

November 2018

Rhodo News

Newsletter 413



Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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Another Distinguished Visitor!



After having the Governor drop in last month, this month we were honoured by gardening royalty Peter Cundall of the ABC. The garden was at its best too, with more moderate winds this year allowing the blooms to be upstanding for the visitors. Welcoming Peter (in the middle) were from the left, John Englund, Kay Shadbolt, Neet, Lynette Neasy, Leah Ling, Maurie & Geoff.

Calendar

Sunday 18th November
Social Meeting
At EVRG 2pm

CRUISE SHIP HELP NEEDED
on Dec 2, 4, 9, 15, 16, 20, 22, 26

Sunday 9th December
Social Meeting
At EVRG at 4pm, then BBQ

See us at: emuvalleryhodo.com.au

General Manager's Report

As I write my bit for this months newsletter it is Halloween and I doubt if any of our wonderful volunteers are out trick and treating. There are so many tired faces with the hectic period we have had. Be it the Tea Room, Functions, or out in the garden it is simply non stop.

More than 700 visitors came to the Cherry Blossom Celebration. The day was an outstanding success and to think the following day was bigger than what the actual Cherry Blossom Day was four years ago! For a long time now Emu Valley has been recognised nationally and internationally as world class. Being accepted as to the significant role we play all year round to tourism both within our own region and statewide is still something we must keep working towards.

New Sponsor

Some people might remember two years ago the *Australian Hearing* bus spent a day at Emu Valley. Well it is going to happen again but this time *Australian Hearing* have hopped on board with us as a sponsor. In addition to the financial support we will also receive on-line marketing advertising not only within Tasmania but Australia wide. Already we have had visitors who picked up our brochures from *Australian Hearing* offices. Tuesday 5 February and Wednesday 17 April have been set aside for the bus to be with us. More information will follow but get the word out – Hearing Checks on these days will be free.



Getting the Word Out

It is great seeing so many new members. This might sound like a sales pitch (and I suppose it is) but it is not a secret — we desperately need help. As I have said to people lately, we have created a monster, but a good one!

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden has become so popular for visits and functions. The Spring Season may only have a month to go but then we hit the busy tourist season where the state is inundated with interstate visitors. On top of this the Cruise Ship Season is about to take off. So, to all our new members – WELCOME – and please if you can spare just a few hours occasionally and would like to help out in any way just contact Kathy in the office or myself. Be it in the Tea Room, Catering or Gardening, any help will be much appreciated. I assure you no experience is necessary and it's a lot of fun.

Garden Access

Due to our increased popularity it is necessary to restrict the number of private vehicles driving around to no more than two at a time. Members wishing to drive need to go to the Tea Room and request a tag. There is a \$2 charge which is refundable on return of the tag. At its upcoming meeting the management will discuss how this is managed during the period from 27 December when the tea room is closed. It may be that no vehicles will be allowed access other than the car park for this period.

Finally, I cannot sign off without a personal thank you to Peter Cundall. The support we receive from Peter is incalculable. Geoff — geoffreywood@me.com 0427 722 060

Welcome

Like last month, we have lots of new members this month! The warmest rhodo garden welcome to Reginald Rigby, Bruce McNicol, Lisa Bartholomew, Kevin Wescott, Amanda Jones, Joseph & Antoinette Casiechitty, Alfonso Messieh, Anastasia Nikitina, Pete Young, Francis Young, Marcus Stafford, Naomi Widger, Bea Thyer, Wayne Hayes, Anna Cunningham, Brenda Hingston, David & Jane McNeill, Warren & Anne Lockett, Teeny Brumby, Murry Jones, Analyn & Tony Jeffries, Alexandra & Garry Collins, Margaret & Raymond Evans, William Clarke, Maggie Florian, Allan Hamilton and Ange Carter.

In the Garden

No rest for the wicked so they say...and I believe it!! From restocking the plant sales area weekly, general garden maintenance, lawn fertilizing, irrigation to garden tours on a daily basis, collecting paddock rock locally, dead heading the big leaf rhododendrons and so on when can one stop to smell the rhodos?!? (by the way, don't get me wrong, this is a good complaint!)

