

CAMELLIAS VICTORIA INC.

WWW.CAMELLIASVIC.ORG.AU

Newsletter

No. 531

May, 2016



Next Meeting: Wednesday, 11th May, 8 pm.

**Mike Donsen from Grow Better Garden Products
How To Get The Best From Our Potting Mixes
and Garden Fertilizers**

CAMELLIAS VICTORIA INC.

Reg. No. A 5791, A.B.N. 43 416 858 693

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THE COVER : S. 'PARADISE BELINDA' GROWN BY CATHY COATH

The Australian raised camellia sasanqua 'Paradise Belinda' was produced by Bob Cherry, Australia, 1955. The largest and most attractive of the many Paradise sasanquas. It flowers regularly and spectacularly, with blooms that are remarkably weather-resistant. Flowers are 11cm across, semi-double with broad, bright pink petals of strong texture and slight white markings down the centre in some blooms, and a flaring scatter of stamens, some of which have a small petaloid tip.

Photograph by Cathy Coath

CAMELLIAS VICTORIA INC.

meets the second Wednesday of each month, March to November inclusive, at 8 pm in the Burwood Heights Uniting Church Hall, Cnr Burwood Highway and Blackburn Road, East Burwood.

Annual Subscription — \$25 Single \$30 Household and Garden Club

**Membership Secretary : Ellie Bruce, 273 Heatherton Road,
Narre Warren North, 3804.**

President's Message

We have struggled through the last of summer into a very warm April. The good news is that we have had some rain so it is possible to enjoy the lovely autumnal days that are coming our way. Of course the camellia plants still need some watering but the task is not so relentless. We are already in the middle of the sasanqua season and some of the japonicas are shyly pushing open a few flowers. To date I have had 'Elegans Splendor', 'Desire', 'Pink Smoke' and 'Little Red Riding Hood' with a flower or two. Hopefully this is just the promise of much more to come



**J. 'Pink Smoke' Miniature,
creamy white with pink
blush**

It was good to see so many blooms at our meeting last month. There was quite a display of sasanquas and there were some very good flowers to be seen. I hope that all of you will continue to dazzle us with your flowers as the season progresses. The last meeting was also very entertaining with Andrew Raper as our keynote speaker for the evening. He is always easy to listen to and a great source of information.

During April I had the privilege of attending the first Annual General Meeting for Camellia Ark Australia Inc. The inauguration meeting had been held on 8th November 2015. The Annual Meeting ratified the Constitution of Camellia Ark Australia Inc. which had the approval of Fair Trading NSW. Thus Camellia Ark Inc. is up and running. It is looking to set up a Victorian Chapter. There is provision in the constitution for Victorian committee members depending on interest from this state. At the moment membership is \$30 for 3 years for a single person. If members want further information on joining please see me at a future general Camellias Vic. meeting. The group has a very important role in preserving camellia genetic material in Australia and is reflecting the increase in interest about historic camellias worldwide. This is a serious issue in Australia as there are many imported and Australian raised cultivars which are either extinct or on the verge of extinction in Australia. Each loss is a loss of part of our history.

Besides going to the meeting referred to above I had time to again visit the E.G. Waterhouse Garden at Caringbah. It is well worth a side trip if you are in the Sydney area. This is especially so in the period June, July and August. Another, well kept secret is the Sydney Botanic gardens. They have a very good collection of camellias and their species collection is superior, in my opinion, to that of our own Botanic Gardens. The warmer more humid climate is favoured by many of the species and they are growing with less competition

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from surrounding plantings than in Melbourne with the result that the collection is generally healthy and vigorous. The whole camellia collection is well worth a visit in the flowering season.

Finally, some very good news, Shirley Shallcross has indicated that she is willing to rejoin the Committee and we are more than happy to have her back. Her years of experience are an enormous help. Bravo Shirley.

