

# AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004



## COMING EVENTS

**October 11th**

**Garden visit - Crawleighwood**, nursery and garden

51 Underwoods Road, Nicholls Rivulet

**11:00 am** There will be an admission fee of \$5

BYO lunch (including a cup) - tea and coffee will be available.

We are still going to have our blooms competition and a raffle

**Special note**

Due to Covid restrictions please advise Gill if you are attending by

**Wednesday 7th October** Email: gillfitzgerald7@gmail.com or 6234 4752

**Blooms competition** - judges this month Joy Stones and Jenny Skinner

You can bring up to three (3) rhododendrons and three (3) companion plants.

As a reminder there should only be one (1) plant variety in each vase.

A rhododendron should be a single truss only, apart from the smaller varieties that have multiple flowers - in this case, a single stem.

Don't forget your own bottles/vases for setting up the blooms.

**Peoples Choice** - from the blooms competition

**Raffle**

**October 29th**

**Committee meeting** at Kens

1 Willowbend Road, Kingston

Time: 2:30

**November 8th**

**General meeting and garden visit**

Neil and Sandra Harwood's new garden

4 Katana Court, Austins Ferry

More information next newsletter

**December 6th**

**Christmas function**

Phil Cooper has kindly offered his home for this gathering.

37 Glenlusk Road, Berriedale

More information next newsletter



R. Florence Mann hosting a bumble bee

### Thank you

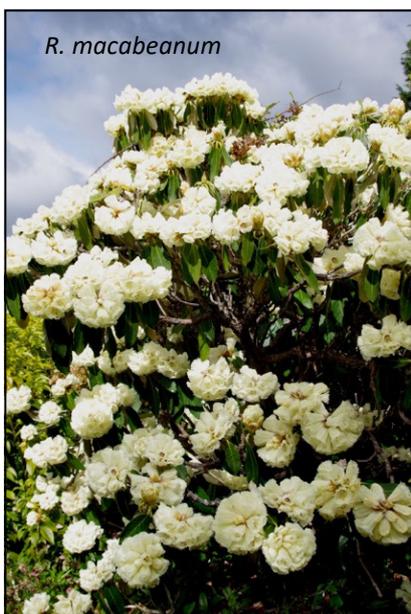
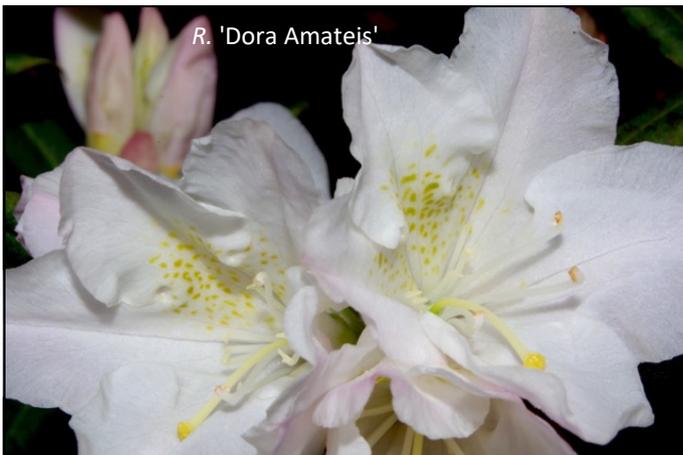
Our visit to Gill and Blane's garden in September was most enjoyable. Gill's struggle with sharing her garden with the wildlife was evident but I think she is winning with a good mix of native shrubs and some hardy exotics. *Clematis armandii* was quite spectacular. We thank both Gill and Blane for allowing us the pleasure of visiting their lovely garden. Pics back page.

