

July 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

Come Aboard!



Your Membership Form is inside.

Calendar

Sunday 17th July
Social Meeting
EVRG at 2pm

Sunday 21st August
Social Meeting
EVRG at 2pm

Sunday 21st August Thurs 25th August
Tour Guide Discussion
EVRG 2.30pm EVRG 1pm

See us at:
emuvalleyrhodo.com.au

Cherry Blossom Celebration

Saturday 8 October

In recent newsletters you will have seen mention of EVRG's 2016 Cherry Blossom Celebration. It is now taking shape and with a changed format from previous years.

So far we have had confirmation of attendance from Blue Penguin Wines, Walnuts @ Howth, Rocky Gardens Preserves, Spinners & Weavers Group, Timber craft, and our own award winning Pete the Poet. We are still waiting for replies from a number of others, but these along with the very popular Bonsai display, Japanese tea ceremony and Taiko Drummers, make for a very exciting event.

All going well, this will be the beginning of a re-vamped Celebration not to be missed.

Please try and save the date (8th Oct 10am - 3pm). To make the day a success we will be looking for all available volunteers to assist in the tea room, meet & greet, car parking, tours and much more. *Kathy Gordon*

Membership Renewal 2016/17

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

At our AGM on the 15th of November 2015, the members voted to increase the annual membership fee to \$30 per single, \$50 per double and twice these amounts (*as applicable*) for Family Membership.

Completing the "Request for Membership Renewal" form below and posting or emailing it along with the relevant annual subscription to the address on the form, will entitle you to free ongoing access to the garden as well as receiving our Monthly Newsletter until 30 June 2017. Your past and continued support is very much appreciated. *Tony Simpson, Membership Officer*



REQUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2016/17

Single **\$30** Double **\$50** Family **\$60/\$100** Other..... Donation
(*please circle*) *tax deductible*

Name (1) Name (2)

Postal Address:

Phone: Email:
(Newsletter will be emailed unless you advise otherwise.)

Payment method: Cheque or EFT EFT Reference:.....
(*please tick*) (*Bank Details: BSB – 067 400 Account No – 28047242*)

Please post completed form to PO Box 39 Burnie Tas 7320 or by email to enquiries@evrg.com.au

Around the Garden

We have now finished planting out rhododendrons for the year, and 623 plants later (many of which are new species to the garden), our nursery now has a chance to breathe again as the countries around EVRG are filling up quick smart!

As we were walking around the hills trying to find the ideal home for these plants, it was very pleasing to see so many that have been planted out in previous years doing so well, and several of them with buds for the first time, which is exciting, and I can't wait to be able to photograph them towards the end of the year. Having said this, there are a few areas that need a good tidy up so I am proposing that on Thursday the 14th of July (weather permitting of course), we will be allocating this normal working bee day for a designated area clean-up day, and that area is to be Sichuan (also known to Trevor and I as 'the jungle'). We need to weed around existing plants by hand, brush cut the walking tracks, fertilize, prune, spoon drains dug and in some areas we will need to mulch as we still have a few bales left to use before it gets too heavy to move. It won't be an all-day job as it will cool off there fairly early in the afternoon, so if we can get in and have a good crack then that is all we can ask.

Gloves, weed bags and good company provided, we just need the helpful hands. Look forward to seeing some new faces possibly.

Gardening tips for July:

- ◆ Have you run out of room in your garden for any more plants? Not even a tiny little space left for a fragrant plant such as Daphne or Boronia? No room, no worries! Daphne and Boronia will grow just as well in pots providing they are watered accordingly, they don't like soggy feet though! The beauty with having these rewarding plants in pots is that you can move them to where-ever and when-ever you like. I have always had one near the front door or near a window so I can smell it constantly as its flowering. Boronia doesn't mind a bit of a hair-cut if you think it's getting a bit leggy, but generally if you pick some for a vase then that's all the pruning they need.
- ◆ Even though many plants are taking a bit of a holiday during winter, spring bulbs, winter flowering natives and early spring flowering shrubs are not. Remember to keep these fertilised for them to flower at their very best.
- ◆ It's fruit tree and rose pruning time so just remember to sterilize your pruning tools with diluted bleach to minimise the spread of fungal diseases.

Rug up and keep gardening, *Neet*



This is one of the many vireya rhododendrons that are flowering here at the moment. I am in the process of getting it registered. Stay tuned for the name that I have chosen . Neet



EVRG Business Review

Some 18 months ago it was decided that a thorough Business Review of EVRG was required and Business Consultant Warren Moore from Braddon Business Centre and South Australian based gardening expert Rob Hatcher were approached to assist.

At the briefing for members held on 28 June Warren detailed the reasons why the review was necessary and explained the steps still required for completion. It was great to listen to the questions, suggestions and views of those present and from this we are now ready to keep moving ahead. Everyone agreed that we need to “get it right” and as such the timeline target of being ready may not be reached in regard to the Annual General Meeting. If not it might be better to hold a special General Meeting later on to put forward the various motions required to make all of the changes.

After Warren left we sat round and discussed ideas and thoughts and this too was extremely valuable. It was interesting to hear members say, that although it may prove necessary in the future, they would prefer at this stage not to go down the track of considering franchising out the kitchen for functions and dinners etc. The importance of local community involvement was stressed along with the need for the selection criteria for Board Members to include having a passion for EVRG.

Draft Structure

Chairperson

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Board of Management

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Operations Committee

General Manager / Business Manager / Horticulture Manager / Curator
Hospitality/Publicity & Events/Maintenance/WH&S/Social Committee - Representatives

The next step is the work on the constitution to be completed. If you have any questions or suggestions please get them to me by no later than Friday 15 July.

Always remember, EVRG belongs to us the members and everyone’s input is equally important.
Geoff Wood

What’s Happening at EVRG?

Sunday 21st August at 2.30 pm or Thursday August at 1 pm. 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 10th September 10am to 3pm *Opening of the 2016 Flowering Season* by Gary Davies, Director at Royal Tasmanian Botanic Garden, Hobart.

Saturday 8th October 10am to 3pm *Cherry Blossom Celebration*. Displays and demonstrations plus craft, plant, food and drink vendors.

Saturday 12th November 5pm to 9pm *35th Anniversary Celebration*

Buffet meal, live music, raffles and launch of revised EVRG booklet. \$10pp Booking essential



Gordonia yunnanensis

Flowering now in all its winter glory is *Gordonia yunnanensis*, the 'fried egg plant' – so called because the spent flowers do not stay on the bush but drop to the ground face up complete with stamens intact.

A tall evergreen shrub to 4 meters that produces a large number of pointed buds that open continuously over a period of months starting mid May. These open up to white flowers 10cms in diameter with a large tuft of prominent bright yellow stamens making an outstanding display.



Gordonias belong to the Theaceae family and are therefore related to Camellias, Stewartias, and *Tutcheria spectabilis* which I described in February 2014 newsletter – HOWEVER this has now had a change of name to *Pyrenaria spectabilis*!!

We have two plants at Emu Valley in the Yunnan section, both flowering well at the moment. A positive advantage is its pest and disease free status and it appears to be easy to grow.

The cultivar 'Silk Screen' is probably the one more readily available and makes a superb upright winter flowering shrub. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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