Paul Ludwig



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Wed. 11 May **Camellia Meeting**
Culture Notes with Jim Rochford
Speaker - Mike Donsen from Grow Better Garden Products
- Wed. 8 June **Our 61st Birthday Meeting.**
Speakers - Barry and Denise De Salvia on
2016 International Camellia Congress in China.
- Sat. 9 July** **Something Different - our monthly Meeting will be on a Saturday afternoon at 2pm at our usual meeting place at East Burwood. Some members have asked for this change so we are going to give it a try.**
- Wed. 10 August **Camellia Meeting**
This is the height of the flowering season so there will be lots to see and talk about.
- 20 & 21 August Our own **Waverley Camellia & Garden Show.**
- Wed. 8 Sept. **Camellia Meeting**
- Fri. 16 to Mon.19 September **National Congress, Show and Council Meeting**
hosted by Camellia Society Tasmania at Country Club Tasmania, in Launceston.
Details have been in "Camellia News".

Cathy's Committee Notes

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 11th May, 8 pm.

**Burwood Heights Uniting Church,
Cnr Burwood Highway and Blackburn Road, East Burwood.**

As Nola is away in Tasmania having a holiday with her husband Max I will be doing the Committee Notes for this month. By the sounds of the emails they are having a lovely time and enjoying the beautiful scenery.

Our May Meeting

In the first part of the meeting Jim Rochford will do the Culture segment. Jim grows many seedling camellias, and also propagates many of his own plants. He and Lynne have a lovely country garden so I am sure he will have many tips for us.

After interval Mike Donsen from Grow Better Garden Products will tell us about their extensive range of garden products which includes fertilisers and potting mixes that many of us use. He will tell us how to get the most out of these products.



Grow Better Garden Products

Vale - Beth Bortolin

Last month we lost our friend and fellow camellia lover, Beth Bortolin, after her battle with cancer. Beth had served Camellias Victoria over many years, so at next meeting we will be collecting donations to give to the Olivia Newton John Wellness Centre in Beth's memory.

Treasurer's Position

We are very happy to announce that Shirley Shallcross will be returning as our Treasurer and also to Committee. Welcome back Shirley.

Our Library

We are doing an audit of our Library and would ask that anyone who has borrowed a book to please return it at the next meeting.

Last month's meeting

For those of you who could not be at the April Meeting you missed Andrew Raper's talk about Sasanquas. As we know these camellias are perfect for a sunny position, we learnt that 'Paradise Blush' is a big seller and 'Early Pearly', 'Paradise Pearl', 'Hiryu' and 'Plantation Pink' are quite popular. Andrew was asked about 'Paradise Belinda' and you will be happy to hear he has started propagating it so it will be available on our bench soon. Landscapers are using the slimline, narrow, upright growing sasanquas for screening and hedges which are perfect for small gardens eg 'Avalanche' and 'With Love'.

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After hearing all about sasanquas I headed to the trading table to buy one of the new arrivals S. 'Crimson Belle'. Fay Wilkins won first prize in the raffle, she got the lovely Daphne this time and Lyndl Rech won a 'Petite White' camellia for wearing her name badge.

Rover Report

As Barry was unable to attend the meeting it was my turn to photograph the blooms. The blooms competition was dominated by sasanquas and 'Jennifer Susan' won the Open Section staged by Sandra Sexton. The Best Novice, Best Bloom and Best Australian raised was S. 'Paradise Belinda' staged by Cathy Coath (pic. on the front cover). Other blooms of interest were sasanquas 'Egao', 'Interlude', 'Paradise Joan', 'Pink Smoke', 'Shibori Egao', 'Something Special', Hybrid 'Sugar Dream' and Japonica 'Apple Blossom'. Judy Pocklington benched three lovely pink 'Thai Silk' seedlings and Fairy Dance was the best on the night.

We need more HELP setting up and packing up at the meetings. Please do not leave it to the same few overworked people. If anyone is able to come along earlier, about 7pm to help set up, it would be appreciated. We would like to see some new faces helping.

Favourite Flower

It has been suggested that we need some humour in our Newsletter, and I like this little anecdote provided by Jack Hilton :

While attending a Marriage Weekend, my wife and I listened to the instructor declare, "It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other." He then addressed the men, "Can you name and describe your wife's favourite flower?" I leaned over, touched my wife's hand gently, and whispered, "Self-raising, isn't it?"

