

May 2018

# Rhodo News

Newsletter 407



Official Newsletter of the

*Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc*

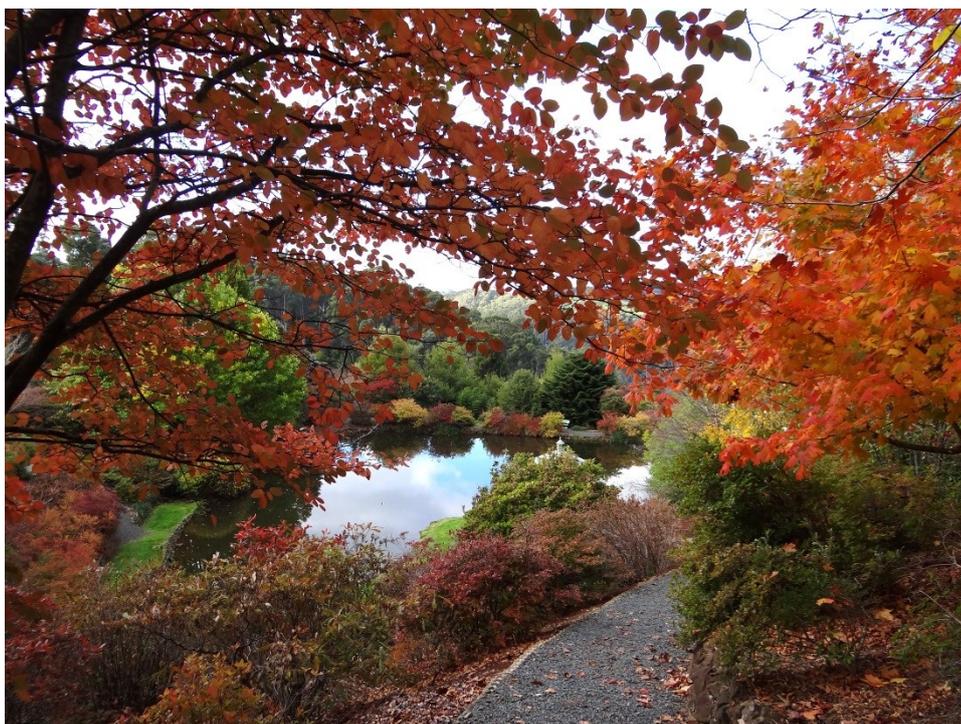
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General Manager: Geoff Wood Newsletter Editor: Nigel Burch

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

## *A Spectacular Autumn*



*Our Autumn Spectacular event went brilliantly. Hundreds of people came through the gate and off-site parking with the shuttle bus worked a treat. The homemade burgers created by our volunteers were a hit—as was the Burnie Concert Band and Segway Singers. Make sure you don't miss it next year!*

**Sunday 13th May**

Mothers' Day Luncheon

EVRG 12.30pm

**Sunday 20th May**

Social Meeting

EVRG 2pm

**Sunday 27th May**

BGANZ Open Day

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

## *Around The Garden*

I'd like to start by saying a massive thank you to all those who made 'autumn Spectacular' such a wonderful day! From those who helped in preparation before the big day with lawn mowing and brush cutting duties, weeding and mulching the main 'must see' areas, all of the 'behind the scene' phone calls, interviews and running around, the tearoom and kitchen staff with tasty treats, to the people who played music for hours and kept our visitors entertained and of course to all of the guests we had through our gates on the day. It sure was a terrific day !



The garden is truly looking spectacular at the moment but soon will be coming to an end (as far as Autumn colours are concerned). So if you have not been here to see it for yourself, make some time to do so, you wont be disappointed!

### Autumn jobs:

Now is the perfect time to be planting bulbs, ready to burst into bloom for Spring. From Tulips and Daffodils to freesias and iris reticulata and in my opinion in mass quantities for that 'wow' factor. Get the kids involved with planting bulbs – it's quick and easy and brings huge rewards.

Thinking of planting a fruit tree or two but don't have room for a whole orchard? Well there are fruit trees that are self-fertile therefore not needing more than itself to produce fruit. These include peach, apricot and Lemons etc and now is the right time to be planting them while the soil is still warm enough.

Want to bring more bird and butterfly life into your garden? (and I'm not talking about the blackbird variety!) By planting natives such as bottle brushes, banksias and grevilleas—just to name a few of my favourites—will encourage this as they will feed on the nectar. By planting the more prickly leaf variety it will also give protection to the birds from predators and safer nesting sites and will add colour to your garden in Winter as well!

*Taken by Neet in the corner of North America, on the morning of 'Autumn Spectacular'.*

Time for me to get planting so happy gardening! *Neet*

## *Social Meeting Report 15th April*

Pete Stratford was an apology for our meeting on April 15 (well that is what he told me). He and Doreen were able to make it late and he then won the door prize. To top things off Steve Locke was also a late appearance won the raffle! Frank and Berris Medwin were successful with their displays to collect the flower voting display. Earl Rasmussen who owns Aeroast Imagery in Burnie was our guest speaker. Those present were delighted watching the Drone Video he so kindly did of our garden. Earl then spoke of how drones work and how important they are becoming to industries such as tourism and farming.

Cheers *Geoff ( alias Pete)*

## General Manager's Report

Poowong, Wangaratta, Hendon, Ardath and the list goes on! These are just some of the places throughout Australia from where we have recently had visitors to Emu Valley. It is great to see how well known we are becoming. Although there is still much work to be done to get more Tasmanians through the gate it was really pleasing that the vast majority of visitors on our Autumn Spectacular Day were Tasmanians (a big Thankyou to John and Ann Englund for again turning their property into a parking lot). Also to everyone who helped out in the lead up or on the day — Thankyou. Popularity = more visitors. For the month of April we had just short of 9000 people check us out on line!

