

October 2015

Rhodo News

Newsletter 379



Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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Chairman: Geoff Wood Newsletter Editor: Nigel Burch

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

Cherry Blossom Festival To Aid Nepal



Proceeds from our plant sales during Cherry Blossom Celebrations on Saturday 10th October will go direct to aid outlying areas of Nepal to assist with, amongst other things, the reconstruction of walking tracks used by local tour guides and porters to take rhododendron enthusiasts and tourists up the mountains to see the ancient and vast tracts of their national floral emblem. By directing funds in this manner we will be assisting the Nepalese community by enabling treks to recommence, with local folk regaining employment.

See us at:

emuvalleyrhodo.com.au

Calendar

Saturday 10th October
Cherry Blossom Festival
10am to 4pm

No meeting
in October
(we are all too busy!)

Sunday 15th November
AGM & regular meeting
at EVRG at 2pm

Chairman's Report

To say the busy season for EVRG has commenced is somewhat of an understatement. The hospitality booking sheet is fast filling up, organised tours keep coming in, we have our first cruise ship for the season on 25th October and general visitor numbers seem to be pretty good. It is this last group I would like to touch on.

Over the past few weeks I have been asking visitors where they are from and many tell me various parts of Tasmania, which is great. What surprised me is the small number of visitors from our own region (excluding our opening day on the 12th September). So let's try and get the message out there locally ---- EVRG is a must see! If you have any suggestions about marketing our name locally or for that matter anywhere please pass your suggestions on to either the office or myself (geoffreywood@me.com / 0427722060).



The Garden is looking great but we are still in big need for volunteers. If you or anyone you know can spare some time volunteering, please let us know. It need not be the normal Thursday volunteer day!

Hope to see lots of people at the Cherry Blossom Celebration on Saturday October 10. We have bonsai and origami displays, Japanese tea ceremonies at 11.30 am and 1.30pm and the Taiko drummers at 12.15pm! Come along and see your garden and at the same time support the Nepal fundraiser.

Geoff Wood

Left: Jenny Chalk at a teahouse at 3100 metres in Annapurna, Nepal.

Social Meeting 20th September

What a difference recent warmer days have made to the array of blooms available to be brought along for judging. Our table was resplendent with colour and form as vireyas, rhododendrons, waratah etc, plus some eye catching cut flowers all displayed together. Rhodos from the Tavner garden were voted into the two top places, while Maureen Gale won the cut flower section with some unusual "Cyprus tulips". Second placing was a two way tie, with a stunning tree peonie bloom (also Maureen's) and some sweet peas grown by Melvie Moore.

John Hudson purchased the winning raffle ticket, while the Door prize was taken home by Jeanette McKerrow.

Ian Chalk presented a pictorial trek up into the heights of Nepal where rhododendron trees of enormous size were adding a blaze of colour to the mountain sides. After viewing some of the labouriously constructed trails in that region, and also the ornate historic buildings, it was a sobering thought to realize how much of it all has been destroyed by the devastating earthquake to strike that region.

Initiated by our Patron, Ken Cox, we have been challenged, along with other rhododendron groups around the globe, to contribute to funds being raised to aid rehabilitation of this particular region where little other assistance reaches. Those present at the meeting have already opened their hearts and pockets very generously towards that goal. More information and an opportunity to add to those contributions will be advertised in the near future.

Funds raised on the day were flower voting \$21.00, raffle \$32.00 and trade table \$36.20.

Due to the heavy workload during October there will be NO October Social meeting. *Pete Stratford*



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Around the Garden

EVRG sure is the place to be, especially when there is so much going on and the garden is looking as good as what it is.... Why would you want to work /visit anywhere else!!

In the last month the volunteers have been super busy with continual mulching and weeding of main car park entrance, rock edging of the lower car park above Japan, rock wall upgrade, cleaning and painting bridges, nursery extensions and they have also brightened up the plant sales area. Thursdays are more commonly known here as our 'working bee day' but I have been so impressed by the enthusiasm shown from many of the volunteers that they are now also coming in on other days to spend an extra few hours working in the garden, doing what they enjoy with great satisfaction and a sense of pride. A massive thank you for all of your fine work and of course for the company!



R.baileyi

spare hour or so, make the effort to wander up and have a look because not only are there some amazing colours appearing and new species flowering, but the view from the top is pretty fantastic!



R.maddenii ssp.crassum

gio Moisevich, Amy Dart & Anne Heathcote, Anne Jewett, Gill Brame, Robert Seaton, Jennifer Dunn, Lyn & Koos Buitenhuis, Margaret & Kevin English, Colleen & Daniel Konigsberg, Christina Read, Margie & Michael King, Lisa & Wayne Smith, June & John Rays, Diane & Gerrie Mevissen, and Joan Whitehead.

As I was walking around early this morning, turning off irrigation that Maurie had turned on the night before on the hills in Tibet, Rhododendron baileyi is in full bloom and is a fantastic shade of purple. Right next door to it is Rhododendron maddenii ssp. crassum, which is fragrant and also caught my attention. On the other side of the road, but still in Tibet, is Rhododendron auritum and it's also flowering profusely – pale yellow, tinged pink and also worthy of a photo. I think people forget that the hill you can see from the balcony has been planted out and there are a lot of beautiful rhododendrons and other garden worthy plants growing there, so if you have a

spare hour or so, make the effort to wander up and have a look because not only are there some amazing colours appearing and new species flowering, but the view from the top is pretty fantastic!

That's it for this month but hope to see you around, and remember to bring your camera!

Neet 



R.auritum

Welcome

A warm rhodo garden welcome to new members Peter & Kathy Gordon, Quentin Dempster & Elizabeth O'Brien, Kim & Susan Chen, Catherine Valentine, Anita & Sergio

Are you able to assist??

If you have time to spare over the next 3 months, we are looking for your assistance, please. This is one of the busiest time at the garden and is our opportunity to maximise earnings . However with the retirement of several of our long serving volunteers, we have quite a gap. Help is needed in the Tea room and with catering, and tasks can be allocated depending on your interest and the time you have available. No matter how little time or experience you have, there is a role for you. If you can help call Jenny 0407 388 092 or EVRG 6433 1805. Thank you for your support.



Rhododendron ririei

Perhaps the easiest to identify member of the argyrophyllum series in our garden would have to be *R. ririei*.

Unlike other members of the series, *R. ririei* has lilac/purple flowers with 5 deep purple nectar pouches. The upper surface of the leaf is a matt olive green - the underside having a silvery-white plastered indumentum, making it a delightful plant in or out of flower.

Now that our plants are semi mature we see that they flower early in spring and look stunning as you wander through Sichuan. These plants are expected to reach 3 to 5 metres in height so the scene is set for

some glorious years ahead. This species was discovered on Mount Omei, Sichuan by E. H. Wilson in 1904 and introduced by him in the same year. In later years other collectors found it in the same region.

R. ririei can be seen on the way to the Chinese Pavilion .Do keep an eye out for other members of the series in the same area such as *R. floribundum*, *R. denudatum*, *R. hunnewellianum*, *R. insigne*, *R. longipes* Var. *longipes*, *R. pingianum* and the narrow leafed *R. thayerianum* all flowering now or in the next few weeks. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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