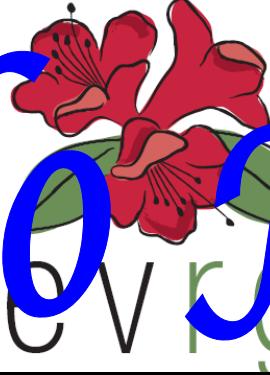


September 2017

Rhodo News

Newsletter 400



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

INVITATION

Acting Chairman Ivan, Chairman Geoff and the Management Group of EVRG extend a very cordial invitation to all members to attend the
"official opening of the 2017 flowering season"

by Bill Lawson, founder and past Chairman of the Beacon Foundation AND Rhododendron Enthusiast
on Saturday 16th of September at 11.30 a.m. at EVRG.

Join our guests for morning tea from 11.00am and enjoy the vista of colour and ambience created in our garden by volunteers.

RSVP by Thursday 14th September - for catering purposes please:
enquiries@evrg.com.au or on mobile: 0400 963 493

*There will be a discounted admission charge of \$6 on the day.
Refreshments & plant sales will be available.*

Special auction of rare plants at noon, at the conclusion of the official opening.

Calendar

Sunday 10th Sept	Saturday 16th Sept	Wednesday 20th Sept	Saturday 21st Oct
AGM & Social Meeting EVRG at 2pm	Official Opening 11.30am at EVRG	Penguin Parade (See Chairman's Report)	Cherry Blossom Festival EVRG at 10-3pm

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com.au

Chairman's Report

I took a lady around the garden this week. She lives twenty minutes away and had no idea where we are located. She was blown away and has now told a friend to check us out for a possible wedding venue. It really shows how we have to get out into our local communities and get the message across, that on their doorstep is an internationally recognised garden, with something to see and do all year round, and has one of the largest collection of rhododendron species growing outdoors anywhere in the world.

There is so much happening:-

Annual General Meeting Sunday 10 September - NOTE this is a week earlier than usual

Come along and hear about what has happened over the past year. Have your say about where we should be heading. Not only will the management team be appointed, but also the meeting will be asked to endorse the recommended appointees to the Board of Directors.

Flower Season Opening Saturday 16 September

Come along and listen to an interesting address by Bill Lawson. Not only is he a rhododendron enthusiast, hear what he has achieved in various pursuits. How Tasmania has benefited is incredible.

September 20 6.30pm - 8.30pm -- Special for Members and Volunteers

Join Emu Valley members Steve & Kathy for a personalised guided penguin viewing experience. Meet at Burnie Penguin Observation Centre, Parsonage Point behind the Makers Centre, near Burnie Brass Band hall.

Gold coin donation. Other info: Kathy [0417 551130](tel:0417551130) (We can provide red cellophane for covering your torch light)

Cherry Blossom Celebration Saturday 21 October

This is one of the biggest events we run. Please, if you are able to distribute some flyers either contact the office or call Kathy Gordon on 0417 551130. Also, if you are able to help on the day (there are plenty of tasks) drop me an email.

Capital Improvement Drive as at 31st August

Total Amount: \$10,550 – made up of

Land Acquisition \$1,220

Tea Room Expansion: \$3,720

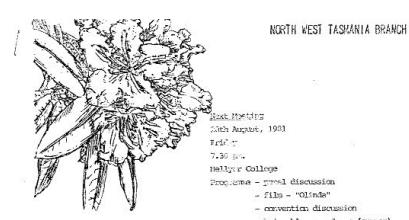
Mini Bus \$1,500

Chairperson's Choice \$4,110

The drive is still open and every dollar helps.

The garden is looking magic and the Tea Room is open. If you can help in any way please get in contact, as we seriously are reaching a point in the year where our volunteers will be incredibly stretched.

Cheers, Geoff. geoffreywood@me.com 0427 722060



Welcome

A colourful spring rhodo garden welcome to new members Patricia Locke, Annie Warneke & Emilie Watts, Ali Symes & Rebecca Lavis, and Graeme & Eileen Sherriff.

Issue No. 400

Sharp-eyed readers will have noticed this is the 400th issue of the Rhodo News!!

Current editor Nigel Burch has been doing the honours for about 12 years. Our first newsletter was sent out in August 1981. The editor then was Pam Kupsch (still an active member and newsletter contributor!) and it invited members to the next meeting at Hellyer College, where a film on the Olinda garden was screened.

The President in those days was Dr Noel Sullivan, supported by Vice President Hilary O'Rourke. Neither is still with us, but their Garden continues to grow and is a permanent reminder of them.

