

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

SOUTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH INC.

PO Box 80 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004



COMING EVENTS

- May 12th** **Garden visits**
First garden will be at Jana Weiss's, 3753 Channel H'way, Birchs Bay
Second garden will be at Gail and Richard Yellowlley's,
99 Devlyns Road, Birchs Bay
More information page 4
- May 30th** **Committee meeting** - Ken and Lesley's
1 Willowbend Road, Kingston
- June 9th** **General meeting**
Venue: Ken and Lesley's
1 Willowbend Road, Kingston
Time: 1:30 for 2:00 pm meeting
Main talk - by Ken - 'Woodbank Gardens' from the beginning.
Short talk - topic will focus on rhododendrons.
- June** **No committee meeting - no July Newsletter**
- July 14th** **Mid-year luncheon** at Southern Lights
More information next newsletter.
- July 25th** **Committee meeting**
- August 29th** **AGM and General meeting**

The Rhododendron

Annual journal of the Australian Rhododendron Society Inc.

Once again this journal is available to all Members at no cost. You can pick up your copy at any of our gatherings. Ask a friend to get one for you if you are unable to attend.



IN MY GARDEN by Lesley Gillanders

Autumn in Tasmania can be so colourful from tall trees down to rock garden plants. Our plant of *Fothergilla* 'Major' at present is only 40cm high but it has a glow as if there is an interior light in it which makes it stand out from the other plants. Nearby *Cynoglossom amabile* with blue flowers makes a contrast in colour. We saw masses of these on the high plains in China. The yaks create dung heaps and on these *Cynoglossom amabile* flourished with large patches of blue here and there across the plateau. The only fault with it is the seed heads which cling to anything like socks and trousers that pass by.

Nyssa sylvatica has brilliant red autumn foliage. There is one of the finest specimens beside the dam at Woodbank. The leaves have a shine to them as they turn from green to orange then red with pronounced red

veining on the greenish sections.

Ken brought some specimens in for me as I can no longer walk in the garden. *Acer* 'Autumn Blaze' is a deep blood red which lights up in the sunlight. Among the specimens he brought in was *Salvia* 'Heatwave Blaze' with typical fragrant foliage. Unfortunately the plant had numerous little black ants in it and I spent a long time cleaning them out before I got bitten by the little beasts. It has fragrant crimson flowers.

Daboecia 'William Buchanan' has similar coloured flowers. This little shrub, known as Irish Heath grows to only 45cm. A tidy little shrub that has been in flower for several months. *Abutilon* 'Milleri' is a pretty Chinese Lantern. We imported it several years ago which grows to approximately 1m. It has 5 yellow petals hanging from a yellow and reddish calyx with the stamens clustered together like a small brush. It is surprisingly hardy and stands up to drought very well.

Cyclamen graecum is virtually the same as *Cyclamen hederifolium* in its attractive leaves. Even the flowers are similar except that they flower at this time of the year. The leaves have the appearance of soft velvet marbled in different designs.

Most people recoil at the thought of growing *Oxalis* but *O. masonorum* is a treasure with vibrant orange flowers. It grows as a neat little bun to 15cm without being rampant. We have lost several plants under the two big *Eucalyptus* near the gate like some small Proteas and Leucodendron but *Correa* 'Annabel' has done well with its pink flowers.

Nerines are a bulb you can rely on each year. They like to be planted with only the lower half of the bulb in the soil. In mid April *Nerine* 'Eve' flowered in a dark purple red along with the usual spangled blooms of *N. fothergilla* and several other similar types. Flowering later near the end of April is what we call *Nerine* 'Woodbank hybrids' A group of the hybrids Ken raised from seed from six bulbs we imported from New Zealand years ago. Sadly the best coloured one was stolen when it flowered but one of the seedlings came close in a lovely salmon colour. This group has a dainty habit, much finer than the usual bulbs you see and can flower later than the taller garden varieties available. *Aconitum napellus* is flowering in mid April to one and a half metres high. It is a deep dark blue in colour.

This will be my last article for "In My Garden" due to health problems .



Editor's note:

It is sad news that this is to be your last newsletter Lesley. So many look forward to reading your article each month. It has been my pleasure to receive the monthly article, always on time, always precise and with Ken's wonderful photos attached. All I had to do was arrange the page. However, we fully understand that you cannot do it forever and have marvelled at the effort you have put into it over the last year or two, even producing them from your hospital bed a couple of times. Your knowledge is valued and appreciated and it's a HUGE THANK YOU from all Members.



Cynoglossum amabile in Ken's garden and on the high plains in China.



- 1. Fothergilla major
- 2. Nyssa sylvatica
- 3. Cyclamen graecum
- 4. Oxalis masonorum

5. Aconitum napellus
(Why doesn't mine look like this!)

6. Nerine hybrids

Photos by Ken



D. Lane

Great meeting at Jenny's last month.

Left is a snippet of her fabulous courtyard garden and right is the fantastic view towards the Huon from her lounge room.



D. Lane

GARDEN VISITS - 12th May

Venues: Jana Weiss's, 3753 Channel Highway, Birchs Bay

Time: 1:00 pm

Gail and Richard Yellowley's, 99 Devlyns Road, Birchs Bay

Time: 2:00 pm (or thereabouts)

Please bring something for afternoon tea.

Directions below.

We will have:

◆ **Blooms competition:**

You can bring up to 3 rhododendrons and one (1) only companion plant. Please bring your own bottles/vases for setting up the blooms.

As there will be no meeting it may be a good chance to bring those blooms you want identified or you may have something special that you would like to share with every one. Problems in the garden? Bring along those motley chewed leaves etc. and get some help with solving the problems.

◆ **Peoples choice** - for the blooms competition

◆ **Auction** - please bring a contribution

◆ **Raffle**

DIRECTIONS: If you get lost Gail's number is **6267 4037** or Dorothy **0408 127 189**

Jana's - 3753 Channel H'way, Birchs Bay - **BALLOON** on gate

Take the Channel Highway (B68) towards Kettering, continue through Woodbridge and Birchs Bay is a couple of kilometres further on. Jana's entrance is on the water side, just before Devlyns Road (which is on the right and is the road to Grandveve Cheeses).

Gail and Richard's - 99 Devlyns Road - **BALLOON** on 'Koorinya' sign.

When you leave Jana's, Devlyns Road is almost opposite. Travel up Devlyns Road, **just past** the cheesery the road forks to the left (easy to miss). Their property name is '**Koorinya**'.

Continue on this road, through an open gateway, until you see a house on the lower side over looking Bruny Island. That's it!! You're there.

EXECUTIVE FOR 2018/2019

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