

June 2014

Rhodo News

Newsletter 364

evrg



Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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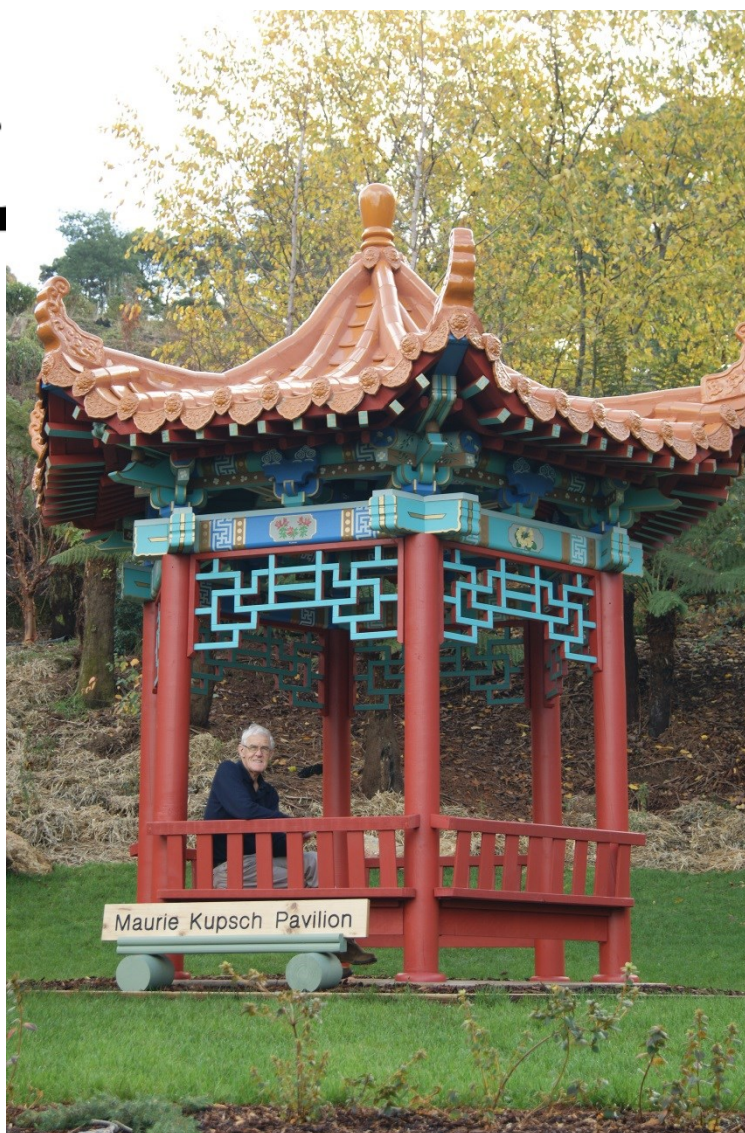
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Chairman: Ian Chalk Newsletter Editor: Nigel Burch

Patrons: (International) Kenneth Cox, (Tasmania) Mrs Frances Underwood

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Calendar

Sunday 15th

June

Regular meeting at Emu Valley Rhodo Garden at 2pm.

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R. bureavii



The Chinese Pavilion Opens

See us at:

emuvalleyrhodo.com.au





CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Congratulations and thanks to all our many volunteers and supporters who made the opening of THE MAURIE KUPSCH CHINESE PAVILION such an outstanding success. Another historic day in the 33 year life of EMU VALLEY and our privileged opportunity to acknowledge the enormous contribution of Curator Maurie. The addition of the Chinese Pavilion to Emu Valley lifts the garden to another higher plateau.

I again welcome the opportunity to acknowledge the significant contribution of the Tasmanian Community Fund in conjunction with MMG Mining Rosebery and the estate of past member John Howie for their assistance in bringing this incredible feature to fruition in the garden.

The occasion provided an opportunity to further progress our developing relationship with the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. Director Mark Fountain was very ably represented by Marcus Ragus and David Reid. They say thanks "for the great hospitality and opportunity to visit such a wonderful garden. It was a pleasure for us to meet such passionate and inspirational people, a credit to you all. We have many ideas we are keen to talk with Mark about the future prospects of our relationship with the EVRG."

