

October 2016

# Rhodo News

Newsletter 390



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

## Become a Tour Guide!!



### **URGENT** Can you help? *We Need Volunteer Guides Urgently*

We have now reached the point where it is likely that there will be no alternative but to say NO to groups requesting guided walking tours!!! There are simply not enough volunteers to do walking guide tours. Guided tours have been a great selling point for many years. Visitors mainly want to meet local people, so you don't need to be an expert at all - just friendly!

It doesn't have to be on a regular roster. Just one tour per month would be a great help. So please give either Sue in the office 6433 1805 or President Geoff 0427 722060 a call and we will show you what is required. It's very easy, fun and satisfying!

### Calendar

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

Cherry Blossom Celebration  
10am to 3pm

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

Social Meeting  
At EVRG at 2pm

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

35th Year Celebration  
At EVRG 5pm to 9pm

## *President's Report*

Nine weeks away and Bev and I had a wonderful holiday spending time in Vietnam, England and France. We visited a few gardens including Kew Gardens in the U.K. It was interesting looking at ways other gardens are managed and how, like Emu Valley, they have difficulty in raising money to keep afloat. The one outstanding difference to these gardens and Emu Valley is that they all have various forms of sustainable financial backing. To see what we have achieved in just on 35 years is remarkable.

I know it may sound like a stuck record but if you can help in a hands on manner for any amount of time in the kitchen, tea rooms or as a tour guide please contact either the office or myself. Tour guides have reached a critical point with 17 tours this month, most of which require two or more guides.

The Cherry Blossom Celebration on Saturday 8 October is our biggest single revenue earning day in the year. Try and come along and help make the day a success so that the various stall holders (especially those new to the day) will be encouraged to participate again next year.

Cheers, Geoff [geoffreywood@me.com](mailto:geoffreywood@me.com) 0427722060

## *Social Meeting Report from 18th September*

Maurie informed those gathered about plants that were recently gifted to the garden by Michael Dixon. Both grafted onto other root stock, these two *Camellia chrysantha* are a species that produce yellow flowers and promise to be an attractive addition to the garden.

There is so much happening around the garden at present that space prevents including everything here, however some dot points of interest are:

- \* Developing new walking tracks (with colour coded maps and markers) made greatly improved for visitors.
- \* An extensively upgraded book of the garden about to go to print, due to be launched at our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner on 12<sup>th</sup> November.
- \* Ken Cox's video about Emu Valley being prepared for uploading to our website and Facebook.
- \* Improvements to signage within the garden, especially the carpark areas.
- \* Our stall at **Blooming Tasmania** in Launceston, September 24/25.
- \* Our upgraded **Cherry Blossom Festival** on October 8<sup>th</sup> - promises to be the best yet!
- \* **Sculpture competition**, currently open for "People's Choice voting" and is attracting attention.
- \* Heavy bookings for catering/Cruise ship visits, etc, in the coming months, and these are but some of the activities and events on our busy calendar for this season.

Presenting an interesting illustrated talk about the very early history of the area where our garden is located, was retired surveyor Brian Rollins. The initially surveyed east/west "highway" was almost cutting across the top edge of the garden! We all learned how very different the area was before settlement. Thank you Brian!

While the flower voting table looked more like a garden in full bloom, the honours for the top voted Rhodo' bloom went to Kay Shadbolt's entry of *R. racemosum* "Rock Rose", with *R. "Teddy's Best"* from Ethel & Ray Tavner chasing close behind. Cut flowers, of which there were a colourful array, also added to the Tavner credits with their spray of spring colour and fragrance. Melvic & John Moore nipping at their heels with second place. Valma Bottle held the lucky raffle ticket, while Deann Brooks took home her first win with the Door Prize. These events and the Trade Table raised \$48.20 and continue to provide valuable assistance to our garden, thanks to the continuing generous support of our members. *Pete*

## Around the Garden



*Snake bark maple trunk*

Everything is slowly waking up after the wet winter and the lawns here at EVRG are no exception! Mowing and brush cutting the edges will be a weekly chore along with the continual weeding that must be on going to keep up with the 'best of the best' well known gardens. The new growth on the Acer Capillipes (Snake bark maple), are quite striking and has received a lot of attention during the week, especially when we had a walking group through for the day. It is native to mountainous areas of Japan.



*Fantastic new growth colours*

The rhododendrons are beginning to flower and are looking fantastic, even some of the big leaf varieties are still in colour so if you have missed them, then come and see them quick! Flowering at the moment in the garden and up at the nursery are *R. irroratum* 'Polka Dot', *R. lutescens*, *R. liliiflorum*, *R. dendrocharis*, *R. boothii* mishmiense, *R. 'Bibiani'*, *R. 'PJM'*, *R. 'Freckle Pink'* and of course this is only naming a small handful!



*R. boothii (Mishmiense Group)*

The deciduous azaleas are very close to flowering as you can just see a petite amount of colour trying to break through on the flower buds, meaning if you have had trouble with petal blight in the past, now is the time to spray for this to get the most out of the flowering season.

Short but sweet this month, so see you on Cherry Blossom day and remember to bring your camera!

From Neet, mother duck and her tribe.



## Welcome

A big rhodo Garden welcome to new members Bronwynne Bushby, Peg Bernard, Celesta & Yuri Castillo, Meredith & Simon Nettleton, and Viki Elphinstone.



*Rhododendron dendrocharis*



## *Rhododendron excellens*

R. excellens was introduced to western gardens in 1980 from south of the Red River from Mengtze, South Yunnan and we were fortunate to acquire a few seeds in 1990. Only one plant grew out of those seeds and it formed a compact rounded shrub to one metre high producing large white perfumed flowers with a large yellow centre. The emerging buds are quite green before opening, making quite an attractive feature.

However we went on to receive further seed collected from North Vietnam and South Yunnan which have produced a more open plant leaves and flowers being the same as the original plant we grew. Rhododendron excellens is similar to R.nuttallii with large fragrant white flowers, but there are fewer flowers in the truss. It belongs in the Dalhousiae Alliance - Subsection Maddeni.

To check on the plants at Emu Valley, the first plant mentioned is to be found on the left hand side as you enter the Yunnan section along the Noel Sullivan Walk. The other collections may be viewed near the North-Eastern corner of the Wisteria car park. *Maurie*

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



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

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