathering at Crawleighwood
Penny Wells and Pav Ruzicka
51 Underwoods Road, Nichols Rivulet
More details page 4.

May 26th

Committee meeting
Ken and Lesley's
1 Willowbend Road, Kingston 6229 2351
Dinner: 6pm Kingston Hotel
Cnr. Channel H'way and Beach Road



June 12th

General meeting
Neil and Sandra Harwood's
38 Hilton Road, Claremont (6249 2023)
Neil and Sandra will give a presentation of
'Gardens we have visited whilst overseas'.
More details in p. 4

June

No committee meeting - No July Newsletter

July 10th

Mid-year luncheon
Venue: Huon Manor Restaurant (licensed)
Main Road, Huonville. \$30 pp 2 courses tea and coffee extra
Please advise any specific dietary requirements
Time 12 noon - Partners welcome.
RSVP to Lesley Eaton by **6th July** on 6267 9961 or email
lesley.eaton@bigpond.com

July 28th

Committee meeting

August 14th

AGM and general meeting

Raffle Winner

Eucryphia 'Ballerina' was
won by
Gail Yellowley

April Blooms Competition

Anne Cruise won the Rhododendron section.

Kerry van den Berg won Blooms other than Rhododendrons.

Kerry van den Berg won Peoples Choice with a lapageria and a clematis on equal points.
There was however a 3rd participant with the same amount of points - this was Karina with a banksia. I guess having two winners beats one.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL

IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

The garden is going to sleep for the oncoming winter but these few warm sunny days tend to persuade us otherwise. Some of the deciduous shrubs have already lost their leaves like Maples and Cornus. The Cherries are still holding on but showing some tints of gold.

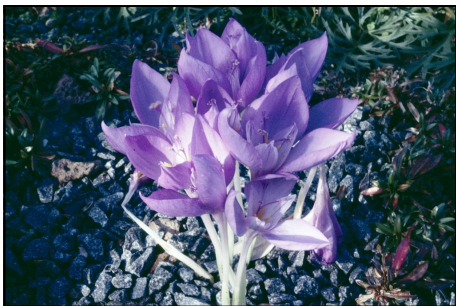
Ken has replaced the bird netting over the *Cyclamen* in the garden under the Cherries. He has made wire hoops to hold it above the ground. It is difficult to weed but the blackbirds keep away from it. *Galanthus reginae-olgae* is in this bed. Originally we planted a neat clump of them but it was pre-net time and the blackbirds churned them up along with *Narcissus cyclamineus* and *Anemone blanda*, even tossing some down onto the patio. Ken has planted a few *Galanthus* in the rock garden and hopefully they will increase again.

Last month I mentioned our plant of the bright yellow *Daphne jesoensis* and it was pictured in the Newsletter. This was growing well but unfortunately it suddenly died and we have it no more with no prospects of sourcing another one. *Campanula saxifraga* flowered earlier and Ken pruned the old flowering stems when they faded. Now it has put up another flower stem. The individual flower buds are pinkish mauve on the outside fading to white as they develop into 3cm funnel shaped upright facing blooms. These are held on opposite sides of the main stem giving it a flat appearance.

In the bulb bed *Crocus cartwrightianus* is open with its brilliant red stigma. This is allied to the Saffron Crocus *C.sativus* whose stigmas sell for many dollars. When we were in Iran we bought a little packet of them, at a market, for the equivalent of 50 cents. *Crocus banaticus*, once known as *C.iridiflorus*, flowered from seed this year. It is most attractive with the three outer petals normal size and the three inner petals being quite small. The flowers are a deep blue-purple - very striking. *Gladiolus cruentus* has bright red flowers which are just opening now. They multiply well so Ken has divided the clump and planted some in another area where they have settled in and are also increasing.

Monnina revoluta is always popular with garden visitors. The small yellow and blue flowers have a pleasant scent of honey. We collected seed of our original plant in Equador. When we left Longley the plant there was 2m high and across, a very tidy shrub. Our plant here is growing well in the top garden. Along from this in the side garden where the fence was built is *Polylepis australe*, strangely it is in the Rose family which is noticeable in the foliage. The flowers are insignificant. They are very tiny and hang in panicles but the most interesting feature is the trunk of the bush. It has flaking bark and Ken has pruned the lower branches so that the trunk and branches can be better appreciated.

Crocus banaticus



Crocus sativus cartwrightianus



Campanula saxifraga



Monnina revoluta



Polylepis australe trunk



Growing on a trellis near the bulb bed is *Lardizabala biternata* with its unusual dark brown flowers hanging in panicles. Each flower has contrasting creamy white stamens which sets off the flowers very well. *Lapageria rosea* needs a good deep soil to grow well. We have a red one on each of two posts at the front verandah. One white one on the side of the house and now Ken says there is one on the shadehouse garden bed with pale pink flowers which had been raised from seed.

Polygala 'Little Bibi' is a hardy little shrub. When we obtained our plant it was new on the market but seems to be readily available now. It is a very compact grower covered in pea shaped purple and white flowers

Looks like our Cumquat likes this past weather as it has a lot of fruit set on it which will ripen later. I harvest them as they ripen and when there is a good quantity remove the seed, then glaze them in a sugar glaze, drain them, dry them in the oven at a low temperature for a short time, then dip each piece in melted dark chocolate - yum! I ration them out to only one piece each a day.

Polygala Bibi



Lardizabala biternata



There was a sizable gathering at Joy's on the 10th April. Ken informed us that *R. lochiaie* can still be spotted on some mountain ranges in Queensland (not many of us will manage that) but the likely hood of being able to purchase this elite Australian rhododendron commercially is remote. It seems that no one is interested in continuing its propagation. Joy inspired us with discussion on colour, form and texture in the garden. A mosaic of photos taken in the garden definitely substantiates her talk.



GARDEN GATHERING May 15th

Venue: Penny Wells and Pav Ruzicka
'Crawleighwood'
51 Underwoods Road, Nicholls Rivulet

Time: 2:00pm - Please bring something for afternoon tea.

Entry fee: For Members this will be paid by our Society. For visitors the cost will be \$5.

Tea and coffee will be available. We will have our regular raffle. Penny will have some plants available for sale from her nursery.

Directions: From the Channel Highway, turn right at Oyster Cove into Cygnet Road (C626) continue 12ks. Turn right into Underwoods Road. Destination 260m on left. Parking on both sides of road. **(Dorothy's mobile if lost 0408 127 189)**

Can also be accessed from Huonville, take B68 through Cygnet, turn left onto the C626 travel approx. 6ks turn left into Underwoods Road. Little bit longer this way.

GENERAL MEETING June 12th

Venue: Neil and Sandra Harwood's
38 Hilton Road, Claremont (6249 2023)
Neil and Sandra will give a presentation of '*Gardens we have visited whilst overseas*'.

Time: 2:00pm - Please bring something for afternoon tea.

There will be:

- ♦ A brief meeting.
- ♦ **Blooms competition** - There are two sections (a) Rhododendrons and (b) Blooms other than Rhododendrons. You can bring up to three (3) blooms for each section. Blooms for the competition are best set up prior to 2pm. Please remember to bring your own vases/bottles.
- ♦ **Peoples choice** - your selection from the competition blooms.
- ♦ **Main talk:** Presentation of '*Gardens we have visited whilst overseas*'. by Neil and Sandra
- ♦ **Auction** - we always have an interesting selection thanks to Members' generous donations.
- ♦ **Raffle**

YOUR EXECUTIVE

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