

October 2019

# Rhodo News

Newsletter 423



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](mailto: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

## *It's Cherry Blossom Time!*



Photo from Heather Walmsley

*We know we are mid-way through spring when the cherry blossom erupts! Come along to our annual cherry blossom festival on Saturday October 19th from 10am to 3pm. There's heaps to see and do! Parking is offsite with a shuttle provided to the Garden. Volunteers will help and direct you. Festivities and attractions include Taiko Drummers, Tea ceremonies and a Bonsai display, with the Sync or Swing & Segway Singers entertaining us all through the day. Enjoy home made burgers, Haddo's Hotdogs, Linx on Wheels coffee, Dalla Valle Gelato, and don't forget our brilliant Plant Sales!!*

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October**  
Cherry Blossom Celebration  
EVRG Starts at 10am

**Calendar**  
**NO SOCIAL**  
**MEETING**  
**in October (too busy!)**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November**  
Social Meeting  
EVRG 2pm

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

## General Manager's Report

To everyone who has volunteered to be on committees a huge thank you. Trixie Duncan has taken on the role of organising guide rosters. Please, if you think you might be able to help out please contact Trixie on [jobnoburnie@bigpond.com](mailto:jobnoburnie@bigpond.com).

Over the coming months you might see some tightening up of safety & security measures. In recent times we have had people driving into the garden and refusing to pay. It is also not that long ago when police involvement was necessary when there was a stolen car on the property. The well being of our volunteers is paramount.

Whilst on the subject of vehicle access please remember that only two private cars are allowed to drive around at any one time. To do this the driver must go to the tea room and obtain a tag. There will be times when no vehicles can have access. I also remind everyone that private vehicles are not allowed up past the nursery. Our insurance will not cover damage and there is doubt that an individual's private insurance would accept liability.

As I reflect on what might be in store for Emu Valley in the future I think of the many comments we receive and though occasionally there might be a negative one there is always one that is consistent — how great a job our volunteers do.

Cheers Geoff [geoffreywood@me.com](mailto:geoffreywood@me.com) 0427 722060

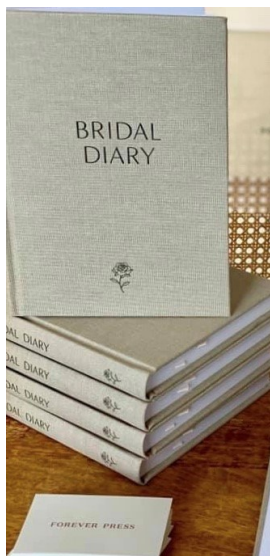
## Social Meeting Report for Sept 8th

Our social meeting, this month, followed on after the A.G.M. and was somewhat abbreviated as a result.

However Maurie gave us another enlightening show & tell with some rhododendrons, plus other interesting flowering shrubs currently adding their colour around the garden. We also had a video taken around Emu Valley garden back in 1994. This was a nostalgic journey for those who were involved during that era, and a dramatic eye opener for more recent members there. Truly a valuable piece of footage for the garden archives.

Probably due in part to the A.G.M. there was a scarcity of entries in the flower voting line-up, although a very attractive spray of freesias took top honours for Melvie Moore. Well done.

From the A.G.M. we have a trio who intend to come up with some stimulating ideas for social activities and meetings. Watch this space! *Pete.*



## Weddings in the Garden

Newer members might not realise we have many weddings in the Garden. The grounds have a number of lovely locations for the wedding service, and our Visitor Centre makes a grand reception venue—you should see it when it's fully decked out to welcome the wedding breakfast guests!

At the moment we are offering a free gift when a wedding is booked and confirmed with a deposit. It's a beautiful Bridal Diary as shown in the picture on the left—worth \$85!

