

August 2018

Rhodo News

Newsletter 410



Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

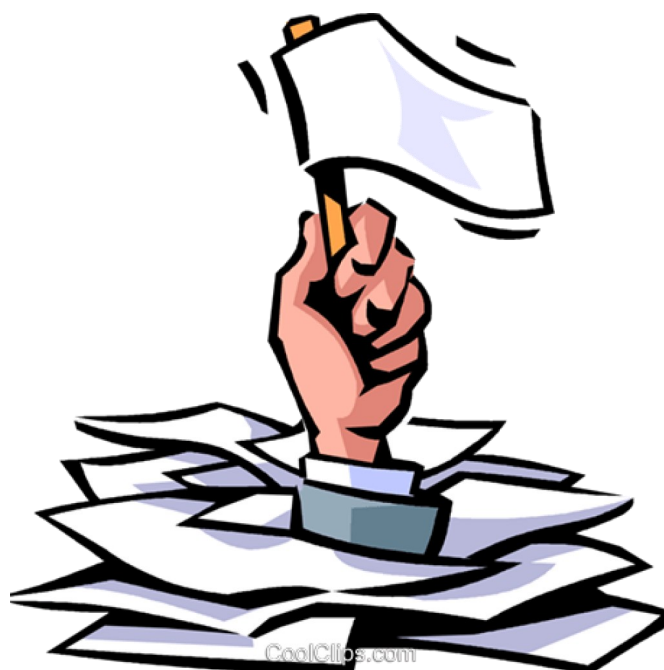
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AGM Time & Tearoom Reopening



Geoff, Kathy and everyone have heaps to do this month, with the tearoom re-opening on August 6th and the AGM coming up on September 1st. The big leaf rhododendrons are blooming beautifully and putting on a magnificent display, and as usual we are desperate for volunteers for both the tearoom and garden.

Monday 6th August

Tea Room Re-opens
EVRG 9.30-4pm

Saturday 11th August

Food Handling Course
EVRG 10am

Sunday 19th August

Social Meeting
EVRG 2pm

Saturday 1st September

Annual General Meeting
EVRG 1pm

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com.au

General Manager's Report

As mentioned previously our Annual General Meeting is being held on Saturday 1 September starting at 1pm. So much has happened since the 2017 meeting where the appointment of Emu Valley's first Board of Directors was ratified.

As in the past, this year's meeting will see the appointment of members to the various committees and a decision made for the 2019/20 membership fees. What will be different is the filling of Director vacancies.

There are two vacancies and at the time of preparing this report two applications have been received: these being Emu Valley's Horticultural Manager Juanita Wood and long time member John Englund. As per our constitution further applications can be received up until Wednesday 22 August. Applicants need to be nominated and seconded and sign an acceptance of nomination.

Applications must be completed on the appropriate form, which can be obtained by either contacting the office or myself. Late applications cannot be accepted. Should further applications be received every effort will be made to advise members prior to the meeting.

Members who cannot attend the AGM may vote via proxy by nominating either the Chairperson or other member to vote on his or her behalf. Proxy forms can also be obtained by contacting the office or myself.

EMU VALLEY NEEDS YOU

For not the first time I heard recently someone say people have to be members or they cannot help out at the garden — that *AINT* true. So please let the secret out that anybody is welcome.

I understand how some readers might be sick of hearing this but we need volunteers in so many areas. The garden does not weed itself and the Tea Room is not self serve.

It is great that Emu Valley is becoming so much more known as a place to visit all year round and this bodes well for the future viability but with it comes added responsibilities and additional workloads. Please, if you can or know of someone who might be able to lend a hand let us know or feel free to speak to myself or any other volunteer to talk about the various areas where help is very much needed.

Following a recommendation of the Board of Management, fully supported by the Management Committee, admission fees from 6 August will be \$12 per person, with the concession price being \$10.
Geoff — geoffreywood@me.com // 0427 722 060

Social Meeting of July 15th

Although wintry days are keeping some of our members at home, we still had a good gathering to hear Maurie present information about the fragrant flowering shrubs currently gracing our garden. Though perhaps not so dramatically eye catching, some of these really make their presence known with an appealing fragrance. Well known to most, is the *Daphne odora*, while *D. alba* has a distinctly lemon fragrance. (It was a spray of the latter that took the highest voting in our cut flower section.) Meanwhile the *Chimonanthus* compete for attention with their own very sweet aroma.

Visiting with us at the meeting, we welcomed “Mal” Metcalf, a fellow probably better recognised by his voice than appearance, along with Kerry, his hard working accomplice. Both are an integral part of the Coast FM radio broadcasting at Wynyard, an organisation with which we share strong mutual support.

