

# AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

## SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004

### COMING EVENTS



- April 10th**                    **General meeting**  
 Joy Stones and Ted Cutlans'  
 Jubilee Gardens,  
 69 Jubilee Road, Cascades  
 More details page 4.
- April 28th**                    **Committee meeting**  
 Ken and Lesley's  
 1 Willowbend Road, Kingston 6229 2351  
 6pm Harmony Chinese - Channel Court
- May 15th**                    **Garden gathering at** Crawleighwood  
 Penny Wells and Pav Ruzicka  
 51 Underwoods Road, Nichols Rivulet  
 More details page 4.
- May 26th**                    **Committee meeting**
- 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 May Newsletter.
- June**                    **No committee meeting - No July Newsletter**
- July 10th**                    **Mid-year luncheon**  
 Keep this day free for our luncheon gathering. Partners welcome.
- July 28th**                    **Committee meeting**

#### March Blooms Competition

**Kaye Hagan** won the Rhododendron section with three stunning (as usual) vireyas.

**Karina Harris** won Blooms other than Rhododendrons.

**Barbara Davies** won Peoples Choice with a succulent that stole the show! Yes a succulent! - *Stapelia variegata*.  
 What a great start for our new members Barbara and Peter Davies.

#### Raffle Winner

R. Fireman Jeff was won by  
**Anne Cruise**

#### RUSTICA

Will be available at our meet at  
 Jubilee Gardens  
**\$2.50 per kg**

## IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

We have our first autumn colour but I am not sure if it is an early autumn or are the plants in need of more water due to the continuing dry conditions. Ken spends a lot of time watering. He feels he can give the plants a better dose of water instead of the sprinkler system he has installed.

Autumn *Crocus* have produced their pretty blooms. *C. mathewii* is most attractive with white flowers which have a deep blue colour part way up the petals. *C. vallicola* flowered very early with creamy white pointed petals. *C. goulimyi alba* was raised from seed but there is a mixed lot of lilac and white flowers. *Cochicum illyricum* was also early. The flowers opened white, then each petal developed a pleasing colour of mauve pink.

A slow walk around the garden today was rewarded with seeing, in the rock garden, an attractive plant with yellow flowers the size of a 20cent coin. It is *Linum arboreum*. Nearby was a plant of *Campanula* 'Warley White' with lovely glistening double flowers. Ken tried for years to obtain *Daphne aurantiaca* and at last received some cuttings from a friend. He now has 3 plants in the rock garden. One has a bright yellow flower open with the promise of more to come. Another special *Daphne* is *D. jezoensis* which is covered in yellow buds. *Oxalis massoniana* is a pretty orange ball of colour. It has not spread everywhere like some of the other species.

The hypertufa troughs have been moved from the shaded side of the back patio to sit in full sun against the house. The troughs of *Cyclamen mirabile* and *C. libanoticum* have not been moved as they prefer a little more shade but have been repotted. There is a fine plant of *Cyclamen hederifolium* 'Ruby Red' isolated at the front of the house. It is an intensely deep colour of red. Seed from a previous flowering have come on well and Ken has planted some in a sheltered corner of the garden. Likewise with *C. mirabile* They should develop into a nice patch. Another area has some seedlings of *C. graecum*. They have such lovely velvety leaves.

*Podophyllum* 'Spotty Dotty' last year had several flowers. They hung in little bunches under the leaves and were a rich carmine colour. The leaves are aptly described by the catchy name. Unfortunately the seed pods were empty but maybe next time will be better. *Salvia patens* with intense clear blue flowers always set a lot of seed. When gathering it some fall to the ground and the following year produce new plants. They are never a pest and add a pleasant amount of colour at this time.



Daphne jezoensis



Cyclamen mirabile



Linum arboreum



Oxalis massoniana





Podophyllum Spotty Dotty



Camellia sinensis pink

Years ago when we had the nursery at Longley, Eric Genat and his wife, from Genets Bulb Nursery in Victoria, came to visit and see the garden. Not long after the visit we received a parcel of *Nerine* bulbs from Eric. We never flowered all in that garden but brought one with us which is called *Nerine* 'Genats Pink'. It is a pretty creamy pink flower but has not increased much yet.

There are several plants around the garden of *Camellia sinensis pink*. This is reputedly the tea *Camellia* which has white flowers. We have the form with a pink centre and the flowers are small, about the size of a 50cent coin.

The *Paulownia* last year flowered very well and set large bunches of seed. They have a sticky coating which I discovered when I felt a pod and had a job to clean my fingers afterwards. Ken has pruned the lower branches where the weight was weighing them down. He has removed a barrow load of pods so far from where he can reach with the long cutters but will have to wait till one of our sons or grandsons come and can be persuaded to remove the rest. The flower spikes are well advanced for the next lot of lovely blooms.

Much to Kens delight his passionfruit, *Passiflora edulis*, finally decided to grow and flower. He estimates he will get a bucketful of fruit if the weather stays warm. They will top a lot of Pavlovas!!



Passiflora edulis fruit

That pav is getting close Ken.



Another successful propagation day with 20 plus members in attendance.

Above: Ken feeling right at home in the Woodbank Garden.

Right: Preparing our work bench.

Left: Peoples choice in our Blooms Competition *Stapelia variegata*



## GENERAL MEETING April 10th

Venue: Joy Stones and Ted Cutlans'  
Jubilee Gardens, 69 Jubilee Road, Cascades 6223 2116

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. Judges will be Karina and Lorraine.
- ◆ **Peoples choice** - your selection from the competition blooms.
- ◆ **Short talk** - Ken will give a short talk on *R. lochiae*
- ◆ **Main talk** by Joy. The focus for Joy's talk will be **foliage**. Particularly that of the rhododendron but will continue with the foliage theme as she guides you through the garden.
- ◆ **Auction** - always amply supplied by our Members. Thank you.
- ◆ **Raffle**

## 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.

## YOUR EXECUTIVE

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## Committee

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Ken Gillanders	6229 2351
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Doreen Gill	6239 1124
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