

June 2017

Rhodo News

Newsletter 397



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

Our Growing Fleet



John and Betty Packham from Burnie Rotary were at Emu Valley to welcome the new addition to our visitor transport fleet. A huge thank you to Burnie Rotary—if not for their assistance Emu Valley wouldn't have been able to afford a second buggy. An official welcome to the buggy and thank you to Rotary will be arranged.

Calendar

Sunday 18th June

Social Meeting
at EVRG 2pm

Sunday 16th July

General Meeting
At EVRG 1pm (note changes)

See us at:

emuvalleryhodo.com.au

Sue's Corner

Sometimes it's the unexpected that inspires! Early in May, the main arterial road heading south out of Burnie – Mount Street – was scheduled to be surfaced over several days during the hours of 6pm to 6am. One of the first tasks of the contractors was to remove the many, many patches of bitumen that have been applied, plus heaps of bumps that had formed, over the years, to provide a level base.

A grinding machine removes these imperfections and the waste material, called grindings, is loaded in a truck, removed from site and stockpiled for selling as filling, etc. Several of our volunteers wondered if this material could be applied to a couple of our roads in the garden in lieu of blue metal that tends to wash away in heavy rain.

After numerous phone calls, arrangements were made with the supervisor of the work to deliver 5 truck loads of grindings during the wee small hours. And since then, our volunteers have been loading the grindings onto the ute with the bucket on the tractor, driving to the most needed locations, shovelling the grindings off the ute and spreading it by hand, before whacka - packing it down. They reckon they are about half done! The unexpected? The contractors – Venarche – provided the grindings free of charge AND donated the cartage thereof. The inspiration? From a small seed of an idea, as the possibility grew, so too did the volunteer's commitment and enthusiasm to realise their vision. It's yet another example of extraordinary generosity and co-operation that this garden engenders. We are most blessed.



Stella Rose Wood is now 16 weeks old! This photo was taken last week when Neet visited to arrange for her return to work from parental leave. Neet will return to part time work at the end of June, working Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays for the next six months. We are absolutely stoked she has decided to come back, and look forward to her regaining some semblance of control of the outdoor garden maintenance crew!
Sue Johnson



You really have been missed, Neet!

Welcome

A warm rhodo garden welcome to new members Joice Manthorpe, Michelle Dearing, Monica O'Neill, and of course Stella Rose Wood!

Up Coming events for your Diary!

- Safe Food Handling Training – Saturday 5th August 2017 10.30am to noonish
- Christmas in Winter Dinner – Saturday 26th August 6 for 6.30pm BYO. \$30pp or \$25pp for members. Bookings essential, please.
- Opening of the 2017 Flowering Season – Saturday 16th September at 11.00am
- Cherry Blossom Celebration – Saturday 21st October 2017 10am to 3pm

SAFE FOOD HANDLING TRAINING

*The next Safe Food Handling training will be held at the garden on **Saturday 5th August 2017.** Those involved in tea room and catering rosters are urged to keep the date free and attend, however all volunteers are welcome to attend, if interested. Safe Food Handling training is an accreditation requirement for all those involved in the preparation of food.*

Thank you for your support. Anne Jones

Social Meeting Report for 21st May

Those gathered for our meeting this month were updated on significant issues happening in and around the garden, including our encouraging past month's trading figures. Then Maurie presented a show and tell about the various ginkgo trees that are in our garden, in his usual informative style.

At least five differing ones were shown, some of them displaying their brilliant lemon/yellow autumn colour. Others were a blend of lemon/lime-green shades and all have been at their colourful best these past weeks. However the recent heavy rains, which have been invaluable to all gardens and the countryside in general, may have depleted the display of all autumn leaves.

We were provided with a very interesting series of photographs showing the development of another wonderful garden in our region. Amarlie Crowden and her sister Lesley narrated this pictorial history of Kaydale Lodge. Now very well established, this cold climate garden that these two have laboured hard and long at creating is truly on the "must visit" list. When you visit, partaking of their fresh baked bread, with jam and cream (of course!) should also be on your agenda. They have generously donated a cd of the photos so for those who missed a great presentation, you can still see the pictures. Thank you to Amarlie and Lesley for your very informative talk.

Flower voting was again dominated by the Tavner duo, and both top places were taken by their vireya blooms. Well done Ray and Ethel. Cut flowers voting gave Anne Holloway first spot with a head of chrysanthemums, and second place to a nerine from....yes, Tavner's again. Audrey weeks picked the lucky raffle ticket, while our guest Lesley Crowden scored the Door Prize.

Combined with our sales table, to which Amarlie and Lesley had donated some desirable bulbs, a total of \$56.70 was raised. Thank you all. *Pete*

Chairman's Report

Talk about everything being in the fast lane! Our new buggy (or as someone called it – the 'Wee Red Beast' has arrived. Advice received was that it would be at the Burnie Wharf on Tuesday 30 May but as often happens things do not go as planned. The buggy arrived at the terminal in Melbourne on the Monday but the truck driver then proceeded to lose the key and so many eager volunteers had to wait until Thursday. It certainly will be an asset to have two buggies as we move into the busy season.

Constitution Revamp

As mentioned previously as part of a Business Review a revamp of Emu Valley's Constitution has been taking place under the guidance of consultant Warren Moore. We have now reached the stage whereby amendments to the present constitution, necessary for Emu Valley to move forward, will be voted on at a General Meeting to be held on Sunday 16 July. This will take the place of the normal Social Meeting but hopefully there may be time to include the 'social aspects.' The meeting will commence at 1pm and not the normal time of 2pm.

Attached to the newsletter is a summary of the main changes to the constitution and two motions which will be put forward for consideration in July. Time will be allocated at the social meeting on Sunday 18 June to discuss/explain the recommended amendments.

Annual Capital Improvement Fund Drive

All members will soon receive a letter (via post or email) seeking donations to go towards funding of priority issues as determined by the Management Team. Please give this your consideration and as with all matters do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries or comments to make. Winter might have arrived but Emu Valley certainly does not hibernate.

Geoff geoffreywood@me.com 0427 722 060



R. argyrophyllum

Ssp nankingense

Subsection Argyrophylla consists of many fine species with *Ssp. nankingense* one of the finest, with broad, slightly rugose dark green leaves with the underside covered with a thin fine-textured white plastered indumentum.

In its native home Nanking China it can grow to around ten metres but in cultivation may only reach three metres. When seen covered with fine trusses of deep pink flowers it is outstanding.

Seed became available to western gardens in 1932 when Mr. Albert Steward of the College of Agriculture, University of Nanking, China sent seed to

the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh where it flowered for the first time in 1946.

At Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden we grow *Ssp. Nankingense*, also the delightful clone 'Chinese Silver', which is an outstanding plant especially when the wind ruffles the leaves exposing the beautiful white underside. Plants can be viewed along the Noel Sullivan Walk in Yunnan and on the right hand side of the road to the 'Chinese Pavilion' in Guizhou just after the stand of Japanese cedar *Cryptomeria japonica*. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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