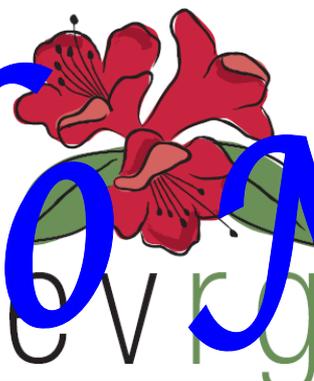


December 2018

# Rhodo News

Newsletter 414



Official Newsletter of the

*Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc*

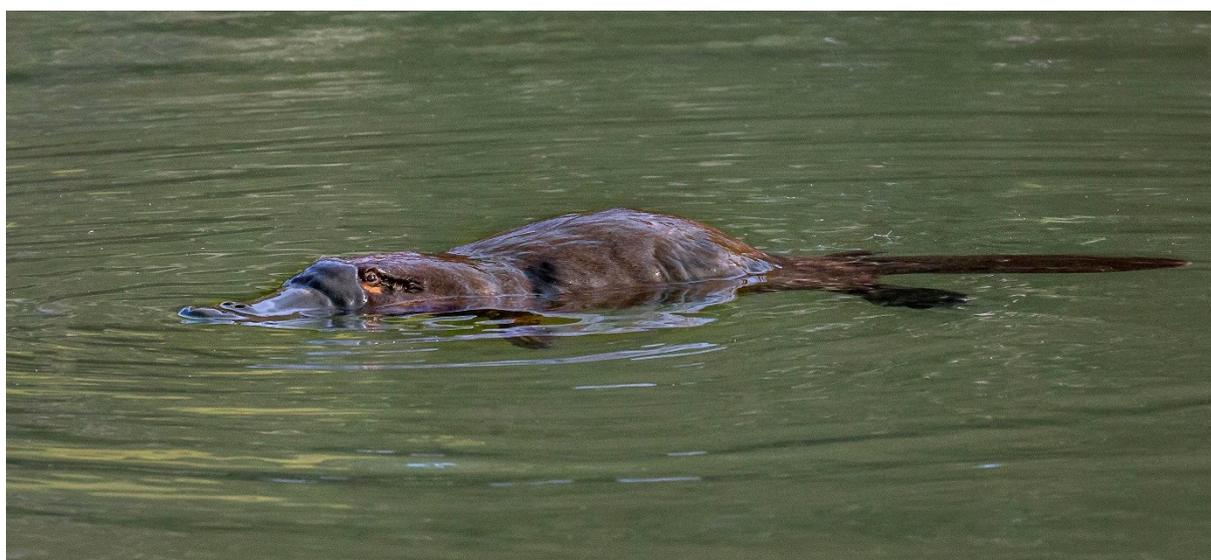
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General Manager: Geoff Wood Newsletter Editor: Nigel Burch

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

## And Now A Distinguished Resident!



*One of our members, Anne Dean, took this shot recently. They have been very active of late, with many visitors taking the time to enjoy the sightings.*



*Members & Visitors can find and tag us on Facebook & Instagram and hashtag #emuvallerrhododendrongarden or #evrg*



*The Garden is closed Christmas Day as usual. Open all other days, except that the tea room will NOT be open 24, 25 December (open for Cruise Ship 26 December) closed from 27 December through to 2 January - re-opening 3 January 2019.*

### Calendar

**Sunday 9th December**

Social Meeting

At EVRG 4pm, then BBQ

**CRUISE SHIP HELP NEEDED**

on Dec 4, 9, 15, 16, 20, 22, 26

January 8, 13, 18, 20.

**NO MEETING JANUARY**

**NO NEWSLETTER JANUARY**

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

## General Manager's Report

Someone asked me why we close the Tea Room for a week from Christmas. The answer is simple – our volunteers must have a break. The Cruise Ship Season has taken off and we need 8 volunteers each day. This does not include those helping at the wharf, in the Tea Room or Function Area. If you can spare any time on any day please let me know.

For starters – December 4, 9, 15, 16, 19, 22, 26 & January 8, 13, 18, 20.

Last month we mentioned how great it was to have Peter Cundall once again visit us. It was really great to receive a call from Peter thanking us for our hospitality and to encourage us to stay on the current pathway we are on, in respect to managing Emu Valley now and into the future.

