

September 2016

Rhodo News

Newsletter 389



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

INVITATION

Acting Chairman Ivan and the Management Group of EVRG extend a very cordial invitation to all members to attend the

"official opening of the 2016 flowering season"

by Gary Davies, Director, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens
on Saturday 10th of September at 11.30 a.m. at EVRG.

Join our guests for morning tea from 11.00am and enjoy the vista of colour and ambience created in our garden by volunteers.

RSVP by Thursday 8th September - for catering purposes
enquiries@evrg.com.au or on mobile: 0400 963 493

*There will be a discounted admission charge of \$6 on the day.
Refreshments & plant sales will be available.*

Special auction of rare plants at noon, at the conclusion of the official opening.

Calendar

Saturday 10th September

Official Opening
At EVRG at 11.30am

Sunday 18th September

Social Meeting
At EVRG at 2pm

Saturday 8th October

Cherry Blossom Celebration
10am to 3pm

Thirty-five Year Celebrations

On Saturday the 12th November 2016 we will be celebrating 35 incredible years of EVRG. From 5pm to 9pm, come and join us for a buffet meal, live music, and the launch of our new booklet, all for \$10 per head. Please mark this date on your calendar, and book soon as seating is limited seating to 80. **RSVP:** by Friday 28th October 2016 please to enquiries@evrg.com.au or by phoning 6433 1805 (or 0400 963 493).

RAFFLES: We already have a number of our members donating to our raffles, however we really would love lots of contributions. We are seeking handmade items or appropriate goods to fill a basket and non perishable food for another raffle. We hope everyone will get behind us to make it a night to remember. We will also be holding a “Dutch auction” so are looking for goods of all shapes and sizes for this. They can be fun, inexpensive things also.

Most importantly! Memorabilia.

We are looking for items for a display to exhibit on the night and would appreciate anything you think may be relevant.

Organising Team: Judy, Doreen and Dianne.

Social Meeting Report from 21st August

Just as the warmer weather is bringing out spring flowers, it is having a similar effect on our members and it is delightful to see attendance increasing again.

With colourful sprigs to show us, Maurie spoke about *Daphne bholua* and *Prunus campanulata*, both providing fragrance and/or colour in our garden at present. He also fielded questions and increased our knowledge by doing so.

As our new season rapidly approaches, the planning for several exciting events is well underway and Kathy Gordon brought us up to date with the considerable progress of planning for our Cherry Blossom Celebration, encouraging us all to do our bit in spreading the word about this event. This is shaping up to be the biggest Cherry Blossom celebration ever, thanks to Kathy’s enthusiastic work.

Similarly, some leaps of progress have been made to help us capitalise on the increase in cruise ships visiting Burnie. Potentially bringing a marked increase in visitors to our garden, we really need to be prepared in advance. Representing EVRG at a “speed dating” with cruise ship reps in Hobart, Sue returned to report positively on how developments will be. Other steps in that direction include several more upgraded walking tracks within the garden, new colour coded markers that will be matched to new maps, and sessions for guides, tea room staff, etc, to ensure uniformity of information that we provide to our visitors. None of these things just “happen” and thanks go to those who have laboured behind the scenes to help make EVRG the world class garden that it is.

Trevor showed a series of photos which clearly illustrated wonderful nursery improvements that now make the potting shed very much more user friendly. Again, the commendable efforts of our volunteers have brought this project to fruition, with the support of generous donors.

Having waited a decade to see it flowering, Ivan Johnston won the voting in the rhododendron section, with an attractive pink truss from an un-named seedling. From Frank & Beris Medwin’s garden, a heli-bore posy took top honours ahead of a freesia spray of Melvie & John Moore’s.

Brenda Inglis scored the Door Prize, while the raffle was taken out by Sue Johnson. Funds raised from these events totalled \$83.90. *Pete*

Around the Garden



Goodbye to the icy cold mornings of Winter and hello to longer and slightly warmer days to spend out in the garden, Spring is here and I couldn't be happier .

The Thursday working bee crew have been extremely busy over the cooler months preparing the garden for spring. They have used all of the mulch that we have had stacked and covered around the place and have used the entire pallet of kahoona (fertilizer) around both new and more established plants.

The bamboo fence above the Japanese entrance has been put back together for what I know as the third (and hopefully the last) time and also in the same area, we have a well defined carpark which has been highlighted with the use of paddock rock edging and now looks tidy, complete with access to walking tracks.

You will also notice along the Noel Sullivan walk, where the track re-joins near the Abies densa and winds down to behind the Chinese pavilion, has been upgraded and is looking great after many hours of hard work and maintenance. Not to mention the weed pulling, drain clearing, gabion wall installation, builders and continual use of mulchers. This place would not be what it is today without the dedication of such a group.

Our vireya section is bursting with colour as are the big leaf Rhododendrons. Just one of the many huge and gorgeous flower trusses that you will see around the garden. You really do need to come and see it for yourself.

Enjoy the beginning of Spring, and there is so much more to come! **Neet**

The big leaf rhodos like these are now in bloom.





Rhododendron maddenii ssp. maddenii

One of the earliest lepidote rhododendrons we planted at Emu Valley was *R.maddenii ssp. maddenii* in both white and pink flowered forms. These plants grew well and soon become large bushes displaying highly perfumed flowers in early November each year, a much-admired plant by the many visitors who pass them.

First discovered by J.D.Hooker in 1849 at Choongtam in Sikkim, it was later found by other collectors in different locations in Sikkim and Bhutan growing in oak and rhododendron thickets and on dry hillsides

The stems and branches have beautiful brown flaking bark, which shines in the sunlight. In the white flowered form the upper surface of the leaves are dark green and usually matt whereas the pink flowered form has dark green somewhat shiny upper surface, the under surface of both forms densely scaly.

At Emu Valley both colour forms can be viewed near the rockery beside the road leading to the main gazebo or if you are up for a walk they can be viewed on the middle road in Sikkim and Bhutan. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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PO Box 39 Burnie, Tasmania 7320