

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 13

AUSTRALIAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY, NORTHERN TASMANIA BRANCH COLLECTION

Horticulture, Launceston

INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

The Australian Rhododendron Society is a national body formed to promote interest in the growing and exhibition of rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias. The Society was incorporated in 1988 and aims to disseminate information through publications, meetings and conferences, and to encourage the establishment of regional branches and interaction with other local bodies with horticultural interests.

The Northern Tasmania Branch first met on 6 August 1981, although its establishment was not formally approved by the Society's National Council until 20 March 1982. The Branch promoted the adoption of the rhododendron as Launceston's floral emblem and took an active interest in the Launceston Airport gardens, Lalla Rhododendron Reserve and the Punchbowl gardens. It also arranged excursions, held displays at the Launceston Show, included exhibits in the Launceston Horticultural Society's flower shows and Launceston Garden Festival in September 1989, and maintained regular contact with the Australian Rhododendron Society's North West and Southern Tasmania Branches.

The Northern Tasmania Branch also had close links with the Launceston Horticultural Society, and it was this organisation which took over the Branch's assets in trust when it went into recess on 6 August 1992.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in May 1998, with a subsequent donation in February 1999.

1.Minutes of Meetings

1/1	Minute book of meetings, 6 August 1981-4 August 1988)	1981-1988
1/2	Australian Rhododendron Society, National Council, minutes of meetings (includes agenda, Branch reports, financial statements and correspondence)	1981-1987
1/2	Australian Rhododendron Society, National Council, minutes of meetings (includes agenda, Branch reports, financial statements, rules 1988, Tasmanian membership list, August 1990 and correspondence)	1988-1992

2.Correspondence

2/1	Letterbook, 5 October 1981-1 October 1984	1981-1984
2/2	Correspondence re activities; membership; publications; Punchbowl gardens; Launceston floral emblem; Lalla Rhododendron Reserve; Launceston Horticultural Society and other horticultural organizations; Launceston Garden Festival, September 1989; some annual reports	1981-1992
2/3	Correspondence re Launceston Airport gardens	1981-1985

3.Publications

3/1	Newsletters (includes circular letters, annual circular letters, annual reports and financial statements)	1981-1992
3/2	Australian Rhododendron Society, North West Tasmania Branch newsletters	1981-1992
3/3	Australian Rhododendron Society, Southern Tasmania Branch bulletins	1984-1992

4.Miscellaneous Items

4/1	Display instruction book, September 1988 (includes public comments); Launceston Horticultural Society 150th Anniversary Show prize certificate, Sep 1988; Launceston Garden Festival layout, September 1989; Lilydale Garden Walk flyer, November 1990	
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OTHER SOURCES

QVMAG, Community History, CHS 14