Cathy Coath

Thank You :

I would like to thank my many friends at Camellias Victoria and also other Affiliates for the messages of comfort they have sent to me on the passing of my dear husband Harry. It was a difficult time during his illness, but my garden has been a great source of solace, and my camellia friends have also been a great support to me.

Thank you also to Camellias Victoria for the lovely plant and pot they have given me in his memory. I will enjoy them for many months to come.

With thanks, ***Shirley.***

APRIL MEETING



S. 'Jennifer Susan'



S. 'Paradise Joan'



H. 'Sugar Dream'



The April Meeting was a chance to congratulate Jenny and Keith Smith on their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

We all enjoyed that cake!!



Shibori Egao'



VALE BETH BORTOLIN

A feather fluttered by our lives a bit like the one in Forrest Gump that never the less captivated his attention and ours. Feathers don't have to be raucous and adorned, they can be like Beth Bortolin, soft and gentle, unassuming, yet quietly giving of herself to her family and others. As a great garden lover her passion flowed out into many years on the Committee of Camellias Victoria and voluntary work as a very active member of Friends of the Tindale Gardens, Olinda.

I first met Beth over 30 years ago at the Ivanhoe Garden Club and as she didn't drive, I took her to Rose Society and Camellia Society meetings and outings. So gentle was her nature that she was one to whom I often had to say "I beg your pardon" to hear what she was telling me on these trips.

She became a keen camellia exhibitor and had won the coveted A. W. Jessep Medal, might I say one time with a bloom of her wonderful R. 'Harold L. Paige' that I won in the raffle and gave to her (Dang it!). She was also Editor of our wonderful Camellia Newsletter for many years and was a Senior Judge. She suffered from that common society affliction of always going home from meetings and excursions with more camellias or rare plants and then wondering where the hell she was going to put them, invariably in more pots.

A great reflection of the esteem and love that was held for Beth was the size and representation of attendees at her funeral service. She will be sorely missed. Sympathies to her family.

Barry Johnson

Waverley Camellia & Garden Show Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st August

We have this week, launched online ticketing for our Show using "trybooking.com". It is very timely for those wishing to purchase tickets as Mother's Day gift or just to say 'thank you' to a friend or neighbour. You can buy either a ticket with Devonshire Tea (\$10) or just the entry ticket (\$5). Simply type in "camellia" to search for event on trybooking.com site.

Linda Trikarso and Sandra Sexton, Co-Show Managers



***We couldn't resist printing this picture of Jenny in the nursery at Gembrook. We loved the sign :
"Tell Me Again -- How Lucky I Am To Work Here ...
I Keep Forgetting!!!***

A couple of weeks ago I went to the Tesselaar Plants Show. There were a
huge variety of plants but not too many camellia plants, so my husband and I
decided to visit the Wishing Well Nursery (one of our advertisers for many
years). He thought he might send me in and he would sit quietly in the car
and read a book. I said you really should come inside and see the amazing
array of camellias. I did not mislead him as the nursery has a superb range of
camellias, including many mature specimens. We met the owner Tina who
was happy to chat about camellias. I walked away with three more camellias
which made the trip more than worthwhile. **Cathy Coath**

APRIL SEEDLINGS

by Malcolm Hughes

We are encouraging you all to bring along any seedlings that you grow. Remember that this is the only way we are going to get any new varieties in the future.

At the last meeting Judy Pocklington entered three blooms. We know that she has many seedlings growing from crosses with Reticulata hybrid 'Thai Silk'. These blooms are interesting because they would be good for showing as they fit into the Reticulata Hybrid classes very early in the season.



1. The highest scoring bloom was 'Fancy Dance' a Reticulata Hybrid of 'Thai Silk'. An early flowering, deep pink, Elegans form with 10 flat guard petals, 30/35 petaloids and a few short stamens. The judges thought it was the most distinctive bloom of all the seedlings.

It scored an average of 7.75 to be the best seedling of the night.



2. The second was another Reticulata Hybrid of 'Thai Silk'. The bloom was a semi double, vivid pink, nice and tidy. The petals had good substance and the colour was clear and glowing. It did not have quite such a distinctive form as 'Fancy Dance'.

The judges' marks averaged 7.5.

