

September 2019

Rhodo News

Newsletter 422



Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

Postal Address: PO Box U33 Upper Burnie Tasmania 7320 Phone: 6433 1805

enquiries@evrg.com.au Office Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm

General Manager: Geoff Wood Newsletter Editor: Nigel Burch

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

Another New Species



*We are delighted to have flowered another newly introduced species, which is apparently now rare in the wilds of Human. It is so new, Maurie can't even find a description in any of his books!
See the back page for details.*

Calendar

Saturday 14th September

Flower Season Opening
EVRG 10am

Thursday 19th September

Irrigation System Launch
EVRG 10am

Saturday 19th October

Cherry Blossom Celebration
EVRG Starts at 10am

NO SOCIAL MEETING In October

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com

General Manager's Report



On Thursday 19 September MP Roger Jaensch will officially 'Turn The Tap On' to our upgraded irrigation system. This came about due to a \$50,000 grant from the Hodgman Liberal Government.

No – no penguins will be attending.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the work of Irrigation Tasmania personnel. It has not been an easy job and we very much admire their professionalism and determination to see the job completed.

All members are invited to come along at 10 o'clock on the 19th (and watch Neet show her expertise with the Irrigation App!!).

Flower Season Opening

Saturday 14 September will see the official opening of our Flowering Season. Councillors, politicians and sponsors will be present. Apart from enjoying a scrumptious morning tea members are encouraged to come along to show our support for Emu Valley. Along with listening to guest speaker Bill Lawson AM, enjoy the talented Burnie Concert Band and our Rare Plant Auction. Come along at 10 for a Devonshire tea and enjoy the morning PLUS don't forget Emu Valley sponsor Hearing Australia will be present offering free hearing tests.

Guide Roster

By the time the newsletter has been sent out the Annual General Meeting will have most likely been held (Sunday 8th). Hopefully someone might have come forward to assist with the roster for arranging guided tours. Please, we are very short of guides. I have said it before – you do not have to be an expert on plants. We have a 'cheat sheet' and it is a lot of fun. If you think you might like to give it a go please let me know.

Memberships

Membership renewals are rolling in and it is great to see a number of new members.

If you have changed your address or email contact please let Kathy in the office know. A few newsletters have been returned. Likewise please advise Kathy if you have forwarded your payment but have not received your membership card—enquiries@evrg.com.au / 6433 1805.

There are a couple of payments from Bendigo Bank made in July which have no reference. *Could this be your payment?*

To stay a member of Emu Valley and to continue receiving these wonderful newsletters, please forward your membership payment to Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden's account:- BSB: 067 400 Acc: 2804 7242 with your surname or the invoice number as a reference.

Cherry Blossom Festival

Newsflash—local radio station Coast FM will be broadcasting direct from the Garden during our Cherry Blossom Festival this year. The festivities begin at 10am on Saturday October 19th.

Cheers Geoff geoffreywood@me.com 0427 722060

Around the Garden

While the weather has been pretty wet and miserable here, spare a thought for our friends in Pukeiti where they have had 61 days of consecutive of rain for their winter (and it's probably been more than that now since writing this). Bring on the joys of spring I say – footy finals and my Birthday 😊, oh and of course I mean new growth, bursting flower buds and warmer days.

We have been busy prepping for many jobs on the 'wish list' that we have talked about and are now finally ticking things off and let me tell you, it's a good feeling! One of these are the 'short, medium and long' walking tracks designed for those on a tight timeframe. The idea is that we have a short walk that includes one lake, a medium walk including two lakes and the longer walk which incorporates all three lakes. Now keeping in mind that of course there are plenty of other tracks to take and these are only acting as a guide, but by having them mapped out it will hopefully free up our tour guides a little especially on busy days such as the Cruise ship visits. I have been working along side Michael Cannon from Design Eye Creative - a local graphic designer and he has been meeting all of our requests plus more. We're about half way along and I am confident that we will have the finished product in our hot little hands really soon so watch this space.



*Even the bumble bee is wearing
the right colours 😊*

You may notice next time you walk around the garden that there are a few hand rails dotted around the place. We have tried keeping these looking as natural as possible to blend in with the scenery as best as we can and only adding them where necessary as part of OH&S. We are becoming a very popular tourist attraction and we need to have safety precautions in place. Thank you to the team that has undertaken this task.

It's that time again where we have waited for a bit of a break in the weather which has allowed us to strap on the back-breaking back pack and climb these hills to kill unwanted weeds! In the coming weeks we will be using the big tank on the back of the Kubota to do the majority of the garden from the roadways. Weeds We are coming for you..... pests and petal blight you are next!! It won't be long before the deciduous azalea flower buds will be showing their first signs of colour so we need to spray for petal blight before this. It all comes down to timing it right and more than one application to knock it on the head.

Over all, the garden is looking great and things are on target for a ripper of a flowering season, so welcome to Spring and happy gardening! Neet



Welcome

A warm welcome to new members Maree Mitchinson, Christina Chamley & Helen Flight, Ian & Kathryn Edwards, Lisa & Val Padden, Deb Fitzpatrick, Brent & Georgie Smedley, Bill Clark, Mary Apseniaks, Margaret Bingham, Joseph & Bernice Nacinovic, and Colleen Pettingill.



Rhododendron polytrichum

This new species plant was collected by Jens Nielsen – seed lot JN#12380 back in 2013.

The name polytrichum refers to the many hairs or bristles covering not only the leaves but the leaf stalks and even on the flower pedicels—as can be seen—the new growth is absolutely stunning!

When the leaves mature they are quite large, 200mm x 80mm, which would suggest quite a large bush eventually. The bristles persist on the stalks, but on top of the lovely dark green leaves it feels just like stubble.

The flowers are funnel-shaped white or white with faint red stripes on the outside and a lime green glow in the centre, so with 10-14 flowers in the truss—rather beautiful in other words!

Very worthy additions to our garden with the fabulous new growth giving an extra season of interest after the flowers have gone.
Maurie



The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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