Cherry Blossom Festival is proving to be a popular day out and I am already coming up with a few new ideas on how to improve the plant sales. Thank you to all who came along on our biggest day on the calendar and to all of those who helped out in the lead up to what was such a successful event.



Rhododendron edgeworthii

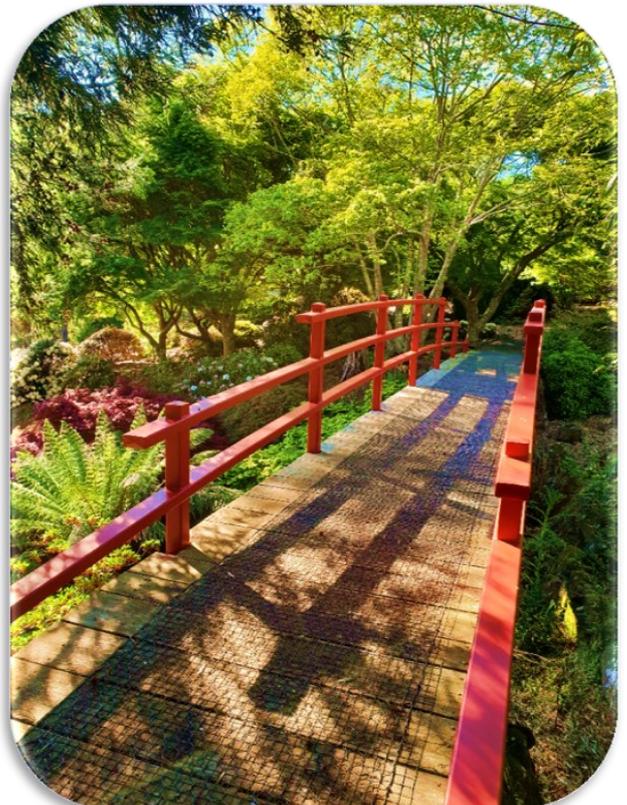
they are flowering now, so I am trying to make this my priority to get as many recorded as possible. Above the top road is *Rhododendron edgeworthii* and last week was looking picture perfect with blue sky set as the ideal background. *R. edgeworthii* comes from Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Assam, Tibet, Burma, Yunnan and Sichuan and we have 13 plants growing here in Tibet alone. Pink in bud, opening to white with a tinge of pink throughout and very fragrant.

The reflecting pool bridge has been stripped back to bare metal and has been given a well-deserved paint job. This, along with the tedious job of pulling iris rhizomes out of the boggy swamp below, means you can now enjoy seeing the water course flowing below. Thank you team, for a job well done—it looks great!

Enjoy the last month of Spring everyone and happy gardening. *Neet*

Dead heading of our big leaf rhododendrons is underway. We make this a priority around this time every year to clamber up and around the rhododendrons the best we can to ensure that the energy from the plant is spent producing new growth rather than seeds. Trevor usually jumps ahead of the line for this job, good on you Trevor!

Another job on my own personal list is for me to photograph as many rhodos flowering as I can and correctly name them which can then be added to the data base. This is not only for a record that the garden can keep and refer back to, but it's a way for me to try and become a mini Maurie in my own way! Obviously, there is limited time to do this as





Rhododendron taggianum

There are many scented rhododendrons growing at Emu Valley with the lepidotes starting the season off in September and the elepidotes from mid season to the end of January. Some are quite subtle while others are very strong; *R. taggianum* is definitely in the latter group.

R. taggianum was first discovered by Farrer in 1920 at Kum La Bum northeast Upper Burma and a few years later by other collectors in Upper Burma and Yunnan growing on the margins of conifer and spruce forests. Forrest introduced western gardens to this splendid rhododendron in September 1924 from Yunnan

and by the same collector in 1925 from northeast Upper Burma.

R. taggianum is a broadly upright shrub to 1.5 metres with shiny oblong-lanceolate dark green bullate leaves; the large white flowers cover the entire bush and show off the deep yellow blotch to perfection. The perfume is something to experience as it pervades a large area somewhat similar to *R. nuttallii*.

If the pristine white flowers of *R. taggianum* do not attract your attention as you walk through Yunnan or Burma the beautiful perfume will. It is a bit late now to enjoy this interesting plant but next year keep an eye open from early October. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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