

December 2016

Rhodo News

Newsletter 392



Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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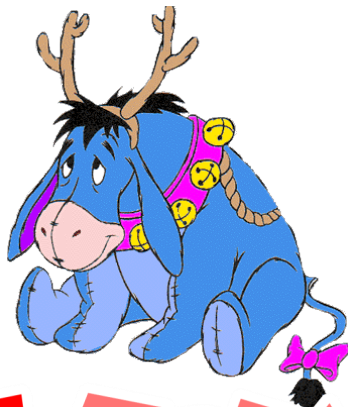
Patrons: (International) Kenneth Cox, (Tasmania) Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, Kate Warner

A Deserving Life Member

A new life member was inducted at our last social meeting. A great ambassador for Emu Valley, John is always quick to quietly influence his considerable local network to promote the garden at any and all levels. He's an avid promoter of the garden wherever he goes on his many travels, and his generous financial contributions over the years have been very much appreciated, helping us to implement his ideas to develop and maintain the garden. It was our privilege to honour John for his exceptional contribution to the Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden.



John Hudson (left)
with our Chairman Geoff Wood.



MERRY CHRISTMAS



Calendar

Sunday 11th December
Social Meeting & bbq
Meeting at 4pm, bbq after

No Meeting
or newsletter
in January

See us at:
emuvallorhodo.com.au

Chairman's Report

2016 is rapidly drawing to a close and life at EVRG, if you can believe it, is busier than ever. For December there are three cruise ship visits and thirteen functions. Add our daily visitors and I just sit back amazed at how the hospitality / catering group are able to make it all happen.

2017 will be a challenge with lots of work to be completed and many and various ideas to be considered. So if there is any way you think you might be able to assist in EVRG's growth please let me know.

To all our wonderful members and supporters a big thank you and have a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Geoff geoffreywood@me.com 0427722060

Sue's Corner

With this Newsletter comes a copy of our Chairman's report for 2015/16 delivered at our Annual General Meeting on the 20th November 2016. If you would like a copy of the audited financial report, please let me know and I will send you one.

The members at our AGM ratified the standing committees for 2016/17, being:

- **Finance:** Eric Weeks, Geoff Wood, Bob Stevens, Sue Johnson.
- **Horticulture:** Juanita Wood, Trevor Walmsley, Ivan Johnston, Maurie Kupsch.
- **Hospitality:** Jenny Chalk, Kay Shadbolt, Audrey Weeks, Anne Jones, Marilyn Jacques, Anne Holloway.
- **Infrastructure:** Ray Tavner, Pete Stratford, Maurie Kupsch, John Moore, Kevin Walters, John England, Gordon Austin.
- **Publicity:** John Hudson, Geoff Wood, Margaret Starick, Sue Johnson.
- **Social:** Pete Stratford, Sam Biggins, Ethel Tavner, Deann Brooks.
- **Work Health & Safety:** Geoff Wood, Ivan Johnston, Kay Shadbolt, Steve Locke, Juanita Wood.

The Management Group consists of our Curator Maurie Kupsch, a representative from each of the above committees (which the committee appoints) and one nomination from the floor at 2016 AGM, which was Ivan Johnston.

We gratefully accepted the nomination of our existing Honorary Officers for:

Librarian: Maurie Kupsch, Newsletter Editor: Nigel Burch,
Membership Officer: Tony Simpson; ARS Rep: Ivan Johnston and Burnie
Tourism Association Rep: Margaret Starick.

Although the meeting agreed to increase the membership fees from 1st July 2016, there was much discussion as to how much this increase should be before the motion to increase the fees to \$30 for single and \$50 for double was accepted.

For those able to join us, please join us at our December meeting on Sunday 11th December, commencing at 4pm, followed by a BBQ. May your celebrations this festive season be both joyous and safe. *Sue Johnson*

Welcome

A big warm Rhodo Garden welcome to new members Roy & Beryl Briggs, Craig & Lachlan Bassett, and Garry Turner & Angela Mayhew.

