

August 2020

# Rhodo News

Newsletter 432



Official Newsletter of the

*Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc*

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General Manager: Geoff Wood Newsletter Editor: Nigel Burch

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

## *The Incredible Shrinking Woman....*



*On the left, our horticulturalist Neet and Curator Maurie stand beside our first Wollemi pine in 2014. It was donated to the garden by Dr Peter and Ros Davies a few years before. The right picture shows how much Neet has shrunk—or the pine is growing incredibly well. The Wollemi is a surviving species from ancient Gondwana that was recently discovered in a small grove in the Blue Mountains. Its genus last grew in Tasmania 2 million years ago!*

### Calendar

**Sat 29th August**  
Spring Opening  
*Sausage Sizzle*

**Sunday 30th August**  
AGM & Social Get-together  
EVRG 1pm

**Sunday 6th September**  
Fathers' Day Lunch  
EVRG 12-3pm

**Sunday 20th September**  
Social Get-together  
EVRG at 2pm

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

## *General Manager's Report*

Where do I start? Fair dinkum my limited brain cells are being stretched. The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 30 August. Please have a read of recommended changes to our constitution. Of note, when I recently reviewed this, I realised that unless members are present at a meeting they cannot vote on constitutional changes. This has to change as members we all must have an equal say --- check out Clause 46 (Proxy Votes) in the attachment.

A lot of work is being done to keep EVRG viable with the hurdles COVID19 has placed on us. Opening the Tea Room during June and July brought in some much need funds, and our Catering and Events Teams are working flat out on ideas.

I urge everyone to keep an open mind as we try different things to ***offset the anticipated financial loss*** for the upcoming year. Such as:

- ◆ Opening times of the Tea Room and Garden during daylight saving
- ◆ Functions like the Long Table Father's Day Luncheon
- ◆ and the conducting of our own Garden Tours with our bus

These may or may not prove successful, but we have to at least try and keep moving forward.

More volunteers for the Catering and Tea Room Rosters are still needed. Remember volunteers do not have to be members. If you know of anyone that might be interested, please encourage them.

The Cruise Ships might not be on the radar at present, but we are still working with the Cruise Operators for what EVRG might be able to offer when they do start up again.

Tea Room renovations are moving ahead and hopefully it will not be too long and we can start seeing things happen. Plans and costings are nearly complete and then quotes will be formally sought. Once this project is completed, we can then work on a rest area for our volunteers to call their own, using the \$6000 grant money that we have been fortunate to receive.

Speaking of COVID19, a reminder that all volunteers to the garden must sign in and out whenever they are at the garden. This is a requirement to qualify for Worker's Compensation, and even more important at this time. This applies to everyone no matter where they are working – around the garden or within the building. Note, the sign-in register for garden and maintenance workers is now in the Workshop.

We also require all Members and Visitors to sign in on the register in the Tea Room. This is all part of us playing our part assisting Health Authorities with COVID tracing should it be necessary.

### FATHER'S DAY

Please see the promotional material included with the newsletter, it looks like it will be a fabulous event – get in quick and book as tickets are limited.

### GARDEN OPERATING HOURS:

The Garden and Tea Room will be open from 9am – 4pm during the month of August. Garden entry is still at the discounted price of \$10 for non-members.

Also, due to TasnetWorks maintenance, our Garden ***will be CLOSED*** on Monday the 31<sup>st</sup> of August, while the power is disconnected for the duration of the entire day.

[geoffreywood@me.com](mailto:geoffreywood@me.com) 0427 722 060

## *Welcome*

A warm winter welcome to new members Peter Dredge & Lynn Forster, Pauline Denney & Roy Wilson, Debby Purse, Kelly & Simon Vandenberg, Leonie Stitz, Kathleen & Max Bentley, Matthew Kaspar & Steph Pedder, Robyn Kay, and Philip Spencer & Hugh Cook.





