

February 2015

Rhodo News

Newsletter 371



Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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Patron: (International) Kenneth Cox

Passing the Baton



We have a new Chairman! After stepping in to fill the huge void left by the passing of Terry Shadbolt in May 2013, Ian Chalk has found that he must reluctantly reduce his workload.

Fortunately he will stay with us, but without so much responsibility.

He has the grateful thanks of us all.

And so the pleasant duty of introducing our new Chairman, Ivan Johnston, who it can be seen above is very hands-on, moving chips for mulching the Garden. Asked for a few words, Ivan said: "As your new chairman, I look forward to working with all members in meeting the challenges ahead. I wish to congratulate Ian on his hard work during his time as Chairman, his efforts have helped member numbers to increase dramatically as well as lifting the garden's international profile."

Calendar

Saturday 7th February

Lucky Starr at EVRG 5-8pm

Only 10 tickets left!!

Sunday 15th February

Regular meeting at EVRG.

Guest speaker begonia guru Owen Bedford

Sunday 25th March

Regular meeting at EVRG.

Includes EGM on constitution



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

EVRG has a new Chairman! I am delighted to announce that Rhododendron enthusiast Ivan Johnston has taken over the chairmanship of the EVRG Management Group.

Ivan enjoys a very long association with Emu Valley and has accumulated considerable technical knowledge, particularly relating to the rhododendron species.

I want to thank you for the support and encouragement that I have enjoyed as your Chairman. I look forward to working with Ivan, and all of you, to ensure that he also enjoys the reward of a further period of development and achievement at Emu Valley.

Ian Chalk

SUE'S CORNER



Blooming Tasmania Committee are seeking nominations from folk who are interested in joining their small team to promote gardens and support garden tourism across Tasmania. They have six meetings a year across the State - two in each region and the AGM in August (which this year will be in Launceston) and keep in touch by email if other things come up. They are currently investigating the possibility of a State garden event at the Albert Hall in and Launceston for 2016. Should you wish to explore this opportunity further, please let me know.

So far this year, we have had 593 visitors from our cruise ships – with six more to go before the season finishes on 9th March. For large ship with over 1000 passengers, we run a free shuttle bus to bring folk up to the garden from the boardwalk at West Beach. A most sincere thank you to all our volunteers who act as EVRG ambassadors on these days – visitors are always amazed that they can interact with the very folk who own, develop and maintain the Garden.

There will be a brief special EGM as part of our monthly meeting on 15th March, to approve changes to our constitution as it relates to membership. We are proposing the following amendments to include the categories of:

Life Member - In recognition of outstanding service to the garden.

Perpetual Member - Outstanding Financial Support—gifts of money or property—no limitation on guests.

Ordinary Member - No change—\$25.00 domestic single and \$35 double per annum.

Family Membership - Double the ordinary membership (\$70) which entitles 4 adults entry at any one time.

Student Membership - Current Student Card—50% of ordinary membership. No voting rights.

Corporate Membership - Such persons or organizations who pay \$1,000 or more per annum.

Entitlements - negotiated on a case by case basis.

All categories have unlimited access to the Garden, receive monthly newsletters and discounted rates for plants and function/event entry.

You are invited to come along and have input on this important amendment. Until next time, may you continue to enjoy what's left of our summer!

Sue Johnson

WELCOME

A warm welcome to new members Richard Ruddle, Jill & Rick Charles, Patricia & Len Boxhall, Christine Cook, Ian & Jocelyn Morice, Raj & Ramiya Vyravipilla, Ross Hay & Andrea Hendrey, and Mary Robinson.

AROUND THE GARDEN

It is that time of year again when the sun shines, wheat, barley and oats are getting cut, raked and baled and then rounding up our volunteers with utes, trailers and a bit of muscle to help bring several loads back here to EVRG. A huge thank you to all those who have been involved, it is very much appreciated as the bales are a necessity to have in the garden, not only for presentation and ideal mulch for the plants but to suppress those pesky weeds.

We have made a fantastic start to working bee Thursdays also! With plenty of weeds to pull and spray and countries to mulch, we are now allocating areas to concentrate on and the results have been amazing! Well done and thank you team for your dedication. Another reminder to any of those who would like to come and be a part of a rewarding, yet relaxing atmosphere, you are more than welcome, you don't need to be a member either as we can never have too many people helping in the garden.

The hot bed in the nursery has had a big clean out and is looking clean and fresh . We have around 500 punnets full, which is roughly 2500 cuttings taken from around the garden. Many of which are cuttings from our Kalmia plants in our North American section. We hope to extend our Kalmia collection along the bank near the lower carpark as they flower better in a little more sunlight than what they are getting at the moment. They are fast becoming more popular and a 'must have' variety! You've heard it here first folks, that what I'd be putting my money on over the next few flowering seasons, other than rhododendrons of course!



Kalmia latifolia
'Clementine Churchill'



Kalmia angustifolia



Kalmia latifolia
'Bullseye'

Juanita

MEETING REPORT



Our meeting was well attended and we were finally able to present our tireless "behind-the-scenes" worker, Pam Kupsch, with her Life Membership certificate.

It was brought to our attention that Don Dossor is not in good health and our thoughts are with him at this time.

Auctioning plants to the members can be an interesting exercise and today was no exception. We suspect there were a few phantom bids in there somewhere but the event was both enjoyable and raised some handy funds for the garden.

Calendars featuring very attractive gardens, including our Emu Valley Garden, have sold well and only half a dozen remain at this stage.

Ivan Johnston took out both top spots in the flower voting with "Impi" & "Autumn Gold" in that order. Top placing in the cut flowers was won by Sam Biggins.

Plenty of fellowship was enjoyed over an excellent afternoon tea served at the end of the meeting. *Pete*



MAURIE MAKES CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Meet Mr Burnie 2015! Maurie was proclaimed Citizen of the Year at the Burnie Australia Day awards function last week. 20 EVRG members were thrilled to witness this wonderful community acknowledgement of Maurie, given in recognition for his enormous contribution to EVRG and the inspiration he continues to engender within the wider community. Well done Maurie! *Sue Johnson*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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