## Around the Garden

Can someone just remind me again what month it is already?! The garden is absolutely buzzing with positivity, fresh ideas and go-getters, all of which make a great team to work along side and we're getting heaps done! Splashes of colour is all around in every direction that you look and it's not even peak flowering yet! The automated irrigation system has now officially been switched on by Roger Jaensch and the team from Irrigation Tas on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Sep. This will be the first Summer with this new system in place and we are well aware that there is bound to be a few teething problems to iron out, but fingers crossed they will be easy to fix and we learn along the way (and not at the cost of a loss of plant life). We hope to continue with this process and start the next section in the near future once we have sufficient funding.

Blooming Tasmania Flower and Garden Festival was held in Launceston at the Albert Hall on the weekend of Sep 21 and 22. This is a very beneficial involvement for us and is important to be a part of as it is invaluable exposure for Emu Valley and encouraging people to come and visit us. We are able to have a chat about any plant problems that people may have and talk to all garden like enthusiasts and even make new friends with other stall holders on these days, picking up possible new members along the way. It was great having a member of our Board of Directors along side me for the weekend and was great to see some of our EVRG members coming along to say G'day.



It's all go go go for Cherry Blossom on the 19<sup>th</sup> of this month. Weeding, pruning, general garden maintenance and upkeep is all a daily routine from here on in. Everyone knows how special and important this day has become. Plenty still to do and more help in and around the garden tidying up and weeding would be very helpful. If this is something that might tickle your fancy, then please let us know.

I am going to end it there as there is heaps to do and plenty to see. I hope many of you will visit over the next few weeks.

Happy Gardening!  
*Neet*



## Welcome

A warm welcome to heaps of new members: Laurence & Danita Harrould, Luyen Nguyen, Christine Oliver, Annie Gibson & Jon Moore, Heather Marshall & John Bell, Ian & Villalinda Petty, Clay & Rachel Young, Mark Kramer, Jo Saunders, Bert Bultman, Yvonne & Leisa Jagiello, Craig Newton, Gregory Hill, Ronald & Karen Jones, Hanja Enright, Dean & Marilyn Hohn, Susie Mueller & Bret Belbin, Charles & Wendy Pearcey, and Lilian Anstis.

## *Legends of the Garden*

### *Terry Shadbolt—Inaugural chair EVRG Inc.*

Terry Shadbolt is a Life Member of the Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden. He served two terms as President of the North West Rhododendron Society. He held the positions of Treasurer and Chairman of the Garden Committee, was the National Council delegate and was the first Chairperson of EVRG Inc.

But first and foremost, Terry was a school teacher, well respected by his students.

One wrote: “Terry was my favourite teacher. He was a big, gregarious, charismatic man who made his subject easy to learn. It was fun to be there. He treated his students with the same respect he demanded from them. He was a genuine hero, a member of the famous 1960 Tasmanian football side who beat the Victorians. A hero for the whole state as well as for me.”

A second student wrote: “Mr Shadbolt, a Taurean, is sometimes unpopular due to his favourite pastimes of giving students homework, tests and exams. However, he compensates for this with his good sense of humour, a quality native to Taureans. This may be why he likes gorillas so much, as he says they have a great sense of humour. Mr. Shadbolt does not believe in Santa Claus because it costs too much.”



Ant Dry spoke to his widow Kay:

ANT: You're both life members. Is this interview to be about you both or just about Terry?

KAY: Just Terry. If he was here, he'd probably say “no” to that too! He never sought recognition. He didn't really seek life membership either.

ANT: Where was he born?

KAY: Ulverstone. His parents had a farm at North Motton. He went to North Motton Primary School and then to Devonport High. He'd catch the train from North Motton, board in Devonport during the week, and then catch the train home again. They didn't have a car in those days.

ANT: What did he do after school?

KAY: He was a good football player. Richmond came over to sign him up to play in Melbourne, but he decided he'd rather stay in Tassie and do uni. He went to Hobart and did a double major degree in Chemistry and Geology, and then his Diploma of Education. He then came up to Burnie High in 1958 to teach science and maths.

ANT: Where did you meet him?

KAY: At Burnie High. I'd just finished school and I was teaching there.

ANT: You spent some time in Canada?