Mark has expressed his extreme disappointment at not being able to be present but is looking forward to an early visit to both progress discussions between us and to witness the Maurie Kupsch Pavilion. I see many mutual benefits in progressing a closer working relationship between EVRG and the RTBG.

My thanks to you all for such an incredible contribution to another iconic attraction to our garden.

Ian Chalk

LAST MEETING

At our last Social Meeting on the 18th May, a potentially exciting scoop for EVRG was announced by Ian Chalk, with the news that our Patron Kenneth Cox has offered a hybrid rhododendron with red foliage. This plant, developed by Kenneth and his father, is named "Ever red" & along with its red blooms has deep red/burgundy coloured leaves, making it a most unusual and attractive bush. However, there are some hurdles to be overcome before we are able to possess the plant. Only tissue culture in vitro (in glass tubes) would be able to be imported & then there are strict quarantine laws in Tasmania to satisfy as well. Granted, there are challenges but a potentially exciting development for our garden.

Smaller offerings were offset by the quality of blooms on the flower voting table, where Ian Chalk's vireya "Simbu Sunset" took top placing. A Protea and a Leucadendron from the Tavner's garden were first & second in the cut flower section.

Our guest speaker, Jeremy Ritch, formerly west Park Nursery and now at Bunnings plant department, spoke about his career path in the plant retail field. From a young lad who didn't know what a hydrangea was to his current level of knowledge and expertise has been an interesting journey.

Door prize: Leah Ling Raffle raised: \$34.00 Trade Table: \$51.40 Best Flower: \$ 14.70

Pete Stratford

WELCOME

A warm welcome to new members Maggie Harris, Geoffrey & Morva Morris, Glenda & Garry Wells, Christine & William Thompson, Roselle & Maryl Cropper, Muriel Owens and Julie Arnold, and Max Byrne.

AROUND THE GARDEN

It's sad to say goodbye to Autumn, as the deciduous trees sure did put on a colourful display for us this season, but winter is here. We have welcomed a few new volunteers that have decided to help us around the garden, and they sure are making a dent on my 'to do' list! Their names are Alan Dobson and Dave Page, and so far they are in the process of upgrading the walking tracks, loading bales up and putting mulch around our new plants, constantly cleaning drains and water ways and are very handy with the chainsaw too! Great job fellas, thank you and welcome.



New volunteers Alan Dobson and Dave Page hard at work.

Maurie, Trevor and I have been busy sorting through the plants up at the nursery, finding out what we have and how many of each go in to what country and so far we have planted out a total of 634 this year. We may still have another hundred or so to plant out, but the remaining left will wait for the following year. Next job is to tidy up 'Kupsch's cubbies', ready for the rhododendron seeds to be sown. This will take place towards the end of the month.

The raspberry cage now looks like it is meant to, and not an overgrown jungle, so thank you to Doreen and Lynette for tackling this job. I think the first bowl of raspberries should go to you both when they ripen!

Till next month, stay warm but make sure you come and see what our volunteers have been up to. There's always something different to see each time you visit.

Juanita



Autumn colour at the EVRG, from Heather Walmsley.



R. bureavii

One of the most outstanding rhododendrons in the Taliense series is *R. bureavii*, which was discovered by Abbe Delavay in 1886 in north-west Yunnan. Other collections were made in the same area and also west Sichuan where it was found to be growing in open conifer forests. George Forrest first introduced it in 1917, and then McLaren in 1938.

Perhaps its most striking feature is the foliage – with a thick woolly coating of rusty cinnamon brown indumentum not only covering the under side of the leaf, but all the branchlets and leaf stalks are similarly coated. The leaves of the new

growth are also a light brown colour making it a very desirable plant.

The flowers are white flushed rose with crimson spots, but these do not appear readily until the plant has aged a little. The plant pictured at EVRG would probably be about 10 years old. It is worth the wait though so don't despair.

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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