

August 2017

Rhodo News

Newsletter 399



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

The New Season Begins...



With Christmas in Winter
on Saturday 26th August—have
you booked?
(call us on 6433 1805 if you haven't!)

— and the reopening
of our Tea Room on Monday
21st August.



Calendar

Sunday 20th August

Social Meeting
EVRG at 2pm

Saturday 26th August

Christmas in Winter
6 for 6.30pm at EVRG

Sunday 17th September

Social Meeting
EVRG at 2pm

See us at:
emuvallleyrhodo.com.au

Chairman's Report

My goodness - no mention of the constitution!! Well, maybe just one little bit -- Thank you to everyone who patiently listened to me at the past two meetings. It's now all done and dusted!! In regard to the Board of Directors they are voluntary positions.

As is the norm there is so much going on at the gardens. We are still very short of meet and greet/tour guides. If we can get the numbers up it will greatly reduce the pressure for our tea room volunteers during peak demand times. It is great to see how busy Emu Valley is during the flowering and peak tourist periods but we need to give serious thought to Autumn and Winter. It's simply not a financially viable option (especially during winter) to see money being spent and no revenue coming in. We have to look at ways of offsetting our fixed costs. All suggestions will be seriously looked at. geoffreywood@me.com 0427 722060

Welcome

A warm winter rhodo garden welcome to new members Kay & Bill Wright.



It's been a little while since our last tour but we've finally organised another trip. Join Anthony and Susan on a fully escorted tour to:

2018 Melbourne Flower Show
20—23 March 2018






We have secured great accommodation within walking distance to the show. Other Highlights included:

- **Full day trip to Daylesford**
- **Dinner on the Colonial Tram Car Restaurant**
- **Guided tour of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens**

The tour is all inclusive with flights, most meals, entry fees and transport for **\$1,335 per person twin share, \$260 sole use.**

We had great fun on our last tour and sincerely hope you can join us again!

Brochure and booking forms available from EVRG or contact us at

info@austrips.com.au or call 1800 777 726

In The Garden

Spring is just around the corner and I for one am very much looking forward to it! The volunteers have been working flat out in preparation for our official opening to the flowering season in September, however you must come and see the big leaf Rhododendrons flowering before then as they are starting to show colour now. So many stunning colours, and the size of a single flower truss will just blow your mind!



Here is a bit of a call-out to those who may be able to help a garden in need...we are looking for some more paddock rock to continue with garden edging and our dry rock walls around our pathways. If you have no use for them and would like to possibly donate them to the garden, then we can gladly arrange a ute or two to come and pick them up. If this is something you could help us with then please send us an email or call us.

A few quick tips leading into Spring:

- Weed and renew garden beds now with mulch ready for new spring planting.
- Many pests that affect plants live in the soil over the cooler months so by placing grease around the trunk will (9 times out of 10) prevent the little blighters from crawling back up into the branches in the spring and warmer months ahead.
- When planting bulbs, remember not to plant them too deep because if you do they may only have enough get up and go to produce only leaves and not flowers!

So that's it for this month, bring on the colour of Spring! *Neet*

Social Meeting Report for 16th July

Immediately following on after a Special General Meeting, we moved onto our social meeting.

In his customary informative manner Maurie introduced us to some of the winter flowering shrubs that are to be found around the Emu Valley garden at present.

Perhaps one of my favourites amongst the winter flowering plants, *Chimonanthus praecox*, more commonly known as "Winter Sweet", was his first sample shown. Found in both very pale straw colour and also more lemon shaded blooms, it is the strong fragrance, rather than the appearance that captivates. We were also shown twigs of *Hamamelis mollis* and *Camellia forrestii*, but perhaps the most unusual was the big fluffy mop-like "Possum Banksia" (*Banksia baueri*) bloom.

Chairman Geoff brought us information regarding the desirability of EVRG procuring its own mini-bus. We are optimistic that some funding may be made sourced from outside the garden, though probably with an expectation that matching contributions would be required, hopefully from our newly established Capital Improvement Fund.

A solitary entry of the Flower voting table (yes, it IS winter time) was an unusual *Helliborus* cross from Frank Medwin. His garden is always producing something of interest. Deann Brooks claimed the Door prize while the winning raffle ticket was held by Meredith Nettleton. All these fun activities raised \$51.15. Thanks to all who contributed. *Pete*





R. chrysodoron

R. chrysodoron is doing its best to bring on spring, covering itself with bright canary yellow flowers held proudly above dark green leaves – enough to brighten the dullest winter’s day.

R. chrysodoron was collected by Forrest in 1924 in western Yunnan and flowered by the Earl of Stair in 1931. He sent a plant to Edinburgh, later to be named R.chrysodoron or the ‘golden gift’. It was reintroduced by Kingdon-Ward in 1953 from North Burma.

In cultivation the plant will attain a bushy height of up to two metres. Quite a distinctive species and easily recognised in late winter as the first lepidote to flower, its unspotted flowers are produced in trusses of three to six, and an interesting thing about the flower is the bent style. We find that it is easy to strike and grows quite quickly.

To inspect a well-flowered specimen, look north from the building deck towards Burma or cruise the Bob Malone drive and enjoy. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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