Both exhibiting Vireya blooms, we had Frank Medwin take first place, followed by Melvie Moore. As mentioned above, the winner was a *Daphne odora* var. *alba* from the Kupsch garden, and second place to Anne Holloway for the cut flower section. As sometimes happens, it was our guest who won the raffle prize. Congratulations Kerry. Our members once again generously supported these events & the Trade Table, resulting in \$54.10 being added to the gardens funds. Your support is appreciated, thank you. *Pete.*

In the Garden

With the strong wind that we've had blowing about in the last month around the State, here in the gully at EVRG, we seem to have weathered the storm without much damage at all, just a whole lot of blocked drains from leaves but it's nothing we can't handle.

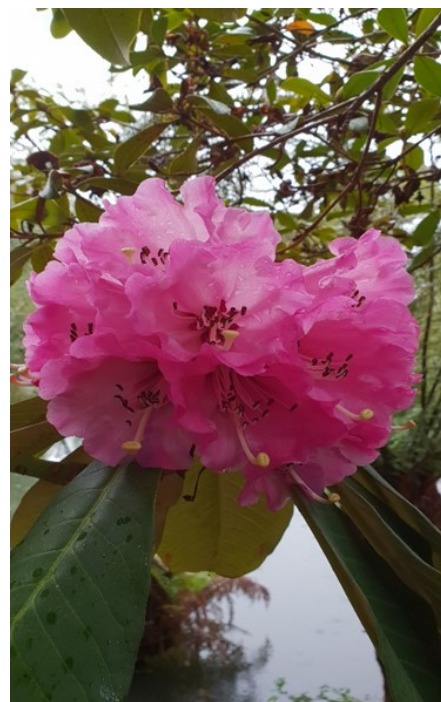
We have a lot of colour in and around the garden already and it's not even Spring yet! Rhododendron chrysodoron is bursting with colour, bright yellow flowers with dark green leaves and will brighten up the darkest of rooms! You will see this flowering here in Burma and is on the righthand side of the Bob Malone drive.

It's also that time of the year again where our big leaf rhododendrons are producing some amazingly huge and colourful flower trusses, pockets of colour throughout the garden. R. macabeanum, R. sidereum, R. grande, R. magnificum are just to name a few and I can now safely say (even if it has taken me 8 years), that it's just near impossible to have only one favourite colour/species/variety or hybrid rhododendron because I seem to change my mind on a weekly basis, and what's not to love?



We have had a local contractor in to upgrade the top road, which included a better drainage system to control the amount of water output and in return deferred the water elsewhere, as there were obvious signs of poor plant health. It has been an ongoing issue for quite some time, not to mention the rutting out of the road way.

With the amount of rain that we have had, all things are working well but we do ask that this road is now strictly a **one way** road and can be used only by EVRG work vehicles and authorised personnel. However, this is not to discourage visitors from walking up and around to check out the amazing



view from the top. You won't be sorry for making the effort, I can promise you that!

In brief, here are some snippets of things happening in the garden -

- * revamping the walkway below the Japanese lake, and it is looking great!
- * a plant health care maintenance program is now in place where it has been a long time overdue, and promising signs are showing already.
- * spraying for weeds when weather permits is underway along with mulching using the remaining hay bales from last Summer.

Another call out for brown paddock rock - does anyone have any or know of someone that does and may not have a use for them? If there is, can you please contact myself or the office as they will always be greatly appreciated here at the garden. Enjoy your last month of Winter! Neet

Welcome

A warm rhodo garden welcome to new members Marlene Hawes, Jennifer Stackhouse, Sue Parry, Jason Reed and Phillip & Heather Norton.



Rhododendron lepidotum

(meaning beset with scales)

Rhododendron lepidotum has a wide distribution in its native countries ranging from Nepal in the west of the Himalayas to Sikkim, Bhutan and on into Burma and Yunnan. The growing conditions are just as diverse from cliffs and stony places, amongst scrub, grassy slopes, and open pasture, by streams and in conifer forests. Therefore, not surprisingly, it is a very variable plant ranging from only centimeters in height up to 1500mm and either deciduous or evergreen. The leaves are large or small and the flower colour ranges from pink, purple, rose, scarlet, crimson or yellow with or without crimson, rose to even green spots.

The species was first introduced to western gardens by J. D. Hooker in 1850 from Sikkim and other collectors soon followed which led

to 10 or more different forms in cultivation, many becoming named variations.

Now before you rush out to see something spectacularly brilliant at Emu Valley let me tell you that our plants are around 300mms high with small leaves, the upper surface pale green and the lower surface covered in brownish scales. The flowers are only about the size of a viola but they sit up proudly to look at you on hairy stalks and the colour is a deep shade of cerise and very cute. Hunt them out on the top side of the path between the top and middle road in Nepal, towards the end of October. *Maurie (& Pam – the cheeky bits!)*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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