

March 2018

# Rhodo News

Newsletter 405



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

## Thank You, Sue



For 8+ years Sue has been our Business Manager. The title doesn't describe the many tasks she has undertaken. From office administration work, ordering catering supplies, wedding organiser, hardly missing a cruise ship visit to sorting issues such as blocked drains and gate malfunctions — Sue has done it all. Sue will be handing the reins to Kathy Gordon over the next fortnight and on Thursday 29 March everyone, members and volunteers, are invited to come along to the garden at 2pm to thank Sue for all she has done and achieved for us. April's Newsletter will have the final 'Sue's Corner'. Thank you Sue. *Geoff Wood*

### Calendar

**Sunday 18th March**

Social Meeting

EVRG 2pm

**Saturday 24th March**

Propagation Workshop

EVRG 9am-noon

**Thursday 29th March**

Farewell to Sue

EVRG 2pm

See us at: [emuvallerrhodo.com.au](http://emuvallerrhodo.com.au)

## General Manager's Report

### *Marketing Rebranding*

Destination Action Plans are community and industry driven plans that identify achievable priorities and action. The Plans are based on the principles that visitors are attracted to destinations and experiences rather than regions, that the visitor experience of the destination is a critical success factor and local communities know their destination best.

Within Burnie the Cradle Coast Authority and Burnie Council have fully supported the concept and Emu Valley is very fortunate that one of our Directors, Carolyn Watson-Paul, is a member of the team responsible for its implementation.

On Thursday 8 March Carolyn made a presentation to the management committee and at our March social meeting a video presentation will be made. I am pleased to advise that with the full support of both the Board and Management Committee a Rebranding of Emu Valley is proposed to ensure that we are able to make the most of all marketing angles. Carolyn's presentation to the management committee included the following:-

"In response to the concern that visitors are deterred by the garden being predominately a rhododendron garden, either thinking it is only worth seeing during peak flowering or that there's nothing else at the garden except rhododendrons, we have taken a look at the branding and name to try and address this issue.

It's imperative that the garden is marketed as 'a garden for all seasons' and a garden that has much more on offer than just one species. We also must not overlook the importance of rhododendrons to the garden and the history of the garden's evolution. To rename the garden completely would dismiss part of its history so we've concluded that simply removing the word Rhododendron and adding descriptive bi-lines could encapsulate the present and future character of the garden.

### *EMU VALLEY GARDEN*

*A global woodland garden for all seasons, With internationally acclaimed Rhododendron collections in the wild.*

*With an image or logo to complement the name, we intend to look for a local print maker to create an image of a rhododendron."*

Please send any feedback or questions to my email address. Geoff – [geoffreywood@mc.com](mailto:geoffreywood@mc.com) 0427 722060

## Social Meeting Report 25th February

At the gathering of our first Social meeting for this year those attending were brought up to date on the various projects and activities going on, in and around the garden. Maurie drew attention to the numerous plants in E.V.R.G. that have adorned themselves with very attractive seed pods now that flowering is done for the season. Certainly these are an added attraction to our garden at this time of the year.

With some growing specimens of drosera, sarracenia, Venus flytrap, and nepenthes on display, a short presentation on carnivorous plants drew interest and questions from the group. Discussion also took in the unusual characteristics of the ancient Wollemi pine, two of which we have growing and looking very healthy in our garden here. In reality not a pine, but of the same family as the "Monkey Puzzle" tree and the Norfolk pine.

Kay Shadbolt won the flower voting with her vireya. There were no entries in the other sections, possibly due to our prolonged spell of dry weather having an effect on gardens. Taking the Door Prize home was Bev Vincent, while the Raffle was carried out by Anne Holloway. Thanks again for the great support with both these activities and also the Sales Table.

Coast FM (Wynyard) Community radio station is to be airing advertising for our garden, commencing in March. *Pete.*



## Around The Garden



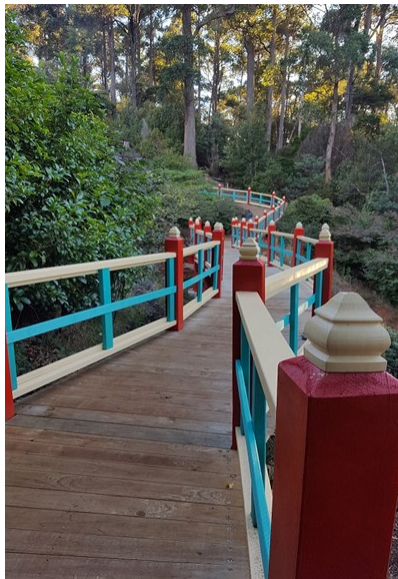
Welcome to the magical month of Autumn, where the garden looks different every single week during this season and I just love it!

The hotbed in the nursery is full to the brim of cuttings from rhodos around EVRG, which is 429 punnets equalling 2145 cuttings (or thereabouts). These cuttings should start to put out roots that we will see signs of from the 6 month mark, but obviously some may take longer than others so it's a bit of a waiting game. Having said that, there is still plenty to do while I wait for this to happen.

Mulching is super important as we need to get it out before it gets too heavy to move and must aim to place it around the plants before the wet weather arrives. This will allow the rain to settle the mulch in nicely. The chipper is getting a reasonable work out, which is giving us extra mulch in return, cleaning up lower limbs of trees allowing clearer walking tracks and driving access along the way.

We've been spraying for thrip and lace bug on the days that we aren't spraying for weeds. We are going to trial a tablet form designed to control thrip and lacebug from the soil which will be used on plants in pots up in the nursery—early prevention if you like, however not all of the rhododendrons will get a dose, just the ones that we know are more susceptible to the sap sucking blighters!

As my last month's section mentioned – Maurie and his team have *almost* completed the new Chinese walkway and as promised, here are a couple of photos of their handy work so far.



Another propagation workshop is scheduled for Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March here at EVRG, under the leadership of Maurie Kupsch: 9am to 12noon. Bookings are essential as there are limited spaces! If you are interested in coming along, please call me on 0400 963 493 or the office on 6433 1805 or email us at [enquiries@evrg.com.au](mailto:enquiries@evrg.com.au) \$80.00 for non members and a discounted rate for members \$50.00. If you have your own secateurs, feel free to bring them with you, otherwise everything else will be provided and you even get to keep your cuttings to take home with you.

That's it for this time around so enjoy the colours of Autumn. *Neet*

## Welcome

A warm rhodo garden welcome to new members Jen Medwin, Bevan Newman and Jesse & Leeya Brennan.



## *R. pentaphyllum*

Among the many deciduous azaleas of Japan *R. pentaphyllum* has a beauty about it that is rarely bettered. Growing as it does in deciduous woodland where the beautiful rose-pink flowers open before the leaves and add a bright splash of colour in early spring. E. H. Wilson saw such a sight when he visited Japan in 1914, stating that the plants had great charm.

In its native home *R. pentaphyllum* grows into an open shrub or small tree from 1.5 -7 meters high, in western gardens it may only grow to 1.5 meters but is certainly worth growing for not only does it have beautiful flowers in spring, but the autumn colour is quite outstanding. The leaves are held in whorls of

5 at the end of the branchlets with the flower buds separate to leaf buds.

*R. pentaphyllum* was first introduced to Europe by the Yokohama Nursery Company and in 1914 E. H. Wilson sent seed to America. It is not an easy plant to satisfy, we have lost quite a few at seedling stage but some have survived and are growing well in our Japanese section. *Maurie*

*The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:*



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