

November 2015

# Rhodo News

Newsletter 380

evrg



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



*The unusual weather created a magnificent display this year,*

*and Heather Walmsley has again been active with her camera!*



## Calendar

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November**  
AGM & regular meeting 2pm  
Guest Speaker: George McCrae.

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December**  
Social Meeting & bbq  
Meeting at 4pm, bbq after

No Meeting  
or newsletter  
in January



## Around the Garden

Welcome to one of our busiest times of the year! There is colour exploding everywhere you look here at the gardens, it sure is a magnificent place to be!



We have had a small group from GlobalNet academy in for one day a week for the last two months and they are training Certificate 1 & 2 horticultural students. They are very keen and have shown great enthusiasm when working out in the garden, not only gaining valuable hands on experience, but we benefit also as they are weeding, pruning and maintaining the garden here at EVRG. Keep up the good work and thank you again for letting us be a part of this experience.

As part of the continual maintenance of the garden, it is very important to keep the weeds under control, which is easier said than done on such a large property such as this, but also keeping in mind that we are a volunteer organisation and help is limited to a certain extent. Our priority is on the high profile lawn and garden beds, the main walking tracks and also the ever so popular wedding areas and structures. Yes, you will see some areas looking better than others, but we are getting there and things are looking positive. We may never win the war against weeds, but we will put

up a fair fight! Just remember that if you do have a few spare hours on any day and you would like to potter in the garden, please feel free to contact us as there are areas that could do with your TLC.

If you haven't already done so, now is the time to check and maintain existing irrigation, and if you don't have a plan of attack for a watering system this summer, then you had better get a wriggle on before it's too late!

Drippers work well and you can turn them on at any time during the day without causing your garden stress and burnt leaves. By using drippers you are also cutting down on the amount of water used. Great for people with water restrictions and on tank water!

It's also very important to mulch around plants to reduce evaporation, and of course to minimise the weeds. The two combined will work a treat and your garden will remain alive and green rather than dead and crunchy!



Enjoy the fantastic colour and fragrances around at the moment. Neet



## Welcome

A warm rhodo garden welcome to new members Glynn O'Halloran, Noel & Lynne Bowditch, Monica & David Holt, Kerrie & David Cole, Ed & Fiona Knapman, Christine & Max O'Toole, John & Connie Bennett, Anne Hamilton, Annie Watt, Don & Dawn Sherriff, Peter & Jan Day, Jeanette Halpin, Cheryl & Paul McDivitt, Tim & Kate Lewis, Geoff Bates, and Lyn Willis.



## *Rhododendron wardii*

*R. wardii* is a well-known species first collected by Abbe Soulie in June 1895 at Sie-La in East Tibet. Other collectors found it in northwest Yunnan and southwest Sichuan. With such a wide distribution it is understandable that there is quite a difference in general features such as leaf shape, size of flower and height of bush.

The flowers are saucer shaped and range in colour from pale to deep yellow, with or without a crimson blotch, complemented with beautifully veined oblong-elliptic leaves making a delightful small shrub.

We have three different collections at Emu Valley. The one shown in the picture is growing in the Si-

chuan area, others can be seen flowering in Yunnan, where a plant is to be found with a large red blotch. This is an early planting when the area for Tibet had not been cleared, cuttings from this plant are now growing in the Tibetan area.

**General Note:-** This season, being so unusually dry, seems to me to have brought later flowering plants forward by a week or ten days, which has made a rather magnificent display with the deciduous azaleas starting to flower midway through October. Surprisingly enough the early flowering ones have put on quite good growth. *Maurie*

*The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:*



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