

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004



COMING EVENTS

March 7th

General meeting - 7.30pm

Legacy House, 159 Macquarie St., Hobart

Main talk: The Long Hot Summer - are you SO over it - bring on Autumn ASAP. Ken will lead a discussion on 'surviving drought conditions'. Most will have a story to relate of their gardening experiences this summer, of the plants that have been lost and the ones that may or may not be still alive. Hopefully we can discuss our experiences and learn how we might just be able to save those weary specimens.

Short talk: 'The Survival of Gretal' by Lesley Gillanders - now what could that be about?

March 17th

Garden Gathering at Jubilee Nursery

69 Jubilee Road, Cascades (6223 2116)

Time: 2pm. Please bring a plate

We will have a mini auction and a contribution would be appreciated.

Joy may also have a few plants available later - a separate arrangement of course.

March 21st

Committee meeting at the home of Rhondda Bull,

2039 Huon Road, Longley

6pm at Beachside Hotel, Kingston Beach

(Please note: This is a week earlier than our regular meeting date.)

April 4th

General Meeting - 7.30pm

Legacy House, 159 Macquarie St., Hobart

Meeting Agenda - 7th March 2013

Apologies

Minutes of the last general meeting

Matters arising from previous minutes

Correspondence

Treasurer's report

Other business

Problems in the garden

Short talk by Lesley Gillanders

Main talk - Surviving drought conditions - led by Ken Gillanders

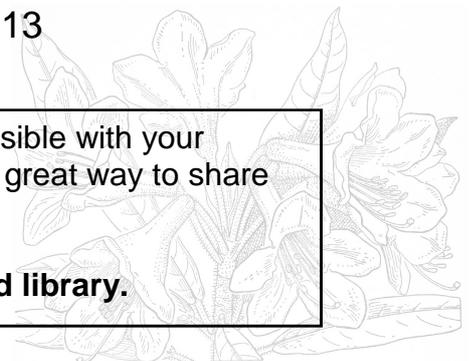
Blooms competition - will continue. Bring along your best 'parched' blooms (only joking).

Hopefully some of you will have something worthy of display. I did notice some nerines announcing the arrival of autumn - they have no doubt enjoyed the warmer conditions.

Auction - only possible with your contributions but a great way to share those treasures.

Raffle as usual.

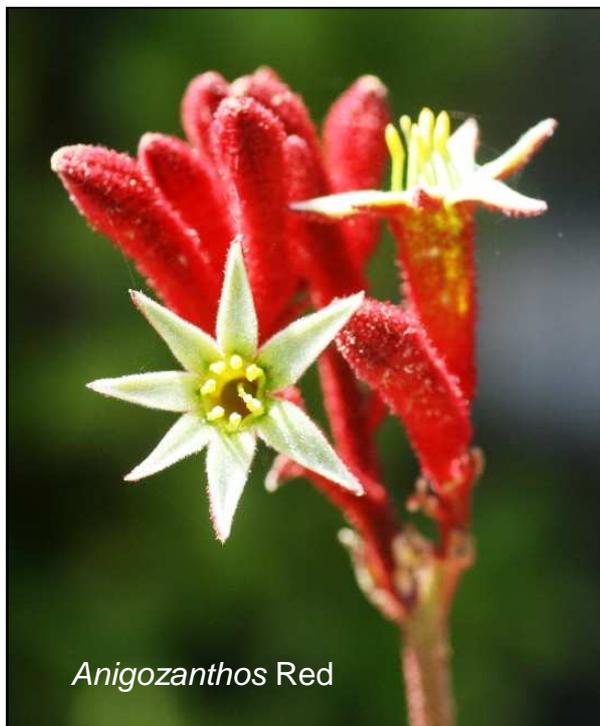
Refreshments and library.



IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

As we approach March our garden will be thankful that autumn is coming with cooler days and hopefully more rain to soak down to the subsoil. After weeks of drought conditions a few heavy showers gently penetrated the surface of the garden at the end of January. It has not been a good year to establish a new garden and we have lost a few plants but on the whole we have survived very well.

Allium beesianum is a small flowering onion of intense blue and growing only to 10cm high. *Crocosmia* and *Rigidella orthantha* have finished producing their red flowers. The botanists in their wisdom have changed the name of the *Rigidella* to *Tigridia orthantha*.



