

July 2014

Rhodo News

Newsletter 365



Official Newsletter of the
Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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

Calendar

Sunday 20th

July

Regular meeting at Emu Valley Rhodo Garden at 2pm.

Saturday

23rd August

Christmas in Winter at 6pm for 6.30pm.



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R. brassii



*Has Christopher Robin found our Japanese Garden?
No, it's our next generation horticulturalist,
Juanita's little boy Spencer—now two years old!*



See us at:
emuvallerrhodo.com.au

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I thought it opportune this month to highlight the increase in EVRG membership over the past year and to also shine the spotlight on two of our seldom seen back of stage administrators.



Membership Officer Tony Simpson

On behalf of the Management Committee, I want to acknowledge the significance of increasing our membership to 500. Your membership underpins and provides such an important structural base for the gardens continuing development. The administration of the increasing membership is a major role. I welcome the opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of our membership officer, Tony Simpson. This is not a front of house position yet so crucial to assisting our business manager Sue Johnson by establishing and maintaining the data base. Another major contributor is our financial mentor, Neville Hyland. Neville's role in developing and monitoring our EVRG budgets is crucial to our success.

I never cease to be amazed at the number of different roles undertaken willingly by our EVRG volunteers. Combined, you are creating a unique garden asset managed and owned by our volunteers and its membership.

In conclusion my thanks to those that have made it so easy for Jenny and I in recent weeks to enjoy the Kimberly out-back, loaded with history, gorges, waterfalls and the Ord River scheme. Our thanks to you all.

Happy gardening.

Ian Chalk

LAST MEETING

In lieu of a guest speaker, our learned Maurie Kupsch presented an interesting summary about the lesser known plants that have been donated to our garden by the Victoria League. Since none of these are readily available through the usual nurseries we are indeed privileged to have examples growing and providing attractive variety amongst the rhododendrons.

Some delicious smelling fruit from a Chinese strain of quince were handed out after an explanation on their origin and uses. It will be of interest to see whether any quince jelly appears on the trade table next month. With a price finally established for the monogrammed vests, payment is now due on those already delivered. Anyone who has reconsidered and would now like to order, please contact Sue.

At this time of the year vireyas tend to dominate the flower voting table and from Tavner's garden a petite flowered one, "Pennywhistle", won top place, while Anne Holloway took second, also with a vireya. Meanwhile a showy camellia grown by Frank Medwin was placed first for cut flowers, with hellebores from Eric and Audrey Weeks second.

Thanks to those who presented an array of lovely blooms despite the time of year. While not a winner in the voting, a tree dahlia with white double blooms aroused some interest later. It is now growing about 2m tall (in Doreen Stratford's garden) from one of those "dry sticks" that were available from the plant sales shed earlier.

Thanks also to the generosity of those who supported the voting, raffle and trade table. These raised \$10, \$28.50 and \$19.10 respectively, with the raffle prize being taken home by Geoff Starick.

Pete Stratford

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is at the Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden at 2pm on Sunday 20th July, where the guest speaker will be our own Juanita Wood!! Good luck Neet, you'll be fine!

CHRISTMAS IN WINTER

Our famous "Christmas in Winter" dinner at EVRG will be at 6 for 6.30 on Saturday 23rd August. \$30pp or \$25 for members. Bookings essential. Give us a call and put it in your calendar!

AROUND THE GARDEN

Welcome to the middle of Winter! As my dad would say, 'we're on the right side of the shortest day now so bring on the warmer weather and a bit more daylight'. Having said that, the weather has been reasonably kind which has allowed us to plant out what is possibly the last of the rhododendrons for the season. This will bring us to a total of 813 rhododendrons that are now happily growing here in their new homes, in different countries around the garden. The plant sales area will be full and ready for opening of flowering season in September.

I have had a little helper in the garden on the odd occasion in the last month, and it just goes to show that you are never too young to get outside and to start enjoying the garden. From raking leaves off the paths, taking cuttings up on the kabota to the fire pile and even picking up a paint brush to help coat the base of 'Kupsch's cubbies (Rouse house for seedlings). What a great place to do all of these things, thanks for your help Spence!

