

April 2015

Rhodo News

Newsletter 373

emvrg



Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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Patron: (International) Kenneth Cox



Have a happy & safe Easter!

See us at:
emuvalleyrhodo.com.au

Calendar

Sunday 19th April
Regular meeting at EVRG.

Sunday 10th May
Mothers' Day Lunch
EVRG at 12.30—\$25

Sunday 17th May
Regular meeting at EVRG.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



In conjunction with the Advisory Board it has become necessary to seek a long term strategy for the future development of EVRG as a World Class Garden and a Tourism identity.

It has become obvious that the Advisory Board and Management Committee need external input to prepare a report on the current status of the garden as a preliminary to undertaking a facilitated process with stakeholders to arrive a strategic plan from which a business plan can be developed.

Robert Hatcher, from the Mt Lofty Botanical Gardens and member of the Australian Rhododendron Society, has been invited to undertake a consultancy that would address two objectives:

- Current garden management
- What initiatives are considered necessary to meet the challenges faced by EVRG to further develop the garden's botanical and tourism potential?

Rob will be in the garden from April 7th.

As suggested by Minister Groom in his recent visit to EVRG, we will write to Damian Bugg, Chairman of the Board of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hobart, seeking to meet with him at his earliest convenience. The purpose of this meeting is to revisit our Memorandum Of Understanding and explore possibilities for a more robust partnership type arrangement. Having a shared understanding of these possibilities is essential to the facilitated process discussions.

We have also been able to secure the services of Business Consultant Warren Moore to look at the tourism potential of EVRG. The cost of this will be carried by Minister Groom's department.

Ivan Johnston

MEETING REPORT

Thirty plus were present for an extraordinary general meeting held to consider recommendations from the working committee regarding a change to the Constitution. These changes were to the categories of membership and were all passed after some brief discussion.

Maurie Kupsch brought us up to date with the current garden conditions, i.e. more rain would be welcome, as will assistance from volunteers when this season's planting out begins. He was also able to allay the concerns of Frank Medwin who thought he may have discovered a new "weed" in his garden. It was identified as a garden plant *arisaema canadensis*, possibly growing from seed transferred by birds.

Instead of a guest speaker, I presented a report on the International Rhododendron Conference held at Dunedin NZ, October 2014. Doreen and I attended as EVRG delegates. This talk was illustrated with photos taken at various gardens visited and also of the projected images shown at indoor presentations. Considerable interest was shown by delegates in the vests we wore, resplendent with our EVRG emblem, the banner displayed at the conference centre, and also promotional material "handouts". While it would be difficult to ascertain the value of this exposure it can only be positive in creating international awareness of our magnificent garden.

In the Flower voting "Pink No2", a vireya from Kay Shadbolt, was a decisive winner, while *R. Laetem* from the Tavnerns' extensive collection of vireyas took second placing. A lovely *R. tuba* shown by Melvie Moore drew some comments as it seemed to be unusual for it to be in bloom now. She disclosed that it is grown under cover. An *alstermera* from the Medwins' garden nudged a cut flower from Tavnerns' into second position.

Valma Bottle was the winner of the Door Prize, with Pete Stratford holding the winning raffle ticket this month. Total fund raised from the flower voting, raffle and trade table was \$99.30. *Pete Stratford*

AROUND THE GARDEN

Water is finally falling from the sky, the lawns are greening up, Liquid Amber, Acer palmatum and Acer japonicum 'Aconitifolium' are all starting to put on a show and the mushrooms are popping up everywhere. It must be Autumn in April.

With the rain that we have had followed by reasonably warm and sunny days, it will allow us to start planting out as we have quite a range of healthy rhododendrons waiting patiently in the nursery, some of which are new species to the garden and will add to our collection nicely. We first need to clear these areas free of weeds and set up an irrigation system which will shortly follow. It's hard to believe but we have almost planted out the entire 11 hectare site so it will then be a matter of general garden maintenance to keep it looking tidy, sit back and enjoy what the volunteers love and have created.



Is there anyone out there that would like to spend a bit of time in the garden here but wouldn't know what a weed from rhodo was? Well you're in luck ! There are a few jobs around here that I just don't get to and as simple as they are, they still need time aside to do. Our information panels could do with a hot soapy bath every few months as could the garden seats that are dotted around the place. Or do you own a pair of gumboots and would like to see if they have a leak in them or not? Our small spill ways could do with a leaf clean out to unblocks them. These may not sound like exciting tasks, but think about it..... you can do them on whatever day suits you, at your own pace, in a quiet, peaceful and beautiful garden with only plants and animal life to talk to. Now how tempting is my offer?! If you are interested in one of these jobs, please get in touch with us here as I am sure I have a few more that don't require any gardening knowledge or qualifications!

Happy gardening, 🙌😊🙌 *Juanita*

WELCOME

A warm welcome to new members Louise Sykes & Scott Sefton.



Rhododendron dalhousiae
Var. dalhousiae

Rhododendron dalhousiae Var. dalhousiae is another delightful member of the Maddenia subseries growing well at Emu Valley. We have three different collections – one has leaves which are glaucous-green underneath and the others are paler green. All have large, slightly bullate dark green leaves. In the wild plants can reach 3m, our plants are now half that and growing strongly. Wander along the Noel Sullivan Walk in October and you will see them flowering in Sikkim and Bhutan alongside its close relative R. lindleyii. We

also have plants growing in S.E. Tibet and E. Nepal.

First introduced into England by J. D. Hooker in 1850 and named after Lady Dalhousie, wife of the then Governor-General of India, the plants quickly established to produce their large pale cream flowers opening from greenish yellow buds.

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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