Her third seedling was 'Fancy That' another from Reticulata Hybrid of 'Thai Silk'. This was a very early flower, semi double with mauve edged petals and splayed stamens.

It scored an average of 7.

Judy had a slide show of some of her 'Thai Silk' seedlings on her laptop. It was interesting viewing, thanks Judy.

The I.C.S. Register tells us that 'Thai Silk' is a *C. reticulata* hybrid registered in 1992. What is interesting about this registration is that it was raised by Nuccio's Nurseries, U.S.A., but was named by our own Dr. Bob Withers. It was a chance seedling that first flowered in 1983. The salmon pink, medium sized, single flowers are free flowering, early to mid-season on a very slow growing, dwarf, bushy plant with glossy green leaves. There is a picture of it in Stirling Macoboy's book, *"What Camellia Is That?"* on page 241.

CULTURE

Decisions-decisions. That's right folks; May is the time to really start thinking and forward planning in relation to your camellia cultural practices.

Decision #1. Are you going to have a crack at grafting in 2016? If so, it's time to start assembling enough grafting stock plants. My suggestion would be to use some expendable or purchased sasanqua cultivars about 8" pot size or about 1cm diameter at the trunk base would be ideal. Remember, don't over water your rootstocks, this is especially important around grafting time whereby, they should be a bit on the thirsty side of damp, not wet. Make sure your intended rootstocks are growing healthily and are not root bound.

Decision #2. Do you want to win a Jessep Medal? Theoretically you could win with an outstanding anything and it could be one from your only camellia bush. This works like a packet of laxettes for the gun exhibitors who have more plants, pots and paraphernalia than the 'Honoured Society'. However, after exhibiting and judging for many years, I suggest that obtaining some of the 'rarer', hard to get cultivars, particularly reticulatas, will considerably increase your chances. I won my first Jessep Medal with R. 'John Hunt' which I got from the late John.

You can't have a mythical or notional "anything" so, you'll have to suss out which members are growing something you want in advance, in the form of grafting scions at the appropriate time (around June/July). Don't be shy, just ask around.

OK. You've got some rootstock, you've organised your winning scions, but what about your grafting accoutrements. Accoutre-what's? Grafting aids such as grafting tape, bell jars (now almost impossible to find) or, large plastic drink bottles (bottoms removed) or, bent coat hanger wire arches to insert inside clear plastic bags. Slightly different to the example photo I like to tie or seal them off at the top so that it's easier to gradually open them when it's time to start acclimatizing the successful grafts to the open atmosphere. If you're using bell jars or bottles you will also need white washed sand which can be bought by the bag at any decent nursery, to bed in and seal their bases onto the top of the pots .



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Camellia graft & bagging method

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Decision #3. Some of your seedlings may be going to flower this year for the first time, what should you do? Firstly, the blooms will need a critical assessment. They will fall into three categories: Nuh! Maybe. Wow!! Chuck the Nuhs; sleep on the Maybes and treat the Wows like buying a Harley Davidson, guard them with your life and sleep with them. Don't just ooh! and aah! over your Wows at home, bring them along to our monthly meetings for the senior judges to (hopefully) join in the chorus. Bearing in mind that they are always on the lookout for new cultivars that are unique or otherwise outstanding, you may have an exciting new camellia registration to your name and fame. To increase your strike percentage, I would strongly recommend the not very expensive outlay for a small bottom heat pad which can be purchased from Sage Horticulture.

Decision #4. Are you going to really get serious about breeding some new cultivars? I don't plan to go into all the ins and outs of how to go about it here, but there is a wealth of 'how-to' information on our website www.camelliasvic.org.au. Suffice to say you still need to get some of the accoutry-things to increase your chances of success. Aids like small sealable jars for pollen collection and storage, like 'specimen' jars are ideal. Save some of those hydroscopic moisture absorbing capsules or satchels you get with your medicine or health tablets to include in the pollen jars. A nice watercolour artist brush (about a No.6) is excellent for gathering and then later cross-pollinating with is good, obviously cleaning well between each pollinating exercise.



