

July 2015

# Rhodo News

Newsletter 376



Official Newsletter of the

*Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc*

Postal Address: PO Box 39 Burnie Tasmania 7320 Phone: 6433 1805

[enquiries@evrg.com.au](mailto:enquiries@evrg.com.au)

Chairman: Geoff Wood Newsletter Editor: Nigel Burch

Patrons: (International) Kenneth Cox, (Tasmania) Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, Kate Warner

## A Vice-Regal Visitor to Our Garden



*We recently welcomed one of our Patrons, The Governor of Tasmania Her Excellency Professor Kate Warner and her husband Richard to EVRG. Their enthusiasm for all things gardening was evidenced by the many questions asked of Maurie and Juanita! We look forward to their next visit during peak flowering season. Pictured with our guests are our Business Manager Sue Johnson, Chairman Geoff Wood and well-known recent TV personalities Maurie Kupsch and Juanita Wood!*

See us at:

[emuvalleyrhodo.com.au](http://emuvalleyrhodo.com.au)

### Calendar

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July**  
Regular meeting at EVRG  
at 2pm

AUGUST MEETING  
REPLACED BY BUS TOUR  
TO HOBART SAT 15<sup>th</sup> 0830

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August**  
Christmas in August  
6pm for 6.30pm



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Unfortunately, due to personal reasons, Ivan Johnston has had to step down as Chairman. However I am very pleased to report that EVRG will not be losing Ivan's skills and passion as he will continue as part of our management group.

I have taken the role on as Chairman at a very exciting time. A review has commenced to look at where EVRG is at present and where we need to be both short and long term to ensure our future is sustainable. As we work through the process I encourage all members to have input when the time arises and as I said at our recent Sunday meeting the review will not be finalised until it has the endorsement of the membership.

My first official task as Chairperson was to have the privilege of being one of the representatives of EVRG to welcome Her Excellency Governor of Tasmania Kate Warner and her husband Richard and take them on a tour of the garden. The Governor expressed her hope that she may be able to visit us once again later in the year.

As we approach the end of the financial year I would like to congratulate our catering crew as by their efforts a third of our annual income was raised. With some trepidation they recently catered for their first wedding reception. They need not have worried as the thankyou letter from the happy couple said *"the service and food provided was exceptional. Even the harshest of food critics were impressed. We feel very blessed to have had you all assist us on our wedding day."*

We were thrilled with the national television coverage through the segment on Gardening Australia last week and have received great feedback already.

The Chairman's role is a challenge and I will always welcome comments and/or suggestions. My mobile number is 0427722060 and email is [geoffreywood@me.com](mailto:geoffreywood@me.com). *Geoff Wood*

## JUNE SOCIAL MEETING REPORT

Our recently elected Chairman, Geoff Wood, opened June's meeting, thanking Ivan Johnston for his time in that role, unfortunately relinquished for personal reasons. Ivan will continue his invaluable support to the garden as a committee member while Geoff eases his way into the role with all of its variants.

After describing the characteristics of three rhododendrons on display, Maurie Kupsch then offered them to the group, as these plants were surplus to requirements in the garden. Several happy gardeners went home perhaps wondering where they might plant their new acquisitions. Maurie also spoke of the rhododendron chosen to be named by our Patron, Her Excellency Prof Kate Warner. It is her wish that it be named in honour of her mother, Pamela Friend.

Interest was sought for a proposed bus trip to Hobart, in lieu of our August social meeting, with more than twenty indicating they may be starters, with hopefully more being added as they become aware of the chance to see some great gardens. This trip is planned to take in the RTBG as well as a guided tour around the garden at Government House. More details elsewhere on the newsletter.

Perhaps to her surprise, a very comprehensive garden plant reference book was presented to our horticulturist, Juanita Wood. This was in recognition of her many hours of study and efforts to successfully gain her Diploma of Horticulture Last month. We are so proud of you, Neet – well done!! (We can now ask her ANYTHING about garden plants.)



**BRETT  
WHITELEY MP**  
Federal Member for Braddon

Ph: 6431 1333 | [www.brettwhiteleymp.com.au](http://www.brettwhiteleymp.com.au)

Supporting the  
Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden

Ray and Ethel Tavner's garden again produced the top voted vireya, with "Neesa" taking first place, with another hybrid of theirs coming second. Doreen Stratford's cymbidium bloom selection gained top honours in the cut flower section, closely followed by a selection of hellebore blooms entered by Frank Medwin. It really was Frank's lucky day, as he also won the door prize AND the raffle!