## In My (Adopted) Garden by Jenny Skinner Photos by Jenny

Visitors to Woodbank Gardens in early spring, when they spot the *trilliums* in bloom, inevitably ask in an awe-struck sort of voice, "What's that?". This is usually followed by "What's a *trillium*? I've never heard of it". They are probably not even known by their common names which include wakerobin, birthwort and birthroot. There are lots of them. In fact about 50 species, all native to North America and Asia. At Woodbank there are only 5 or 6 species that I know of: *T. chloropetalum*, *T. albidum*, *T. ludovicianum*, *T. grandiflorum* and/or *T. ovatum* and one that was classified as *Trillium* but now, due to further splitting by plant taxonomists, it has its own monospecific genus *Pseudotrillium rivale*. We have also come across 2 more flower colours: yellow (but it's not *T. luteum* going by the leaf colour and patterning) and a strange yellow and maroon colour that could be a hybrid or just a weird variant. Ken established most of these from seed years ago so there could have been some ring-ins! They all like moist shade but once they find a suitable environment they can form SWATHES! I find the leaves with their mottled brown patterns just as attractive as the flowers. They all grow from a rhizome and have everything in 3's (hence tri-llium): 3 leaves, or rather leaf-like bracts, 3 outer sepals, 3 inner petals, 2 x 3 stamens and 3 stigmas. They have fleshy structures rich in lipids and proteins attached to their seeds which are then taken by ants back to their nests to feed to the larvae. An interesting seed dispersal mechanism that is used by possibly up to 23,000 species of plants!



Now to the rhododendrons that are starting to show themselves like an entree before the main course in November. My favourite (at the moment) *R. macabeanum* has recovered from its sulks last year and is covered in spectacular cream blooms. This *rhododendron* originates in NE India and was named after a Mr McCabe, a former Deputy Commissioner, Naga Hills, near the border between India and Myanmar. How wonderful would it be to see it flowering en masse in the wild! Then in complete contrast we have 2 of the miniature 'Bee' group, *Rhododendron* 'Golden Bee' and *R.* 'June Bee'. At Woodbank, these have been planted in multiples so that they form a large low clump of colour. Still to come into flower are *R.* 'Wee Bee' and *R.* 'Too Bee'. It's hard to walk past these 2 gorgeous whites, one with green spots in the throat of the flower, *R.* 'Dora Amateis', and the other with maroon spots, *R.* 'Sir Charles Lemon'. And finally *R. lutescens* is worth a mention, with its long upturned stamens. With a wetter cooler spring predicted this year, November in the garden should be spectacular.



## OTHER EVENTS

Two Open Gardens in Kingston  
18th October

Sojourn, 173 Redwood Road,  
Kingston  
Betula, 2 Bowral Court, Kingston  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
\$10 entry for both gardens

Brochure attached last newsletter

2020 RHHS Rose and Iris Show  
Hobart Town Hall  
Friday 6th November 12 to 5pm  
Saturday 7th November 10 am to 4 pm

For those interested in entering blooms the categories are very limited this year.

1 truss rhododendron  
1 container vireya rhododendron  
1 spray azalea

Entries can be staged between 6 and 9pm on Thursday 5th Nov.  
Own bottles required.

### Open Garden

Saturday 10th October 10am - 4 pm 8 Kandos Drive, Otago Bay. Entry \$10 includes Devonshire tea with homemade treats. Plant Stall, trade table available. See attached brochure for further details.

### Karina's garden

Saturday 24th October open 2 - 4pm 2020 Huon Road, Longley



**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP** is now due. This can be paid at the Annual General Meeting or by posting a cheque, made payable to **Australian Rhododendron Society Inc. Southern Tasmania Branch** and mailed to the Treasurer, Lorraine Grewcoe, Clarendon Vale House, Clarendon Vale Tas 7019

Payment can also be made by Direct Deposit to **BSB: 067000 Account No. 28026437**

**Account Name:** Australian Rhododendron Society. Include your surname. Please send an email to Lorraine advising that you have made the payment. [lgrewcoe@bigpond.net.au](mailto:lgrewcoe@bigpond.net.au)

### EXECUTIVE FOR 2020/2021

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**Committee**

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Lesley Eaton, Anne Cruise, Doreen Gill, Peter Boyd