

October 2014

# Rhodo News

Newsletter 368



Official Newsletter of the

*Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc*

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Chairman: Ian Chalk Newsletter Editor: Nigel Burch

Patron: (International) Kenneth Cox

## Calendar

**NO MEETING  
IN OCTOBER**

**Wednesday 8th  
October**

Jane Edmanson  
at EVRG at  
10am.

**Saturday 11th  
October**

Cherry Blossom  
Festival at the  
EVRG 10-3pm.

**Wednesday 29th  
October**

Dr George  
Argent  
presentation at  
EVRG 6 for  
6.30pm.

**THE BURNIE  
BRASS BAND  
PLAYS IN THE  
GARDEN  
EVERY  
SUNDAY IN  
OCTOBER  
1-3PM**

(NB: Pete's Sept  
meeting report will  
be in next issue.)

## Life Membership Awards



*A highlight of the Annual General Meeting last month was the presentation of Life Memberships that recognise the dedication and the invaluable support to the garden from four of our long serving members.*

*Our appreciation and congratulations go to Ethel Tavner, Kay Shadbolt, Audrey Weeks and Pam Kupsch. The first three ladies are pictured above, but Pam was unfortunately unable to attend.*

*We look forward to presenting her with her award shortly.*

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

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Wow! What a successful launch of the Emu Valley Flowering Season for 2014.

I am delighted that international vireya rhododendron specialist Dr George Argent (right) is able to visit Emu Valley in October. This is a rare opportunity to meet George over a meal and to glean just some of what George has learnt and written of vireya rhododendrons. George was based at the Edinburgh Botanical Garden with the largest collection of vireya species in the world. (but all in glass houses). Please see the enclosed flyer and promote the evening with your gardening friends.



We were delighted to welcome to Emu Valley this month the Federal Minister for Tourism, Hon Andrew Robb. The occasion provided the opportunity to highlight to the Minister the importance particularly in Tasmania of "garden tourism." The Minister spoke of the importance of being ready for an influx of Chinese and

Japanese tourists. We were able to show him both our Chinese Pavilion and our Japanese section of the garden, and assure him that we were both ready and looking forward to welcoming the increasing number of visitors that he may be able to assist in directing towards Emu Valley.



*Ian, Brett Whitely, MHR, Minister Robb and Maurie*

Our first (of 15) cruise ships for the season arrived on Monday October 6<sup>th</sup>! Thank you to all who assist as garden guides (both walking and driving our people mover) on occasions such as cruise ship visits and bus tour groups. The EVRG brand is quite unique for its personalised guided tours and only basic knowledge of the garden is required. Background garden information is available for this rewarding experience by contacting Juanita, Sue or myself. In the mean time enjoy and tell others of our incredible spring colour plus the new

Maurie Kupsch Chinese Pavilion and remind them **YOU SHOULD SEE US NOW.**

I wish to specifically thank those that attended our recent annual meeting. It was great to see such a roll out and involvement from our membership. Please find attached the Emu Valley Annual Report for 2013/14. *Ian Chalk*

**"SAVE THE DATE"**

**GARDEN SPECTACULAR @  
HIGHFIELD ESTATE, STANLEY**

**SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2014**

CONTACT:  
COORDINATOR: CHRISTINE MEDWIN 6458 2086  
EMAIL: circularheadgardenclub@gmail.com

**A CIRCULAR HEAD GARDEN CLUB INC. EVENT**



## AROUND THE GARDEN

Welcome to a mild month so far, perfect conditions for everything to start flowering a few weeks earlier than normal. Our cherry blossom at the tea house end has been a perfect picture for all to enjoy and has been a huge draw card for us already. The weeping cherries at the Japanese covered bridge side are still a week or two away – hopefully they will be flowering come Cherry Blossom Celebration day on 11<sup>th</sup> October!

September 13 was our official opening of the 2014 flowering season. Thanks to Tino Carnevale and family for making the day such an outstanding success. Tino (pictured with Maurie and me) was so complimentary of the progress and presentation of EVRG and many of those present enjoyed meeting and talking gardening with Tino. A great day was had by all and we thank you for the continuous support that you have shown.

### Neet's must see at EVRG this month:

- The North American gazebo is getting a face lift, looking great!
- Deciduous azaleas are starting to flower below the water fountain, so bright and cheery!
- Take a walk along one of the many tracks now upgraded. You will find areas of the garden that you didn't even know about!
- Cherry blossom and new growth on the maples in Japan, so many different colours.
- R. 'Sheer Magic', R. Kallista, R. irroratum polka dot along with many sought after rhododendrons and vireyas are all starting to flower so they are all a 'must see'.



**Look at me!!**

*It pays to take your camera where ever you may go! This is what I found whilst up in the nursery late last week.*

Bring your camera and stay a while and enjoy the simple things. You'll be glad you came!

Until next month,  
*Juanita—Horticulturalist*



## WELCOME

A warm welcome to new members Roger Jaensch MP, Gerard & Sue Lowry, Brenda & Robert Inglis, Peter & Wisitsri Hodgetts, Claire Reynolds, Peter Moss & Clotilde Lachat-Monney, Greg & Annette Winskill, Jim & Sue O'Brien, Peter & Marion Berry, Robyn Elphinstone, Jenny & Tom Kingston, Don Cowen, Peter Crowe, Damian & Valerie Bissett, Colin & Linda Low, Jillian & Bryan Hayes, Possum & Chunky Pyne, Ian and Barb Graveley, Lynne Smith, Tanya & Peter Boon, Sheila & Chris Reynier, and Peter & Joylynn Gaffney.



## *R. nervulosum*

From the slopes of Mt. Kinabalu in Sabah comes another interesting vireya rhododendron, *R. nervulosum*. It somewhat resembles *R. stenophyllum*, as both have narrow-lanceolate leaves and the flower colour is similar.

In the wild it grows in mossy forests and on open sunny boulders at 2400-3050 meters. It forms a lanky shrub to 1.5 meters in close proximity to *R. crassifolium* and *R. stenophyllum* and no doubt hybridizes with each, or may be a hybrid itself.

Here at Emu Valley it grows well, flowering periodically throughout the year and propagating easily from cuttings. (*Correction to last issue: Ken Cox has pointed out that R. vernicosum is in sub-section fortunea, rather than fortunea series.*)

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



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

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