

May 2016

Rhodo News

Newsletter 385



Official Newsletter of the
Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

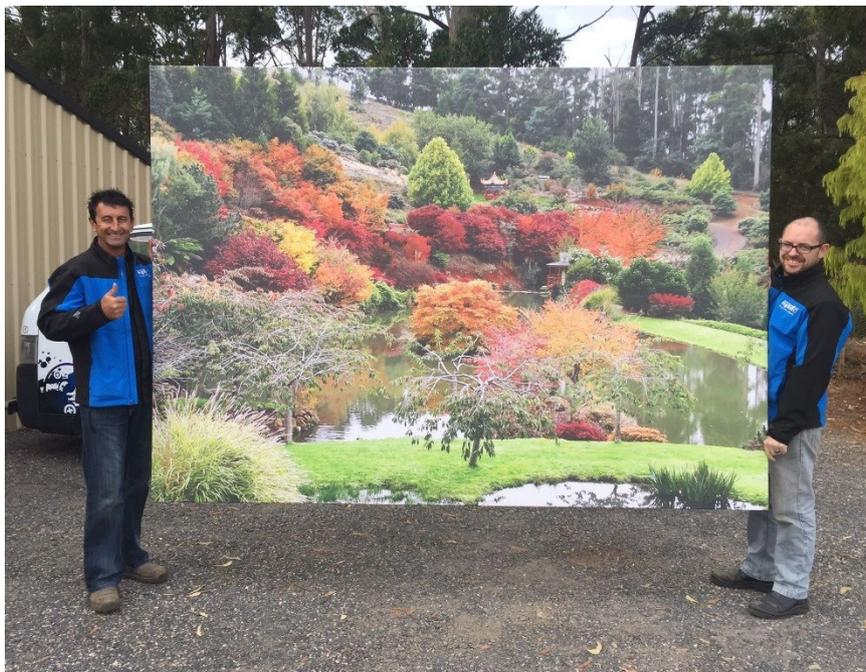
Postal Address: PO Box 39 Burnie Tasmania 7320 Phone: 6433 1805

enquiries@evrg.com.au

Chairman: Geoff Wood Newsletter Editor: Nigel Burch

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

Sorry Sheffield—THIS is a mural!



Emu Valley enthusiast Wilfred Ashton is a spritely 90 year old from Launceston. He often visits us, and recently commissioned sign writer Todd Rogers (above left) to create a huge canvas of one of Heather Walmsley's photos to donate to the Manor Gardens in Kings Meadows. Trevor Walmsley took it down in his ute and it is now hanging proudly in the Manor Gardens dining room.

Calendar

Sunday 8th May
Mothers' Day Lunch
EVRG at 12.30pm—\$28
BOOK EARLY!

Saturday 14th May
Safe Food
Handling Course
At EVRG 10.30am

Sunday 15th May
Social Meeting
At EVRG 2pm

See us at:
emuvalleyrhodo.com.au

Chairman's Report

You will have seen in April's newsletter that there will be times set aside for us to look at how we conduct tours and what information we are passing onto to our visitors in general. Actual dates have not been confirmed but it will be in August. It is really important that we increase the number of volunteers to show people around, as the numbers at present are so low that we have nearly had to cancel requested tours on a number of occasions. So please give this some thought and especially so when you see the number of cruise ship visits increasing.

There is so much going on, with plans well under way for the opening of the Flowering Season, 35 Year Celebration, Cherry Blossom Celebration and plans for a Sculpture Competition.

We also have our business review reaching a most important stage. Consultant Warren Moore recently addressed the management committee, and the next step is for him to meet with members on Tuesday 28 June at 1 pm. This is the opportunity not only for Warren to give a detailed briefing but for members to be able to ask questions and give their thoughts and ideas as to where EVRG's future lies. Also in respect to the review I was asked about the cost involved and happily I can confirm that we have been successful in sourcing further funding to ensure its completion.

Don't forget any ideas or suggestions you may have for EVRG are always appreciated.

Geoff Wood 0427 722060 geoffreywood@me.com

Welcome

A warm rhodo garden welcome to Nessbit & Michele Hurcum, Pauline Beasley, and Beverley McNamara & Alex Nicholas.

Social Meeting Report From 17th April

With sample blooms from each, Maurie explained the differences between *R. tuba* & *R. rhodoleucum*. Both are very striking flowers with the added bonus of having fragrance. We appreciate these occasions when our rhododendron "guru" shares his extensive knowledge with our members, in bite sized portions.

Sharing the guest speaker role were husband & wife team, Philip & "Cat" St Evens, who with their young daughter Aeolani, are our cottage tenants. Philip spoke of his recent past vocation as a sleep scientist, from which he is now "semi-retired." A more in-depth explanation of his skills and qualifications can be read on his flyers for two upcoming seminars to be held in our receptions room. EVRG members having generously been offered a special discount to attend.

While also highly qualified, Cat's chosen field is in childhood education with emphasis on speech and language skills, although she also describes herself as an artist. Their presentation was interesting and a great opportunity for members to meet up with our new tenants in an informal setting.

Top place in flower voting went to a vireya, *R. Angi Gita*, entered by Frank and Beris Medwin, with second place being a *R. tuba* from the same garden. Sam Biggins and Melvie Moore claimed the top honours for cut blooms, in that order. Val de Bomford carried home the raffle prize while the door prize was taken by Ethel Tavner.

Total raised by the above events and the Trade Table was \$72.80. *Pete Stratford*

Editor's Note: Pete just had a very successful Burnie launch of his book of humorous poems: "Why I sit like this ... and other stories". A Wynyard launch will be held on Friday, May 13th at Artscape, 45 Jackson St at 6pm. All welcome!



**BRETT
WHITELEY** MP
Federal Member for Braddon

Ph: 6431 1333 | www.brettwhiteleymp.com.au

Supporting the
Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden

Paid Advertisement

Around the Garden



What a picture of colour the garden has put on for us this Autumn so far! With no wind (for now) around to blow the leaves off the trees, it has been ideal conditions for garden enthusiasts and photographers alike. We are still irrigating and waiting for the rain to come before we can start planting out, as our nursery is overflowing with plants that are more than ready to be put in the ground.

I had my little offsider in last week for a day and look what we came across on our walk around the garden. It is banksia baueri – Possum Banksia. Very soft to touch and stands around 30cm tall.

Our Working Bee day last Thursday was an all in top effort by all! We had a mountain of woodchips to move out of the carpark before they get too heavy with rain (that will hopefully come) and of course the need to mulch the recently



weed free banks. We also applied fertilizer around each plant as well as a handful or two of blood and bone. The use of woodchips and other green organic material can sometimes lead to a nitrogen deficiency in the soil as it breaks down, so it is always best to give a helping hand where possible. Thank you to all who were involved in this back-breaking mission!

Enjoy the colours! Neet