Above is Pam's famous Issue No 1. A true collector's item! In those days the technology didn't allow for colour, and it was just one double-sided black and white page. Meetings couldn't be held at the Garden, as there were no buildings then.



In The Garden

I couldn't be more excited, because not only is the weather bound to improve but there is so much to look forward to here with changes taking place on a daily basis in and around the garden. Big leaf rhododendrons showing off their fantastic colour exhibition, the deciduous trees will soon display their leaves again, the deciduous azaleas are only a few weeks away, the plant sales area is soon to be refilled with many different varieties opening on the 16th September, and of course not to mention the fishing on my days off! Have I said that I love Spring ?!

My Tiger den down stairs has been taken over by brown and blue plant labels for rhododendron and tree species and they will soon be positioned around the garden. Won't that make a difference! A massive thank you to James Holloway for all of your time, patience and self-teaching of the label machine - this is a weight off my shoulders for sure. The next challenge is to tie Maurie down, and for him to tell us where they all live while we're on a roll. I have sown our new rhodo seeds that arrived a few months ago, so now it's just the waiting game to see what decides to germinate and how many we might be lucky enough to grow.

Here is a sneak peek at what rhododendron hunsteini (vireya) seed look like. Narrow fibres, fawn in colour, which could easily be mistaken for fine sawdust or in this case fair hair/fur and not all rhododendron seed will look like this. I could go on and on, but that will have to do as I'm busting to get outside on this still and sunny morning (even if it is a whole 7 degrees out there). So get out and enjoy it, or better still, get out and come and see us here!

Carn the Tiges!! Neet



Social Meeting Report for 20th August

It was a joy to see more smiling faces attending the meeting, perhaps encouraged to venture outdoors by the much sunnier day. With Chairman Geoff absent, we had a dot point presentation of current matters pertaining to the garden. Of particular importance were:

1. Submissions have been made for funds to assist in the purchase of a 12 seater bus. If successful, Emu Valley would still be required to contribute towards that purchase.
2. Interviews for the Board of directors will be completed by Wednesday 6th Sept.
3. EVRG will hold its AGM on 10th Sept. and this will also be our monthly social meeting.
4. Tour guides are in very short supply. Even one day per month would be a great help.

Kathy Gordon introduced colourful flyers promoting our Cherry Blossom Festival. These are available for distribution by our members, etc.

Showing us a trio of trusses from our large leafed rhodos, Maurie expanded on their qualities and their location within the garden. Some are in full bloom at present, with others soon to follow, so if you don't want to miss this glorious display, don't delay a visit. Just off the end of the Olympus Bridge, the recently named "Terry Shadbolt" is a beautiful display. Aided by some overhead illustrations, there was a short talk about how tobacco was grown commercially in N.Z. before the end of the 20th century.

Flower voting submissions were still without any rhodo or vireya entries, but a very attractive truss of "Dr Clifford Parke", a camellia from Frank & Beris Medwin, earned top points, while a boldly coloured spray of crocus, grown by Peter Gordon followed up closely. John Moore was seen heading home after the meeting, to seek a spare space in his garden, having won the Door Prize—a healthy vireya plant. Val Bottle purchased the winning ticket in the raffle. Proceeds from flower voting, trade table and raffle totalled \$54.50.

Frequently overlooked in the "credits" but certainly not unappreciated, are the afternoon tea offerings enjoyed by all following our meetings. To those who make this happen, a hearty "thank you" from everyone. Pete



R. spinuliferum

An interesting species only found growing in Yunnan China is *R. spinuliferum*. Where most rhododendron flowers open wide this unique species presents its flowers in tubular form with the stamens and style protruding from the open end.

It was first collected by Abbe Delavay in July 1891 in southern Yunnan and later by many other collectors in the same area. Western gardens received seed in 1907 and Rock and McLaren reintroduced it in 1932. In its native habitat *R. spinuliferum* grows into an open shrub or small tree to four meters, in cultivation though it may only reach half this height bringing the rather unique flowers closer to eye level. These flowers can be

crimson-red, red or pinkish yellow. We grow all three colour forms with the red form the last to appear.

At Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden *R. spinuliferum* starts to flower late August and continues through most of September, and can be viewed on the right hand side of the road to the Chinese Pavilion just before the stand of *cryptomeria japonica*. Whether it is because the flowers resemble heath flowers or a food shortage but yellow winged honeyeaters and mock wattlebirds are constant visitors. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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