

# Rhodo News

Newsletter 352

Official Newsletter of the

*Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc.*

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Chairman: Terry Shadbolt

Secretary: Jenny Chalk

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## R. "Sheer Magic"



*The late Dr Noel Sullivan was a keen hybridizer. He constantly looked for parents which would give not only a delightful flowers, but also added interest in the foliage. One such hybrid was the cross between R 'Bambi' (yakushmanum x 'Fabia Tangerine') and R. 'Morning Magic' (yakushmanum x 'Springbok').*

*In 1995 Noel said "I have great hopes for a seedling that will flower this year, and if up to expectations, this cross between R. 'Bambi' and R. 'Morning Magic', might well be named 'Sheer Magic' for the foliage is outstanding, but some time must elapse for the plant form to be assessed."*

*Time has elapsed and certainly the plant has lived up to his expectations as both leaves and flowers show the strong influence of R. yakushmanum – the leaves have a dark green shiny surface with a dark fawn indumentum and the flowers are semi double deep pink in bud opening to a paler pink. It grows to 80cms in a nice tight mound and when in flower lives up to its name.*

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

### Calendar

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**May**

Post-Season Review meeting for all interested at EVRG at 1pm.

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**May**

Regular meeting at the EVRG at 2pm. Ian Chalk will take us on a photographic walk around Pukeiti Garden in New Zealand.

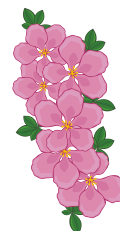


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## ACTING CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

It is indeed rewarding to see the international recognition of EVRG flowing through this newsletter (see back page) and the future positive benefits it will bring to Burnie and Tasmania. Congratulations to those with the foresight and effort that has led to the development of EVRG over the past 30 years.

Contact has been made with all candidates for the Upper House election and we look forward to an early briefing with the successful candidate. Meetings are now commencing with candidates for the forthcoming Federal election seeking ongoing support for EVRG from them, and their parties.

Beneficial meetings have also occurred recently with the Burnie City Council which will culminate in a presentation to a Council Workshop.

It was indeed a pleasure for Jenny and I to visit Pukeiti and also Hollard and Tuppare Gardens in New Zealand, three outstanding gardens in the New Plymouth region, all originally developed by volunteers and philanthropists. They are now administered by the Taranaki Regional Council, which is to be commended for its financial commitment and management. Hopefully there will be ongoing benefits from the contacts that Jenny and I were able to make on behalf of EVRG. Particularly pleasing to have time at Pukeiti with retired curator Graham Smith following his consultancy in 2009.

I do hope that you were able to experience EVRG's outstanding autumn colours. In closing our continuing thoughts are with Chairman Terry as he progresses with his treatment.

*Ian Chalk*



*Graham Smith with Jenny Chalk at Pukeiti*

## WELCOME

A warm welcome to Michael and Robyn Hynes, and to Bob and Kaye Calvert. Bob is on our Advisory Board, and is now a member as well.

## TRUST ACCOUNT

The Purpose of this account is the build it up to \$500,000 so that interest from such an amount would underpin future employment expenses. Reaching such a target depends on bequests and donations. As this financial year draws to a close, remember that donations made to EVRG are tax deductible.

## CRUISE SHIPS

The last cruise ship for the season berthed on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. With morning showers, the day was not particularly inviting to be outdoors. However, we did have good numbers both on the Attractions Bus and our own courtesy bus to make it an enjoyable and profitable day. Many thanks to our volunteers who commit so much of their day to be gracious guides, dutiful drivers and a happy hosts on cruise ship days – it can be very hectic at times! Feedback from passengers indicates that actually meeting with those folk who own, create and maintain EVRG is one of their trip highlights.

## WINTER FUNCTION

We need to do things for our members, especially our volunteers. One thing we do fairly often that gets good support is some event mid-winter. This year we will schedule a dinner at EVRG in August – perhaps “Christmas in August? More info later.

## POST-SEASON REVIEW

Thank you to all those who provided suggestions and comments. A meeting, open to all members, to discuss this feedback and our operations in general will be held on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 1pm**

Especially now that we are employing staff and we are all that little bit older, a review of our operation becomes critical. We need to identify where loads on volunteers are unreasonable and also to deploy our available workforce to gain maximum efficiency and productivity.



## LAST MEETING

The absence of so many who are taking a break after a busy summer season, was reflected in our meeting attendance of 22 members. We trust that those holidaying will return refreshed again and eager to face the rest of the year.

It is a pleasure to see Leonie Hiscutt join our ranks as a new member. Welcome Leonie, and we hope you are able to fit our meetings into your busy schedule.

The meeting was chaired by Pete Stratford but with some of our regular members away their tasks were delegated to others at short notice. We appreciate that they stepped up so willingly to fill the gaps.

Maurie Kupsch reported that insufficient rainfall thus far was still a problem, and had adversely affected some areas quite badly. Likewise the effects of lacebug and thrip were very evident in areas of the garden.

The Trade table raised \$15.10, and the raffle \$26.00, while the Flower voting was \$3.70.

Rob Sadler from the well known cut flower production property at Flowerdale, was our guest speaker. He presented a very interesting talk on the production of lili-ums from initial propagation through to the marketing of the blooms. This included both the ups and downs that affect all primary producers so that no-one went away thinking that this was an easy way to make a living. Some of the details of the 2 hectare hot house currently nearing completion were quite amazing. Using real blooms, and a complete plant, to illustrate his talk added to the interest and there was no shortage of willing recipients when the blooms were handed out afterwards.

As is customary we all enjoyed some great fellowship over a cuppa & refreshments at the close of the meeting

## IN THE GARDEN

Welcome all to another colourful Autumn. We have been lucky enough for the wind to stay well away which has allowed us to enjoy the changing colours on the trees for a little longer. I can't stress to you enough how fantastic our Japanese area is looking at the moment, especially with the three *Acer japonicum aconitifolium* (full moon maple) on the way down to Japan, in full colour. It really is a 'must see' – see picture below. Also closer to the car park is another show stopper, and that is *Betula lenta*. The leaves have turned to a rich yellow and it is well worth a look, as is the whole garden. Autumn, early winter, is also a time for our vireyas to flower. *R. Tuba* has covered itself yet again and smells delightful as you walk past, as is *R. Mrs Frances Under-*

wood. The very large, pure white and fragrant flowers are a delight to behold. *R. crassifolium* var. *crassifolium* is in full flower displaying its orange/red trusses for all to see, plus many more pink, yellow and oranges amongst these, and are all worthy of photographing.

We have started planting out in the areas of Sichuan, Tibet, Nepal, Burma, Arunchal Pradesh and Guizhou, now that we have finally had some rain to moisten the soil for us. That is a total of 256 rhododendrons for the month of April, but with many more still to plant.

After the prolonged dry spell, it has been made clear that we are in desperate need to upgrade our drains and waterways as they are too shallow and or blocking up far too easily. We have our excavator driver – Perc Pollard, coming in to add new drains and fix up existing ones within the next week. One drain along the fence line will have to be dug by hand, as machinery will not be able to get to this area. Are there any abled bodies that would be willing to help us with this? Please talk to Laurie or Juanita if possible and we can make a start.

Enjoy the remaining colours of autumn and if you haven't been in to visit, make sure you do. Until next month stay warm.  
*Maurie and Juanita*



Above: Our *Acer japonicum aconitifolium*s in all their glory. Below: More autumn colours.



