

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004

COMING EVENTS



- March 11th** **Propagation day** and short general meeting
To be held at Kerry and Harry van den Berg's 'Woodbank Gardens'
2040 Huon Road, Longley
11:00am BYO lunch
See more details page 4
- March 22nd** **Committee meeting** - Ken and Lesley's
1 Willowbend Road, Kingston (6229 2351)
Dinner: 6:00pm - TBA
- April 8th** **General meeting**
- April 19th** **Committee meeting**



Christmas function 7th December 2017

Our very successful Christmas event was held at Woodbridge Hill. Special thanks to Fintan for allowing us to use the facilities. Members provided all the food and trimmings - a wonderful combined effort that came together beautifully to make a great evening. We were very pleased to have Di and Phil join us. A special thank you to Di for providing yet another Christmas cake for the raffle - what an effort, you are amazing Di.

We had a lengthy feisty auction with members donating some particularly interesting plants, those that you don't find in nurseries. Always popular.

The blooms competition judged by Ken was won by Karina with a very impressive cardiocrinum specimen.

Shield winners for 2017 were:

Rhododendrons: Kaye Hagan

Blooms other than Rhododendrons: Karina Harris and Joy Stones joint winners

IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

Time has passed since my last notes. There have been many lovely flowers which have bloomed and faded as we have passed through December, January and now February. *Myosotidium hortense* produced its brilliant blue flowers and then set seed which will be sown later. *Rhodohypoxis* put on their usual display in pinks, white and rose-red. *Camellia reticulata* 'George Witbreuk' was impressive with masses of red flowers. Our plant has now reached 2 metres. Likewise in height is *Daphne bholua* which scented the garden for several weeks.

It took me quite some time to learn how to pronounce and spell Pentapterygium, then the botanists in their wisdom changed it to *Agapetes*. So it is not only the garden which is the challenge but also the plant names. *Agapetes serpens* from the eastern Himalayas, produced its pendulous red flowers with deep red markings earlier, then was followed by glaucous fleshy fruits. These must be tasty as I once saw a honeyeater, an Eastern Spinebill, eating them. *Geranium 'Rozanne'* has been flowering for several weeks with pretty lavender-blue flowers. The *Lewesia cotyledon* hybrids in several of the garden beds are still producing their colourful flowers.

January brought us into the Lily season. Ken has a love of Lily species and although at this time they have not increased well, they have been interesting with orange, yellow or white blooms. A spectacular one which started flowering in January was a *Lilium auratum* hybrid with large glowing white flowers. A hybrid with the name of 'Pink Brilliant' puts on a spectacular show each year. It is protected on all sides by nearby shrubs and the side fence. The flowers are not as large as *L. auratum* and are white with an internal colour of rich pink set off by a broad white edge. There could be more than 50 bulbs in a tight group. Ken is hoping to divide some later when they are dormant and plant some in other areas. One Lily we have watched with interest as it has grown to 1 1/2 m high, is *Lilium sargentii*. It has large trumpet shaped flowers of rich cream with reddish purple stripes on the exterior

Our flowering Cherries - *Prunus* 'Yukon', double green, *P* 'J H Veitch', double pink, *P* 'Tai Haku, large single white all growing along the side fence were infested by Cherry slugs which were skeletonising the leaves as they feasted on them. Luckily Ken sprayed them before much damage was done. *Ceanothus de delileanus* 'Glorie de Versailles' is a deciduous shrub to 1.8m, with feathery panicles of soft blue flowers with a rich honey scent in late summer and autumn.

Lilium Pink Brilliant - and Lesley



Above: *Lilium sargentii*

Below: *Ceanothus* Glory de Versailles



Early in the summer four most spectacular blooms appeared on *Rhododendron rhabdotum*. They have large white trumpets with a distinctive red stripe on the exterior. Our plant is growing in partial shade between the house and garage in one of Kens specials bed. Next to it is a good lump of *Arisaema ringens*. The massive leaves cover the flowers and you have to part them to see the glaucous green striped and hooded flowers.

In the side garden *Sandersonia aurantiaca* has been flowering with large orange bell shaped flowers. When we sow the seed it never seems to come up but it is worth trying again. In the same bed is *Clematis* 'Vionora'. A light climber with dainty cream and purple flowers rather like upturned little urns. *Crocasmia* 'Lucifer' has made a clump in the garden outside the lounge. It has brilliant red flowers.

The summer also produced white scented flowers on many of *Philadelphus* planted throughout the garden. *P* 'Sybille' and *P* 'Belle Etoile' stand out as our favourites for perfume.



Left: Clematis Vionora

Above: R Rhabdotum

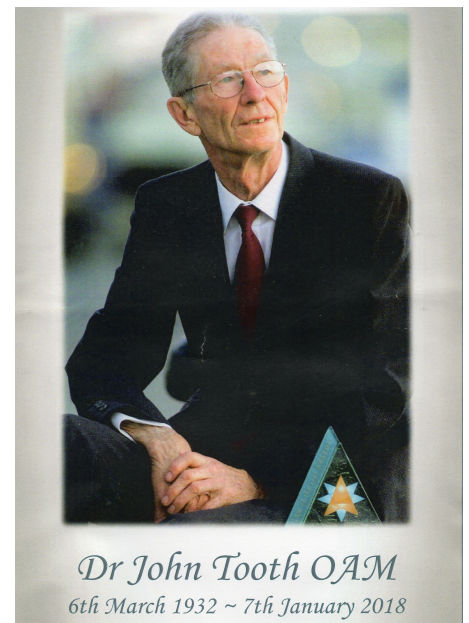
Vale John Tooth

We were saddened to hear of the death of our friend and long-standing member, Dr John Tooth OAM, on January 7.

Doctor, researcher, visionary and pioneer are among the words used to describe the late John Tooth. He will be remembered as the inspiring Australian of the Year (2007) and dementia care pioneer behind the internationally-renowned Adards Nursing Home. His concept for the home was to manage difficult dementia patients without heavy medication, but instead with care and humanity, and by creating home-like surroundings. He lectured in Japan, Canada, the US and Britain and taught Japanese professionals who came to Tasmania to learn his methods.

But we remember him best for the magnificent garden created at Fern Tree over forty years by him and his late wife, Barbara.

John's passion was Rhododendrons and his relaxation was building the many metres of stone walls to retain the soil on the sloping site to hold his Rhododendrons. John loved welcoming people to his garden, which was the venue for many meetings and garden visits over the years, and we have many fond memories of their beautiful garden and their generosity and hospitality.



By Lorraine

PROPAGATION DAY Sunday 11th March

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

Time: 11:00am

Lunch: BYO - coffee and tea will be available.
We will have a short general meeting before we begin preparing cuttings.

What to bring:

Secateurs, pots (5" or 6"), labels and pen/pencil, sharp knife (a Stanley knife is good), hormone gel/powder if you have any. There will also be hormone powder/gel available.

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, 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.

You may also need some trays or boxes to make handling and transport easier. **Potting mix will be available.**

Parking: Parking may be best in the lower area near the cottage. You may park up near the house as long as you don't mind walking down to the green house.

We will also have:

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

REMINDER RE LIBRARY BOOKS

Kerry and Harry have kindly allocated a section in 'The Cottage' for the library to be accessed. You will be able to select books from the library on Wednesdays between 10am and 3pm or by contacting Wendy Ebsworth (6266 4716) who is now our librarian. Both Wendy and Kerry are happy to take requested books to meetings. Kerry's no. 0448 007 525

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