

March 2019

Rhodo News

Newsletter 416



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

Then and Now



Looking back just 9 years at the Maurie Kapsch (Chinese) pavilion site shows how rapidly we develop. The two small photos are from 2010. When we see it every day, it is not always obvious. The 'Now' picture from Heather Walmsley.

Calendar

Saturday 16th March
HARP CONCERT
At EVRG 2pm

Sunday 17th March
Social Meeting
At EVRG 2pm

Sunday 21st April
Social Meeting
At EVRG 2pm

See us at: emuvallerrhodo.com.au

General Manager's Report



Nigel receiving his award from Mayor Christina Holmdahl.

Talk about 'Keeping Up With The JONES' — in 2015 Curator Extraordinaire Maurie Kupsch was Burnie's Citizen of the Year. Now in 2019 Newsletter Editor Extraordinaire Nigel Burch is the West Tamar Citizen of the Year. CONGRATULATIONS NIGEL!

As the Cruise Ship Season winds down it is not only time to start giving thought to how we manage the increasing number for 2019/2020, but how we manage all other areas of Emu Valley Garden. In the April Newsletter there will be dates for workshops and all are welcome.

At the December Management Meeting it was decided to ramp up our infrastructure team. A big thank you to Steve Locke, Roy Briggs, David and Ann

Grundy, Maurie Kupsch and John Englund who attended a very long meeting. Having a planned maintenance program can only be an advantage as we continue to grow.

Harp Concert tickets for Saturday 16 March at 2 p.m are still available and can be purchased at the garden or on online at trybooking.com. For \$25 members have the opportunity to listen to internationally acclaimed Cristina Braga, enjoy afternoon tea and have a wander around. Non members are \$30.

Geoff — geoffreywood@me.com 0427 722 060

Social Meeting February 17th

After Ethel had welcomed attendees to the meeting, our Manager Geoff spoke about a number of matters currently in hand or being considered around the garden. Of particular interest on a social level is the upcoming performance in our reception room, by International harpist Cristina Braga. This will be a real treat & as a bonus it is being catered for as well. Seats for this afternoon of entertainment are limited, so be in early to avoid being disappointed. Tickets are available online or from our tea room. Members \$25 non-members \$30 .

Maurie announced that a start has been made on the much needed replacement of the irrigation system throughout the garden. As the garden has expanded, so the need to add to the original system, consequently it has become very piecemeal & inefficient. While only a good start, the new system has the potential to reduce both labour and headaches!

He also drew our attention to some of the unusual plants in our garden, including rhododendrons, liquid amber, camellia, & even some fruit from one of the eleven different ginkgo plants in the garden. This cherry-like fruit is apparently only found on a seedling root stock shoot of a grafted tree.

An attractive apricot/orange spray of flowering gum (eucalypt) from within the garden, attracted most votes in the cut flower display. Morva Morris carried home the Door Prize, an attractive plant propagated by the Tavner's green fingers. Not so green-fingered Geoff Wood won a fragrant vireya, "Burnie Shines" as raffle prize. We gardeners shall pray for its well being, unless Bev takes charge & cares for it.

Keep your eyes open for the date of a planned outing, using the gardens own mini bus. This promises to be a very interesting & fun day trip. *Pete.* email pdstrat@bigpond.com or phone 0428 103 520

Around the Garden

So much has been happening around the garden in the last couple of months of Summer. Here is a bit of an update to get you up to speed.



Newest recruit up on top of the stack - Catherine Jones.

Bale carting commenced on Jan 22 and several trips after this date as well. Throwing bales in the hottest week we had – 32 degrees out there you know! We have finished with just over 2000 mixed bales of both wheat and barley for mulching the banks and around younger plants and garden beds. Thank you to Kelvin our loyal truck driver who can carry an easy 275 bales each trip which puts a fair dent in the figures and cuts down on ute cartage. And last but not least a massive thank you to all of the regular helpers and also a few new ones as well this year which has been fantastic! The plants and I appreciate every little bit!

Work has begun on automating the garden irrigation system. A new controller will bring EVRG into the 21st century and relieve Maurie of the summer time watering somewhat. More pipe and drippers will be fitted along the way to areas that have currently nothing or that just need adjusting. By doing so allows us to water more during the day and water much more efficiently. There will be plenty of planting and mulching of these areas when irrigation is up and running. This is work in progress and to anyone that is up around the area above the 'top road' and the nursery, be careful of the control cable in the garden (it's red) and don't fiddle with any taps or valves for the time being.

Geoff and Steve are the two blokes in charge of this job and after following them around for a couple of days, I can see they sure know their stuff. I'm a little more relaxed now, than when this was all starting out! Keep up the good work!



Left - Steve and Right - Geoff from Irrigation Tas.



The hot bed is now completely full to the brim. I worked out that we have around the 2150 cuttings in, and hopefully out of that will get a decent strike rate. I get a little carried away sometimes so you will find more than just rhododendron cuttings in here. Let's just say it's a bit like fruit salad. 😊

North America is in repair around the lake and the Gazebo has all been roped off about 1m back from the water's edge. The rock wall that lines the lake has collapsed in parts and the grassed area in front of the Gazebo where we have a lot of weddings has sunken in spots thanks to our little mates, the friendly platypus. We ask for your patience as our regular volunteer team try to piece this back together but I have no doubt what so ever that this will be another job well done. We aim to have this completed over the next few months.

I better get back to pruning back of the tracks otherwise I might get the sack! Happy Gardening, Neet

Rhododendron falconeri



R. falconeri ssp. *falconeri* is one of the easiest of the larger leaved rhododendrons to identify. The thick leaves are elliptic to obovate and up to 170mm broad and nearly 300 in length, the upper surface matt, rugulose with perhaps a touch of scattered tomentum whilst the underside is covered with a thick rust-coloured brown indumentum.

The creamy-white to pale yellow campanulate shaped flowers are massed in large trusses proudly displayed on the ends of stout branches, which are also covered in brown hairs and when the new growth appears the emerging leaves are covered in pale golden brown hair similar to cows ears.

J. D. Hooker collected this well-known species on his explorations of the Himalayan countries in 1848 at Tonglo Mountain in Sikkim. Further collectors discovered it in Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, west Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

To find and enjoy this beautiful species you will need to take a walk into the Himalayan section and take the track between the top and middle roads and look for the large yellow flowers on the right hand side. You may even see *Rhododendron kesangiae* in flower. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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