

February 2016

# Rhodo News

Newsletter 382



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

## Making the Most of a Meeting!

Prior to the December meeting was our famous Christmas Dinner, where Jenny gave the guests the usual roast turkey and veg main course. At the BBQ after the meeting she decided to do a smorgasbord with the left-over sweets.

When she said "help yourselves", there was no stopping our resident poet Pete! When he saw the big bowl of his favourite chocolate trifle was apparently without friends, he didn't need to be told twice. All he needed was a spoon.

Our photo librarian Heather captured the moment Valma became aware of Pete's dalliance with the dessert.



*For Pete's Right of Reply: See page 3*

## Calendar

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February**  
Social Meeting  
At EVRG 2pm

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March**  
Social Meeting  
At EVRG 2pm

See us at:  
[emuvalleyrhodo.com.au](http://emuvalleyrhodo.com.au)

## Chairman's Report

Christmas and New Year have gone and EVRG is as busy as ever. Visitor numbers are up, the cruise ship season is still with us and functions and group bookings "keep on keeping on". From the administrative side it has also been busy.

The Business Review started last year is now well under way with Business Consultant Warren Moore being very helpful. Towards the end of 2015 EVRG's Advisory Board elected to go into recess. It is proposed that a Board of Management will be elected by the membership once a strategic plan for the coming years is established and a review of the management structure completed. This will all take time, and nothing put into place until all members have had an opportunity to have input and then vote on changes.

GlobalNet Horticultural students return soon but we are still waiting to hear if further state government funding will be allocated in order for the program to continue beyond Certificate 1. EVRG supported GlobalNet with its funding application by means of a reference to accompany the formal process and also a direct approach to the Minister for Education and Training.

On 28 January along with fellow members Mary McConnell and Peter Gray, Sue Johnson and myself met with Federal MP Brett Whiteley. This gave us an opportunity to update him on how EVRG is travelling and to discuss options that may be open to apply for various grants.

Finally at our January management committee meeting we discussed a proposal for hospitality/catering trainees working at EVRG on a regular basis. This would greatly assist the work load of our volunteers and would it not be great if we could keep our Tea Rooms open for nine months of the year? Should we go to the next step it will be strictly on a trial basis and for a limited period.

Discussions are very much in their infancy at this stage and there is no guarantee that we can proceed but we must always be on the outlook for ideas that will assist in ensuring EVRG's future. 😊

Geoff 0427 722060 [geoffreywood@me.com](mailto:geoffreywood@me.com)

## Social Meeting Report—December 13th

Although our meeting began a couple of hours later than normal, due to a preceding function, we had a good attendance for our Christmas meeting cum BBQ.

Maurie Kupsch spoke about the three W's that seem to be his nemesis, with the current ones being water, weeds, & "wogs". The first, of course, being the need to irrigate, then secondly the luxuriant weed growth (why aren't THEY drought stricken?) and finally the third being the lacewing and thrip that appear to be thriving in these current conditions.

Ian Chalk spoke briefly about the progress being made by A.R.S. to gain the required permission for collecting sample material from both *R. viriosum* and *R. lochiaie*, growing wild in north Qld, so that DNA testing can establish exactly what species do exist within our Australian native vireyas.

Perhaps a combination of current dry conditions and the pre-Christmas workload saw only a solitary entry in the flower judging contest. Consequently it took out first place unopposed. Thank you Frank Medwin for sharing that attractive pink and white cinnamon-scented Rose Liliium with us all.

Audrey wore a big winner's grin as she claimed a healthy young *Abies densa* plant as her raffle prize, as other envious eyes watched on. Then going to Claude Merrett, one of our more recent members, was the door prize of an attractive poinsettia, perhaps soon to decorate their Christmas table.

Instead of the usual afternoon tea following our meetings, we were presented with a sumptuous array of very tempting foods. Once we had made serious inroads into the savoury offerings, the tables were laden with a similarly inviting variety of sweets. Thank you to our ladies, and men at the BBQ, for their efforts to totally ruin our svelte figures, and also to all who enjoyed casting aside their diets to enjoy the delicious fare provided.

May 2016 be a year of even more happy camaraderie at our beautiful EVRG. *Pete*



**BRETT  
WHITELEY** MP  
Federal Member for Braddon

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## Around the Garden

Welcome back to what has been one of the driest summers since I've been here at EVRG! Maurie is still irrigating for the time being, as the spring fed lakes are getting on the low side, we are just monitoring the levels and taking one day at a time. So if there's anyone out there that has a trick or two up their sleeve or knows of a rain dance that is sure to work then NOW IS THE TIME TO STRUT YOUR STUFF . 😊



I rounded up a team last week consisting of utes, trailers and some men with muscle who could also tie knots, and off we went to do our annual bale carting field trip. The bales are now here, staked and covered and ready to be used so if there are people reading this who would like to get involved with a great bunch of people who enjoy the outdoor kind of office, then this is the place for you! We have areas of the garden that are long overdue and in need of a good brush cut - weed, fertilise and mulch so if you are interested, please come and see me.

The nursery upgrade is nearly complete so I am busy taking cuttings trying to get the hot bed full and Trevor is busy moving plants up from the lower tunnels and onto our new roller beds as well as potting up in the new potting shed. The roller beds are all on automated water timers and is working exceptionally well and is one less area that Maurie has to worry about as far as turning the water on and off each night.

Another job well done and thank you to all who have helped out in this project. Neet



## Welcome

A warm rhodo garden welcome to new members Steve Locke, Allison Tribolet-Turner, Alison & Tony Mills, Vivien Henderson, and Bek & Kel Tipton.

### *Pete's Right of Reply*

The camera doesn't lie, they say  
but My Lord, I beg to differ;  
our Heather is the villain here  
her camera's always with her.  
There was a dearth of dessert  
bowls  
so I could find no other  
it held a very modest serve -  
I've been framed like Whistler's  
mother!



*Amongst our many functions in December we have been rewarded with some very special community projects to cater for.*

*This photo is of a special Christmas function organised by the Somerset Rotary Club for the parents of children with significant medical issues. The opportunity for the children to enjoy a ride in the people mover was a great hit.  
Ian*



## *Rhododendron scottianum*

Many members of the Maddenii Series are quite highly fragrant, with *R.scottianum* one of the best.

*R. scottianum* was first collected north-west of Tengyueh, in Western Yunnan in 1912 and by Forrest in 1932. Rock located it again in western Yunnan growing amongst other plants on rocky slopes, and depending on growing conditions it can be from 600mm to 3m high in the wild. Our plants have been growing for around fifteen years and are well clad to 2m. The flowers are funnel-shaped white or white-flushed rose with a yellow blotch at the base and very fragrant. These plants growing at EVRG can be viewed just off the Noel

Sullivan walk in the Yunnan section next to a yellow flowered *R. irroratum*.

*R. scottianum* is a very variable species and in a revision of rhododendrons by the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh (Volume 39 No. 1) *R. scottianum* has been merged with *R. pachypodum*, as has *R. supranubium*. I am sorry but I cannot agree about this – they look nothing like each other here and they deserve their separate identity. *Maurie*

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



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