Emu Valley is truly a magic place and without Neet, Kathy, volunteers and all members it would not be what it is. Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year. *Geoff* — geoffreywood@me.com 0427 722 060

## Social Meeting November 18th

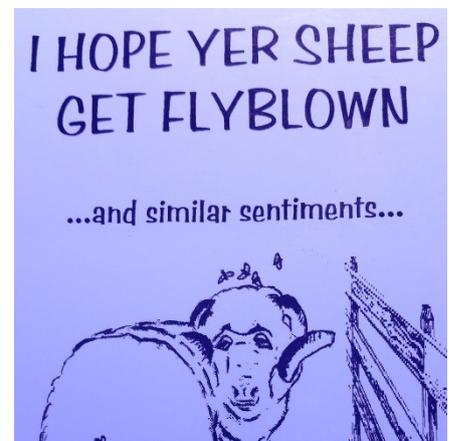
Due to other engagements neither our manager Geoff, nor curator Maurie, were present to personally impart their information and knowledge to us. The following is a dot point report of information that was presented on Geoff's behalf.

- ◆ Our garden has just experienced the busiest times in its history thus far. Cherry Blossom Day on 20<sup>th</sup> October saw about 800 people through the gates. This contributed to the income for that day being in excess of \$13,000. Then on the following day a further \$5,200, so please take a bow, all of those who made the event the success that it was.
- ◆ We have an URGENT need for more volunteers. If anyone can spare some time at all...at any time, the demand on our current volunteers would ease. Maybe even consider being a “meeter & greeter” to be out on the balcony and impart a little information about the garden before pointing visitors in the right direction to see the garden to their best advantage.
- ◆ Our membership has now gone beyond the 400 mark, sitting at approximately 430. Personal invitations to become members are always the best, and don't forget that we do have gift membership vouchers if you are stuck for Christmas gift ideas.
- ◆ Early notice...negotiations are underway to have Emu Valley selected as host for the 2020 Rhododendron Conference. This is not a “done deal” yet, but it was mentioned at the recent conference in Bremen, Germany, for Australia to host a conference.

Back to our social meeting... Please don't forget that our **December meeting** is to be on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>** and starting at **4:00pm**, with a BBQ to follow.

There was an array of colour on the flower voting table for people to pick their preferences, the outcome being that R. Golden Gate and R. Paprika Spice, both from Eric & Audrey Weeks garden, took out top honours. In the cut flower section a captivating yellow rose grown by the Tavner's pipped Frank Medwin's bloom of his stunning rose “Ian Thorpe”, but only just. Medwins also held the winning raffle ticket, while the door prize went home with Geoff & Morva Morris.

Combined with the trade table, these events raised \$36.60, a very generous effort considering an unusually small attendance. Thank you all.



*Would the kind lady who loaned this book to Pete please contact him so that it may be returned to her.*

## *In the Garden at Christmas*

Plenty still to see and do as we move into the first month of Summer! Although we are upgrading the irrigation system in January, the current system still needs a bit of TLC as we have been watering the last couple of months and the plants can't wait (and neither can Maurie) for a reliable and mapped out system.



We have had an exceptional flowering season this year and I believe the garden is looking the best it has in some time. At the moment our Kalmia corner is catching visitor's eyes as they head into North America and I hope to expand this area over the next few years. We are finding that kalmias strike better from younger plants or growing from seed and this is why I have a small stash of them in the nursery, and not for sale as they are needed for stock. But if you can ever get your hands on one or ten, then you

won't be disappointed! Fantastic display of colours and they flower for ages.

Recently we have had a few small projects on the go and they consist of adding new walking tracks in, rock edging paths that look like they had been forgotten. They are now so much more inviting. A gabion wall added to the Chinese pavilion entrance, seats and picnic tables are in the process of getting a new coat of paint or old pieces of timber replaced. It's a place that you can visit on any number of occasions and there will always be something different to see and explore.

Short and sweet this month but I hope you all have a safe and wonderful Christmas. Rest up and eat lots as you can burn it all off when we go hay bale carting come January/February..... I know you're all as excited as I am! Merry Christmas. *Neet*

## *Welcome*

The warmest rhodo garden welcome to new members Bob & Rita Richter, Catherine & Jeremy Harle, Trish Brady & family, Charles Balcarek, Leonie Webling, Helen & Denis Richards, Yasmien & Christopher Hughes and Sahar & Mehrdad Abbasian.



*Two Tasmanian Icons*

## *Rhododendron faberi*



Rhododendron faberi is yet another member of subsection Taliensia growing in Sichuan, China. An easy to grow species with the usual thick woolly, rust-coloured or dark indumentum under the leaves which takes a little time to develop, then is shed to reveal a thin whitish layer of indumentum. Grown in the open it forms a compact rounded shrub to about 1.5 meters in height and densely covered with dark green leaves.

The pinkish buds open white with a pink flush which soon disappears as the flower matures, these may or may not have a dark blotch or red spots.

R. faberi was discovered by Rev. E Faber around 1887 on the summit of Mt. Omei in western Sichuan and was described in 1889. Other collectors were successful in also finding it in the same area. It has taken us quite a while to source seed of this somewhat rare species but the few plants we have are growing well. However we are propagating more. If you wish to locate these plants look for the nametag partway down the top road on the left hand side. Good hunting. *Maurie*

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



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