

December 2014

Rhodo News

Newsletter 370



Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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Chairman: Ian Chalk Newsletter Editor: Nigel Burch

Patron: (International) Kenneth Cox

Lucky Starr coming to EVRG



Lucky Starr is one of the founding members of the Australian Pop Music Industry. A regular on television shows such as Bandstand, and host of Six O'clock Rock for one season. He made regular TV appearances on Mavis Bramston, In Melbourne Tonight, Sing, Sing, Sing, plus many entertainment shows. In 1962 Lucky recorded the hit record "I've Been Everywhere", which still remains one of Australia's all time favourites. The record received the highest accolade in the music industry – the Platinum Award.

Calendar

Sunday 13th December (2nd Sunday)

Xmas meeting at EVRG at **3pm** (not 2pm) followed by bbq.
Pete will report on the NZ rhodo conference.

Saturday 7th February:

Lucky Starr in concert at EVRG 5-8pm

NB: NO NEWSLETTER IN JANUARY.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

What a pleasure it was during November to welcome the ABC Gardening Australia team to Emu Valley. Although not to be screened until next year, I am sure that it will be another great opportunity to raise the gardens profile nationally. Our sincerest thanks to the entire team and presenter Tino Carnevale and producer Jackie O'Toole. (Incidentally, both have become members at EVRG.)

As mentioned previously, we have been in discussion with our Advisory Board re developing an upgraded "road map" for the garden's future. To help ensure that our membership are fully briefed on this process, and supportive of the direction taken by our Management Group, I am attaching for you two documents. The first is a summary of recommendations from Chairman Tony Fletcher following an Advisory Board meeting. Number 2 is my reply to Tony, which is supported by our Management Group. My personal desire is for such a facilitated process to enjoy "all embracing" membership and community support. I commend the attachments for your consideration.

Following our annual meeting in September, I am pleased to announce that at the Management Group Ivan Johnston and Geoff Wood were elected as my two Vice Chairman. I have discussed with our management group my desire to step down as EVRG Chairman. I was encouraged to renominate in the short term to enable a smooth transition and briefing for Ivan and Geoff on many important issues affecting EVRG's future.

I am able to report a highly successful "flowering season" to date. Both with visitors and catering we are achieving new highs. Our decision to raise our admission fees from \$8 to \$10 has been received without any negative comment. My sincere thanks to our many volunteers who have graciously accepted an enormous work load to help make welcome our many visitors.

Help us to celebrate another highly successful year at our special end-of-year Christmas meeting and a catered evening BBQ. Please note starting time of 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 14th with a special presentation by Pete Stratford covering the recent international Rhododendron conference at Dunedin in New Zealand.

Wishing you all a happy and blessed Christmas and a rewarding year ahead.

Ian Chalk

SPECIAL EVENT

Lucky Starr in concert at EVRG!

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Saturday 7th February 2015 5pm to 8pm

\$15 members, \$20 non members

Only 100 tickets available

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL:

to office or to Geoff Wood on 0427 722 060

AROUND THE GARDEN

We had the Gazebo painted in North America and it's looking fantastic. Thank you to the volunteers, Rudy and Junette, who once again have really brightened up the area and it's ready for the up and coming wedding season! Pete has also been busy finishing the long awaited doors for the Japanese tea house. Bird netting be gone! If you haven't been here to see either of these lately, make sure you check them out soon.

The garden has yet again put on an amazing display of colours and sweet fragrances for the flowering season and with above average garden tours that we have had of late, the over-all comments have been just amazing! The wisteria at the beginning of the Japanese walk has caught the attention of everyone including those who claim 'not to have a green thumb!'

Irrigation has been added to Tibet and Sichuan as not only is it a necessity, but as we haven't had as much rain as we would have liked, it had to be done sooner or later. Mulching this area is next, to finish it off completely. We do however need to get on top of the weeds in the sections that have been planted out already, as there are areas that are being smothered by the pink flowering weed – fumitory. The plan at this stage is that on the first Thursday of every month, we will have a section in mind to weed and will have a working bee to overcome this, as it is a massive job for just one or two people to tackle alone. This is a good chance to meet and catch up with friends as well as tidying up the garden. And who said you can't work and play at the same time!

Have a great Christmas everyone. Eat lots and then walk it all off here at the garden,



Juanita



Have you seen a Wollemi pine growing as well as this? It is one of the world's oldest and rarest trees and we have one growing here at EVRG. It was kindly donated to the garden by members, Dr Peter and Ros Davies of Burnie. It has been here for the last two and a half years and seems to be loving where we have planted it. If you would like to see it and its fabulous new growth, it is at the beginning of the manfern walk off Bob Malone drive.

GIFT IDEA

Should you be looking for something different as a gift for a person that has everything, perhaps you might like to consider a gift voucher from EVRG this Christmas. Gift vouchers can be to any value, are ideal for membership, and can be exchanged for plants or any of our souvenirs. Contact the office to arrange.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to new members Paul Stebbings & Yukiko Yanai, Alan & Christine Hudson, Krista Rowley, Elizabeth & Les Naunton, Tino Carnevale & Joi Heald, Jackie O'Toole, Scott & Tahlia Kearney, Sonja Kearney & Family, Robert & Carlene McKiernan, Amanda & Sean Manners, Anne & Russell Durnford, Helen & Paul Borg, Elizabeth & Terry Lawson, Gaye Twining, Chris May & Pattie Weichelt, Robyn & Barry Judd, and Gaile Stebbeings.



R. sinofalconeri

About the last of the larger leaved rhododendron species to flower at Emu Valley is *R. sinofalconeri*. Our plants have been flowering for the last 3 years, this year having the best display yet. The rich, yellow flowers have a small red blotch at the base inside the flower and are held in a large rounded truss of 24-28 oblique-campanulate flowers and show a marked resemblance to the earlier flowered *R. macabeanum* and its Himalayan cousin *R. falconeri*. The large elliptic leaves are matt green and slightly bullate on the upper surface with a thick brown indumentum underneath.

Augustine Henry collected *R. sinofalconeri* about 1898 on the northern mountain slopes at Mengtz, Yunnan. In the early 1990s Keith Rushforth and Tom Hudson collected from south of the Red River in Vietnam and in 1995 Peter Cox and Steve Hootman sourced it from the Yunnan-Vietnam border. We met Peter Cox some years back (our Patron Kenneth Cox is his son) and Steve Hootman from the Species Foundation in U.S.A. visited more recently, which makes it more real and exciting. It is recorded as being a tree of around 6 meters, with a strong growth habit.

At Emu Valley our plants are around 1.5 meters in height and can be viewed from the road to the Chinese Pavilion on the left hand side in Yunnan. A much admired plant and a great addition to our collection. *Maurie & Pam*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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