

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004



COMING EVENTS

- May 2nd** **General Meeting** - 7.30pm
Legacy House, 159 Macquarie St., Hobart
Short talk: Dorothy's turn to research a favourite rhododendron.
Main talk: Barry Davidson will give a presentation of his recent trip to Costa Rica. It will no doubt feature exotic orchids and Barry may even have some interesting travel stories.
- 12th May** **Garden Gathering** at Crawleighwood,
51 Underwoods Road, Nichols Rivulet
From Huonville take the B68 through Cygnet, then left turn onto the C626 and travel approx. 6ks to Underwoods Road. (0408 127 189 if lost)
Time 2pm. Tea and coffee will be available - please bring a plate. There will not be an auction. Penny and Pav are currently establishing a permanent nursery site and you will be invited to view the work being undertaken. There may be some plants for sale.
- JUNE and JULY** There will not be a general meeting in June or July but we will have a **Garden Gathering** in June and a **luncheon** in July.
- June 9th** **Garden Gathering** will be at Joan Wilcox's
1/22 Lachlan Drive, Mt Nelson. Ph: 6223 3402
Time 2pm. Please bring a plate.
There will be a plant auction. A contribution would be appreciated.
- July 14th** **Luncheon** - time and place to be determined. Possibly Southern Lights in Kingston but not confirmed. Other suggestions welcome.
- July 25th** **Committee meeting** at Dorothy Lanes
86 Betts Road, Neika Ph. 6239 6671
6pm at Beachside Hotel, Kingston Beach
- August 1st** **AGM** followed by **General Meeting**

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

I recently listened to a podcast which came via the Rhododendron species foundation in Seattle Washington USA,

It was of Steve Hootman RSF Director being interviewed by a gardening Radio Talkback host in Portland Oregon. The topic was of course Rhododendrons and was a wide reaching Q&A session.

I will send out the link via email to as many Rhododaphnes as I have on my address list as well but here it is in print if you know how to put it into the task bar on the internet. <http://rhodygarden.org/cms/live-interview-with-steve-hootman/>

I hope it gives you all some inspiration to come and hear him in October on the weekend of the 19th and 20th. Steve will be our guest speaker on the Saturday evening which will be a combination of the Convention Dinner and the Alan Kerr Grant memorial lecture.

I am writing this in early April and will be leaving to attend the Rhododendron Species Conservation Group Conference in Edinburgh later this month. This will be a response to the Red List put out in 2010 and will have representatives from all the Rhododendron species growing interest groups of the world.

On my return I will send out a précis and in October I will be able to give more comprehensive report at our annual convention.

For all delegates of national council there will be teleconference in early may details of which have been sent. If you have any concerns you wish raised please let them know.

All the best with your Rhodos .

Rob Hatcher

I managed to download this successfully and found it to be an interesting interview. There was particular reference to the variety of foliage among the species which was very relevant to our group discussion at our last meeting. Editor

Hi all

The new domain for the Australian Rhododendron society is now operational.

While there is still more that will be added there is an awful lot on it already.

Check it out! @ rhododendron.com.au

Regards

Rob

Above: Email from Rob Hatcher



BLOOMS COMPETITION

Congratulations!
Pat Mavromatis and Karina Harris shared
the top score with equal points.

Anne Cruise won People Choice with a most
delicate fuchsia - white, with the faintest tinge
of pink edging the petals. Congratulations to
Anne.

RAFFLE

Rhododendron 'Mayday' was won by
Finton Downham (finally Finton got some-
thing free!!)

RUSTICA

Due to inevitable price increases
Rustica will now be **\$2.50 per kg**
Available at meeting - see Ken

At our last meeting we discussed 'fabulous foliage' of the rhododendron. Between Joy and Karina we had a good selection of leaves from the EXTRA large to the VERY small. Many had indumentum, a woolly or hairy covering mostly found on the underside of the leaf and is considered by many 'collectors' to be a worthy feature.

As a result of our discussion Members present collated a list of what they considered to be the 12 best foliage plants. They do not necessarily have the best flower. In fact whilst the species have the greatest variation in foliage their blooms are more likely to be pale in colour and insignificant. The hybrids however, may be big, blousy and bright but can lack variation in the foliage.

Species

- augustinii
- obiculare
- pachysanthum
- spiciferum
- williamsianum
- yackushmanum
- (all varieties known as 'the yaks')

3 species with good leaves and flowers



3 Hybrids with good leaves and flowers

Hybrids

- Cilpinense
- Florence Mann
- Rubicon
- Taurus
- Whispering Rose
- Tyermanii



Deciduous azaleas were also considered to be excellent for autumn colour



New foliage is yet another attribute



IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

As autumn progressed *Nerines* opened their brilliant flowers in several shades of pink. *N. 'Adelaide'* was the first to flower for us, then *N fothergilla major* with lovely spangled vermillion flowers. We brought one bulb of *Brunsvigia* 'Josephinae' with us – wish we had brought more. Luckily it flowered and had an impressive large wheel of red flowers which to our surprise set some seed. The two *Camellias* in the same bed along the drive at the front of the house have been put through the shredder and that section of the garden has been replanted. *Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Frisia' with striking golden foliage and *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' with large purple leaves were installed in the same bed several weeks ago.



