

# AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004

## COMING EVENTS

**May 9th**  
**(SATURDAY)**

### Garden gathering

This has been changed as Sunday is Mothers Day  
'Gardens of Lucindale'  
Jo Saxon-Keith and John Keith  
320 Bakers Creek Road, Lucaston  
More details p. 4

**May 28th**

### Committee meeting

Ken and Lesley's  
1 Willowbend Road, Kingston 6229 2351  
6pm Harmony Chinese - Channel Court



**June 14th**

### General meeting

At Ken and Lesley's, 1 Willowbend Road, Kingston  
Main talk: Ken will give a talk on growing rhododendrons and will include a visual presentation of a selection of blooms.  
There will be the regular blooms competition, auction and raffle.

**June**

### No committee meeting

**July 12th**

### Mid-year luncheon

Keep this day free for our luncheon gathering. Partners welcome.

### April Blooms Competition

**Karina Harris** won Blooms other than Rhododendrons with 3 stunning colchicums  
There were no rhododendrons entered

**Gail Yellowley** won Peoples Choice with a David Austin rose namely 'New William Shakespeare'

### Raffle Winner

Rhododendron 'Sirius' was won by  
**Dorothy Lane**

### Bon Voyage

We wish Joy and Ted all the best for their seafaring adventure to the tropics. We hope they have an exciting but safe journey both there and return.



### Open Garden Scheme

A new system of Open Gardens has been established throughout Australia. For more information check out this web site.  
<http://www.myopengarden.com.au>

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome three new members to our Society. They are:  
Sally Duncan  
Kerry and Harry Van den Berg



We hope you enjoyed your afternoon at our last meet and we look forward to your company at future activities and garden visits.

## IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

We may think the garden is going to sleep for the winter but there is much activity going on both above and below the ground. The deciduous shrubs and trees are looking lovely with their autumn colours as they stop producing chlorophyll for their leaves and we are left with yellow, gold, red or orange on various plants before they gradually fall to make a colourful carpet through the garden.

*Acer henryi* which Ken planted less than three years ago is now nearly 3m high and turned a lovely orange before fading to deep yellow. It is right in the top corner of the garden and I can see it from the kitchen window. The golden *Metasequoia gyptostroboides* 'Gold Rush' is nearby but has a featured position in its own little round bed in the lawn. At present it is a lovely golden colour and is slowly turning to a rich russet colour before the foliage falls away.

At the edge of the rock garden Ken planted a *Malus ioensis*. Its autumn colour started at the top of the plant and over a few weeks it has progressively turned red and gold until the finally the green leaves on the lower branches also changed colour and eventually fell to the ground. *Rhus typhina* 'Dissecta' in the middle of the top garden bed is a brilliant red at present. This form has deeply dissected leaves. Three weeks ago it started to turn and is holding onto its leaves. It apparently will last a few weeks longer.

**Rhus typhina Dissecta**



**Metasequoia Goldrush**



**Acer henryi**

**Cornus alba**



**Aconitum napellus**



**Crocus mathewii**



**Crocus sativus cartwrightianus**

*Cornus alba* as you look at it has the appearance of a glowing light inside the shrub as the leaves slowly, from the base, turn red under the green leaves at the top of the many upright branches. As they fall away we will be left with the special attraction of this plant - brilliant red branches for the winter months.

The early bulbs are on the way with movements below the ground. Various autumn bulbs have already flowered and winter bulbs have their roots on the move before thrusting their longed for blooms through to the delight of the gardeners. The autumn flowered Snowdrop *Galanthus reginae-olgae* is always welcome with its white flowers marked with green.

A few *Crocus* have come up - *Crocus longiflorus* with deep lavender blue flowers.

*C.mathewii* has white flowers with deep purple-blue throat and *C. sativus* var *cartwrightianus*. This last mentioned has large white flowers and brilliant red stamens. These red stigma are the same as the Saffron Crocus - *C. sativus* from which the red Saffron is produced commercially. If you rub the stigma between your fingers it will stain them a Saffron colour.

At this time all the *Nerines* are finishing but the hybrid ones Ken crossed are in full flower with white striped pink blooms plus pinks and various shades of red. We call them *Nerine* 'Woodbank hybrids'.

*Aconitum napellus*, often called Monkshood, are over 1m high in the front garden. This poisonous plant has lovely intense deep blue hooded flowers. *Gentiana sino-ornata* never fails to produce its blue flowers. They have a white throat and there is also a pure white form. Each winter Ken lifts them when the flowering stems are dying off. these stems are cut off and the central crown can be pulled apart to make more individual plants and replanted.

## GARDEN GATHERING SATURDAY 9TH MAY 2015

Time: 2.00pm

Venue: Garden of Lucindale, 320 Bakers Creek Road, Lucaston.

Directions: From the Huon H'way (A6) just past Jackman's Bodyworks on the Grove straight, turn right into Lollara Road

After crossing the bridge take the right fork into Lucaston Road

Continue 2ks, take slight left into Bakers Creek Road

Destination is 3ks on right hand side.

This will be a garden visit only and will include afternoon tea. Garden costs will be covered by the Society but we ask you to contribute \$5 for the afternoon tea. This can be paid to Lorraine on the day.

So that we can provide our host with expected numbers could you please RSVP Dorothy on 6239 6671 or [djlane67@bigpond.com](mailto:djlane67@bigpond.com) by **Thursday 7th May**.

### April Meeting

Our April meeting was a great success with 21 Members attending. Joy entertained us for at least 15mins with her Short Talk, explaining the differences between lepidote and elipidote rhododendrons, but there were no complaints - we were all enjoying it immensely. Ken followed with an intriguing demonstration of aerial propagation using colourful plastic balls. He completely removed the bark from the stem, about 2 cms in length, which we all imagined would ringbark the limb but apparently not once the procedure is completed. It can then be dusted with a hormone powder if desired. The plastic ball is slit, damp sphagnum moss pushed into the ball, placed around the stem, filled with more moss then sealed with duct tape. It was suggested that Spring would be the best time when the sap is beginning to move. This is a **very** brief description just to give those who were unable to attend an idea of the procedure.

The Blooms Competition was not well supported, no doubt due to the time of year, however our auction was interesting as usual with some very feisty bidding.

### YOUR EXECUTIVE

President	Lesley Eaton	6267 9961
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Librarian	Rhonda Bull	6239 6416
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### Committee

Debbie Farmilo	6229 3001
Lesley Gillanders	6229 2351
Ken Gillanders	6229 2351
Karina Harris	6239 6048
Rhonda Bull	6239 6416
Doreen Gill	6239 1124
Anne Cruise	6244 2965