## Around the Garden

As cold as what it has been, the days have been pretty reasonable and relatively dry considering the season is winter and I haven't had that many days of wet weather where I can catch up on paperwork inside. This isn't a complaint as there has been a heap to get on with outside and it feels good to be ticking off a mountain of pruning and track work, which is never ending. I'm sure you all know how it is.

We have had several of the large leaf rhododendrons flowering already which is a tad on the earlier than normal side, but it is a sign that spring is just around the corner, yippee! We just need for frosty mornings to stay away otherwise it will ruin the overall look of such gorgeous flowering trusses. Rhododendron 'Burnie Chameleon' is flowering now and you can see it looking out from the tearoom window across from the plant sales area. See picture (left).

Speaking of plant sales, a few of our handy volunteers have been putting their painting skills to the test and have given the sales area a much needed 'pick me up'. It's amazing how a coat of fresh paint can really lift a small area along with the stairs that join the top and lower carpark. Gardening is not everybody's cup of tea but there are so many other jobs needing other skills, passion and flare which make the team here at EVRG a force to be reckoned with. Thank you for everyone's contribution. 😊



Along with the continual plant labelling and data entry / cataloguing of the rhodos and other garden worthy plants, retaining walls and dry rock walls are still being created and added around the garden, our secret little area on the way down to China is really coming together nicely. Here again, we have people putting their trade qualifications to good use and creating a new small and exciting area but still keeping it within the woodland garden theme. See below for another sneak peek update.

That's it until Spring so happy gardening everyone. Neet 😊

## UPCOMING EVENTS

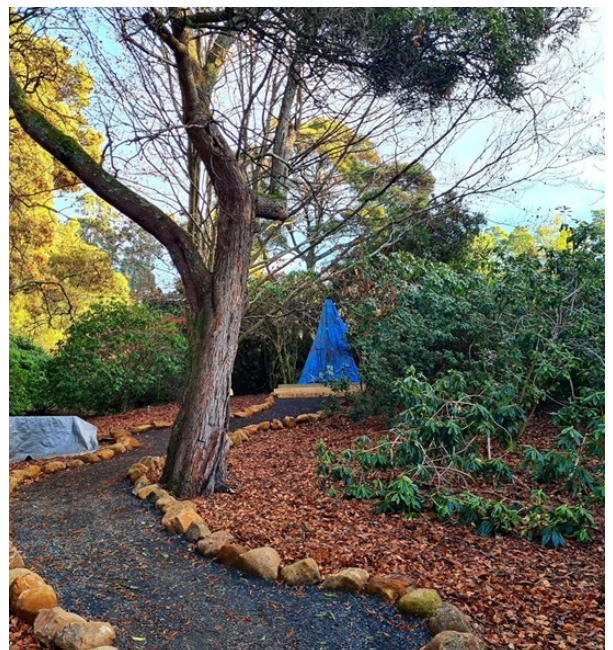
**Spring Opening**  
29th August 2020

**AGM & Social Get Together**  
1pm Sunday 30th August

**Father's Day Long Lunch**  
6th September 2020

**Social Get Together**  
2pm Sunday 20 September

**Details on our Website**





## Rhododendron trichanthum

Rhododendron trichanthum is quite unusual in that the flowers, leaves, leaf stalks and branchlets are all densely covered with hair/ bristles; this feature separates it from other species in this subsection.

R.trichanthum can be a low shrub from one metre and up to six meters in height in the wild, and this growth can be dense in the lower plants to sparse in the taller ones depending on local conditions. Ours are only getting to flowering size so time will tell.

Flower colour is quite variable, ranging from bluish dark plum, reddish-purple, pale purple to bluish-mauve sometimes with a brown or green flare.

This species was discovered and introduced by Wilson in west Sichuan around 1904; other plant collectors discovered this species in the same area and also in southwest Sichuan. As we have quite a number of this species growing together in our Sichuan area it will be interesting to see the many different colour and growth forms mature.

If you find our Sichuan area a step too far there are a few plants growing closer to home near the fire hose reel. *Maurie*

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



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

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