

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004

COMING EVENTS

- April 12th** **Propagation day and meeting** - aerial layering
 Venue: Ken and Lesley Gillanders
 1 Willowbend Road, Kingston
 Time: 2pm
 Please bring something for afternoon tea.
 More information p.4
- April 30th** Committee meeting
 Venue - to be advised
 5.45 Kingston Hotel
 Cnr Channel H'way and Beach Road
- May 9th** **Garden gathering** - venue to be advised
(SATURDAY) This has been changed as Sunday is Mothers Day
- May 28th** Committee meeting
- June 14th** **Garden gathering and meeting** - venue to be advised
- June** **No committee meeting**
- July 12th** **Mid-year luncheon**
 Keep this day free for our luncheon gathering. Partners welcome.



March Blooms Competition

Anne Cruise won the Rhododendron section
Joy Stones won Blooms other than Rhododendrons
Karina Harris won Peoples Choice with a gorgeous lily

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THREE

Raffle Winner

Rhododendron Fastuosum Flore
 Pleno was won by
Peter Boyd

IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

With Summer behind us we look ahead to what the weather will bring us in Autumn. As we cannot change this we accept what comes, maybe with a grumble here and there or a sigh of relief as the anticipated but elusive rain gently soaks into our parched gardens.

Summer hardy perennials like *Salvia patens* which brightens the garden with brilliant deep blue flowers makes a lovely and lasting display of colour with the three plants we have. We have been gathering the seed as they ripen but some always fall to the ground and from last years fallen seed several little plants have established themselves which will flower next year. Ken has never been keen to grow annuals but *Schizanthus grahamii* has surprised us with its vigorous growth. The unusual colour combination of the flowers in yellow and crimson catches the eye.

The garden at the back of the house has been a constant problem as the blackbirds have constantly churned it up. The problem is solved. Ken has planted it with hundreds of *Cyclamen hederifolium*, *C.coum* and *C.persicum*. After this tedious job the bed was mulched with material from our chipper, then covered with bird netting and pegged down all round. Of course, some of the perennials are under it like *Hostas* and *Tricyrtis* but we have beaten the birds. The green netting does not offend the eye too much and the *Cyclamen* flowers have come up through it. It will be a massive job to take it off later. Perhaps it will stay there. Ken has isolated a deep purple *C. hederifolium* It has no contrasting colour on the "nose" and was raised from seed of a hybrid called *C.'Ruby Red'*

Our *Crocus vallicola* with creamy white flowers opened a week ago with long tapering upright petals. A little group of *C.pulchellus* in the front garden is in bloom. It has quite a pretty lavender coloured flower with delicate purple pencil thin lines on the interior of the petals. *Nerines* are always reliable. They have formed tight clumps which Ken will divide later. *N.fothergilli Major* and *N.'Adelaide'* are both in flower with bright orange-red sparkling blooms. *Colchicum speciosum album* has made a nice clump of large goblet-shaped flowers. It always appears later than *C.agrippinum* and *C.autumnale* which have been in flower for a few weeks.

The last of the *Lilium* to flower is *L.henryi* with light orange bloom. We have the upright growing form as opposed to the normal variety which tends to be very pendulous. A delightful little plant is *Oxalis massoniana*. The little bulbs have increased into a neat clump which is not invasive. The brilliant orange flowers sit tightly on the leaves.



I have mentioned before that *Helichrysum humile* is hard to grow and we had 6 plants earlier. A while ago we had only three left and now there is only one. If we lose this last plant it will be most unfortunate as we have been growing this species for nearly fifty years with no hope of access to any other known plant. Another *Helichrysum* which is easy to grow is *H.sutherlandi*. We collected seed of this species in South Africa. It likes a sunny well drained position and has an overpowering sweet scent. We also collected seed of *Wahlenbergia cuspidata* in Lesotho on the same trip. It has been a mass of colour light blue flowers not unlike a *Campanula*. It has made a dome-shaped plant about 45cm wide and 30cm high. We noticed the bees liked it so we are watching for seed.

Acer 'Esk Flamingo' is growing well. The colour of the red stem and variegated leaves are a good contrast against the green of the other shrubs. *Robinia* and *Gleditsia* are a delightful golden colour and brighten up the areas they grow in.

All pics by Ken



Robinia Frisea



Acer Esk Flamingo

Special get well wishes to Lesley Gillanders

On the 19th March Lesley had a nasty fall. Though bruised and battered she soldiered on and completed her article. However a week further down the track the pain had become unbearable, consequently Lesley had some time in hospital. (Hope you are home now Lesley). We are thinking of you.



Propagation day at Debbies on March 15th

This was a very busy day enjoyed by all. We had 18 members including two new members and three visitors. There was a good supply of rhododendrons for cuttings plus a great selection of other plant material. Ken gave a short demonstration on how to prepare cuttings, discussed suitable propagation mediums and rooting hormones, watering and general care. Then it was our turn. It was a hive of activity as we eagerly selected and prepared our cuttings. Ken and Joy were readily available to answer any queries. Our thanks to those who brought cutting material, to Ken and Debbie for organising the propagation medium and special thanks to Debbie for allowing us to make a huge mess in their garage. Great day!



Pics by Dorothy



MEETING - PROPAGATION DAY

12th APRIL 2015

There will be a short meeting conducted within the first half hour.

- ◆ **Blooms competition** - There are two sections (a) Rhododendrons and (b) Blooms other than Rhododendrons. You can bring up to three (3) blooms for each section. Blooms for the competition are best set up prior to 2pm. Please remember to bring your own vases/bottles. Judges will be Debbie and Lorraine. We will also continue to have **Peoples Choice**.
- ◆ **Short talk** by Joy Stones
There are many variations in the types of rhododendrons. Joy will once again discuss lepidotes and elipidotes - for the new members and for those of us who need a refresher. Who can remember???
- ◆ **Aerial propagation demonstration** by Ken Gillanders
You will not be required to take any equipment for this exercise. Ken tells me he has ample supplies of the 'spheres' required, including sufficient for you to be able to take some home and commence your own trials. However, if you are extremely anxious to get started you will need to have a supply of sphagnum moss on hand.
- ◆ **Question time** - will replace 'problems in the garden'. This will give members a chance to ask any garden related question and can of course include any problems you may have. Hopefully it will allow a broader range of topics and open discussion.
- ◆ **Auction** - Please bring a contribution for the plant auction. This is the time of year when you may be dividing iris or other perennials. Don't throw all the excess away, bring it along and add it to our auction.

YOUR EXECUTIVE

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Committee

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