

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004



COMING EVENTS

July 12th

Mid-year luncheon - Botanical Gardens

Time: 12 noon for 12:30pm

RSVP to Jenny by **Wed 8th July** - H 6266 4678 M 0447 116 425 or
jenke@slmember.on.net - please leave a message if no answer.

If our numbers are around 25 we will be allocated a separate room so it's import to contact Jenny soon to see if we are close to achieving that goal. Hopefully it will be a reasonable day for those who would like to take a wander in the gardens.

July 30th

Committee meeting at Kens

1 Willowbend Road, Kingston

Time: 2:30 pm

August 9th

AGM and General meeting

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

August 27th

Committee meeting

Featured this month a couple of pics from Anne Cruise's Bellerive garden.



The vireya far left is Simbu Sunset. A cutting grown by Anne Cruise, brought to one of our propagation days by Anne Pyke who was keen to save it as she was preparing to move house. Great to hear these stories and one of the reasons we have propagation days. It may originally have been a cutting of a show and tell specimen brought along by Kaye Hagan or Barry Davidson. At left is a bouvardia x - a sentimental favourite for Anne.

In My (Adopted) Garden by Jenny Skinner

When I thought what to write about this month I realised that it was mostly the same as this time last year, so if you think you've seen it before, you probably have! But I will start with something completely different. Ken has very kindly allowed me to compare some of his old photos of the garden with some taken recently. Although in one case his photo was taken when the deciduous trees were all in leaf, and in mine it's in winter, I think the comparison is still plainly there. First are photos of the rockery beds looking west towards the house from the big lawn. These beds were painstakingly assembled with gorgeous rocks that are now covered in the wetter months with an amazing array of lichens and mosses - little gardens in themselves. Most of the alpine plants that were originally there have gone to plant heaven allowing new plantings to be established (in progress). The two prostrate plants cascading over the front edges of both beds are our Tasmanian endemic conifer, the strawberry or creeping pine, whose raspberry-like female cones are a wonderful sight in winter and a juniper, *Juniperus conferta*, that is hell to weed because of its extremely prickly foliage. Ken's photo is from the mid to late 80's. In the second set of photos we are looking at the 'waterfall' bed, meticulously mapped by Lesley and originally containing all manner of tiny treasures. Although some have been lost, a good number of the rarer miniature rhododendrons are still doing well. The *Acer palmatum dissectum* 'Garnet' is the standout plant all year round. The two *Astelia chathamica* have done too well and have had to be ruthlessly chopped back. These extensive beds were planted in 2008 after Ken and Lesley closed the nursery.



The rockery

At left the garden around 1980 and below recently.



The waterfall garden

Below the garden around 2008 and below right last spring.



In My (Adopted) Garden continued

A few weeks ago I finally found in flower a plant that I hadn't been able to identify for a couple of years, because it hadn't flowered. I had thought it was a species of *Kennedia* but as soon as I saw the flowers I knew it wasn't. In the legume family but not *Kennedia*. Ken remembered that they'd collected it in Yunan and the Chinese botanist accompanying them was quite excited by the find but Ken doesn't still have a record of its name. I've tried scrabbling around at the base of the plant (with difficulty when you see where it is!) to find the label that Ken says he put there at the time of planting, but no luck there. So it remains a mystery, even after extensive searching online and in textbooks. The next step is perhaps an email to Kew.



Ken has since emailed the photos to a botanist friend in the UK who has identified the mystery plant as *Dumasia yunnanense*.

Ken's low growing hybrid rhododendrons that he named R. 'Woodbank hybrid', a cross between R. 'Little Glendoe' and *R. aureum* have already in June, been flowering away in colours ranging from red to the palest pink.



In My (Adopted) Garden continued

Ken's interest in the Proteaceae family in the Gondwanan context is evident in many of the plantings at Woodbank. At this time of the year the large shrubbery at the entrance to the gardens, planted up with different species and cultivars of proteas, is dotted with stunning pink blooms. And a white one, *Protea punctata* white.

Now I can't resist including some bark because winter is the best time to enjoy the amazing colours enhanced by rain. When you start looking there's really a lot of colour in the winter garden.



Some of the protea collection

Below left - bark on *Acer davidii*

Below right - bark on *Acer griseum*



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