

# AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.



PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004

## COMING EVENTS

- November 3/4** **Rose and Iris and Floral Art Show (Hobart Town Hall)**  
Hobart Horticultural Society  
We encourage members to enter blooms in this event. There are sections available for other garden clubs to participate. Good opportunity to promote the rhododendron genus.  
For more information visit [www.tasblooms.com/hobhortsociety](http://www.tasblooms.com/hobhortsociety)
- November 12** **General meeting**  
Joy Stones and Ted Cutlans'  
Jubilee Gardens, 69 Jubilee Road, Cascades  
1:30 for 2:00 pm meeting  
See details page 4.
- December 7  
(Thursday)** **Christmas function**  
Will be at Fintan Downhams  
6:00 pm  
Woodbridge  
See details page 5.
- February 22  
2018** **Committee meeting - 7:30**  
Ken and Lesley's  
1 Willowbend Road, Kingston 6229 2351  
6:00 pm Harmony Channel Court
- March 11th** **General meeting**  
Propagation day



### October Blooms Competition

**Joy Stones** won the Rhododendron section  
**Dorothy Lane** won Blooms other than Rhododendrons  
**Karina Harris** won Peoples Choice

### Raffle winner

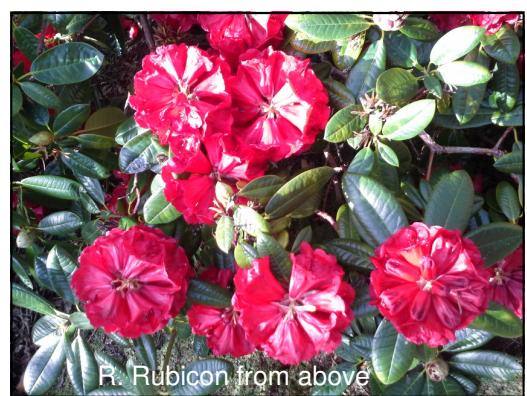
Rhododendron 'Lori Eichelser' was won by Kerry van den Berg



One of the 'big' rhodos from below.

### John Tooth's garden 8th October

Our visit to John's garden was most successful with an excellent roll up including several new members. Patrick, who has gardened for John for a number of years was available to answer questions. Jonty brought John to the garden where he was able to enjoy some afternoon tea and chat with members at length. John enjoyed the afternoon immensely.



R. Rubicon from above

## IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

It seems ridiculous that I am sitting here lamenting the end of the many flowers I have been admiring over the last two months and realizing that I will have to wait another year to see them again. A good mental shake brings me out of dream world and having a survey of what is in flower now, I see I will have more than adequate to write about. Perhaps the main theme should be on Rhododendrons as these notes are for our Rhododendron members.

Some gardens have large collections as in Woodbank at Longley, which we created, and is now in the care of Kerry and Harry van den Berg. On the other hand some members have tiny gardens with perhaps only one or two. Our new garden, now 5 years old is limited but we still manage to enjoy a few Rhododendron. *R. 'Cornubia'*, a good early red, has just finished but next year will be bigger and the flowers will be produced over a longer period.

Sixty three years ago, when we lived in Boronia, Victoria, in 1954, a neighbour invited us to see his garden. This was the first time I had seen a Rhododendron and his garden was full of them. To cap it off, I was given a bunch of *R. 'Van Nes Sensation'*. A lovely tall growing bush with delicate mauve blushed pink flowers. This will always be my favourite. Ken has just bought a plant of *R. 'Florence Mann'*. A delightful light blue. This is his second one as he lost the first plant we had, so hope this one will survive. This was named after the lady friend of Alf Bramley, the first President of the Australian Rhododendron Society when it was formed in Victoria. I remember he and Florence came to visit our garden at The Basin Victoria and he bluntly commented "This would be the worst soil he had seen". We were at the foot of The Dandenongs and they lived up the mountain on rich volcanic soil. Luckily Ken was not put off by the comment.

*R. forrestii* has spread to a metre across and produced a few brilliant red flowers. We were fortunate to have obtained this good form from Peter Cox Nursery in Scotland before Australia banned imports of Rhododendron and some other genera. Another bright red flowered plant is *R. 'Etta Burrows'* growing in the bed below the shed. I used to dislike dead heading this plant as it was an unpleasant sticky task and it was always a problem cleaning your hands afterwards. Mollis Azaleas are particularly brilliant when in flower. We have a very pretty pink in full bloom and beside it is a bright orange one just starting to flower. They have been raised from seed, so there is quite a variation in colours. There is another bright orange one growing near the *Paulownia*. This is now a small tree about four metres high and covered in lavender blue racemes of flowers.



Above: *Paeonia delavayii*



Top left: *Dryas octopetala*



Above: *Daphne aurantiaca*



Left: *Daphne cneorum*



There are three pretty plants in a shaded garden bed. *Corydalis flexuosa* with blue flowers is next to *Uvularia grandiflora* with pendulous starry yellow flowers and the intensely marked leaves of *Podophyllum* 'Spotty Dotty' which lives up to its name. In our little bulb bed there is a nice group of *Tulipa batalini* 'Bronze Charm' which grows to only 25cm high. They have lemon flowers with a light bronze flush on the exterior of the petals. Nearby is a delightful little plant of *Clematis mamoraria* 'Sweet Hart' which only grows to about 40cm. It has lovely white flowers with a central cluster of golden stamens.

