

April 2016

# Rhodo News

Newsletter 384



Official Newsletter of the

*Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc*

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Chairman: Geoff Wood Newsletter Editor: Nigel Burch

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

*The New ARS Website Has Arrived!*



The Australian Rhododendron Society's new website is now online. Have a look at [www.rhododendron.com.au](http://www.rhododendron.com.au)  
Heaps of photos, info and even articles from our and Victoria's newsletters. There's a search box where you can enter a species name and get info too.

## Calendar

**Sunday 17th April**

Social Meeting  
At EVRG 2pm

**Sunday 8th May**

Mothers' Day Lunch  
EVGR at 12.30pm—\$28  
BOOK EARLY!

**Saturday 14th May**

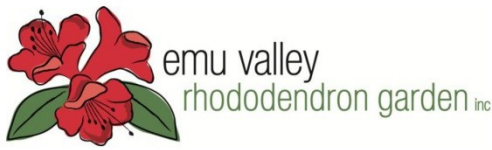
**Safe Food  
Handling Course**  
At EVRG 10.30am

**Sunday 15th May**

Social Meeting  
At EVRG 2pm

See us at:

[emuvalleyrhodo.com.au](http://emuvalleyrhodo.com.au)



*You are invited to a*  
**MOTHERS DAY LUNCHEON**  
 at  
**EMU VALLEY RHODODENDRON GARDEN**  
 On

**Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup> @ 12.30pm**

**Charge: \$28pp (BYO Drinks)**

**SMALL & LARGER GROUPS WELCOME**

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL BY 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

**6433 1805 or 0400 963 493**

Or by email - [enquiries@evrg.com.au](mailto:enquiries@evrg.com.au)



*created, owned and maintained by volunteers*

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## *Chairman's Report*

I recently heard someone say that with the last Cruise Ship for the season on April 3 things will quieten down for a while. This might be partly so but when you look at the Booking Sheet you can see how popular EVRG is becoming. We even have a wedding in August booked!

It was great to see both our Business Manager Sue and Horticulturist Neet back on deck after having to take time off with short notice.

Our Business Review is now in the fast lane. In May members will receive a *Proposals for the Future Document* and asking for feedback. This will be followed up with a meeting to be held at EVRG on Tuesday 28 June to fully discuss the Draft Document. The meeting will be chaired by Business Consultant Warren Moore.

What comes out of the Business Review will have an impact on us all as EVRG members. So if you can attend please do so as what comes out of this meeting will determine what is put forward at the AGM on November 19 in respect to EVRG's future.

Our Cherry Blossom Festival to be held on Saturday 8 October is taking on a new look this year. Kathy Gordon has been busy helping line up possible organisations and companies who are interested in setting up stalls on the day. If you have any suggestions please let us know.

So with the Flowering Season Opening on September 10, our 35 year birthday celebration on November 12 and the Cherry Blossom Festival there is a lot of planning to be done but it is all fun.

Finally please look out in next months newsletter for days that we will be setting aside to have a look at how we conduct tours and what information we are passing onto to all visitors when they first arrive. On this note please, please give some thought to helping out with Garden tours. We are desperately short and if I can do them, anyone can! *Geoff Wood* 0427 722060 [geoffreywood@me.com](mailto:geoffreywood@me.com)



**BRETT WHITELEY MP**  
 Federal Member for Braddon

*Supporting the  
 Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden*

Ph: 6431 1333 | [www.brettwhiteleymp.com.au](http://www.brettwhiteleymp.com.au)

*Paid Advertisement*

## Around the Garden in April

Guess what?..... I'm back at work and would just like to thank everyone for the kind thoughts, phone calls, gifts and messages, what would I do without you?!

The garden here is showing obvious signs of Autumn, as is the temperatures! Cool starts, sunny days and fresh nights. Once we get a bit more rain it will be time to plant out with the ready to go plant labels to put alongside them. Our fertiliser delivery will be here early next week so we will be using this around the new plantings and also mulching as we go.... well this is the plan anyway. It's a lot of work for Maurie, Trevor and I so if there are people out there that would like to help us, then please let me know.



There have also been some busy beavers working in Japan! From sourcing and the delivery of the slate for the path way to the knee and back breaking pain of laying them! It looks fantastic fellas, well done!



### My tips for the Autumn gardener.....

- ◆ Now is the perfect time to give your lawns a bit of TLC after the dry and harsh summer. By feeding the lawn with a slow release fertiliser before winter when most things grow so slow, it will give the grass the strength it needs by putting down a good root system and will also help thicken up.
- ◆ Mid Autumn ( when we have *hopefully* a bit of continual rain) is a great time to get planting and transplanting. The soil is still warm which allows productive root growth before the slow and cold winter.
- ◆ Bulbs can also be planted now and summer flowering bulbs can be dug up and stored in a planting and storage basket or an airy box.
- ◆ Instead of using the leaf blower this year and wasting free and valuable material, how about raking up the leaves and using them as the main ingredient for leaf mould? It won't take up much room and as a soil amendment, it will be worth it. Allow the leaves to rot down over winter. Some leaves take a lot longer than others to start breaking down, unlike oak leaves, so there is a need to add blood and bone or cow manure etc to help the break down process along a little quicker. Leaf mould helps with drainage and improves the water holding ability but also helps to enrich existing garden beds for those gardeners who already are lucky enough to have good quality soil.

Ok well that's enough reading now, so time to get your hands dirty and happy gardening.

*Neet*



## Social Meeting Report

Our social meeting on Sunday 20 March had a small turnout and as such we did not have a door prize and Eric's bloom was a winner. Members were given a briefing about the Business Review and other matters the Management Committee have been working on.

Due to a misunderstanding of dates, our guests speakers, Philip and Cathy St Evens will give their presentation at our April meeting.

Pete will be back on deck for the April meeting and if for no other reason this should be incentive enough to come along and listen to his words of wisdom. *Geoff—filling in for Pete*

### E.V.R.G. "Special" Brew

Now being a barista is not something she has ever claimed and to save her being embarrassed the lady will remain un-named but her attempt at plunger coffee was rather "interesting", I must tell when she lifted up the plunger and added milk in there as well.

*From Pete*





*Rhododendron yongii*

Named in honour of Joseph Yong of the Forest Department, Sarawak, this vireya *R. yongii* was first introduced in 1967 by Bill Burtt and Adam Martin from Mt. Murud and in 1977 from Mt. Mulu by other collectors.

These plants grow tall and tend to be a bit straggly with poor root systems for growing in our soil hence the need for stakes. The leaves are produced in pseudo whorls widely spaced making it an open leggy plant. HOWEVER, when it flowers it more than makes up for the previous negativity. These flowers are a delightful dark purplish red curved with the top petal longer than the others with a cluster of stamens lined up underneath. Backlit by sunlight it really glows!

Another important feature is the health of the plant – its leaves do not seem to be susceptible to fungal diseases or insect attack. Also strikes readily from cuttings and we often have plants available.

Flowering now it is well worth wandering into the vireya section and checking it out yourself. In fact the whole area is flowering very well at present after spot flowering all through summer. *Maurie*

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



**Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc.**  
PO Box 39 Burnie, Tasmania 7320