

Tasmanian Rhododendron and Rare Plant Group Inc.

PO Box 80, Battery Point 7004

Newsletter - May 2021



COMING EVENTS

GARDEN VISIT — Sunday 2nd May

Venue: Joy and Ted's garden 2958 Channel Highway, Kettering (next to the Steamhouse cafe).

Time: **2-00 pm** This garden is 1 year old and in the construction phase. Park in the cricket ground car park. Walk across road up the drive past the blue native hibiscus to the house at the top. If possible this is a SHOES OFF house if we are inside. There will be a short meeting, a very short talk about the garden, talk about autumn colour and TV slides, afternoon tea, auction and a blooms, leaves display — one per person. For the blooms display we ask you to bring one specimen bloom (in a bottle is best) for discussion. It can be anything from big and beautiful to a miniature cyclamen, a bloom for identification, an autumn bulb or some colourful autumn leaves. There will be a small prize for peoples choice. A plate for afternoon tea and a contribution for the auction would be appreciated. There will also be a raffle. Please ring Joy on **0419351002** if you need to drop stuff off as parking is tight near the house. It takes 30 mins from Hobart to Kettering.

AUTUMN COLOUR CAR TRIP — taking 15 mins

If you are a little early heading to Joy's place how about a driving tour of 15 mins to visit south Hobart's lovely autumn colour.

Head up Davey street toward the mountain to Linton Avenue and turn right down Darcy street to Macquarie street. The city council about 20 years ago, planted street trees along this street and in other streets in the area and they are looking stunning at the moment. When you get to Macquarie St turn left and head to the brewery. At the top end of Cascade Gardens on the corner near the brewery there is a stunning pistachio as well as other plants.

Continue back to the Southern Outlet (turning right at the chemist on Macquarie St). Along the Channel Hwy on the road to Kettering look out for the oak at Margate and Snug has some lovely colour. There are also avenues of red maples. It is a lovely drive.

May 27th **Committee meeting.** Time 2:00 pm at Ken Gillanders, 1 Willowbend Road, Kingston.

June 13th **General meeting** at Ken's
Presentation by Ken on Chile
More information in our June newsletter.

No committee meeting - NO JULY NEWSLETTER

July 11th **Mid-year luncheon** - Botanical Gardens. 12 noon

July 29th **Committee meeting**



Acer japonicum 'Fairy Lights'

In My (Adopted) Garden by Jenny Skinner

This time last year I featured the flowering of the many *Calluna vulgaris* (Scotch heather) cultivars in a large bed wholly dedicated to this plant. These were all single flowered cultivars but a few weeks ago, we came across two more rather special ones growing elsewhere in the garden. Both are double flowered cultivars, one white and one pale pink. The white double is 'Kinlochruel', a lovely evocative Scottish name and the double pink is the somewhat less romantically named 'Peter Sparkes'. One of the single purples is also putting on a good show on the slope below the house, where it has obviously spread very successfully over the years and makes a colourful and hardy ground cover.

Another discovery made lately was the identification of a very vigorous climbing plant, *Kadsura japonica*, that had previously either not flowered or we'd just not noticed it. It has a small creamy white magnolia-like flower followed by red berries. It was originally planted as the variegated form but the plant has now predominately lost this variegation. While doing a review of one of beds last week I came across a climber that I'd originally identified as *Jasminum beesianum* but looking at the leaf I realised it couldn't be that species. This one has a pinnate leaf and although it's not flowering at the moment, I had taken a photo last December and this confirmed it as *Jasminum x stephanense*, interesting on account of it being the only known jasmine hybrid. It grows with the parents (*J. beesianum* and *J. officinale*) in the wild in Yunnan and has a lovely pale pink fragrant flower.

One of the highlights of this time of the year in Tasmania, is the changing of colour of the deciduous beech, *Nothofagus gunnii*. This tree is notoriously hard to propagate and even when you get one growing, it's hard to give it the conditions that it likes to thrive, away from its natural high altitude habitat. The tree growing at Woodbank did not survive but there are many other non-native *Nothofagus* species that are just as colourful, growing happily in the garden. But I must say that one of my favourites is a miniature version of the tall New Zealand red beech, *Nothofagus fusca*. This is a small rounded bush with exquisitely coloured leaves all year round, *Nothofagus fusca* 'Rainbow'.

Of course the Japanese maples are putting on their usual spectacular show, none more so than the two *Acer palmatum dissectum* 'Garnet' in the waterfall bed. Lastly a big thank you to David the (temporarily) resident English arborist who has been working his magic at Woodbank again over the past few weeks, seen here standing in front of a magnificent specimen of *Acer palmatum dissectum* 'Seiryu', which in a few days time will have turned a brilliant red. Don't you just love autumn!



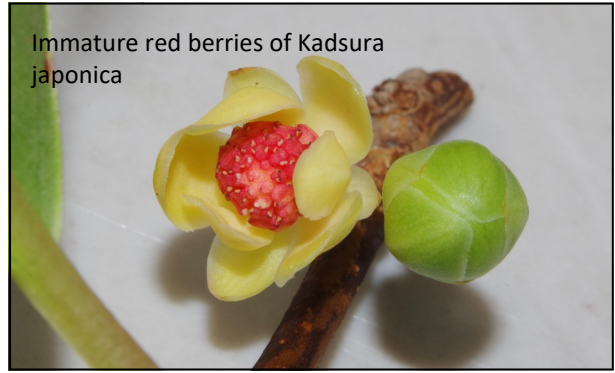
1. *Calluna vulgaris* 'Kinlochruel'
2. *Calluna vulgaris* 'Peter Sparkes'
3. Purple heather on the slope below house



SPECIAL NOTE: In the event of a garden cancellation all Members will be notified by email as was done on the last occasion but unfortunately not seen by all. We advise that if in doubt for any reason please ring the garden host (number will be provided in newsletter details) or ring the President or Secretary.



Kadsura japonica



Immature red berries of Kadsura japonica



Jasminum x stephanense



David and Acer palmatum dissectum 'Seiryu'



Nothofagus fusca 'Rainbow'

In My Adopted Garden photos by Jenny

Below: Cyclamens in Ken's garden
Photo by Dorothy



MEMBER'S GARDEN FEATURE

Flowering now in Ken's garden - photos by Ken

Lardizabala bitinata also known as (*Lardizabala funaria*) is a native of Chile and is found in the central and southern forests. It is a hardy easy to grow climber with attractive evergreen foliage and unusual chocolate-coloured flowers. In bud it is also interesting they hang in bunches looking like pearls, but these are the same colour as the open flowers. Most individual plants are dioecious with male and female on separate plants I cannot see the difference between them. The large purple and sausage-shaped fruit is known as Zabala fruit in Chile and is sweet and highly sort after when ripe. Seed is the best method to propagate it as cuttings are exceedingly difficult to root.



Dimorphanthera alpina always flowers at this time of the year. It is an evergreen climber but with strong pruning can be kept as a shrub. It has large deep green attractive leaves and is a native to New Guinea. There are very few plants from N G growing in gardens in Australia in fact I can not think of any others at this stage. Its showy tubular flowers are produced in clusters and are white tipped with deep pink when first opening. It is an Ericaceous plant and prefers an acid soil rich in humus. I was surprised that it has stood up to our frosts which will burn any fresh new growth, but it will grow back ok.



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