*Dryas octopetala* with single white flowers is quite prostrate. We saw this in the mountains in Italy but it is widespread throughout Europe. We have a good form of *Paeonia delavayi* which has bright red flowers. Some forms have a more dullish red flower. *Daphne* are always favoured by gardeners. Our *D. cneorum*, with a silent "c", is in full bloom in the rock garden covered with small heads of scented pink flowers. *D. x burkwoodii* 'Somerset Variegata' is highly scented and grows to 1m. *D. aurantiaca* is covered with bright yellow flowers which are produced up the long branches. We saw it in China where it covered some of the hillsides and looked like gorse from a distance.

*Deutzia* 'Nikko' is a rewarding plant which grows to about half a metre and covers itself with white flowers. It is near a ground covering plant of *Phlox subulata* with brilliant rose red flowers. Another *Phlox* is *P. subulata* 'G F Wilson' with pretty pale lavender blue flowers. In the side garden we nearly lost our two *Cantua buxifolia* from the frosts we had earlier. They have both recovered. The typical colour of the species has shining cerise red tubular flowers and the second plant has creamy white blooms.

We have two forms of *Clianthus puniceus*, which grows to three metre high. The main colour is red and there is also a white form. They are native to New Zealand and known there as "Parrots Beak". Another interesting perennial behind the greenhouse is *Myosotidium hortense* commonly known as "Chatham Island Forget Me Not" with delightful blue flowers and enormous green leaves.

### Display at Mitre 10 Huonville - 21 - 22 October

Many thanks to Joy and Karina for their effort in organising, setting up, dismantling and being available over the two days. The majority of blooms were provided by Kerry and Joy. Karina ably arranged and re-arranged the display! It looked good. There was considerable interest and several people were keen to join our group. Hopefully we will see at least one of them at our next meeting.



Saffron Queen was popular and fortunately also available for purchase.  
Lot of interest in perfumed varieties



## GENERAL MEETING 12th November

Venue: Joy Stones and Ted Cutlans'  
Jubilee Gardens, 69 Jubilee Road, Cascades (6223 2116)

Time: **1:30 for 2:00pm** meeting allowing time to set up blooms for competition.  
Please bring something for afternoon tea.

There will be:

- ◆ **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. Please remember to bring your own vases/bottles.
- ◆ **Peoples choice** - your selection from the competition blooms.
- ◆ **Main talk:** 'Zooming in on the rhododendron flower'. Joy will enlighten us on the finer points of the flower structure.
- ◆ **Auction** - please bring a contribution
- ◆ **Raffle**

**Directions** - From Hobart travel up Cascade Road/Strickland Avenue. After bus stop 24 turn right into Marlyn Road. Best to find a park in Marlyn Road after bus stop 27, keep left. Jubilee Road is round to the left after the bus stop. Second house on the right.

### OTHER GARDEN EVENTS

#### November 1st

**General Open garden** at Joys Stones' Jubilee Garden, morning and afternoon teas BYO lunch if you wish, between 10 and 6ish. Address details see above.

**Woodbank Gardens Early November** - check Blooming Tasmania website for details or ring Kerry on 0488 007 525

#### General information

**Library** - Kerry and Harry have kindly allocated a section in 'The Cottage' for the library to be accessed. You will be able to select books from the library on Wednesdays between 10am and 3pm or by contacting Wendy Ebsworth who is now our librarian. Wendy would take requested books to our meetings.

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Librarian: Wendy Ebsworth      6266 4716  
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## CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

Thursday 7th December

**Venue:** Fintan Downham's  
369 Woodbridge Hill Road, Woodbridge  
Directions - take the Channel Highway (B68) to Woodbridge, turn right into Woodbridge Hill Road (in the township) (C27), travel 3.6 km, destination on left hand side at the top of the hill. Quite a long driveway to the function centre.

**Time:** 6:30 for 7:00pm dinner  
You may come earlier if you wish to have more time to view the garden  
Members are asked to bring a **main course, salad or dessert**. Some of you may like to bring some nibbles.  
There will be some wine and soft drinks available or BYO preferred beverage.  
Partners welcome.

**There will also be:**

A **Blooms Competition** (as a separate identity from our usual monthly competition) with a small reward for the winner.  
Just one special bloom is required. It doesn't have to be a rhododendron. Something different perhaps, or big and showy, or petite and perfect. You will need your own vase/container too.

**Auction** - we often have some very special plants for this auction that makes for feisty bidding and be warned - Fintan will be there!!

**Raffle**

**Presentation of shields**

These were originally awarded at our prestigious annual Rhododendron Shows, the main shield for the Grand Champion Rhododendron and the Essie Huxley Memorial Shield was awarded for the Best Bulb, Perennial or Shrub exhibit. At our monthly Blooms Competition scores have been allocated for each bloom submitted, the criteria being: (1) quality of bloom (2) degree of difficulty in growing conditions and rarity of the particular genus. Scores for the year are tallied to determine the winners.

Please **RSVP** by Monday **4th December** (so that we have an idea how many to set up for) Also could you please note whether you are bringing a **main meal, salad or dessert**.

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*MERRY  
CHRISTMAS*