Sprouting camellia seed

Decision #5. Should you relax your watering because it's autumn? Depends where you live, the growing aspect of your plants e.g. under trees etc. and how kind the rain God of your suburb is. Now being an optimistic agnostic having spent 20 years pacifying religious groups in the Counter-terrorist Squad hasn't impressed someone or something in Ivanhoe where we've hardly had more than a lick and a promise since September last year. Your call.

Decision #6. Is it too late to feed my camellias? It's probably getting a bit marginal but I would suggest a good liquid feed like 'Powerfeed' or 'Thrive' which would be taken up quicker than a solid type fertiliser. This is particularly so of your potted specimens.

Boomer Johnson.

The Growing Friends' Nursery, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Melbourne by Rosemary Ball

One of the joys of being a Growing Friend of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Melbourne (RBG) is providing the public an opportunity to own a progeny of the many wonderful plants in the Gardens. The Growing Friends' (GF) Nursery is distinct from the RBG Nursery but there is valuable assistance given to us by the latter in botanical advice, plant selection and propagation. The GF Nursery occupies an area no bigger than a suburban house block and sections are allocated to Australian natives, perennials, succulents, trees, shrubs including camellias, vireyas, bromeliads and climbers. A portable office affectionately known as "the Grouse House" is our no-frills admin. centre. There is much comradery and happy friendship among the group of some 35 volunteers who run the Nursery, on most Fridays from approx. 8 am to 2 pm.

Within the Nursery, the Camellia section occupies an area not much larger than a single car space, abutting a hedge of trees which rain seedpods in the cooler months! In this area we accommodate plants available for sale - mainly in 6" pots - and ones in various stages of maturity including tube stock.

Cuttings are taken in January by the RBG nursery staff following a list submitted by the GF camellia group. Whilst we try to grow camellias that are not readily available in commercial nurseries, we also need to select robust varieties that require little care as we are at the Nursery only once a week.

Plant selection for cuttings is a vexing exercise as there are so many lovely plants in the RBG to choose from! We are governed by limited space and can only take a dozen cuttings of each 16 – 18 varieties each season. Our selection criteria include camellias of historical significance (e.g. J. 'W R Guilfoyle', J. 'Anemoniflora' Pic.1), interesting leaf/flower (J. 'Kingyo Tsubaki' Pic.2, J. 'Hakuhan-Kujaku' Pics. 3 & 4), hardier species such as the larger leaf *crapnelliana*, *lucidissima*. Our success rate is variable with the smaller leaf species such as the exquisite *nokoensis* and *minutiflora pic.5* as cuttings are susceptible to cold and wet in the winter months. We do not provide luxuries like heat pads!



C. species Crapnelliana

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Hybrid 'Demure'

Our other challenges are the same for suburban camellia growers – possums, insect infestation and scorching in the summer months. We have stopped growing *reticulatas* as scale infestation was a problem we had little success in overcoming. We have had happy success with propagating some lovely *williamsii*'s such as 'Pink Cascade' and 'Demure'.

Open to the public, the Growing Friends' Plant Sales are held in Spring (October) and Autumn (April or May). However, Friends of the Botanic Gardens can purchase from the GF Nursery most first Fridays of the month and enjoy a 10% discount. As space is a big issue in the quantity we grow, we may offer anything from 1 pot or 10 - species plants disappear in the first 5 minutes of Sale opening!

As many readers are aware, the Camellia Collection in the RBG has been awarded a Camellia Garden of Excellence by the International Camellia Society. Whilst the Camellia Bed is popular with visitors in the flowering season, beautiful specimens are scattered throughout the Gardens. There are noticeably more japonicas than there are sasanquas. I recommend the Rhododendron Bed opposite the Camellia Collection Bed, which features many species camellias, a walk behind the Lakeside Terrace Café, along the South China Bed and Northern Bed bordering Alexandra Avenue. Guided camellia walks are also held at times by RBG Volunteers and are advertised on rbg.vic.gov.au.

Rosemary Ball

**TOWOOMBA CAMELLIA SHOW & GARDEN EXPO
JULY 16 AND 17**

Is anyone heading off to Queensland in July? This Show would be a great place to visit. It's in the TAFE Horticulture Centre, Campbell Street, Toowoomba. There are two inspirational speakers : Jerry Coleby-Williams from Gardening Australia and John Robb from Paradise Plants. There is to be an exciting release of a new plant from Paradise Nurseries.