Our hospitality/catering volunteers are brilliant but are in need of more help. Please, if you can spare any time it will be greatly appreciated. Mother's Day is coming up and based on last year volunteers will be needed.

We will be holding a workshop to throw around ideas for the 2018/2019 Cruise Ship season. The date will be in the June newsletter.

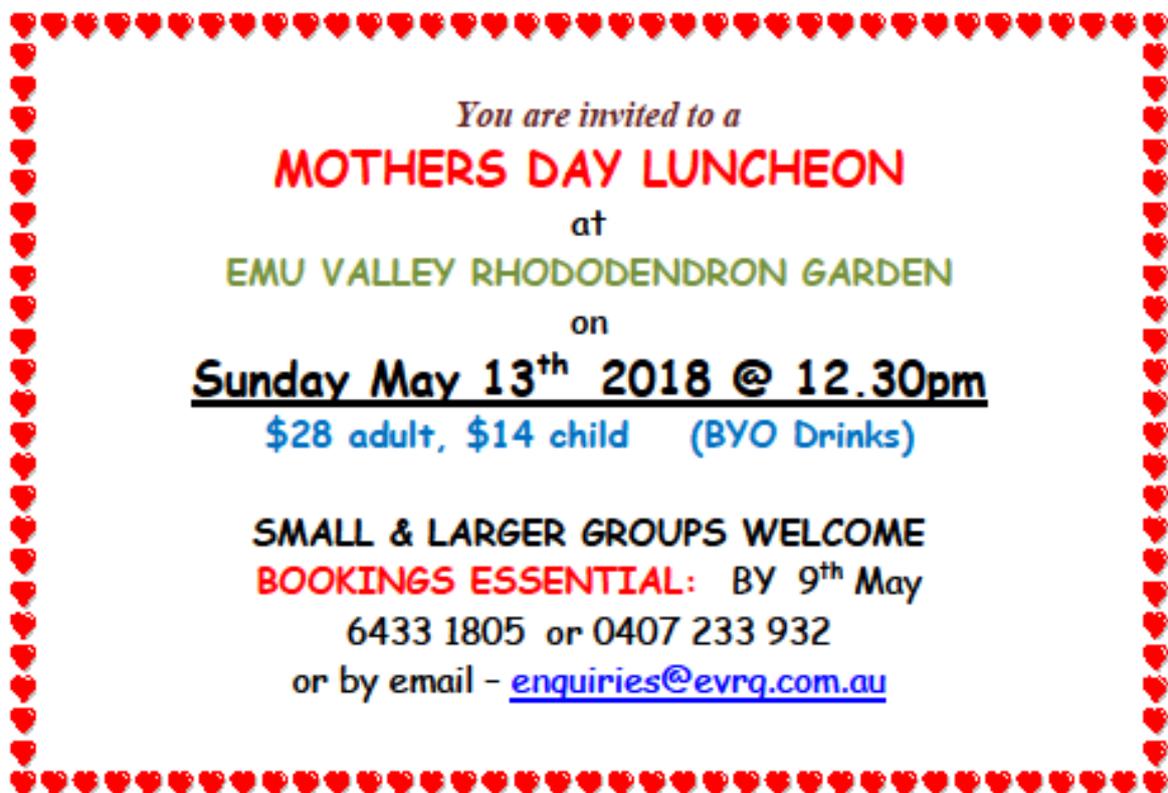
*Any suggestions or thoughts please let me know – [geoffreywood@me.com](mailto:geoffreywood@me.com) // 0427 722060*

### New Post Office Address

For convenience Emu Valley's post office box is now located in Upper Burnie. The address is PO Box U33, Upper Burnie.

## Welcome

A warm rhodo garden welcome to new members Faye & Ian McCarthy, Klara Huddleston, Zoe James, Jean Henderson, Rumiko Young, Colin & Lois Mellor and Megan & Keith Smith.



*You are invited to a*  
**MOTHERS DAY LUNCHEON**  
at  
**EMU VALLEY RHODODENDRON GARDEN**  
on  
**Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup> 2018 @ 12.30pm**  
**\$28 adult, \$14 child (BYO Drinks)**

**SMALL & LARGER GROUPS WELCOME**  
**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: BY 9<sup>th</sup> May**  
**6433 1805 or 0407 233 932**  
or by email - [enquiries@evrq.com.au](mailto:enquiries@evrq.com.au)



## *R. cuneatum*

George Forrest first introduced *Rhododendron cuneatum* to western gardens in 1913 having come across it in 1910 in the mountains to the northeast of the Yangtze bend in Yunnan. Later collected by others including Kingdon-Ward, Rock and McLaren from the Yulong Shan in Yunnan and in southwest Sichuan, China.

In cultivation it is a compact shrub to 1.5 metres but in the wild it can grow to twice this height. However most of its relatives in Subsection *Lapponica* grow to less than one metre.

The leaves are broadly elliptic sometimes aromatic and the rust-coloured scales are easy to see (these scales are typical of lepidote rhododendrons.) The flowers are freely produced in trusses of 3-6 and can range in colour from rose-lavender, purple to lavender-blue, with or without deeper spots inside.

At Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden we grow many of subsection *lapponica* including *R. cuneatum* that can be seen flowering in all its glory in Yunnan and Sichuan areas in mid October. *Maurie*

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



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