

April 2019

# Rhodo News

Newsletter 417

EV RG



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

EMU VALLEY RHODODENDRON GARDEN

## AUTUMN SPECTACULAR

SATURDAY  
20 APRIL  
10am to 4pm

ENTRY  
Adults \$12  
Concession \$10  
Children free

EASTER EGG HUNT - 1PM, FACE PAINTING  
ENTERTAINMENT & PLANT SALES  
THE GARDEN'S FAMOUS TEA ROOM AND BBQ

See facebook for more details - [facebook.com/emuvally/](https://facebook.com/emuvally)  
[www.emuvallyrhodo.com.au](http://www.emuvallyrhodo.com.au)  
55 Breffny Road (off Cascade Rd, Burnie) Romaine 7320



### Calendar

**Saturday 20th April**  
Autumn Spectacular  
At EVRG 2pm

**Sunday 28th April**  
Social Meeting at Kaydale Lodge  
Buses Leaving EVRG at 10am

**Sunday 12th May**  
Mothers' Day Luncheon  
EVRG 12noon for 12.30pm

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

## General Manager's Report

### Strategic Plan

Chairperson Ant Dry and fellow Directors are working on a strategic plan that will ensure the garden's future. All members are encouraged to come to Emu Valley on Tuesday 9 April to not only listen to proposals but to have their say. If you cannot make it and would like to make some recommendations either email Geoff Wood or Kathy Gordon in the office.

WHO'S INVITED? All members.

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? We need to have a strategy to take us into the future. Why? Because if we fail to plan for the future, we are effectively planning to fail in the future.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

1. The board present their ideas on the future direction of the garden, and possible new directions and initiatives.
2. The members will have their opportunity to:- a. Reject the ideas, b. Amend the ideas c. Expand on these ideas, d. Come up with their own ideas.

SPECIFICALLY, WHAT IDEAS ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The ideas we want to expand on are: 1. Management of the Garden 2. Maintenance of the garden 3. Pricing and revenue opportunities 4. Alternate uses for the garden

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL THERE.

### Mothers Day Luncheon

The popular luncheon is happening again. This year bookings need to be accompanied with payment. This can be made by cash/card to tearoom or by phone with card payment: Sunday 12 May, 12pm for 12.30, \$28 adult/\$14 child

### Special Fund Raiser


In January our annual bale carting took place and as in past years members and volunteers gave up their time to undertake this labour intensive task. Unfortunately hay combusted on the back of a trailer. The result was that both the trailer and ute were totally destroyed. The vehicle was covered by insurance but the trailer which was lent by a third party was not. Both the Board and Management Team agreed that Emu Valley had a responsibility to reimburse the cost of the trailer. Members are planning a fund raiser to help offset the cost of the trailer (\$12,000). Details will be in the May newsletter.

### Autumn Spectacular - Saturday April 20.

This is one of our major fund raisers for the year. We are very short of volunteers. Please, if you can spare an hour contact either the office or Geoff.


The Harp Concert was brilliant and I will not mention names for fear of missing someone — just a huge thank you. To be able to have such wonderful international talent at Emu Valley was such a positive for us. Keep up the suggestions and comments. Geoff [geoffreywood@me.com](mailto:geoffreywood@me.com) 0427 722060

## Social Outing in lieu of Social Meeting Kaydale Lodge on Sunday 28th April

 Because our regular Social meeting for April would fall on Easter weekend, we are delaying it until the following Sunday, but in lieu of our regular meeting are planning an outing instead. Our own two mini buses will leave from Emu Valley Garden at 10:00 am with our return there at approximately 4:00 pm. The buses take 10 passengers each.

To avail yourself of this transport it is essential that you book in early through the office. Costs for this will be \$10 which includes the admission to Kaydale Garden. For those choosing to travel in private vehicles, the \$5 admission can be paid on arrival but please advise the office anyway so that Kaydale can be prepared for likely catering numbers.

