

July 2020

Rhodo News

Newsletter 431

EV RG



Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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Volunteers are what make us....



EV RG is so fortunate to always have new members. It makes us what we are!!!

*Bevan & Erica McCaskie joined us last year. They jumped right into it and took part in our First Aid Training and put their hands up to be volunteers in the Tea Room. Here they are with the Volunteering Tasmania Certificates of Appreciation, signed by Tasmania's Premier Peter Gutwein and CEO Volunteering Tasmania Dr Lisa Schimanski. The certificates of appreciation were available to Tasmanians who volunteered in organisations during 2020. At the closing date Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden had **85 names to put forward**. We will slowly get the certificates distributed. Thank you and THANK YOU to Volunteering Tasmania!*

Calendar

Thursday 23rd July
Special General Meeting
At EVRG 11.30am

Sunday 30th August
AGM and Social Get-together
EV RG 1pm

Sunday 20th September
Social Get-together
EV RG at 2pm

See us at: emuvalleryhodo.com

General Manager's Report

Checkout our calendar — it is great to see events being posted. Our Annual General Meeting has been set down for Sunday 30 August at 1 pm. This will be followed by a *Social Get Together at 2pm*. Let's start using the term Social Get Togethers instead of Social Meetings. They are designed for exactly what the wording suggests — enjoying some time out with friends. The AGM normally takes less than an hour. For those who can come along, take the opportunity to have a look at the upgrading of the North American Rotunda and Gazebo and all the other 'happenings'. I think you will be impressed!

Workshop

The workshop held on 18 June saw about thirty members and volunteers present. It was great listening to all the ideas. It was also an opportunity to give an update.

It would be terribly remiss of me not to make mention of the wonderful work done by Marilyn Jacques and Anne Holloway, who have been managing the Hospitality/Catering Team. They have spent many hours ensuring that things run smoothly. Thanks must also go to Kay Shadbolt for being part of the Hospitality / Catering Committee and its representative on the Management Team for many years. Kay's well-earned decision to take more of a back seat and that of Ray Tavner deciding to do the same from the Management Team mean replacements of members with not only many years of experience but absolute passion for the garden are needed! Fortunately all four wonderful members have not been lost to the garden as they will continue being volunteers and their advice and suggestions will always be appreciated.

Anne Gibson has joined the Management Team as the Events / Marketing representative and Beth Lockett has jumped onboard as the Hospitality / Catering Coordinator.

Remember this from last month??? --- ***PLEASE IF YOU CAN HELP — LET US KNOW***



Here are some of my crazy thoughts:

- 1) Spread the word about us – Face Book/Instagram/Word of Mouth – we are now open all year and this includes the Tea Room
- 2) Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is a must place to visit at any time of the year
- 3) If you can, come and volunteer for what ever time you can spare – we are desperate for gardeners and the Tea Room and Function Area rosters still have plenty of gaps
- 4) You do not have to live in Tasmania to help with our marketing – as the COVID19 restrictions slowly ease so to hopefully will our tour bookings.

All ideas and suggestions are considered – just contact me on 0427 722 060 / geoffreywood@me.com or Sophia on 03 6433 1805.

TEA Room Renovations

At meetings of the Board and Management Team unanimous support was given to go ahead with the upgrading of our Tea Room. This was discussed at the recent workshop and everybody present gave the big Hopefully by our next newsletter you be able to see what will be happening. Draft plans have been drawn up, a builder has given an approximate costing and along with a Design Consultant EVRG will be able to boast even more loudly about our Devonshire Teas!!!



Volunteers' Rest Area

Thanks to the generosity of Hydro Tasmania we can now seriously look at the options for constructing an area for our members and volunteers to be able to take their breaks. All going well this will also double up as our first aid room should it be needed.

\$3000 — WOW - Thank you for the grant Hydro Tasmania!!

Welcome

A warm winter welcome to new members Ernst & Amanda Kemmerer, and Cathy Barrett.

AGM
Sunday 30th
August at 1pm

Around the Garden

Thank you to everyone who is still finding time during these past crazy months to be able to come to the garden and weed, do track repairs, drain and waterway cleaning, mowing of lawns, planting out, plant labelling, pruning and running of the tearoom etc. The list goes on and on and even though the world is experiencing a new kind of 'normal', EVRG still continues to tick along and it's all thanks to you, the wonderful volunteers—not to mention the garden visitors who keep this place running by paying their entry fee and generous donations.



We are working very hard on a new area within the garden and hope to have the official unveiling around September /October so I will add snippets of what some of us have been up to but without giving too much away of course. Below are the first photos with plenty more to come. 😊

We have had Adam Saward in to make a start on a new track up to the top water tanks which will be for Kubota and ATV/ plant equipment, no other vehicle access but of course you can go for a leisurely walk/hike if you would like. This has been on our radar for quite some time so it is a great feeling to have yet another road ticked off the wish list. The benefits of cutting a track in is for a number of reasons:

- * To be able to get to the top of the tanks quickly in the kubota to shut down the mains if we have any water leaks/blow outs.
- * Can now access this area easily and safely to mulch with the bales which has been a job that we have tried avoiding as its been too much of a hard slog to drag the bales up hill
- *feeding plants with many heavy bags of fertilizer loaded up in the Kubota
- *Spraying and keeping weeds at a minimum will be achievable as it was only ever accessible on foot previously
- *carrying new plants directly to the area, irrigation lines, drippers and tools for plant maintenance.

Sam Biggins and his son (long time garden members) came in during the week with a massive bag or three of gorgeous daffodil bulbs. They even stayed and helped me plant them, what gentlemen! Keep an eye on the garden surrounding lake Grebe for these gorgeous bulbs to pop up and flower as they will be a little bit special.... bring on Spring already! Plenty to do and heaps to see and enjoy so I better keep moving and defreeze!

Happy gardening, *Neet*





Rhododendron lepidostylum

Some rhododendrons are renowned for spectacular flowers while others produce interesting foliage. *R. lepidostylum* fits well into the latter. This and the beautiful elipidote *R. campanulatum* subsp. *aeruginosum* have the bluest foliage in the genus, for those who are interested in exotic colours in the landscape.

Other interesting features are the rather densely bristly margins to the leaves, branchlets, pedicels, calyx and to some extent the flower tube, these bristles are white while the underside is quite glaucous, especially the young leaves producing quite an interesting feature. The flower colour is pale yellow or yellow

with or without orange spots. Unfortunately the new growth appears at the same time as the flowers so they tend to get a little lost but the beautiful bluish-green foliage covering the bush more than makes up for this.

George Forrest, while visiting Yunnan, discovered this species in June 1919 on the Jangtzow Shan, Shweli-Salwin divide. It was found growing on cliffs and in steep gullies and was introduced to western gardeners in 1924. It has become a popular species in some places. The plants we have growing at Emu Valley are around 600mm high and over 1.5m in diameter growing in full sun. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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