KAY: Yes. In 1968 after 10 years of teaching, Terry was due long service leave. His ambition had always been to go somewhere and do something. He applied for four positions and was accepted by all of them, but we chose one on Vancouver Island. He taught at the senior secondary school there for four years. After that he went back to Burnie High and then went to Hellyer College where he was senior master for

sciences. He always just wanted to teach. He was offered promotion but he felt his forte was in the classroom.

He wasn't a member of the teachers' associations. He would never go to those meetings, he would rather stick to his neighbours. He wasn't keen on reunions either. He took redundancy when he turned 58.

ANT: Did he enjoy teaching?

KAY: Oh yes, and coaching sport. He got a lot of satisfaction from seeing his students progress and seeing them do well. He regularly helped the neighbourhood kids with their homework too.

ANT: What did you do when he retired?

KAY: We bought a motor home and did a lot of gem fossicking. He had the machines to cut stones, which he used to give away. Wherever we stopped he'd trot them out and tell everyone what they were. We'd go away for three months at a time all around Australia.

ANT: How did he get involved in the Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden?

KAY: I had no interest in rhododendrons and I don't know where his interest came from. It's still a mystery to me. His mother was a keen gardener, and we did have a property at Sister's Beach where we had put in a couple of rhodos. They were growing okay.

He saw an advert in *The Advocate*, "the next meeting of the society will be on such and such date. All welcome." He went, and I said, 'I'm not going.'

ANT: What did he do for the garden?

KAY: Promote it. Get it up to a business level. He was a good administrator. From football and teaching he had a lot of contacts which came in use when he wanted a bit of assistance somewhere. He wasn't frightened of confronting bureaucracy. He was comfortable talking to anyone. He was instrumental in getting funding for a number of projects. Did the funding submissions. He scrounged the caretaker's cottage from one of the mines.

Working at the garden has always been fun. It provides therapy. It was good for Terry too. It was a complete opposite from the scholastic side of things.

ANT: Tell us about your children.

KAY: Our eldest, Justin, is in Perth. He went into metallurgy. He works for a multinational. Our daughter Stephanie went to uni in Japan and did an arts degree. In her spare time she taught English. She was in Japan for 10 years. One of her jobs was with Olympus and that's how we found sponsorship to build the Olympus Bridge in the Garden. She's now living in the USA. Our youngest is Craig. He has a PhD in Microbiology. He's in Sydney working for NSW Department of Primary Industries in biosecurity and food safety.

ANT: Apart from the Garden, what were his hobbies?

KAY: Fishing — trout, flathead, squid, abalone and crayfish, and so on. We fished a lot at Sisters Beach.

ANT: How would you describe Terry?

KAY: For me, I'd say he was my hero. He was generally liked and respected. A gentleman. Astute and wise. Thoughtful caring and wise. A good judge of character. He soon worked out who was who and what was what.

ANT: Did he have any faults?

KAY: (laughs).

ANT: What was his philosophy of life?

KAY: Probably, "Do unto others as you would have done unto you."

*These interviews are collated by Ant Dry and edited by Katie O'Rourke*



## *Rhododendron genestierianum*

S.E. Tibet, Upper Burma and Yunnan have produced many remarkable and beautiful rhododendrons, even the occasional strange ones.

*R. genestierianum* is one such oddity, the leaves are elliptic-oblong with a very sharp pointed tip. The underside is very glaucous and new growth is a reddish-purple. Nothing remarkable about that, you say, but when you add the deep plum- purple very fleshy tubular-campanulate 1.2-1.8cm long flowers with a glaucous bloom and a sharply bent style in trusses of up to 15 flowers may be then its time to take a second look.

Forrest discovered *R. genestierianum* in April 1919 in the N'Maikha-Salwin Divide, north-east Upper Burma and introduced it to western gardens the same year. It was found to be rather tender outside and needed special attention to grow well. Later collections from mid-west Yunnan and south-east Burma may have been easier to grow.

No problems here, our plants are growing well on the right hand side of the Noel Sullivan Walk near the interpretive panel for Burma. There seems to be at least two growing habits, one tall the other low. Look for them around the end of September. *Maurie*

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



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