

June 2016

# Rhodo News

Newsletter 386



Official Newsletter of the

*Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc*

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Chairman: Geoff Wood Newsletter Editor: Nigel Burch

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



*Yes our autumn colour is coming to an end but this delightful Ginkgo biloba is dressed to impress and never lets us down. We have other forms of this in the Chinese section but you need to hurry to see them. Photo from Heather.*

## Calendar

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June**  
Social Meeting  
EVRG at 2pm

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June**  
Business Briefing  
At EVRG at 1pm

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July**  
Social Meeting  
At EVRG 2pm

See us at:  
[emuvalleyrhodo.com.au](http://emuvalleyrhodo.com.au)

## Social Meeting Report from 15th May

'Tis the time of year when so many fly north for the winter and of course some of our members are numbered amongst those seasonal emigrants. We wish them safe and happy travelling, but we also miss them.

Rain, glorious rain, has made a welcome appearance over the countryside and I think even a plastic surgeon would be challenged trying to take the smile off Maurie! No more irrigation - our water tanks, lakes, and most importantly, the soil is being replenished.

In lieu of a guest speaker, it was our Maurie who gave us a very interesting personal profile, revealing much about himself that most of us were unaware of. Thank you for that, and also the snippets and anecdotal tales of people you've met along your life's journey. The adage that "everyone has a story" is so true.

Inclement weather and fewer attendees resulted in a smaller display on the judging table, but did not reduce the quality of blooms presented. A heavily fragrant R. Tuba gained Melvie Moore the spot of honour, while Doreen Stratford took out top placing in the cut flower section with a colourful spray of lewisia.

John Hudson took home the raffle prize & believes he may just be able to find room in his garden for the attractive deep red cyclamen he won. Raffle & Trade Table added to our coffers, a total of \$36.10. *Pete*

## Around the Garden

It's that time of the year when you never know what the weather may do, so you pack extra clothes in case you get caught out in a downpour. You're back to wearing 2 pairs of socks, a singlet, 3 tops, a jumper and your favourite (Richmond) footy beanie. Oh wait.....is that just me?! Yes it must be close enough to say it's Winter!

At the beginning of the month, we had strong winds and a nice amount of rain, which did cause a bit of damage here in the garden. We are nine times out of ten pretty lucky as we usually miss a lot of the wild weather as we are more protected being in the gully... but not this time. Not only overflowing and blocked drains, water washing away our walking tracks but we found a large limb from a blackwood in our vireya



section that had torn away from the main trunk and the head of the limb was hung up in the fork of other surrounding trees. We then had to close off all access to our vireya area as it was right above the walking track.

We had an arborist (Michael Wood) come in and along with Trevor and Ivan who not only took a number of photos but helped where needed as well. It was a job well done as the limb was lowered down in many sections to eliminate damage to the vireyas underneath.

Trevor is also a happy chappy as we are making room up in the nursery by planting out a few hundred rhododendrons and (slowly but surely) placing the name tags that we have made and putting alongside of them. Fertilizing and mulching remains top priority especially around the new plantings, and is a huge help to achieve this on our working bee Thursdays.



Keep up the great work everyone. Happy gardening! *Neet*



## *What's Happening At EVRG?*

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June**

**1pm to 3pm**

***Business Review briefing  
to and for members—ALL WELCOME***

by Warren Moore

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September**

**10am to 3pm**

***Opening of the 2106 Flowering Season***

by Gary Davies, Director at Royal  
Tasmanian Botanic Garden, Hobart.

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August at 2.30 pm or Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>  
August at 1pm.** Briefing Sessions: ***“What do we tell  
our visitors – let’s get our stories straight”.***

A must for all those involved in “meet and greet”  
activities, tour guides and buggy drivers.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October**

**10am to 3pm**

***Cherry Blossom Celebration.***

Displays and demonstrations plus craft, plant, food  
and drink vendors.

## *Chairman's Report*



**TELL US WHAT  
YOU THINK**

There is so much I could report on but one matter stands  
out more than anything else --- your chance to listen to  
Business Consultant Warren Moore speak about the  
Business Review. It is being held at the garden on  
Tuesday 28 June at 1 p.m.

Warren will address the meeting on why the review was  
necessary, steps we have taken and where do we go from  
here. It will also give members an opportunity to ask questions about the review, talk about concerns  
they may have in any aspect of EVRG and most importantly put forward ideas for the future.

A lot of time and resources have been put into exploring the most appropriate mechanism for  
ensuring the sustainability of EVRG into the future. There are going to be substantial changes to our  
management structure and how we take care of business, which will include constitutional changes.

So, please rug up and have your say on June 28. *Geoff Wood* 0427 722060 [geoffreywood@me.com](mailto:geoffreywood@me.com)

## *Welcome*

A warm rhodo garden welcome to new members Andrew & Rebecca Tunstall.

## *Membership Renewal 2016/17*

As your current financial membership of the Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden will expire on the  
30<sup>th</sup> of June 2016, I invite you to renew your membership for 2016/2017.

At our Annual General Meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2015, the members voted to increase the  
annual membership fee to \$30 per single, \$50 per double and \$60 for a family.

A renewal form will be with the next newsletter—but feel free to send your remittance to PO Box 39  
Burnie Tasmania 7320 in the meantime!

*Tony Simpson, Membership Officer*



## *R. arboreum ssp. zeylanicum*

*R. arboreum ssp. zeylanicum* is the only rhododendron species found on the island of Sri Lanka and it grows on hillsides in forests at elevations of 900-2745 m. (3,000-9,000 ft.) This delightful plant forms a broadly upright tree growing to 2-10m. (6-35 ft.)



The leaves are ovate-elliptic, upper surface dark green, very bullate and recurved on the edges, the underside with a thick fawn covering

of two different types of hairs which is called indumentum. Flowers form a tight dome truss deep crimson in colour with 5 nectar pouches at the base.

*R. zeylanicum* was first introduced to western gardens in the 1830s and flowered for the first time in 1850 in Sir Charles Lemon's garden at Carclew Cornwell. Here at Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden our largest plant of *R. zeylanicum* stands over 4m tall and covers itself with hundreds of blooms each year. We have an area set aside for Sri Lanka in our countries of origin where we have a number of plants growing well.

*R. zeylanicum* is one of the aristocrats of the rhododendron world, a wonderfully shaped shrub with beautiful foliage and flowers, well worth growing in any garden. *Maurie*

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



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