Website is : www.toowoombacamelliashow.com for more information.



**Plants propagated by
the Growing Friends
of the Royal Botanic
Gardens, Melbourne :**

1. *J. 'Anemoniflora'*
2. *J. 'Kingyo Tsubaki'*
2. *J. 'Hakuhan-kujaku' (The Peacock Camellia) Plant*
3. *Flower of J. 'Kahuhan-kujaku'*
5. *Species Minutiflora*



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LOVE, LOSS AND ADDICTION - A CAMELLIA JOURNEY

By Ruth Morley

This story begins in the early 1950's, in Box Hill South. My parents had just purchased their first home, after renting and moving numerous times with their young family of four children. Houses were in short supply after the war and proved difficult to afford on one wage. Remember, most women did not work after marriage, and of course in those days, children usually arrived fairly quickly.

My father was anxious to set up his very own garden. A vegetable patch was prepared and trees planted – apricot, fig, walnut and lemon. He could not resist planting a Magnolia Campbelli just near the path that lead down to the “outside loo”, and patiently waited fifteen years to marvel at the beauty of the first bloom. In the front garden, he planted azaleas, more magnolias, rhododendrons and CAMELLIAS.

“Camellia Lodge” in Noble Park was a favourite place to visit, and Dad could always find space to accommodate another three or four camellias. He was so successful at growing camellias that every year a nurseryman from Box Hill North came to take cuttings from the plants to propagate them. The following year he would return, bringing a number of new varieties that “needed a home” – much to the delight of my father.

I was married in 1969 and moved from the family home to a flat in Glenhuntly. Dad arrived one day with a CAMELLIA, Japonica 'Lady Clare', in a large metal bucket, which he placed at the entrance to our tiny flat. This camellia was the only thing of beauty in a bleak, concreted area that featured six carports and six rubbish bins. As a young couple working full-time, studying a couple of evenings a week and playing sport at weekends, gardening was not high on the agenda.



J. 'Lady Clare'

Four years passed and in 1973 we moved into our first home – a four bedroom plus study, brick veneer, built on vacant land at the end of a court, within a fifteen minute walk of Glen Waverley Station. The land had previously been part of an orchard. Shortly after moving in, my father arrived in his gardening clothes with his gardening tools. He had fruit trees – grapefruit, lemon, blood plum and peach, and, you guessed it, CAMELLIAS and azaleas. He had bought small plants, about twelve inches high, as he firmly believed that smaller plants adapted better after transplanting.

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RUTH'S CAMELLIAS (AND MAGNOLIA)



Magnolia Campbelli



J. 'Tama Americana'



J. 'Extravaganza'



J. 'Can Can'



R. 'Red Crystal'



J. 'Tiffany'

(Continued from page 17)

In the new garden there grew 'Tiffany', 'Wildfire', 'Yours Truly', 'The Czar', 'Bowen Bryant', 'Gauntletti', 'Laurie Bray', 'C.M. Wilson', 'Elegans', 'Elegans Supreme', 'Elegans Splendour', 'Spencer's Pink', 'Can Can', 'Cho Cho San', 'Magnoliaeflora', 'Hanafuki', 'Extravaganza', 'Tomorrow Park Hill', 'Dr.Tinsley', 'Edith Linton', 'Arajishi', and 'Lady Clare' (released from the tin bucket). Over the next thirty-two years the garden was tended with care. The camellias grew to the height of the eaves and beyond, and were given "The Shirley Shallcross Pruning Treatment", once or twice.

More and more varieties found their way into the Glen Waverley garden, after my father introduced me to the former Australian Camellia Research Society, the forerunner to Camellias Victoria. There was 'Hari Withers', 'Momozono-Nishiki', 'Yuletide', 'Lutchuensis', 'Baby Bear' and 'Courtesan'. I loved camellias. They provided beautiful blooms for about eight months of the year in my garden, and they produced quantities of leaf litter mulch. Besides this, they were attractive garden plants all year round, and even came in handy in providing privacy when needed.

