

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004

COMING EVENTS

August 9th

AGM and General meeting

Time: 2pm

Lesley and Ken Gillander's

1 Willowbend Road, Kingston (Ph. 6229 2351)

Followed by **General meeting**

Main talk: By Ken Gillanders

Please bring something for afternoon tea.

More details p. 4



August 27th

Committee meeting

Venue: Lesley and Ken Gillander's

Dinner: 6pm Kingston Hotel

Cnr. Channel H'way and Beach Road

September 13th

Garden gathering

A special vireya treat at Kaye and Gordon Hagan's

Time: 2pm

38 Kunama Drive, Kingston Beach

Raffle only

Please bring something for afternoon tea.

June meeting

Blooms competition

Karina Harris won Blooms other than Rhododendrons

Gill Fitzgerald won Rhododendrons

Karina Harris also won peoples choice with a stunning hairpin banksia

Harry Van den Berg won the raffle which I think was R. Grumpy

July luncheon

23 Members and partners gathered at the Huon Manor in Huonville where we enjoyed a lovely meal and a chance to socialise. The venue proved to be cosy and warm with friendly service. We thank Gill for organising this day, who incidentally, also provided a small centre piece for each table. Each one contained R. Christmas Cheer, R. Seta and a sprig of myrtle. Lovely idea Gill - thank you.

IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

When we experience a bright sunny day as we have today, it is easy to delude ourselves that we are not in the middle of winter and we have the cold month of August ahead of us. In this new garden at Kingston (three and a half years) we have discovered that we are in a frost hollow at the lower end of the surrounding hilly streets as the cold settles each night. Many gardeners have had frosty nights lately and we have never experienced so many. A small number of plants have been severely burnt off and we hope some will recover. Our two 2m high plants of *Cantua buxifolia* look rather brown and dropping their leaves. Ken says they should shoot again.

On the bright side two plants of *Daphne bholua* have covered themselves with their intensely fragrant flowers. Another plant is near some *Betula* and not growing well as the roots of the Silver Birch are surface feeding and it is difficult to establish anything under mature trees.

In the garden near the creek which flows freely after rain, *Rhododendron racemosum* is in full flower with pretty little pink flowers. On a high plateau in China, on one of our trips, we saw acres of this plant which stretched as far as the eye could see. On a later trip to the same area we were appalled to see most of the plants being eradicated and the area planted with vegetables, mainly potatoes. There was also an extension to a train service at the side with many large buildings there.

Much to our surprise some *Narcissus cyclamineus* which are planted in a group just above the creek have ten flowers open with more buds still to open. The patch we have in the garden above the back patio will be another week before they open their flowers. Nearby in this raised bed, is *Helichrysum argyrophyllum*, a very pleasing ground cover from South Africa with silver leaves and clusters of small papery golden flowers. It is in an ideal position where it cascades over the edge of the retaining wall, in full view from our lounge window. *Camellia transnokoensis* is just behind it and only 1m high so far. It has small single white blooms opening from pink buds.



Photos by Ken Gillanders

Rhododendron racemosum as seen growing China



←
*Cantua
buxifolia*



→
*Camellia
transnokoensis*

Iris Katharine Hodgkin



Iris histrioides



Cyclamen coum never fail to please. A little group in a protected corner have increased well with their tubby carmine flowers. We seem to have a predominance of this deep colour on all that have appeared throughout the garden. They blend well with the glistening white of the various groups of *Galanthus*. Near the greenhouse a few stray *Cyclamen* seeds have germinated There is a mix of *C.persicum*, some white, some deep pink, in flower now on 15cm stems, *C.libanoticum*, which will flower later with lovely scented large pale pink blooms and *C.repandum* with carmine flowers.

Ken planted three hypertufa troughs with *Tecophilium cyanocrocus* earlier in the year. To our surprise they have flowered now instead of waiting for Spring. A few stray *Cyclamen repandum* have appeared in the troughs plus *Anemone blanda* and *Eranthis hyemalis*. In the bulb bed near the green house *Iris Katharine Hodgkin* has one bloom open in its unusual colouring of pale grey-blue suffused with yellow. A favourite of ours is *Iris histrioides*, a lovely bright blue flower with small white and yellow markings. It is a pretty Iris only 15cm high.

A few weeks ago we obtained a permit to have an enormous *Eucalyptus* tree removed from where it overhung the garage. A tree feller removed and ground the stumps of this and four other trees near our front gateway. The next day Ken was planting some of his treasures which should grow well. The large Gum near the garage was on the fence line and now our neighbour has agreed to our request for the fence to be erected.

In the main rock garden *Rhododendron* 'Ptarmigan' is opening its small white flowers. It is only 25cm high and should look a small ball of white in full flower. *R.*'Woodbank hybrid' blooms are on the point of opening. The plant we brought with us is only 30cm now and will have deep rosy pink blooms, paler in the centre.



Rhododendron 'Ptarmigan'

Snow at Neika - photos by Dorothy



MEETING

Sunday 9th August

2:00 pm - Annual General Meeting

2:30 pm - General Meeting

Main talk: By Ken Gillanders

Short talk: More of Travels in Kyrgyzstan by Lesley Gillanders

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.
- ◆ **Raffle**

AGM

As a reminder all executive positions will become vacant. If there are any Members willing to take on a role please contact our President on 6267 9961 or any other exec member before Sunday. If you are not prepared to commit to an executive position then maybe you might consider becoming a Committee Member. New blood brings fresh ideas.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP is now due. This can be paid at the Annual General Meeting or by posting a cheque, made payable to **Australian Rhododendron Society Inc. Southern Tasmania Branch** and mailed to the Treasurer, Lorraine Grewcoe, Clarendon Vale House, Clarendon Vale Tas 7019.

Single Membership \$20.00

Family Membership \$25.00

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