

November 2019

Rhodo News

Newsletter 424



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

Cherry Blossom Day



Despite a very fickle weather-wise day, our biggest day of the year was another success. Marist College students helped make the day dressed for the occasion.

Language teacher Sophie Bird (not shown here) and students Eirinn, Gethmini, Annie, Lire, Samara and Catherine looked fantastic.

The Countdown Begins—International Rhodo Conference at EVRG 5-7 November 2020

Calendar

Sunday 17th November

Social Meeting
EVRG 2pm

Sunday 8th December

Social Meeting & Smorgasbord
Begins at 4pm

No Social Meeting

or newsletter
in January

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com

General Manager's Report

Welcome to the crazy season at Emu Valley — a quick count and I came up with 43 bookings for tour groups / luncheons / cruise ships etc for October and November and on top of this we have the many visitors who are coming through the Tea Room, which brings me to my big pitch for the month:

HELP

The Tea Room roster looks like a pin cushion with all its gaps. If you can help out or would like to know what is involved, please contact Christine Cooke.

0448 053 582 // chriscooke0@gmail.com

A couple of our members recently said to me that we should have somewhere to hang a couple of hammocks to sleep at night, as they are at the garden so often! I subtly explained to these two wizened ones that this will not be happening and no, I will not be asking other members what they think of the idea.

What I am asking is for feedback as to what you think our priorities might be in respect to investing money into the garden. Due to a wonderful bequest, we have the opportunity to undertake some work(s) that would otherwise have been not possible for some time in the future. The Management Team has listed the following as some of the priorities for consideration —



There are so many things Emu Valley volunteers do behind the scenes. Here is Paul White with the two ergonomically designed plant trailers he made for moving heavy equipment.

- 1) Increased visitor numbers has resulted in an increase in vehicles. This is not merely normal sized cars but mobile home numbers have had a large spike as too have touring buses. The entry needs to be widened.
- 2) Tea Room and Function Room Extension — many days of the year we run out of room. Increased capacity would also allow larger events such as concerts which all adds up to increased revenue. The working area is a bottleneck and not easy to work in.
- 3) Climate Change – set money aside for upgrading the irrigation system in other areas of the garden. Also carry out a study into what might be required in the future.

Some items would require successfully applying for grants but we would be in a stronger position than previously as we would be able to show self-help in a financial manner. What we are now seeking is for members to offer suggestions of their own and /or comment on the above. These will in turn be taken to the Management Team and Board for consideration.

Please forward your ideas to me via email, by Monday November 18. Cheers, Geoff

geoffreywood@me.com 0427 722060

Around the Garden

Thank you to all who came to spend a few hours here at the garden on our Cherry Blossom celebration day. Although the weather was a bit hairy and unpredictable for most of it, we still had a lot of keen and interested visitors who seemed to enjoy their time with us.

Thank you also to everyone who helped before, during and after the day to make it the success that it was, we really appreciate every little (big) bit!

I know I keep going on about how good the garden looks, but I just can't get enough of it. The deciduous trees now have their luscious new leaves for the season and adds so many different shades of green (predominantly green) to the spectacular scenery. A lot of the younger plantings that you will find in Tibet – above the top road near what we know as the 'fire pile' where it is walking access only—are beginning to add colour now that they have been there for a few years. We have mass planted out these areas so there will be pops of colour as far as the eye can see, especially when we are out on the balcony waving our hands about showing visitors where our boundary line is. It creates interest which will hopefully entice the keen explorers up into these areas. The view from over there is simply breathtaking.

Ongoing projects in the garden at the moment :

- Part 2 of the tyre retaining wall is underway which is to allow vehicle access along the middle road to continue. Followed by fixing up the drainage problem that we seem to have there before Winter next year.
- Plants sales appear to be popular and I am having trouble keeping the sales area full. For those who may not know—having plants for sale is not the core of our business and we sell the excess once we have what we need growing happily in the garden, or have sufficient as back up in the nursery up the top. I do like to have things for sale and try to keep people happy most of the time, but full to the brim shelves is a dream at the moment, though I'm sure will become reality before we know it.
- We have sourced some large paddock rock recently and are now eagerly updating the sides of the walking tracks and continuing on with the roadway edges.
- Dead heading of the big leaf rhodos have begun which normally means it will soon be time to take cuttings. Then the bale carting season follows not long after that..... they say time flies when you're having fun 😊

Plenty to do so that's me over and out for the month.
Happy Gardening! *Neet*

Welcome

A warm welcome to new members Neil & Jenette Drain, Emily Cooke, On Boorman & Reg Trevithick, Jenny Miles, John & Jan Whelan, Gary & Teresa Poke, Ernest Waddington & Jodie Hill, Jodie McLennon, Rodney & Tammy Banks, Pamela Fox, Stephen & Tammy Warden, Hans Bluhm & Judy Khor, Tim & Anne Saddler, Timothy Viet Truong & Lyn Kirkbride, Ken Rome & Sarelle Casson, Robert & Kandie Hannon, and Barry & Petra Caines.

Admin Officer

Kathy Gordon resigned and left the position on Friday 25 October. We thank Kathy for what she did during her time in the position. Emu Valley certainly has a much wider circulation due to Kathy's efforts—especially so via Facebook etc.





R. xanthostephanum

Rhododendron xanthostephanum has been growing happily at Emu Valley since the late 1980s being one of the first species to be planted. We now have it growing in Burma, Tibet and Yunnan with Vietnam to be planted soon. As you can see, it has quite a large range growing in forest margins scrub land and even hanging from cliffs.

The bright yellow campanulate flowers make quite a show towards the end of October to be followed by bright green leaves, the underside glaucous and densely scaly. Our plants grow to less than a meter but where they are native can grow up to 3 metres.

R. xanthostephanum was first collected by Abbe Delavay in September 1890 on Tsang-shan above Tali, Yunnan. Other collectors found it in Upper Burma and south-east Tibet, where on many occasions found it to be abundant. George Forrest introduced it to western gardens in 1906 from Yunnan and continued to send seed from Tibet and Yunnan as did many other plant hunters. The best place to see R.xanthostephanum at Emu Valley is on the right hand side of the Noel Sullivan Walk as you enter Burma. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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