

July 2017

Rhodo News

Newsletter 398



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



Winter Blooms

Our vireya section continues to provide heaps of colour in winter, adding cheer and interest for those visiting at this time.

Calendar

Sunday 16th July

General Meeting
At EVRG 1pm (note changes)

Sunday 20th August

Social Meeting
EVRG at 2pm

Saturday 26th August

Christmas in Winter
6 for 6.30pm at EVRG

See us at:

emuvallayrhodo.com.au



Our new addition --- Pete's Creation

Chairman's Report

With the completion of our Nursery Upgrade it was decided that we needed a different type of wheelbarrow that would allow easy access up and down the aisles and be more user friendly than the standard type. The result—a Pete Stratford invention and a very happy Trevor, thanks Pete. Whilst on the nursery if you ever want a tour 'up the top' please just ask.

Special General Meeting -- Sunday July 15 2017

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the discussion in respect to changes to the constitution. Don't forget the meeting commences at 1pm. The two motions to be put forward are as follows:

1) That all amendments to the constitution be accepted and that such amendments be operative on and from the date of the Annual General Meeting being Sunday 10 September 2017.

2) In respect to the 2017 appointment of a Board of Directors, applicants will be sourced and an interview process undertaken. Successful candidates will be put forward at the Annual General Meeting as the Management Group's preferred nominations.

Hopefully we can get through the formal part of the meeting quickly and then get into the social side and enjoy each other's company.

Annual Capital Improvement Fund Drive

A couple of members have said to me they would like to make a donation but are not able to make a 'significant contribution'. My view of the world is that any donation is significant (be it one dollar or a thousand) and is very much appreciated. The contribution of all donations will remain confidential and we will give a report in the September newsletter as to how we are tracking.

Tour Guides

I have two big requests. The first is that I need someone to work with me organising the roster. Please, if there is anyone who would like to give it a go just contact me. It is not difficult but does need a dedicated person and, no joke, is a bit of fun. Secondly we need more guides. Just once a month is fine, whatever time you can spare. Cruise ship numbers for this coming season are now 32, tour group bookings are on the increase and with the help of Kathy Gordon all the social media advertising we are doing is certainly putting visitor numbers up.

ps: you do not have to be a Maurie or Neet to take tours -- I am certainly not in the league (they will vouch for that). Geoff geoffreywood@me.com 0427 722 060



Sue's Corner

First up, I must apologise for not checking ALL documents that are distributed with the Newsletters! Those folk that receive Newsletters by email and some of the folk who receive them via the postal service may have noticed that the Contribution Options for our 2017 Capital Improvement Fund Drive didn't actually have the *Method of payment information on the reverse*, as stated. Which is why there is yet another piece of paper either attached or enclosed with this Newsletter. I'm sorry for the confusion and inconvenience this may have caused. Also attached is an invitation to renew your membership for 2017/2018.

It's that time of the year when the tea room roster is being prepared for the coming season. Our tea room will re-open on Monday 21st August (in 8 weeks!) on a daily basis during our flowering season. We currently have 40 volunteers on the roster, however we are always on the scout for more. Even if you can only spare half a day a month, we would love to hear from you. Please phone Anne on 6442 4130 if you can assist.



Although it does indeed seem some distance away, don't forget to make a booking for our annual Christmas In Winter Dinner on 26th August. It's our last chance to get together, with good food and company, before we enter the busy season. It really is an enjoyable social evening. In the meantime, as the days slowly lengthen, know that the promise of Spring will soon be upon us.

And yes, it is *so* good to have Neet back from leave. And not only because she brings in great photos of Stella! I couldn't resist sharing this one – check out the grin at 4 months!

Thanks Neet! Sue



In The Garden

I'm not sure that returning to work smack bang in the middle of winter was such a great idea but I'm back and into it anyway!

There has been a lot going on here whilst I've been away and it is easy to see where the volunteers have spent their time and a lot of effort in areas such as the tearoom car park – a fantastic rock wall now completes the turning circle, which has been planted out, maintenance on the bridge below the wisteria lookout in China (incomplete but coming along nicely), mulch around the 460 newly planted rhodos and the roadways are now pot hole free!

North America is where you will hear tunes from way back alongside our fabulous dry rock wall creator, Eric! He is usually the first one here on working bee Thursday and always the last one left still pottering around even if it's too cold for 'normal' people. The amount of paddock rock that has been used to create these fantastic and eye catching walls is unbelievable, but we have pretty much come to an end of our stockpile. Who would have thought!?! Great work Eric!

I'm going to keep it short and sweet as I have only been back a few days however there is colour around the garden even if it is now the middle of winter, so come on out and see for yourself. Happy gardening, *Neet*.

Social Meeting Report for 18th June

It was encouraging to see a noticeable increase in attendance at today's meeting, where we learned more about some of the plants within our garden. Quite a good selection of deciduous conifers are scattered around the area, some in less conspicuous spots but well worth a visit. Though Maurie seems to have little difficulty with them, most of these conifers have names longer than a supermarket check-out queue!

Geoff Wood brought us up to date with the changes proposed for our constitution that will bring it in line with current legal requirements and be more in keeping with the evolving needs of the operations of EVRG. With a 1:00pm start, our July meeting will be a General Meeting to ratify these changes. Hopefully time will permit us to follow on into our less formal social get-together after this business is dealt with.

Those who have, or know someone with an artistic flair, be aware that the entry forms are available for this year's sculpture and garden art competition, and are available through the office. Let your creative side emerge. Have some fun with it!

Utilising her tech skills Kathy Gordon has been "getting us out there" via the electronic media. Perhaps an excellent example of the garden's need for skills from every field and not only gardening. Keep up the good work Kathy. If any of you have even just an occasional day (or part thereof) to assist within the Tearoom

during the coming season (especially Cruise ship days) please contact Audrey Weeks.

Once again the Tavner garden yielded the top places in the rhodo section of flower voting. Evidence of the work put into their garden over a long period of time and now bringing the rewards. Their camellia "Debbie" was just beaten for top spot in the cut flower section by Doreen Stratford's lewisia truss. The Door Prize went home with Anne Englund and Marilyn Jacques won the raffle. Along with the Trade Table, these added \$85.65 to our funds. Thank you all. *Pete*

SAFE FOOD HANDLING TRAINING

*The next Safe Food Handling training will be held at the garden on **Saturday 5th August 2017 at 10.30am.** Those involved in tea room and catering rosters are urged to keep the date free and attend.*



R. seinghkuense

R. seinghkuense is one of only three members of Subsection *Edgeworthii*—others being *R. edgeworthii* and *R. pendulum*. Each have thick indumentum on the underside of the leaves. *R. seinghkuense* is rare in cultivation.

Native to the Seinghku Wang in Upper Burma where Kingdon-Ward found it growing in abundance, he also located it again on the Burma-Tibet Frontier. A Chinese plants man also found it growing in north-west Yunnan.

R. seinghkuense can grow into an upright or sprawling shrub 0.3-0.9 in height with leaf stalks and branchlets covered with a thick light brown wool, making it one of the hairiest rhododendrons we grow. The bright yellow flowers are produced in ones or twos and are bowl-shaped with a bent style. The combination is quite eye catching.

At Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden *R. seinghkuense* has proved to be quite an interesting plant to grow, needing perfect drainage. Some plants have grown tall, while others seem to like spreading. To see it growing check out the rockery or walk through Burma on the Noel Sullivan Walk and look to the left, it will be flowering in mid October.

Maurie

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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