There are 4 corms of *Cyclamen graecum* in one of the troughs. The lovely pink reflexed flowers are welcome at this quiet time of the year for colour and the marbled leaves are one of the most attractive in the genus. For the first time Ken has succeeded in growing a glorious deep blue *Delphinium*. It was too windy up at Longley. Of course slugs and snails love them but these vermin have not got into that garden bed.



Nerines started producing their lovely spidery flowers in all shades of pinks. Our collections will take time to build up in quantity to how they were in our previous garden. Mention of the spidery flowers puts me in mind to warn everyone of white tailed spiders. Ken had a sore toe and when we inspected it we found a hole on the side of his second toe against the big toe. The doctor said "It's a corn" After two weeks of antibiotics and twice weekly dressings we said "No way a corn. It's a spider bite" Two months later he agreed it was a spider bite which was not healing so he said "Back to the old fashioned remedy – Manuka Honey" After two weeks it healed over. It took well over three months, twice weekly to the doctor and on Kens part frustration at not being able to bear his boots on so he could get on with gardening.

The *Lilium* bed had a succession of flowers over several weeks culminating in *L. auratum* and some of its hybrids, plus *L. speciosum* in a good deep magenta red colour. The small flowered species were the most charming. One of these was *L. callosum* with orange-red flowers, a yellow form and a cream form. Also *L. parvum hollidayi* is another little treasure with pink flowers. *Lilium nepalense* has spread into a thicket of 50 or so stems. Four of them produced



Lilium parvum hollidayi



Lilium auratum platyphllum

flowers this year and I expect most of the others will next year.

There is a large plant of a *Leucospermum* in the side garden. It has been quite spectacular with large rounded heads of orange flowers like a Waratah. This genus seems to like hot dry spots so Ken has planted a few at the end of the drive near the road. There are 4 plants of a green flowered *Anigosanthos* here, known as Kangaroo Paws (pic. P. 2). The flowering stems are over 1 m high. A bright orange one and a yellow one are in another garden bed.

The climbing Rose which we kept until we knew what it was produced masses of white flowers and was identified as *Rosa* 'Wedding Day' It was so spectacular it earned a reprieve for the time being but a flat tyre on the ride-on mower has produced a rethink on its

permanence. The repair man told us he had already repaired 12 other ride-on tyres all caused by rose thorns. Ken is extremely pleased with the growth on *Paulownia kawakamii* 'Sapphire Dragon' It is now taller than he is in just a few weeks from when he planted it in October. At that time it was only 30cm high.



In My Garden by Lesley Gillanders (continued)

We bought a plant some months ago of a Nellie Kelly black passionfruit but it did not grow until he noticed it was grafted onto a banana passionfruit and the stock had taken over. We bought another plant which went into a different spot and already is 2 m high. He is looking forward to a pavlova with his own passionfruit on it. I prefer raspberries so we will have to compromise.

We are "babysitting" a hive of bees for our son David. He had a second swarm which needed to be a good distance from the hive that he has. They are a quiet strain of bee and we sat and watched them one day as they went in and out of the hive. I guess we will get lots of seed set when any flowers open.

We hope to succeed with some pumpkin seedlings we bought. They are growing well. Ken found some potatoes on the far side of the garden and got a bucket full of potatoes from it. What with passionfruit, raspberries, pumpkin, potatoes and sugar peas, anyone would think we are going in for sustainable farming.

YOUR EXECUTIVE

President	Lesley Eaton	6267 9961
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Secretary	Debbie Farmilo	6229 3001
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Social Secretary	Gill Fitzgerald	6234 4752

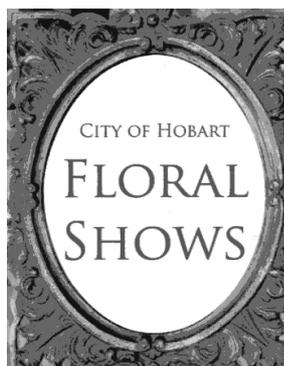


Committee

Gill Fitzgerald	6234 4752
Lesley Gillanders	6239 6455
Karina Harris	6239 6048
Rhonda Bull	6239 6416
Doreen Gill	6239 1124

RUSTICA \$2.00 per kg

Available at meeting
See Ken



*Dahlia, Gladiolus & Floral
Art Show*

Fri 8 March 1pm - 6pm
Sat 9 March 10am - 4.30pm

Hobart Town Hall