Flower voting, raffle and trade table raised \$55.30.

*Pete Stratford*

## AROUND THE GARDEN

Frost, ice, snow.....it must be winter but on the plus side, the days after the early morning freeze have been totally worth it! I know I am following the sun around the garden and I have been pruning hydrangeas down in the car park above Japan and then when the sun moves I then change my working area to somewhere higher up like Don Dosser section, the cottage, Nepal or the nursery etc. All jobs that need doing but I think I work better when I'm defrosted!

The time is getting closer to turning on 'Kupsch's Cubbies' up in the nursery and to see what new seedlings we will be lucky to grow yet again. Pots are being sterilised as is the potting mix and within the next fortnight we hope to have everything cleaned, turned on and growing again. This year we have several new species that will hopefully like us enough to want to make EVRG their new home so more about that next month.



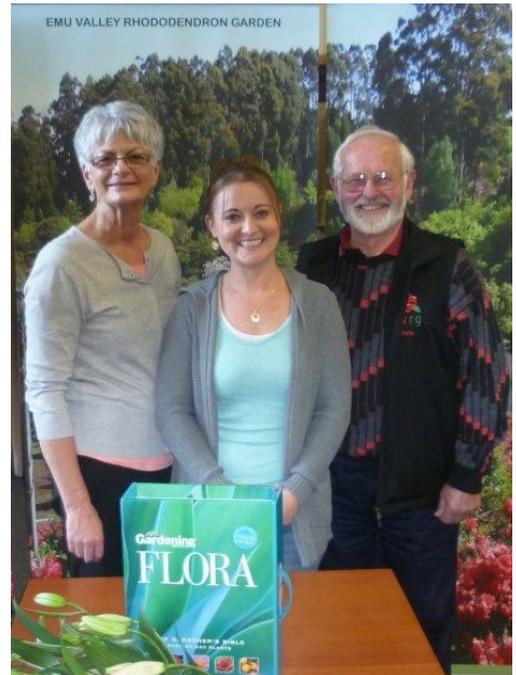
Here (to the left) is something bright to put a smile on your dial when it's a typical wet winters day outside. This is a *Hamamelis mollis* (common name – Chinese witch hazel) and it's growing here in the garden on the left hand side of the driveway heading to the Japanese teahouse.....you can't miss it!

### Neet's gardening tips

If you haven't already pruned your hydrangeas, now is the time to give them a hair cut. Start down low and remove all dead wood. Next, prune to the lowest pair of buds as this will produce larger blooms. Some hydrangeas

only need a tidy up by cutting off the spent flower heads, but other varieties can handle a fairly hard prune, not only to perform a lot better, but for overall shape of the plant.

If you have a deciduous plant growing in the wrong place and wondering when is the best time to transplant it, the answer is now. By getting plants into the ground while they are dormant, it will allow them time to settle in before the harsh days of summer arrive. Even though it is the winter months with no doubt rain every second day, it is still important to water in the transplanted tree, don't just presume it will get enough water, make sure it does! Stay warm and happy gardening, *Juanita*



*Our Business Manager Sue Johnson, Juanita, and yours truly.*

## AUGUST SPECIAL EVENTS

**MEETING:** In lieu of our August meeting at EVRG, we have organised a bus trip to Hobart for the weekend, for members and volunteers. The plan is to leave EVRG at 8.30am on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August, having lunch on the way somewhere and arriving at the **Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens** around 2ish. After a couple of hours there we head off to our accommodation for the night. Sunday morning exit at 9.30am to **Government House, where our Patron, Her Excellency Prof Kate Warner** (our Patron) has offered to organise a tour of “her” garden, then head homewards, having lunch somewhere—perhaps **Richmond??**

Should we be able to fill a 40 seater bus, the cost of the trip is \$190 per person, which includes transport, accommodation, Saturday evening meal and Sunday breakfast. Accommodation is double or twin single sharing. Single supplement is an extra \$84.00.

Just email Sue ([enquiries@evrg.com.au](mailto:enquiries@evrg.com.au)) or phone ( 6433 1805) to book your seat. Should you need to be picked up somewhere along the way, let Sue know when you book.

**CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST:** This year’s mid-winter Christmas dinner will be on Saturday 29th August at 6pm for 6.30pm. Always a lot of fun. Please RSVP early. \$25 members \$30 non-members. *Pete Stratford*

*The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:*



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

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