Taken from our Visitors Book 29/11/16

"I have been designing landscapes in many parts of the world. These include Australia, USA, Dominican Republic and most recently in both east and west coasts of Mexico. You need to be commended and recognized for your magnificent efforts and I would go as far as saying it is the most beautiful garden I have ever seen in my travels around the world. Congratulations to all that have had input here. Bravo. Gary S Jaenke"

Around the Garden



Compared to this time last year, the garden is looking healthy and vibrant without the aid of early irrigation, as we have had enough rain fall this last month and it's done all the watering for us naturally—yahoo!



I have started to take cuttings from the earlier flowering rhododendrons and will be spending most of my time from now on doing this as the new growth starts to harden off, for both species and hybrid varieties. Some are easier to strike than others.... But I do like a challenge!

For those that didn't know or maybe have become new members, we use a fertilizer by the name of Kahoona. It's made by Neutrog as this specific fertilizer is for rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas.

Last week we were lucky enough to be the main feature in their newsletter for the month and they have given us some fantastic publicity on the garden that I think we should all be proud of!

I highly recommend this product, as does Rob Hatcher and the team at Mt Lofty Botanical Gardens in South Australia who first put me onto the product. You can buy Kahoona and other Neutrog products from Bunnings and hardware outlets.

I am in the process of registering 4 rhododendrons that can finally have an official name to go alongside the stunning flowers that they produce. Two of which are commonly asked for every year once they are flowering because they have a magnificent fragrance to boot! Once I have the certificates back with confirmation that these have all been processed and accepted, I will let you know what they are, with pictures of the flowers in our February edition, fantastic mix of colours!

As for garden progress, we can always do with some willing weeders! It's quite therapeutic, rewarding in regards to seeing where you've been and the weeds rarely back chat! I really am keen for people to come on in and 'claim' an area that they can take responsibility to maintain. It doesn't have to be a huge section or a whole country, nor does it have to be on our weekly Thursday working bee day. If this sounds like something you might be interested in, please feel free to get in touch with us via phone, email, Facebook or in person. *Neet*



Social Meeting Report for 20th November

Following on straight after the A.G.M. we held our social meeting. Chairman Geoff spoke of some of the challenges we need to face as our group move forward into the future. Not least of these is that we endeavour to improve the way we organise special events by using sub committees, and avoid overloading already heavily committed key personnel.

Another opportunity was offered for members to pre-order the new book of our garden, with some samples displayed. This publication has been lauded as very informative and attractively presented book, supplies of which should be available early December. An ideal gift for Christmas.

Two heavily laden tables of both rhododendron and cut flowers made flower voting an interesting challenge. Both colour and fragrance were tempting to both the eye and nose! However it was a rhodo' from Sam Biggins' garden that stole the top spot, with a Frank Medwin bloom close on his heels. Frank also took both top spots in the cut flower section with beautiful fragrant rose blooms.

Signing the attendance register on the right number earned Geoff Starick the Door Prize for the day, and as he carried off a potted shrub, "where will we find room for that," echoed around the hall.

Along with sales table proceeds, our very supportive group boosted the coffers by over \$60 with the above events combined. Thank you everyone. *Pete*



Rhododendron stamineum

On one of the many trips to the garden of the late Bob Malone, when he was at Lapoinya in Tasmania, an unusual plant caught my attention. It had white strap-like flowers with a yellow blotch at the base and extremely long stamens—the name tag read *R. stamineum*. Many years were to go by before we were able to acquire some cuttings but now we have some fine plants flowering well, covering the bush with unique flowers in late November.

Wilson first introduced *rhododendron stamineum* to western gardens in 1900 from Hupeh, flowering fourteen years later. He introduced it again

from Sichuan in 1910, with other collectors finding it growing in Kweichow, Hunan Anhwei and Kwangsi.

Depending on where it is grown it can be a bush from one metre to three metres high, easily identified with its elliptic, glabrous, glossy and rather pendulous leaves, and its white flowers with a yellow blotch and extremely long stamens. At Emu Valley you can view it on the left hand side of the Noel Sullivan Walk as it meanders through Hupeh, where it is flowering very well at the moment. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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