

2025 CLAREMONT SPRING SHOW: RUBY WAS A GEM!

Our 40th Anniversary, in acknowledging the Claremont Flower Show, instigated by Anne and Rod Barwick certainly exceeded all expectations we were hoping to achieve.

The very strong promotion and advertising certainly set the groundwork, ensuring no stone had been left unturned to achieve the appropriate recognition this event had achieved over the past forty years.

When a show is so successful, one cannot nominate what aspect had a bigger impact than any other, except to say "It was a real team effort!" from everyone who contributed to guarantee its success.

From the Mercury's front-page photo and article on Monday 1/9/25, (money could not buy that type of promotional support), to the segment featured on Sunday night's 7 news. In addition to these we also received our continued support from community radio and newspapers

Support from the Tasmanian Camellia Society Incorporated, again provided a wonderful contribution through the various colours, shapes and sizes with their exhibits. In recent years, Joe, Vicki and their dedicated support volunteers have become a major component of our Spring Show, and it is pleasing to see a continual growth in non-member exhibitors.

Naturally, our shows would be left with a large void if it was not for our five garden Clubs; Glenorchy, Claremont, Hobart City, Derwent Valley and Brighton & Surrounds who dedicated members continue to produce exhibits of the highest quality.

What can one say about the general public and their on-going involvement in all classes? This show saw a large number of new exhibitors in the Novice class for daffodils: a key to our future of this very popular aspect to the show. In addition to this, Floral Art has seen a resurgence of a section that issues a big challenge to all exhibitors at each show.

Often overlooked and taken for granted, the Stage Presentation plays a key role on the success/failure of a show. It is a known fact the initial impact on a person has a psychological effect and how that person foresees the show. The Claremont Flower Show has been very fortunate to have amongst its members, those who have that special flair and ability to portray their thoughts into art and produce a scene that

provides warmth, colour and inviting. This show Anne and Chris continued the tradition to produce a presentation that depicted the Ruby celebration, while incorporating some of the major flowers, namely daffodils and camellias.

Of course, it would be remiss of me not to mention the continual growth within the Children's Sections. Irrespective of the topics, their commitment and imagination continue to be a major draw card at every show proving us with the confidence that the love of gardening is certain to continue well into the future!

Our Special Guest, Richard Perrignon, a member of the Royal Horticultural Bulb Society, England: was our head Judge of the Daffodil classes.

During his speech Richard outlined how he had been a regular visitor to the show over the years, always enjoying the exhibits and show in general.

He acknowledged the wonderful contribution of Rod Barwick; highlighting his achievements and recognition for his life-time commitments to the breeding and growing of miniature daffodils. In addition to Rod, also he also noted the generous contribution Kevin Crowe had made to this amazing class of daffodils.

Without distracting from the previous comment, I believe the biggest surprise of Richard's opening speech was the significance our flower show was held in such high regard by the Daffodil Society of England! Richard then explained how, following each show, he provided a comprehensive report to his colleagues, (photos included; thanks to Kevin Crowe) from which a selection was made to accompany the editorial for their daffodil bulletin.

As a side note, I was fortunate enough to assist Richard on the Sunday morning as he photographed the numerous exhibits, learning how he became involved with both daffodils and photography. Furthermore, he was only too pleased to show me how to display the exhibits; the key aspects using correct light to accentuate the individual qualities of the flower.

After officially declaring the show open, Richard then presented awards to both the Grand Champion Daffodil and Camellia Sections. Our President, Terry West completed the presentation and then presented

Richard with a token of appreciation for his continued support to the show.

All other winning exhibitors were presented with their awards on Sunday afternoon.

Also announced was the People's Most Popular Choice in Floral Art, followed by the winners of the raffle.

These were:

1st Prize: Kaye Dykes, Collinsvale (donated by H.A.L.S.)

2nd: Jenny Allen, Montrose

3rd: Vanessa Paul, Kingston

4th: Lucy Green, Dulcot (was in Turkey when I called)

5th: Ellan Curns, Claremont.

Prizes 2 to 5 were donated by Tibball's Nursery, all recipients were surprised and thrilled with their prize.

In closing, I cannot forget the continued support from Edge Men's Group providing volunteers for door duties and Glenorchy CWA who have taken on the role of catering.

Stan Walker,

Show Manager.

September 2025