

May 2015

Rhodo News

Newsletter 374



Official Newsletter of the
Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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Rhododendron cinnabarinum ssp. cinnabarinum
(See back page.)

See us at:
emuvalleyrhodo.com.au

Calendar

Sunday 10th May
Mothers' Day Function at EVRG
At 12.30pm

Sunday 17th May
Regular meeting at EVRG.
at 2pm

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Following his visit to EVRG, Rob Hatcher has reworded the objectives of his consultancy to:

- Assess the current status of Horticultural Practice and Garden Management structure against the Graham Smith Review of 2009
- From this assessment make recommendations where improvement can be made and any other Strategic structural change can occur
- Make recommendation on Financial reporting and accountability of expenditure within the garden
- Based on observations made and discussions had while at the garden in April 2015 make recommendations which could raise the profile of the garden locally, nationally and internationally.

The Burnie City Council has determined that as an Australian Tax Office registered charity we have a rates exemption, therefore they have refunded us the 2014/15 rates. Providing we keep this status and there are no changes to the Act, EVRG will remain exempt from Council rates.

Congratulations to our horticulturist, Juanita Wood on obtaining her Diploma of Horticulture.

Ivan Johnston

MEETING REPORT

In the absence of Pete, Ivan Johnston chaired the April social meeting and summarised recent events pertaining to the Emu Valley Garden, followed by Ray who gave us an update on the cottage renovations. Maurie, anxiously awaiting more rain before planting out can begin in earnest, showcased *Franklinia Althmaba*, discovered in the wild along Georgia's Altamaha River in 1765 by botanists John and William Bartram. This beautiful landscape tree is now considered extinct in the wild. The Bartrams named the plant in honour of their friend Benjamin Franklin. All *Franklinias* today are descended from those propagated by the Bartrams in their Philadelphia garden. It is a deciduous, understory tree with an upright habit and can be grown as a single-trunked tree or a multi-stemmed shrub. The fragrant white flowers have bushy yellow stamens and the leaves are dark green and glossy, turning orange, red, and purple in the fall. It blooms when few other trees are in flower.

Our guest speaker, John Hudson, presented a video show of his trip to China and Central Asia in 2009, with 20 likeminded folk from Odyssey. From Beijing to Xian in northern China, which was once the capital city, at the start of the silk road. It's now best known as the home of the terracotta warriors. Onto Dunhuang and the Magao caves – home of the Buddhist caves and the Taklhaman Desert – second largest sand mass in the world, after the Sahara desert. Into Tupan – below sea level and the hottest part of China, yet just 30 kilometres away are glacier mountains from which the melt tunnelled to Turpan has created a fertile area called Grape Valley. John then travelled to Urameshi, Kashkar, Kyrgistan and Uzbekistan before arriving in Bokara and Samakand. These cities were the highlights of the tour for John, as all the architecture dating from the 7th to 14th centuries is covered in tile decoration. Thank you John, for such an interesting presentation.



A very small portion of the begonia display at Bedford's.

Once again the Tavnors scored first prize in the Rhodo flower voting with a vase of mixed vireyas, whilst the Medwins scored second place with *R. rhodoleucum*. Ray and Ethel took out both top spots in the cut flower section, with two roses – *Mothers Love* and *Fairy*. Marylin Jacques held the winning raffle ticket and Val de Bomford claimed the Door Prize.

Thanks to the generous support of our members the above events, plus the Trade Table, raised a total of \$104.30. Thank you everyone.

Pete Stratford

Insurance due?

Take out insurance from proud alliance partner WFI and EVRG will receive a small commission to assist the organisation and its members.

For farm, business or strata insurance contact your local Area Manager, Robyn Keene.

**Ph: 6432 2864 | Mob: 0407 563 612
robyn.keene@wfi.com.au | wfi.com.au**

Good people to know.



To see if our products are right for you, always consider the PDS from the product issuer, WFI (ABN 24 000 036 279 AFSL 241461). The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden (EVRG) is an alliance partner of WFI and does not make any recommendation or provide any opinion about this product. If you take out a policy with WFI, EVRG receives a commission from WFI of 5% to 7.5% of the value of the premium payment (excluding taxes and charges).

AROUND THE GARDEN

It's a wet and wild day here as I am writing this, but we do need the rain if we are to start planting out like Maurie and Trevor want to as we have a nursery overflowing with healthy new species that are busting their pots to get into the ground! When we plant out we will fertilize and mulch as we go to give everything a better chance to get established, rather than coming back in later months and having a job to remember what was newly planted and where. It's taken a while but it makes more sense to do it as we go.

The silver wattles in Nepal (on top of the hill near the three water tanks behind the nursery)

have been cut down and are in the process of being cleaned up as we have marked out an area for Rhododendron arboreum 'Stowport' as a mass planting section. As these grow, you will be able to look up the hill from the tearoom door and see the bank covered in red flowers in the spring time. Can't wait to see this!

Working bee days are always full on, with enthusiastic garden lovers getting stuck into using up the remaining hay bales each Thursday, which is making a significant difference in weed management control as well as being beneficial to the plants. The hot bed in the nursery is now full of cuttings, which I am super proud of- 2160 cuttings all up! Bulb planting is in full swing as is the continual upgrade of walking tracks and road ways around this enjoyable and well-loved garden.



Here are a few pics that I have taken over the last month

Enjoy the last month of Autumn.

Juanita 🙌😊🙌

WELCOME

A warm welcome to new members Ray & Maree Yaxley., Claude & Di-
anne Merrett, Mandy Saverin, Sue &
Paul Van Es, Greg Mansell & Denise
Fletcher, Ron & Jill Blake, Cheryl &
Michael Wells and Peter Harrison.



See larger photo on the front

Rhododendron cinnabarinum ssp. cinnabarinum *Blandfordiiflorum Group.*

This rhododendron is easily identified by its bluish-green leaves with the lower glaucous surface densely covered in brown scales, and by the narrowly- tubular orange-yellow bi-coloured flowers, orange-red on the outside and yellow on the inside. They appear at the end of branches in clusters of three to nine, usually mid season. The group name refers to the similarity of the flowers to our own *Blandfordia punicea*. Plants grow to near 6 metres in the wild, closer to 2 metres in our garden. This rhododendron was discovered by J.D.Hooker in 1849 in Sikkim and introduced into cultivation in the same year.

At Emu Valley our plants are growing on the topside of the middle road just as you enter the Sikkim region. We also grow *R. cinnabarinum* Roylei Group with plum crimson flowers in Sikkim and Bhutan, in association with *R. cinnabarinum* (ssp. *xanthocodon*) with yellow flowers and *R. cinnabarinum* var. *pallidum* with pale pinkish-purple flowers. Most *R. cinnabarinum* species and their hybrids are susceptible to powdery mildew to varying degrees, so the right growing conditions are essential. *Maurie Kupsch*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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