Refreshments and meals at Kaydale's well appointed reception are extra. Home cooked "light lunch" at \$20. Oven fresh afternoon teas! This should be a fun and enjoyable get together in another fascinating and beautiful garden. Come along and join in the fun. *Pete*





## Around the Garden

Autumn is well and truly here as there are some amazing colours that reflect this incredible season. The scenery changes weekly and I love watching it all unfold right before me. I took a quick walk down to Japan yesterday looking for Autumn colours for the newsletter and I couldn't go past *Picrasma quassioides*. You will find this on the righthand side of the road as you come around the top corner heading down to Japan (opposite the *camellia sasanqua*'s).

Some of our handy and creative volunteers that have undertaken the North American wall rebuild have hit the ground running! From organising truckloads of large rocks to be delivered through to driving machinery, rock placing and draining the water level which enables the volunteers to get down in the lake and in the mud. It appears to be ahead of schedule at the moment which is fantastic and is looking great. We still have barrier tape up in some areas around the lake, but you are still able to walk around some parts in North America and soak up the Autumn colours.

The automated irrigation system is well underway and we now have WI-FI connected up in the nursery which enables us to connect the main controller to the irrigation which two of us have control over on our phones which means we can turn on and off and adjust the watering from where ever we may be. Geoff from Irrigation Tas says even from his yacht in Tahiti!! Just a reminder that if you are exploring around the top section of the garden that is automated (red wires), please don't fiddle with solenoids or blue stop tap as we wont have the full control from the App to fix any issues that may arise.

Jobs we have currently started and those that we need to start:

- Wheat/barley straw – new areas and around plants that are lacking in the mulch department. An ongoing job.
- Weeding – on going and more helpers the better!
- North American Lake wall rebuild then fixing up the grass area around the gazebo from sink holes and tractor marks.
- Fertilising garden with both liquid and pellet this year.
- Shortly will begin walking track re-graveling, possibly with something other than blue metal as we don't seem to be getting the mileage out of it and is slippery under foot on the steeper slopes and corners.
- Middle road/landslip area will be worked on. Will do what we can before we receive heavy rain fall. A volunteer has been able to source tyres for us and we can have as many as we like so well done and thank you. This area will be an ongoing project for a little while as we need to allow adequate drainage around the site, retaining walls, and safe driving access as well as trying to save and maintain the plants that are around this area that are a target for slipping away down the hill side.
- *Did you know?* We are trying to reduce the amount of green waste we burn up at the fire pile. Yes it's a quick fix to get rid of it by sticking a match to it along with bad for the environment, but now that we have a small chipper and we are making a conscientious effort to chip as much as we can and return it straight back to the garden. It's a win/win all round.



Hope to see some of you at Autumn Spectacular... I hear that the Easter Bunny will be here!  
Happy Gardening, *Neet*



## Welcome

A warm colourful autumnal welcome to new members Barb Walsh, Valery Briton & Chris Price, Patricia Ellison & Geoffrey Smart, Glen Newbown & Renate Moore, Donald Browning & Lan Anh Nguyen. Your membership cards are on their way!



## *Rhododendron concatenans*

South East Tibet is the home to many fine species of rhododendrons, *R. concatenans* being one of them. This species was discovered by Frank Kingdon–Ward in June 1924 at Doshong La, describing the plant as “a most striking bush, visible from afar.” Since then more recent introductions have come from Pemako in south-east Tibet. In its native homeland it was found growing on steep rocky slopes among other rhododendron plants.

In cultivation it grows into a rounded shrub to around 1.5 m. high. There seems to be a number of distinct forms some with leaves larger than others with or without a glaucous sheen on the upper surface but all have

bluish- green new growth covered with this sheen.

At Emu Valley our plants start to flower in late October, they become covered with a profusion of apricot flowers, some faintly tinged with pale purple in lax trusses of three to eight. If you wish to find these plants you need to climb up to the area for Tibet on the top road and look for the apricot flowers on the lower side of the road. They are certainly worth finding. *Maurie*

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



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