

February 2017

Rhodo News

Newsletter 393



Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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Free Hearing Test!!
Free Admission!!

On Tuesday 14th February, Emu Valley has joined up with Australian Hearing to offer free hearing checks. Non members who avail themselves of the offer will be able to tour the garden with their *entry fee paid for* by Australian Hearing!! Members will be given a *free* Devonshire Tea!!

This is not only an opportunity for Emu Valley to raise some much needed funds, but gives us all the chance to have a hearing check, which many of us should have but never get around to. The flyer advertising February 14 has been placed onto our Facebook page. If you have access please pass it on. A copy is also attached for those who might like to print some off to distribute. Tell your friends!!

Calendar

Tuesday 14th February
Hearing Bus
At EVRG 10am to 4pm

Sunday 19th February
Social Meeting
At EVRG 2pm

See us at:

emuvalleyrhodo.com.au

Around the Garden

Welcome back to what has been a fairly mild summer....so far! We have started irrigating but nowhere near the amount that we normally would at this time of the year, but this is a good sort of complaint to have if you ask me!

Our annual bale carting outing started last week consisting of 2 trips out and back and we're only half way there with the same amount of bales needed again (plus a few more). Luckily the volunteers that are involved in this project are fit and fun loving and are always willing to give so much of their time and energy into the days that are needed to get the bales back to the garden for mulching around new plantings and on the banks. Thank you to all involved yet again!

We have undertaken a new weed management strategy this last 6 months and whilst the process may seem a little time consuming to some, the outcome and benefits speak for themselves! We will now complete the mulching of these weed free areas to restrict the weed growth and to focus on new surroundings which will have the same outcome. The time and research invested in this approach has been so very beneficial and has not gone unnoticed. We started at the top of the garden up at the water tanks in Europe and will work our way along Nepal, Tibet, Sichuan and so on, eventually down into the centre of the garden if weather and funds allows us to.



Photo 1 – spraying in progress.



Photo 2- result of spraying and mulching.

On our 'to do' list here around the garden at the moment are:

- Weeding around all four of the gazebos as we have quite a few weddings to come in the next 6 weeks and also a large number of cruise ship visitors.
- Mulch weed free areas and new plantings.
- Seats and information interpretation panels to have a good clean.
- Irrigation upstands to be repositioned where possible – more often than not, the upstands have simply fallen over and need staking or the plants have overgrown the sprinklers and are now not watering the full area.

Like I always say in each newsletter, if you have any free time and love to be outdoors then we can always do with new volunteers, even if it's only once a month! Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Enjoy the summer days everyone, *Neet*

Welcome

A big warm Rhodo Garden welcome to new members Kim Johnson & Joyce Fairbrother, Daniel & Michael Emmerton, Allan & Marg Leeson, and Patricia Ellison & Geoffrey Smart.



Rhododendron diaprepes

Most of the late flowering species growing at Emu Valley belong to Subsection fortunea, *R. diaprepes* being one of these.

R. diaprepes was discovered and introduced by Forrest in June, 1913 in the Shweli-Salwin Divide, western Yunnan and then later he discovered it growing in mid-western Yunnan as well as north eastern Upper Burma. It is to be found in mixed deciduous forest and the edges of conifer stands where it grows to 8 metres covering itself with fragrant white flowers with or without pale green base.

Poor old *R. diaprepes* is now deemed to be a subspecies of *R. decorum*!

Here at Emu Valley we have many examples in excess of 3 metres – two of these plants become semi-deciduous before flowering and flower well into late January. One interesting clone ‘Gargantua’ is a triploid ($2n=39$) with very large highly perfumed white flowers; the petals are very thick and leathery. It is growing not far from *R. magnificum* in Burma with others dotted around in Yunnan but don’t get it confused with one of its hybrids *R. ‘Polar Bear’* or another beautiful white species *R. serotinum*. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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