

September 2018

Rhodo News

Newsletter 411

evrg



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

The Importance of Word of Mouth



Sandra (on the left) and Philip Millard are locals. Wendy Ollie-Smith (centre) is from Casterton (birthplace of the Kelpie) in far-western Victoria. Wendy runs a Cafe/ Restaurant/ Delli called Spill the Beans. Wendy found out about Emu Valley when members of ours (we would love to know who) were her customers. She was so impressed with what they told her that when she came to Tassie and visited the Millards, a visit to our Garden was a must day out. Despite not being able to have one of our famed Devonshire Teas, Wendy was blown away by what she saw, and the Millards will be back in October!

Calendar

Saturday 8th Sept
FLOWER SEASON OPENING
EVRG 10.30am

Sunday 16th Sept
Social Meeting
EVRG 2pm

Saturday 20th Oct
Cherry Blossom Festival
10-4pm

**NO SOCIAL MEETING
IN OCTOBER**
(always too busy then)

See us at: emuvalleryhodo.com.au

General Manager's Report

The 1st of September not only was the first day of spring but it was our Annual General Meeting and the first day of all our newly elected committees. It's great to see all positions filled with old and new members.

The future of Emu Valley is in good hands with so many passionate people making up the Board of Directors, the Management Team and the various Committees.

As I pointed out at the meeting there is however still one position that needs filling. This being that of the Deputy General Manager. With the exception for a few months this has been vacant for the past four years. Putting it plainly, I need support in my role. It does not have to be too time consuming. If you think this may interest you please contact me to discuss what is involved. Or if you know of someone who might be interested I would be happy to make contact.

The annual report this year comprised 4 double sided pages. If you would like a copy please advise the office (preferably via email). Also in the next newsletter a list of the various office holders and committee members will be included.

Hope to see lots of members at the Flower Season Opening on Saturday 8 September. As part of his address Chairperson Ant Dry will be detailing our vision for Emu Valley Garden's vision for the future.

Membership Matters

- If you have paid your 2018/2019 membership but have not received your membership card please contact Kathy in the office
- Please, if you are paying on line via direct deposit ensure you include a reference. There are still a few payments and one in particular from late June that has yet to be traced.
- At our AGM it was agreed not to increase the annual membership fees for 2019/2020
- With so many new volunteers in the Tea Room it would be helpful to have your membership cards with you when visiting the garden

Geoff— geoffreywood@me.com // 0427 722 060

Social Meeting of August 19th

Although wintry conditions held sway outdoors, within our warm reception room members were treated to another informative presentation from Maurie.

He drew our attention to a number of the acer and birch, growing within the garden, that currently display very attractive bark on the trunks and larger limbs. Varying in colours from a creamy white through to others with a rich golden tan shade, they certainly give lie to there being no colour during winter months. Well worth a browse before the spring foliage hides much of it from sight.

Showing samples of each, he then explained the characteristics and origins of several camellia species, namely *C. tsaii*, *C. forrestii*, *C. lutchuensis*, and *C. japonica*. With a sprig of one of about ten different *Enkianthus*, *Enkianthus perulatus* with its white bells is rather a striking smaller shrub.

As spring slowly begins to push colder weather aside we had the flower voting table fairly well covered with an array of colour. Well done to the contributors. Her beautiful truss of a large leafed rhodo' won Kay Shadbolt the most votes, with Audrey Weeks gaining second place with a deep pink vireya. Frank Medwin displayed some attractive hellebore blooms for a win, and Doreen Stratford followed up with a selection of cymbidium blooms. Val. Bottle carried home the raffle prize. Combined with the Trade Table, donations totalled \$38-15. Thanks again to our supporters. *Pete.*



In the Garden

As I am typing this up today, I am looking out the office window at the massive silver blanket that has covered the entire garden, and that being our biggest frost

here this year! Spring is such an exciting time of year where rhododendrons may be flowering in the garden for the first time since being planted out, which then needs to be photographed and saved onto the data base as a record along with the appropriate name tag placed proudly in front of it.

Things happening around the garden:

We're on the home straight now with using up the last of the hay bales that have been stored up at the nursery. The latest areas that we have mulched in large sections are in North America, below the new air-walk in China / Japan and the top side of the Noel Sullivan walk amongst Hillary O'Rourke's hybrids which you will also see our second wollemi pine overlooking these and growing extremely well.

The side path on the right hand side which leads to a seat in North America, has also had some time spent rock edging, blue metal on the track a few deciduous azaleas planted below it.

A short little track has also been added by two of our weekday workers, Ann and David. This comes off the Noel Sullivan track and now heads up to what I have nicknamed 'the Jungle' but is actually in Zhejiang, Yunnan, Hubei, Sichuan. The time they have spent here in this area is fantastic and although there is still a lot of work to be done, it already is looking 100% better and so much more appealing and inviting so make sure you head over and check it out.

Did you know..... If the leaves on some of your rhodos are looking like the picture below, then don't worry too much. The cold weather can be to blame for this. As temperatures drop, the leaves on the rhodos may droop or curl up. It has been suggested that they do this as a survival mechanism so that if the leaves are hanging down, it reduces the weight from snow or ice etc which then limits the likelihood of branches breaking.



Enjoy the sun and everything that Spring may throw at us! *Neet*

Welcome

A warm rhodo garden welcome to new members Michael Wood, Peter Kitching, Brad & Irene King, David

Adams & Marilyn van Druten, and Peter Atkin & Karmina Gordon.

***** Business of the Month *****

On presentation of your membership card receive any of the following offers from:

Layeni Skin & Body, [244 Mount St Upper Burnie](#). 0419 685 914

Come in for a 60 minute Remedial Massage (Valued at \$70) and get a *bonus* Hydrating Eye treatment. (Valued at \$30). Book in for a Facial Treatment (valued at \$90) and receive a *complimentary* lash and brow tint (Valued at \$31). *Complimentary* eyebrow tint when you book in to Layeni Skin & Body for any waxing. This can be Eyebrow wax or any other facial or body waxing.

LAYENI Skin & Body



Rhododendron faucium

Many of the species in Subsection Thomsonia have beautiful peeling bark and reddish flowers; *R. faucium* is a recently introduced species from Tibet and fits this description.

Found growing in forest margins and rocky areas where it can grow from 1.5 to 6 metres, with leaves that are oblanceolate and retained for 2-3 years, the upper surface is glabrous, with a few scattered hairs along the midrib on the underside. The flower trusses are compact and maybe pink or white tinged pink and comprise 10-12 flowers.

Some confusion surrounds the collecting of *R. faucium* and its association with *R. hylaeum* and *R. subansiriense* so, at the moment *R. faucium* remains a species in its own right by some authorities while others have relegated it to synonymous status with *R. hylaeum*. This means that *R. faucium* and *R. hylaeum* could be one and the same plant.

We only have a few plants growing of this interesting species from Tibet, but if you would like to walk to the ‘top of the world’ these can be seen on the right hand side of the top road opposite the beautifully red flowered *Rhododendron ramsdenianum*. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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