

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004

COMING EVENTS

June 14th

General meeting

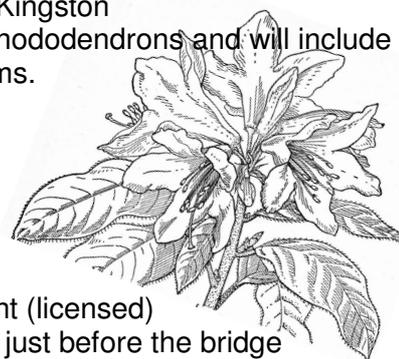
Time: 2pm

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.

Please bring something for afternoon tea.

More details p.4



June

No committee meeting

July 12th

Mid-year luncheon

This is to be held at Huon Manor Restaurant (licensed)

Main Road, Huonville - on right hand side just before the bridge

Time: 12 noon

Partners welcome

MENU

Your selection from our freshly roasted meats of Turkey, Pork and Beef served with a selection of vegetables, condiments to suit and salad

Dessert

Baked Huon Valley Apple or Vanilla Pannacotta with fruit coulis

2 courses for \$32 pp

Drip filter coffee included

RSVP: **Sunday 5th July**

Email: djlane67@bigpond.com or call Dorothy on 6239 6671

or text 0408 127 189. Also please advise any specific dietary requirements

July 30th

Committee meeting

Ken and Lesley's

1 Willowbend Road, Kingston 6229 2351

Time: 1.30pm (we've chickened out of the cold dark nights)

August 9th

AGM and General meeting

Venue to be advised

August 27th

Committee meeting

September 13th

Garden gathering

A special vireya treat at Kaye and Gordon Hagan's

More details later.

IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

A few frosty mornings recently curtailed the enthusiasm for an early sojourn in the garden which is looking rather bare now all the autumn leaves have fallen. A few deep blue flowers are lingering on some *Salvia patens*. These are on small self-sown seedlings from last year and a late flowering *Nerine* is in full bloom with large heads of flowers in a delightful shade of pink. We cannot find a label so it remains unnamed.



Salvia patens

This week Ken has tidied up the last of the old *Lilium* stems and other perennials. The garden looks much neater now with several barrow loads going onto the heap of rubbish to go through the shredder. He has removed all the rock edging from the front garden beds and replaced them with a synthetic strip we got from Shiploads. Most of the rocks have gone up to making an extension on the rock garden. The tiered beds have been laid out and now we wait on the placement of a little waterfall and pool. This is to be done with a solar powered recycling pump. Then the planting will be undertaken.

Kens passion for growing from seed and cuttings finds he needs more room to grow all the new treasures. There is already a full tray of seed pots which have come up and another two trays have been brought out of the greenhouse to experience a cold period and hope they will shoot in the spring.

Tecophilium cyanocrocus have amazed us by flowering at this time and not waiting for Spring. They are in four hypertufa boxes against the house wall where they are warm and pick up any sun. Several boxes of smaller bulbs are showing no sign of any growth where they are stored on the other side of the creek. We gave one of our neighbours a surplus plant of *Daphne bholua* we had when we made this new garden three years ago. This week we see her plant is covered with flowers and we have not one bloom.

We have a permit from Kingborough Council to remove a large *Eucalyptus* tree which overhangs our garage. It will be done in the next few weeks along with four other surplus trees. Ken has had several quotes and now, after several weeks delay of looking after me after my fall, must decide which contractor to employ to do the job. The tops will be shredded and the stumps will be ground out so there will be plenty of mulch and more garden room.

Monnina revoluta one of the two varieties we collected in Ecuador has grown into a large shrub. *M. pulchra* is smaller and more compact. Both have clusters of tiny deep blue-purple and yellow flowers with a light honey perfume. *Dianthus* 'Romance' still manages to produce a couple of its fragrant pink flowers. *Salvia corrugata*, which we also collected in Ecuador, seems to always have some deep blue terminal heads of flowers open. I always bruise the leaves to enjoy the fragrance of them. Our main plant is next to a lemon tree which was here and has masses of fruit. The *Salvia* is getting too big and will have to be moved to another area. Next to the *Salvia* is an *Agonis flexuosa* 'Variegata'. I expected it to be frost tender but Ken thought it would be all right as he kept it in the greenhouse until it reached over half a metre high, then he planted it out. Now it is over a metre high and has survived several frosts so it will continue to grow well.



Monnina revoluta



Monnina pulchra



Salvia corrugata

Another plant with blue flowers is *Alyogyne huegelii*, a native plant from Western Australia. It always has flowers opening throughout the year. The *Hibiscus* type flowers are most attractive and the plant will take a dry position. *Delphinium cashmerianum* has been flowering over several months. The blue flowers, which are hooded like an *Aconitum*, have black hairy pistils and stamens. A plant grown for its attractive leaves as much as for the flowers is *Podophyllum* 'Spotty Dotty'. We did not give it this unusual name. Our plant has lovely light green mottled leaves which are about 20 cm across. The mottling is more pronounced in the younger leaves and tend to fade slightly with age.



Delphinium cachmerianum



Alyogyne huegelii



Podophyllum 'Spotty Dotty'

Below is a pictorial review of Jo Saxon-Keith's garden 'Lucindale' at Lucaston which we visited on the 9th May. Jo is a vibrant host and not only provided a great afternoon tea but also much entertainment as she related her 'garden story'. Our group tallied 19. We thank those who attended and hope you found new inspiration through visiting this lovely garden.



MEETING

Sunday 14th June

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

Main talk: Ken will give a talk on growing rhododendrons and will include a visual presentation of a selection of blooms. Tip: Have pen and paper to hand.

We will also have -

- ◆ **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. We will also continue to have **Peoples Choice**.
- ◆ **Auction** - contributions for the auction would be appreciated.
- ◆ **Questions and answers** - any garden related queries. This usually generates good discussions. My question will be *"should I cut ALL the growth off the Alchemilla mollis now or leave some decent foliage for frost protection"*.
- ◆ **Raffle**

Lorraine has kindly provided this recipe for the lovely almond slice she regularly brings along to our meetings. Enjoy.

Buttery Almond and Coconut Cake

From "Mix & Bake" by Belinda Jeffery

180g almond meal
2/3 cup (60g) desiccated coconut
1/4 tsp salt
250g castor sugar (I use less, say 200g)
4 eggs
1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
1/4 tsp almond essence
200g unsalted butter, melted and cooled
2 T flaked almonds

Preheat your oven to 180C.

Butter a 23 or 24cm shallow springform cake tin (I use a lamington tin 18cm x 28cm) and line with Gladbake.

Put the almond meal, coconut, salt and sugar into a medium-sized bowl and whisk together with a balloon whisk for 1 minute. In a separate bowl, whisk together the eggs, vanilla extract and almond essence until thoroughly mixed, then whisk in the cooled butter until it is incorporated. Tip the butter mixture into the almond mixture and stir them together (you'll find it's quite a loose batter). Scrape this into the prepared tin and spread it out evenly, then scatter the flaked almonds over the top.

Bake for about 40 minutes or until the top of the cake springs back slowly when you press gently. Cool in the tin on a wire rack.

Once the cake is cool, invert it onto the rack, remove the tin and paper and invert it again onto a serving plate. Dust lightly with icing sugar, if liked, and serve. Keep this cake in the fridge for up to a week or freeze for up to 3 weeks.

YOUR EXECUTIVE

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