The year 2005 was a year of change – endings, but also new beginnings. We made the move to Doncaster. It was very difficult to leave the garden we had nurtured for so long, the garden we had created. The garden my father had been instrumental in establishing. Most of my beautiful camellias were too large to remove, but I did manage to transplant 'Magnolia Denudata', a number of tree peonies, numerous bulbs and dahlia tubers, a thirty year old Acer Palmatum Dissectum, (Weeping Japanese Maple) and some smaller camellias in pots. But all was not lost. The new garden had been established in the early 1960's with azaleas, magnolias, roses and CAMELLIAS. Oh for joy! There was definitely room for more camellias! I could choose some of the varieties I had never grown before - 'Volunteer', 'Tsaii', 'Red Crystal', 'Phyllis Hunt', 'Royal Velvet', 'Debbie', 'Akebono', 'Sweet Emily Kate', 'Early Pearly', 'Peggy Burton', 'Debutante', 'Elegans Champagne', 'Tama-No-Ura', 'Tama Americana', 'Polar Bear', 'Bob Hope'.....

Now let me see. I wonder how many are growing in the garden (and in pots) now that I have been here in Doncaster for eleven years. Well, I know at each meeting Andrew, Jenny and Keith bring along beautiful plants for Camellias Victoria members to "ogle" (Collins Dictionary – "to keep looking at boldly and with obvious desire"), and I **do** "ogle", and I **do** buy. I like to think that these lucky purchases will eventually find their way into the gardens of my five children. So I see myself as a caretaker/guardian of all these plants, until such time as my children establish their own gardens, as I did so long ago. Well – one down, four to go! I just hope they get a "wriggle on", before caretaking turns into addiction or something worse!

PS. Enjoy all those "BLOOMING CAMELLIAS".

Ruth

THE LEN HOBBS MEMORIAL BLOOMS COMPETITION

OPEN

Sasanqua Under 90 mm	1st	Jennifer Susan**	S. Sexton
	2nd	Paradise Joan	I. Hammer
Sasanqua Over 90 mm	1st	Shibori Egao	P. Ludwig
	2nd	Paradise Blush	S. Sexton
Japonica Miniature	1st	Pink Smoke	P. Ludwig
Species, 1 Bloom or Stem	1st	Grijsii	J. Pocklington
	2nd	Sinensis Var. Assamica	I. Hammer
Hybrid Up To 90 mm.	1st	Sugar Dream	J. Pocklington
Australian Raised Cultivar	1st	Plantation Pink	P. Ludwig
	2nd	Paradise Belinda	P. Ludwig
3 Blooms Miniature or Small , One Cultivar	1st	Paradise Blush	S. Sexton
	2nd	Something Special	S. Sexton
3 Blooms Miniature or Small Different Cultivars	2nd	Showa No Sakae, Hiryu, Chansonette	N. McLean
3 Blooms Over 90 mm. One Cultivar	1st	Egao	N. McLean
	2nd	Egao	P. Ludwig
3 Blooms Over 90 mm. Different Cultivars	1st	Paradise Belinda, Egao Plantation Pink	P. Ludwig
	2nd	Egao, Plantation Pink, Fukuzutsumi	P. Ludwig

NOVICE

Sasanqua	1st	Paradise Belinda**	C. Coath
	2nd	Paradise Belinda	C. Coath
Japonica Informal Double	1st	Magalhaes Variegated	M. Garrard
Australian Raised Cultivar	1st	Paradise Belinda**	C. Coath
3 Blooms One Cultivar	1st	Paradise Belinda	C. Coath
	2nd	Jennifer Susan	C. Coath
3 Blooms Different Cultivars	1st	Hiryu, Jennifer Susan, Cherilyn	C. Coath

**Best Bloom of the Night, Best Australian Raised and
 Best Bloom — Novice — Paradise Belinda - Cathy Coath
 Best Bloom - Open - Jennifer Susan- Sandra Sexton
 Open Monthly Aggregate - April - Paul Ludwig
 Novice Monthly Aggregate - April - Cathy Coath**

AGGREGATE POINTS

		OPEN			
P. Ludwig	18	J. Pocklington	6	I. Hammer	4
S. Sexton	13	N. McLean	5		
		NOVICE			
C. Coath	19	M. Garrard	3		
		AUSTRALIAN RAISED			
C. Coath	56	P. Ludwig	5		

