

September 2014

Rhodo News

Newsletter 367



Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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Chairman: Ian Chalk Newsletter Editor: Nigel Burch

Patron: (International) Kenneth Cox

INVITATION

We extend a very cordial invitation to you & your partner to attend the
"official opening of the 2014 flowering season"

by **Tino Carnevale**, gardening guru and ABC Gardening Presenter
on Saturday 13th of September at 11.00 a.m. at EVRG.

Join us for morning tea from 10.30am whilst you enjoy the vista of colour
and ambience created in our garden by our
volunteers.

Calendar

Saturday

13th Sept

Official
Opening of
season at
EVRG from
10.30 am.

Sunday 21st

Sept

Annual
General
meeting at
EVRG at
2pm.

RSVP: by Wednesday 10th September

please, to enquiries@evrg.com.au

or on mobile: 0400 963 493

**Admission will be by presentation of this
invitation.**

*There will be a discounted admission
charge of \$6 for all other visitors.
Refreshments & plant sales available.
Special auction of rare plants at noon,
after the official opening.*

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R.vernicosum

See us at:
emuvalleyrhodo.com.au

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Due to the continuing amazing efforts of our dedicated volunteers, Emu Valley goes into the Spring Season looking better by the year.

Special credit this year is due to those involved in upgrading our walking tracks in readiness for the Spring Opening. As well as continuing garden maintenance and development this year we have two major projects to complete. Financial assistance from the Tasmanian Community Fund and a significant contribution from former Burnie stalwart Mr. Graham Riley (now of Western Aust.) will combine with our own input to see the much needed upgrade of our plant nursery to provide greater efficiencies. Our garden cottage is also becoming vacant and it requires major internal & external renovations. This will be a special project with its own steering committee, but assistance from those who

enjoy such challenges would be very much appreciated. The renovated residence will be a great asset for the garden and I am sure that all involved in either of these two projects will find it a rewarding experience.

The new "Maurice Kupsch Chinese Pavilion" should prove to be of special interest to this seasons garden visitors.

I extend a warm welcome to all members to our Spring Opening. Enjoy your garden.

Ian Chalk

WELCOME

A warm welcome to new members Paul Smith and Judy Ball, and Bastiaan and Moraea Kleyendorst.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Annual General Meeting will be a formal item at the members' monthly meeting on Sunday 21st September 2pm. A motion to amend our constitution has been received - to alter the current categories of membership and introduce several new categories.

Wynyard Garden Club Inc

Presents



JANE EDMANSON OAM

Wednesday 8th October 10am at the
Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden
Breffny Rd, Romaine Heights

7pm at the Parish Centre
St Stephen's Anglican Church
Cnr Dodgin & Moore Sts Wynyard

Entry Fee \$15 refreshments provided
supporting the charities Menzies Research Institute of Tasmania
& Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden

Contacts: stellawoolfe@bigpond.com
mhdixon@bigpond.net.au
Merle Smith 6442 3645 or 0418 142 284 after 1st Sept

AROUND THE GARDEN

Woo hoo, Spring time is here! This means footy finals, a popular month for birthdays but most importantly, our peak flowering time, when there are a lot of brilliant photo opportunities not to be missed and the longer daylight hours are closer.



Zac Bradley, Mark Rainbow & Travis Pease

Three quarters of our walking tracks have now had a well needed facelift and are looking and feeling a lot safer to take groups along. Some of these tracks may not have been used as much as they could have, but now with all the work that our volunteers have done, they are more inviting and I am confident that the many hours spent on carting gravel, raking out and using the whacker packer, it will be well worth it. A great job by all including the group from Parklands High. They have built up a section above the native garden and have now completed their designated area which included climbing the hills for paddock rocks to use for their walls, loading and spreading gravel and a general tidy up of this walking track.

Don't forget that now is the time to spray for leaf curl on fruit trees. Leaf curl is a fungal disease and can normally be prevented if treated at the bud swell stage. Timing is very important as when the buds burst the spray is least effective. I sprayed our *Prunus persica* 'Crimson Cascade' here last week with the brand Yates – leaf curl, one application should be enough.

Another task that is next on my list is to spray for petal blight on the deciduous azaleas just as the buds start to show a tiny bit of colour. It won't be long before these are flowering, so to prevent this fungal disease from taking over I will be using Yates – mancozeb plus. This will need to be applied fortnightly until blooms finish flowering.



Prunus campanulata – 'Formosan cherry'

Enjoy the first month of Spring, I know I will
(carn the Tiges!) *Juanita—Horticulturalist*



LAST MEETING

About three dozen of our members were gathered to hear some details about some Japanese rhododendron species. The tiny blooms of a semi-deciduous azalea were a surprise to many of us. Another interesting presentation from our Maurie, who's incredible knowledge continues to amaze us mere mortals.

Our guest speaker was Ivan Johnson who enlightened us on the little known processes for establishing the extent and location of ore bodies, or seams, beneath the land surface. Core drilling and the subsequent evaluation of those samples are vital to the economics of mining. There was considerable interest in a fine selection of crystal and mineral samples Ivan brought along too.

The imminent arrival of warmer weather was indicated by a larger and brighter selection of blooms brought along for judging. From the colourful array the public voting put a large leaved rhodo bloom of Ivan's in top placing. Kay Shadbolt took out second with R. Sunset Gold.

Colour and variety were also displayed in the cut flower section, where a Hakea from the home garden of Maurie and Pam Kupsch was chosen as best, closely contended by one of Eric and Audrey Week's camellia blooms. Val Bottle won the door prize.

Voting for the flowers raised \$25.00, the raffle raised \$49.00 and the Trade Table added a further \$ 37.30 towards our Garden's coffers. Thank you to all our faithful supporters.

Pete Stratford



R. vernicosum

This member of the Fortunea series is quite variable and has a large distribution area ranging from southwest Sichuan north-west Yunnan and south-east Tibet—hence the many colour variations.

R. vernicosum was first discovered by Abbé Soulié in 1893 in western Sichuan and later by other collectors in different areas already mentioned. Found on the margins of conifer forests and in open rocky meadows as a shrub or small tree to 7 metres with leaves oval to oblong and the flowers can be white, rose lavender, deep or pale rose, pinkish purple and purplish red, but it

is easily recognized by the dark red ovary and style glands.

We have three different collections in the garden – the earliest plants (now over 2 metres high) are to be found on the topside of the Noel Sullivan track and not far from the new Chinese pavilion – the other two are in Sichuan and on the topside of the road in Tibet.

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc.
PO Box 39 Burnie, Tasmania 7320
