

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004



COMING EVENTS

April 4th

General meeting - 7.30pm

Legacy House, 159 Macquarie St., Hobart

Main talk: The 'Fabulous foliage' of the rhododendron. In his book '*Exceptional Plants*', Stephen Ryan, referred to the rhododendron as 'just green blobs' when not in flower. Most of us would probably not agree. Which rhododendron do **you** favour for spectacular foliage. Is it the new growth, the colour or shape of the leaf, shiny/dull or is it that the foliage enhances the flower. Bring foliage and/or photos to support your favourite 'fabulous foliage' specimen.

Short talk: Lesley Gillanders will enlighten us on the values of the species *R. pachysanthum*. (To start with I think it has 'fabulous foliage'.)

April 14th

Garden Gathering will be at Phil and Di Cooper's
37 Glenlusk Road, Berriedale

Time: 2pm. Please bring a plate as usual.

Phil has kindly agreed to host our group but Di will be away so we need to be independent.

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

April 25th

Committee meeting at Ken and Lesley's

1 Willowbend Road, Kingston Ph 6229 3001

BYO meal - 6.30pm

May 2nd

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 - The 'fabulous foliage' of the rhododendron.

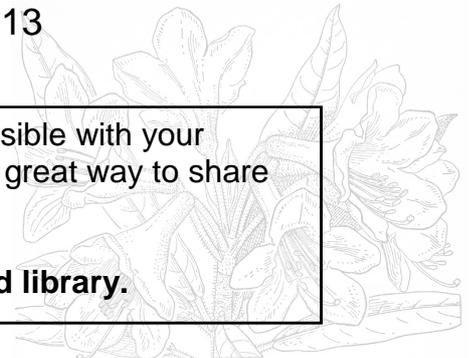
Blooms competition - You can bring up to (3) three blooms for each section ie. Rhododendrons and/or Blooms other than Rhododendrons. They will be judged as they were last year but we may also have a Peoples Choice.

Blooms on Display - autumn colour, bulbs - even if you only have one specimen - bring it along.

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

An early morning storm of crashing thunder and lightning woke us up in mid February. We lay awake in our cosy cocoon listening with relief to the 10ml of rain soaking into the parched garden before we drifted back into dreamland for another hour or two. Later when we went out into the garden it looked fresh and moist. The creek had a good flow of water rushing through it and over the small waterfall before disappearing into the drain which runs under the road. A few hours later there was only a tiny trickle left as the creek relies on run-off from the few houses above us which are on the side of the hill.

The past summer saw us enjoying a succession of colours as several *Lilium* produced their lovely blooms at the same time as the *Rigidella* and *Crocsmia* flowers.



As their petals faded, *Dahlia* 'Clarion' opened the first of their yellow flowers which contrasted so well with the bronze foliage. We have another one with bronze foliage but this one, with good red flowers, is quite spectacular. *Haemanthus humilis var hirsutus*, a South African bulb, produced a pretty pink bloom rather like an upturned paint brush with lots of bristles. *H. albiflos* is another species we have which we raised from seed imported from South Africa twenty years ago. This bulb has white flowers and is similar to the former one with hairy silvery leaves. We struggled for years at Longley to grow it in a warm position but now it has a new home in a hot dry spot and is coming on well.



The *Helianthemum*, which have been planted in the pockets of the retaining wall near the garage, have settled in and there have been a scattering of flowers in pinks, yellow and white. *Gladiolus saundersii* had one spike of red flowers. This is very pretty with the three top petals light red and the three lower ones being white with red speckles. A little later *G. watsonioides* produced three spikes, also of red flowers but with a lemon throat. The *Rosa* 'Wedding Day' is still with us and has been heavily pruned but it will go when dormant in winter. There was another climbing rose at the eastern end of the house. It was extremely spiky and vigorous – too much so and has now been consigned to the rubbish tip. Oh dear - hope there will be some cuttings available when 'Wedding Day' is banished. ED.