Flowering has already started and there is hidden colour dotted around the garden. Rhododendron



R.yongii flowering in our vireya section.

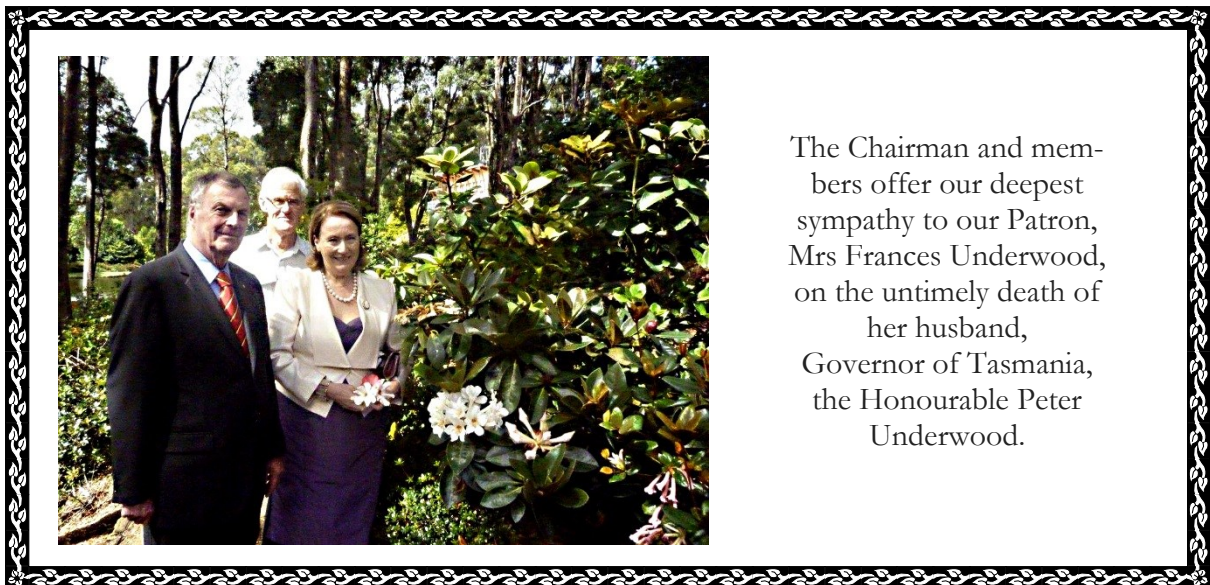
mucronulatum is at its best at the moment, situated in Japan on the left hand side of the pump house. It has covered itself in small, purple/mauve dainty flowers. The vireya section is quite the picture and has many flowering such as Rhododendron tuba, R. sweet sensation, R. Mrs Frances Underwood and R. yongii, and this is just to name a few!

So rug up and brave the winter weather and come for a visit. This garden can be enjoyed rain, hail or shine.

Juanita Horticulturalist

WELCOME

A warm welcome to new member Brenda Blucher.



The Chairman and members offer our deepest sympathy to our Patron, Mrs Frances Underwood, on the untimely death of her husband, Governor of Tasmania, the Honourable Peter Underwood.



Rhododendron brassii

This rhododendron is a relative newcomer to Emu Valley, coming to us from Victoria a few years back, and has only now started to flower. It will be quite a significant addition to our vireya collection.

The flower colour is greenish yellow with a strong red flush and, as with most yellows, it is without scent. *R. brassii* was named to honour Leonard Brass - famous for his botanical collecting in New Guinea. It is found in West Papua Indonesia near Lake Habbema, and the north slope of Mt Wilhelmina,

where it grows in shrubby forest or grassy margins of Podocarpus – a local conifer. In the wild and in cultivation the plant is quite leggy and grows at a lower altitude than its closest relative – *R. ultimum*.

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc.

PO Box 39 Burnie, Tasmania 7320