THE AUSTRALIAN RAISED AGGREGATE IS SCORED AS FOLLOWS :

1st Prize in the Australian Raised Class, Novice and Open scores 3 points.
 2nd Prize in the Australian Raised Class, Novice and Open scores 2 points.
 Best Australian Raised Bloom of the Night scores 3 points. If the bloom is from the Australian Raised Section this is in addition to the 3 winning points, but if it is from another section it gets 3 points and then the winner in the Australian Raised section gets 3 points as well.
 The winner with the highest Aggregate Score at the end of the year will be awarded the Ray Garnett Trophy.

JUDGES AND STEWARDS FOR MAY AND JUNE

Open —	May	Judges — Shirley Shallcross and Rob Atkinson Steward—Jan Robertson
	June	Judges — Fay Wilkins and Andrew Raper Steward—Jan Robertson
Novice —	May	Judges—Fay Wilkins and Jenny Smith Steward—Sandra Sexton
	June	Judges— Rob Atkinson and Colin Baird Steward—Sandra Sexton

THE WINNERS

BEST BLOOM OF THE NIGHT, BEST BLOOM NOVICE

BEST AUST. RAISED - S. 'PARADISE BELINDA' CATHY COATH

My two 'Paradise Belinda' plants were the first sasanquas which I planted in my garden, nearly 19 years ago. The reason I chose them was that I wanted a camellia that would grow well in a sunny position. I didn't want too much width or height as I was placing them on two corners of my house near a driveway and garage door. I also wanted a strong pink flower to contrast with the cream rendered walls. Now I have more reasons for growing 'Paradise Belinda'. It is an early bloomer, mid February for me and is good for exhibiting, better than a lot of sasanquas, more consistent and better substance. Furthermore it produces a huge quantity of blooms and this gives me plenty of choices.

I know I have said these things many times before, but I think 'Paradise Belinda' is worth it. She is my favourite sasanqua and an absolute stand out camellia in my garden. I was very pleased to win Best Bloom, Best Australian Raised and Best Novice and am proud to have my winning bloom appear on the front cover of this month's newsletter

BEST BLOOM OPEN – S. 'JENNIFER SUSAN' SANDRA SEXTON

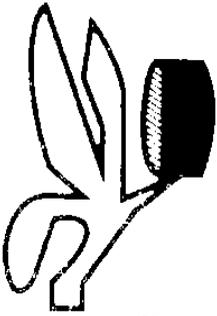
Winning the "Best Flower" in the Open Section was an unexpected but nice way to start the exhibiting season of 2016! I bought 'Jennifer Susan' over 4 years ago and it has grown well on the east side of my house facing west. It is against the fence so it gets sun mid-morning to mid-afternoon. It is planted opposite a window and is much better to look at any time than the paling fence. At present, it is in full bloom and magnificent!

The bush is compact and the new branch growth is extending high above the flowering. I have offered this part to Andrew so that he can start producing some of these plants as his stock was wiped out by disease. The flowers are pink, medium sized doubles with curled petals. They have a nice bunch of fresh looking yellow stamens. The Camellia Nomenclature says "pale pink", but I would describe the flowers as pink, because they have a lot of colour. I would recommend Sasanqua 'Jennifer Susan' as a lovely addition to small and large gardens.

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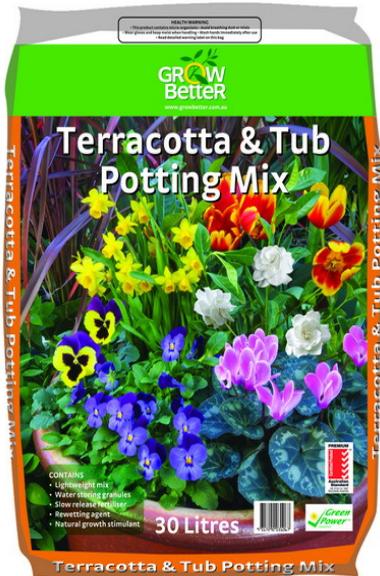
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