Philadelphus 'Sybille' and *P.* 'Belle Etoile' although only small plants at the present time, had a few out of season white flowers. I love the perfume of the flowers on these two hybrids. We had two little stems of *Sandersonia aurantiaca* with three or four golden bells on them, rather like an enlarged Lily of the Valley flower. I will watch for the seed on these so we can plant a few more bulbs around the garden.



A very pretty summer flower is *Cypella herbertii*. The yellow blooms last only one day but produce a succession of flowers over several weeks.

The raspberries finished fruiting and the pumpkin plant has spread about 20m with 4 pumpkins so far. It is a grey variety and the Queensland Blue variety in another area is also

growing vigorously. There is a small raised triangular bed at the end of the back patio. The strawberry plants in it had virus in them so they were discarded. Ken has replanted the bed with small mixed bulbs just scattered over it and covered. A *Cyclamen hederifolium* was the first to appear, the leaves will look good in this spot. Probably the other little mixed bulbs may take a year or two to reach flowering size.

Ken has been setting up an automatic watering system for the greenhouse. It will also water the plants in the little shadehouse beside it. Eventually he will get sprinklers through the garden and save the time spent on hand watering.

The blackbirds are scratching out the bulbs beside the steep steps faster than I can re-plant them. The rat trap with a red cherry caught a few tail feathers only and kept the birds away for a week.

A variety of rhododendron foliage - is your favourite here?



YOUR EXECUTIVE

President	Lesley Eaton	6267 9961
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Vice President	Ken Gillanders	6229 2351
Secretary	Debbie Farmilo	6229 3001
	<i>mdwj@bigpond.com</i>	
Treasurer	Lorraine Grewcoe	6247 7774
	<i>lgrewcoe@bigpond.net.au</i>	
Public Officer	Phil Cooper	6249 8717
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Librarian	Rhondda Bull	6239 6416
Social Secretary	Gill Fitzgerald	6234 4752



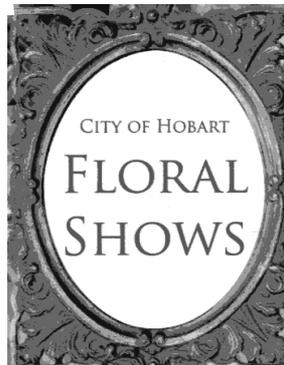
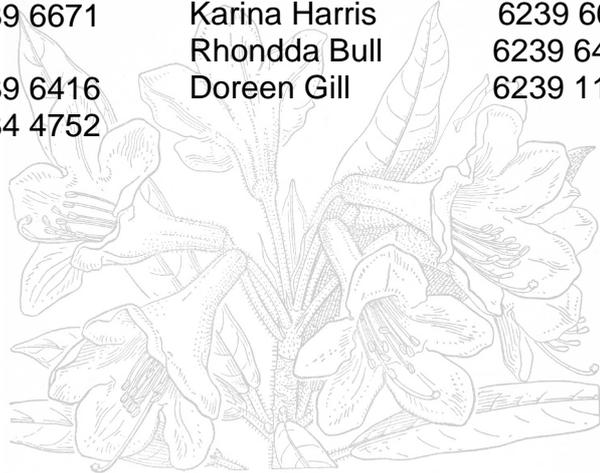
Committee

Gill Fitzgerald	6234 4752
Lesley Gillanders	6229 2351
Karina Harris	6239 6048
Rhondda Bull	6239 6416
Doreen Gill	6239 1124

RUSTICA \$2.00 per kg

Available at meeting

See Ken



Chrysanthemum & Floral

Art Show

Fri 3 May	1pm - 6pm
Sat 4 May	10am - 4.30pm
Sun 5 May	10am - 4pm

Hobart Town Hall

MAIN TALK TOPICS

We are seeking your help for suggestions for our Main Talks. In recent years the number of large gardens featuring rhododendrons has diminished somewhat and as a result our 'knowledge bank' from which we drew our speakers has also declined. Whilst we need to remain focused on 'the rhododendron' as our topic, we cannot expect to draw on the same people each month. Since our meetings have also reduced in size, group discussions seem to work well but even for those we need input for topics. PLEASE give it some thought. What aspect of the rhododendron would you like to know more about? Jot down some ideas and have them ready for discussion at our next meeting.