

June 2018

Rhodo News

Newsletter 408



Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

Postal Address: PO Box U33 Upper Burnie Tasmania 7320 Phone: 6433 1805

enquiries@evrg.com.au Office Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm

General Manager: Geoff Wood Newsletter Editor: Nigel Burch

Patrons: (International) Kenneth Cox, (Tasmania) Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, Kate Warner

Another Distinguished Speaker



We are fortunate to be visited by many interesting guest speakers at our social meetings.

The May meeting heard from one of our own— Burnie's long-time ABC radio personality Elaine Harris.

As well as an accomplished author, Elaine may be the only person to have ever interviewed both Audrey Hepburn and the Cookie Monster!

Thursday 28th June
Volunteer Thank You
EVRG 12 noon

Tuesday 26th June
Cruise Ship Discussion
EVRG 10am

Sunday 17th June
Social Meeting
EVRG 2pm

See us at: emuvallayrhodo.com.au

Kathy's Corner

Hello everyone. It has been two and a half months since I took on the role of Office Administrator and thankfully everyone is being very patient with me. Those are some big shoes to fill and I appreciate the legacy Sue has left. It's membership renewal time at Emu Valley. Your support is very much appreciated and keeps this wonderful woodland garden alive.

Your membership entitles you to free garden entry during opening times, including all big event days, monthly newsletters, 10% off plant sales, and members social gathering held on the 3rd Sunday of most months. Upgraded memberships (eg; Family) include additional guest passes. Membership invoices will be sent to all members via email or mailed with your newsletter.

All payment options are available and our bank details will be noted on the invoice. Please keep an eye on your emails and, as with any new system, please let me know of any errors or changes needed. Once payment is received your new membership card will be forwarded to you. Please be prepared to show your membership card on entry as we have lots of new volunteers who might not know you are a current member. Cards will be showing year and type of membership. Throughout the year keep an eye on the newsletter for additional membership benefits which will be available from time to time.

As with Geoff and other members of the management team please do not hesitate to contact me with ideas and suggestions. *Kathy*

General Manager's Report

What a way to finish off Autumn! Emu Valley hosted the Reconciliation Breakfast for the North West / West Coast on 30 May. It was so successful that the organisers have already booked us again for 2019 and we received a wedding booking request. This would not have come about if it had not been for the work of our catering committee team.

As we enter into winter there is so much to do and this year we are opening the Tea Room from Monday 6 August. Emu Valley is rapidly growing in being seen as a must place to come and visit and a venue to seriously consider for bookings of functions.

Volunteer Week came and went. We were going to invite all volunteers for a barbecue in May but it turned out to be the same day we had no power. So we are going to have our own Thankyou Volunteer Day on Thursday 28 June. Everyone is welcome. It would be helpful if those thinking they might like to come, to email the office so we can have an idea for food. We will kick off at noon.

Also in June, on Tuesday 26 commencing at 10, a general discussion is being held at the garden. We are going to talk about how the 2018/2019 Cruise Ship Season might be managed. Please if you are interested in this area try and make it as everyone's opinion is important.

Keep the suggestions and thoughts flowing. Thanks, *Geoff* — geoffreywood@me.com // 0427 722 060

Social Meeting Report 20th May

Today was something of a special treat for our members attending the meeting. Guest speaker Elaine Harris, spoke about her early adulthood years through schooling, further education & thence into the workplace. This was eventually in various programme broadcasts for ABC radio and in the U.K.

Eventual marriage and a change of venue to Australia with her husband, who accompanied her today, and a continuation in radio broadcasting. Comments about some of the persons she had interviewed were both interesting and often amusing. The same could be said for reminisces about some of the guide dogs that have been her faithful aids over the years.

Once again Maurie added to our knowledge, if not our memory, informing us with more details of several selected attractive plants that our garden has on display. It is a continual source of surprise, just how many beautiful and sometimes rare plants can be seen flourishing at Emu Valley Garden. Some lovely R. Tuba from Melvie Moore won the voting for rhododendron blooms, while Pam Kupsch earned that position for cut flowers with a selection of four different sprigs of sage blossom.

Deann Brooks won an original oil painting (by Jill Charles) as Door prize. A potted vireya came home with Doreen Stratford, winner of the raffle. Together with the Trade Table, these events increased the coffers by \$59.60 *Pete*

Around the Garden

Welcome to the beginning of Winter where I'm already thinking about lighting the fire and having it burning 24/7 and bringing homemade soup to work for lunch! But just because it's extra fresh in the morning and a lot earlier of an evening, it's all the more reason to get outside and work a lot quicker to warm up and get those must-do jobs ticked off before your fingers end up frozen!

During the month of May we had a few school groups come in to enjoy the colours of Autumn and to have a look around, as many of them hadn't been here before. Sacred Heart from Ulverstone was one of these groups and I'm pretty sure they enjoyed their garden tour and hopefully will return again in the near future. Prep and grade 1 are learning all about living things as part of their science program: what a great way to have the children interacting with Garden life and nature. See you again soon we hope and thanks again for visiting!



Planting out around the garden for this year has now been completed, with a happy and healthy total of 384 new holes dug and filled with rhododendron species, deciduous azaleas, kalmias, sorbus, conifers and a few maples to join



the other 22,000 other plants that make this garden what it is, simply unique.

At the moment we are desperately trying really hard to put the labels in front of the plants and our aim is to have the majority out in the right places before our Spring opening (September). I have set up a bit of a roster to work along side Maurie every Tuesday and Thursday from 9am until 2pm. If this is something that you think you might like to help out with, even if it's just for an hour or 2, then please call or email me and I will happily add you to the roster. The sooner we get these out, the sooner Maurie can have a break!

Enjoy the wonders of Winter everybody! Neet 😊

Welcome

A warm rhodo garden welcome to new members Valerie Perry and Sylvia Smith.

Right: The beautiful *R. heliolepis*—see Maurie's article on the back.





R. heliolepis

Rhododendron heliolepis was first collected by the Abbe Delavay in 1886 near Hokin, western Yunnan. Other collectors located and collected material from northeast Upper Burma and southeast Tibet where it was found to be common growing amongst Abies and in rhododendron forests.

Forrest first introduced this species to western gardens in 1912. This introduction was followed by seed sent by other collectors including Kingdon-Ward, Rock and Farrer from Sichuan, Tibet, North East Burma as well as Yunnan.

Growing in such conditions R. heliolepis was found to be a somewhat straggly shrub from 60cms to 5metres high with

evergreen oblong-elliptic to ovate very aromatic leaves, both upper and lower surface covered with large yellowish scales. The campanulate shaped corolla are 5-lobed and are arranged in a four to ten flowered truss and can be rose, red, lavender-rose or lavender-purple in colour.

We grow R. heliolepis and R. heliolepis Var. brevistylum and they can be seen on the topside of the middle road just before the junction with the top road. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc.
PO Box U33 Upper Burnie, Tasmania 7320