

June 2015

Rhodo News

Newsletter 375



Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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Patrons: (International) Kenneth Cox, (Tasmania) Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, Kate Warner



*Now that autumn is gone there are other features in the garden to enjoy such as the seeds (pictured) which belong to an evergreen from Zhejiang province in China - *Acer fabri*. The bare tracery of branches against a pale winter sky also has its own beauty, among the different greens of the evergreens. (From Maurie)*

**NEWS FLASH!! SEE US ON ABC GARDENING AUSTRALIA SATURDAY
27TH JUNE 2015 AT 6.30PM (REPEATED SUNDAY 28TH AT 1PM)**

See us at:
emuvalleyrhodo.com.au

Calendar

Sunday 21st June
Regular meeting at EVRG
at 2pm

Sunday 19th July
Regular meeting at EVRG
at 2pm

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Snow on June 1st at Waratab, south of the Garden.

The Burnie City Council has at its last meeting very generously agreed to support our request for \$5000.00 for 2014/15 and 2015/16.

Any further funding beyond June 2016 will only be considered on receipt of a Business Plan, so that our ongoing financial sustainability can be assessed.

Membership secretary Tony Simpson has been busy preparing the 2016 renewals, these will be mailed out early June.

Your ongoing support in this area is very important to EVRG.

Ivan Johnston

MEETING REPORT



Although we had only about 50% of our usual attendance at the 17th of May meeting, those present were given an insight into the natural vegetation to be found in parts of China.

Guest speaker, Phil Parsons illustrated his talk with photos taken on a trip into the border area with Burma. While his special interest was on the trees found there he also saw numerous rhododendron species growing in

their natural habitat. Thank you Phil, for an interesting presentation.

Our current seasonal conditions have seen a decrease in blooms available for showing, however, once again Ray & Ethel Tavner's vireya collection yielded the winning truss with "Teddy's Best" and Audrey Weeks followed with "Annetta's Gold", another vireya.

A remarkable chrysanthemum, both for size and its clear bright yellow colour, earned top honours for Anne Holloway, who also won the raffle. Doreen claimed the lucky door prize today. Thanks to the generous support of those attending our funds were boosted by around \$42.

Pete Stratford

AROUND THE GARDEN

It's surprising how much is happening around the garden during the winter months.

Leaves have finished falling from deciduous trees and being raked off the pathways and back into the garden to break down as natural mulch. Drains and waterways are a continual job, as they need to be cleared regularly from leaves and debris, and now is the time to prune back hydrangea stems that have finished flowering for the year.

We have found new homes for 419 rhododendrons and are fast running out of space! (This is a good complaint to have.) Mulching and fertilizing with Kahoona as we go, I am more than certain that these plants are going to thank us for it in the long run. We have around another 100 plants to load up on the ute and add to our garden collection, which will happen within the next fortnight.

A few of the hardy volunteers that braved the wind and showers have undertaken to finish off the path into Japan and around the lake by using slate and pavers to come up with a traditional but unique walkway. It's a work in progress but is looking fantastic! Stay tuned to see the finished product next month but here is a sneak peak.....

My tips for the winter gardener

If you have deciduous fruit trees that suffered from curly leaf last spring, spray with lime sulphur as soon as they have dropped their leaves to prevent this from happening this coming season.

Amend your soil profile. During the growing months of September – April, plants take up large amounts of nutrients for growth and survival. It is important to replace these nutrients with organic materials and Autumn/Winter is the perfect time to do this. Examples are blood and bone for strong root growth, cow manure, mushroom compost around the root zone, peat moss to improve water holding ability. The list goes on and on.

Happy gardening everyone. 🙌😊
Juanita

WELCOME

A warm welcome to new member Birgitta Magnussen-Reid.



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 (EV RG) 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).



Rhododendron dissilitellatum

The story of this plant is interesting as we received it back in 2005 as part of a collection of vireya species collected by the late, and much missed, Lyn Craven. This plant was collected on Gunung Sojol in Sulawesi and came to us as *R. radians*. It grew and flourished under the name *R. radians* and many cuttings were also successful; all growing under a mistaken identity!

TEN YEARS ON and we learn that the plant we knew as *R. radians* is in fact *R. dissilitellatum*! Under its new name it is still an unusual vireya with interesting flowers that are long thin tubes flared at the end, white in colour with orange anthers on the stamens.

We now also grow *R. radians* from another collection and although the flowers are very similar, the leaf shape and general shape of the bushes, when viewed side by side, make the difference quite noticeable. Both of these species can be seen near the path leading to the Bob Malone Drive just past *R. tuba*.

It just goes to show that life in the world of plants is never boring, as similar name changes are continually being discovered or corrected by visiting experts – keeping up with it all is another story! *Maurie & Pam Kupsch*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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