

October 2016

Rhodo News

Newsletter 390



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

Become a Tour Guide!!



URGENT Can you help? *We Need Volunteer Guides Urgently*

We have now reached the point where it is likely that there will be no alternative but to say NO to groups requesting guided walking tours!!! There are simply not enough volunteers to do walking guide tours. Guided tours have been a great selling point for many years. Visitors mainly want to meet local people, so you don't need to be an expert at all - just friendly!

It doesn't have to be on a regular roster. Just one tour per month would be a great help. So please give either Sue in the office 6433 1805 or President Geoff 0427 722060 a call and we will show you what is required. It's very easy, fun and satisfying!

Calendar

Saturday 8th October

Cherry Blossom Celebration
10am to 3pm

Sunday 16th October

Social Meeting
At EVRG at 2pm

Saturday 12th November

35th Year Celebration
At EVRG 5pm to 9pm

Around the Garden



Snake bark maple trunk

Everything is slowly waking up after the wet winter and the lawns here at EVRG are no exception! Mowing and brush cutting the edges will be a weekly chore along with the continual weeding that must be on going to keep up with the 'best of the best' well known gardens. The new growth on the Acer Capillipes (Snake bark maple), are quite striking and has received a lot of attention during the week, especially when we had a walking group through for the day. It is native to mountainous areas of Japan.



Fantastic new growth colours

The rhododendrons are beginning to flower and are looking fantastic, even some of the big leaf varieties are still in colour so if you have missed them, then come and see them quick! Flowering at the moment in the garden and up at the nursery are *R. irroratum* 'Polka Dot', *R. lutescens*, *R. liliiflorum*, *R. dendrocharis*, *R. boothii* mishmiense, *R. 'Bibiani'*, *R. 'PJM'*, *R. 'Freckle Pink'* and of course this is only naming a small handful!



R. boothii (Mishmiense Group)

The deciduous azaleas are very close to flowering as you can just see a petite amount of colour trying to break through on the flower buds, meaning if you have had trouble with petal blight in the past, now is the time to spray for this to get the most out of the flowering season.

Short but sweet this month, so see you on Cherry Blossom day and remember to bring your camera!

From Neet, mother duck and her tribe.



Welcome

A big rhodo Garden welcome to new members Bronwynne Bushby, Peg Bernard, Celesta & Yuri Castillo, Meredith & Simon Nettleton, and Viki Elphinstone.



Rhododendron dendrocharis



Rhododendron excellens

R. excellens was introduced to western gardens in 1980 from south of the Red River from Mengtze, South Yunnan and we were fortunate to acquire a few seeds in 1990. Only one plant grew out of those seeds and it formed a compact rounded shrub to one metre high producing large white perfumed flowers with a large yellow centre. The emerging buds are quite green before opening, making quite an attractive feature.

However we went on to receive further seed collected from North Vietnam and South Yunnan which have produced a more open plant leaves and flowers being the same as the original plant we grew. Rhododendron excellens is similar to R.nuttallii with large fragrant white flowers, but there are fewer flowers in the truss. It belongs in the Dalhousiae Alliance - Subsection Maddeni.

To check on the plants at Emu Valley, the first plant mentioned is to be found on the left hand side as you enter the Yunnan section along the Noel Sullivan Walk. The other collections may be viewed near the North-Eastern corner of the Wisteria car park. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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