Metasequoia glyptostroboides "Gold Rush" where it is planted as a feature in the side garden above the house has come on well and is now one and a half metres high. A recent planting of *Acer palmatum* 'Senkaki' is brightening up the top corner of the garden with lovely orange-red shades as the leaves feel the cooler autumn days. Two large trees we purchased in late March – *Gleditsia triacanthos* and *Acer rubrum* 'October Glory' have been planted in the eastern end of the garden where we hope they will fill out over time and screen out the road which runs beside us.

Some jobs never go as planned! One day at the end of summer we hired a man with a "Dingo Digger" to come and cut a drain along the top fence so Ken could lay in a black drainage pipe to collect and run excess ground water away from the garden. Our friend Barry came to help Ken lay the pipe and fill in the trench. All went well until the last four metres and then a fountain of water shot up in the air as the machine hit a water pipe. Instantly a swift flowing stream developed with the machine operator trying desperately to channel the stream out to the road where it could do no harm. Meanwhile Ken hastily rang Southern Water and four men came and searched for a tap to turn off the water - it was not our connection to the house. Eventually, after half an hour of searching, they traced it to an unknown pipe and tap - unknown to them and unknown to us – in the top corner and turned it off. The cut pipe runs through the middle of our top lawn, to an unknown destination. They said if someone runs out of water they will know where it goes as it is not in their records.

***Cyclamen hederifolium* Ruby Red**



Cyclamen hederifolium 'Ruby Red' has been having a battle to survive as blackbirds churned up the corner where they are planted. *Narcissus cyclamineus* have been replanted several times along with *Anemone blanda*. Our resin owl which is suspended over the corner no longer frightens the birds nor do the computer discs which dangle from a string. The autumn flowering Snowdrop, *Galanthus reginae olgae*, has managed to produce their pretty little flowers in this corner. A little bit of wire netting has deterred the blackbirds from scratching out the seedlings of a white *Cyclamen hederifolium*.



Galanthus reginae -olgae

Crocus longiflorus has brightened up the last few days with blue-mauve flowers, also a *Crocus* which we have labelled as coming from the rock garden but looks like *C. hadriaticus*. *Oxalis masonorum* is quite pretty with bright orange flowers in a very neat tight bun. Most people shudder at the thought of an *Oxalis* in their garden but this little one is very well behaved.

We sit in the lounge at the end of the day and look out onto the garden at the back of the house as it slopes uphill, where a few weeks ago the *Eucryphia x nymansensis* 'Nymansay', although only one and a half metres high, had five white flowers. Late one day three New Holland honeyeaters descended on the bush after nectar. Their weight had the little plant swaying around with Ken fearful it would break.

The steep steps which went up from the patio at the back of the house have now been eliminated. Ken has worked extremely hard in dismantling them and terracing a new garden section between the flowering Cherries. The access to the top garden will be via a ramp to be built on the eastern end of the patio.

Crocus longiflorus



Oxalis masonorum



Meeting Agenda - 2nd May 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 Dorothy Lane - a 'Favourite Rhododendron'

Main talk by Barry Davidson on his recent trip to Costa Rica

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. Peoples Choice was considered successful and will be continued.

Blooms on Display - possibly a little harder to find something in the garden now though there may still be some autumn colour. Surprise us with something special.

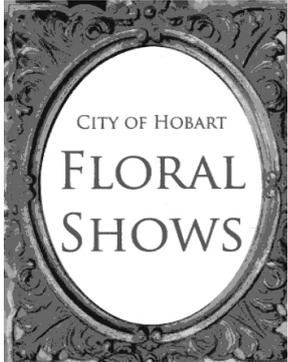
Auction - usually the highlight of the evening, particularly when Finton arrives and boy does he boost our sales!! Please bring your contribution - Finton may need it!

Raffle

Library There is a large selection of excellent books available in our library

Refreshments





Chrysanthemum & Floral
Art Show

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

Hobart Town Hall

YOUR EXECUTIVE

President	Lesley Eaton	6267 9961
	<i>lesley.eaton@bigpond.com</i>	
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
Newsletter editor	Dorothy Lane	6239 6671
	<i>djlane67@bigpond.com</i>	
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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

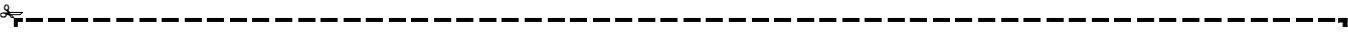
Our Annual General Meeting will be held on the 1st August 2013 at 7.30pm prior to our General Meeting. Debbie Farmilo is unable to continue as Secretary and all other positions are due for renewal. **Please** consider. New faces and fresh ideas are always welcome even just as a Committee Member.

Subscription renewals will be due in August 2013



NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2013/14

I nominate
for position of
Proposer.....Seconded by
I am willing to accept the nomination.....



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