

September 2020

Rhodo News

Newsletter 433

EV RG



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Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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

Our Newest Life Members....



At the AGM, John and Melvie Moore were very pleasantly surprised to be announced as our newest life members. It was no surprise to the rest of us, as they have been an essential part of the Garden for more than 20 years! They are always there when needed for fighting weeds and showing tourists around, and we always enjoy their company at our events. Well done, John and Melvie—richly deserved!

Calendar

Sunday 20th September

Social Get-together
EV RG at 2pm

Sunday 27th September

Shinrin Youku Forest Therapy
Starts 10.30

Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 October

Spring Festival
(No Social meeting)

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com

General Manager's Report

The AGM has come and gone, a successful Father's Day Luncheon is over and I am just starting my bit for the newsletter!

First up my apologies for a mistake I made with suggested changes to the constitution (see last month's newsletter). At any Special General Meeting or the AGM, members who cannot attend can vote on motions via the proxy system. This however does not apply to Constitutional changes. The Corporations Act states that only those present can vote.

Whilst on the AGM it has been procedure to set membership subscriptions for the coming financial year. At this year's meeting it was proposed that members be canvassed for their thoughts on the membership fee being increased by \$5 per person to \$35 and \$10 per double to \$60 to take effect for the 2021-22 Financial Year. This would be the first increase for many years. Please provide any comments via emailing enquires@evrg.com.au or directly to me by 30 September.

What a delight it was to be able to play a part in long term members Melvie and John Moore receiving Life Membership. They certainly epitomise what Emu Valley is all about.

Please, get the word out — Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is open and a magic place to visit. We certainly need visitors.

A New Venture—Shinrin Youku Forest Therapy Walks

A way in shaking off the COVID19 blues!!! If you are at the garden and see a group wandering, they might be taking part in this great concept. It is a way to see the garden through a different lens. Activities include stretching, mindfulness and a tea ceremony. Tickets for members are \$10 and non members \$20.

Guide Elspeth Brock has worked for many years in therapeutic horticulture and is now a certified Forest Therapy guide with the International Nature and Forest Therapy Alliance. Checkout the following for the first of these walks on Sunday 27 September from 10.30 to 12.30.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/spring-garden-forest-therapy-walk-tickets-118871546997>

If you want to come and for any reason have a problem booking online please let Geoff know.
geoffreywood@me.com 0427 722 060



Welcome

A warm spring welcome to new members Olimpia-Maria & Nicolae Bebu, Elise Rettino, Shirley Williams, Dianne Barnett, Jan Dalton, Cathy Clayton, Karene Bracken, Steve Green, and Valma Eastley.

Meet Splash & Friends

It's the perfect time for a platypus encounter.



The stillness in the garden during lockdown has emboldened these curious creatures, and although they can be initially startled by your presence, gentle footsteps around our lakes can be rewarded with an up-close sighting.

Around the Garden

I would just like to start by saying thank you to everyone who came to our Community Spring Open day on the weekend of the 29th August. We had lovely weather on the day and some familiar faces around the garden that we hadn't seen in a while which was just fantastic.

The plant sales area was a hot spot as was the BBQ with the gourmet homemade burgers which were hard to keep in front of! The garden has really started to colour up and we have had so much positive feedback of late about how great everything is looking and even though 2020 hasn't been the greatest year for many, we've still managed to soldier on and keep up the outstanding efforts all thanks to our loyal troopers who come in weekly to get on with the tasks at hand. I know I must sound like a broken record but thank you to all of the volunteers along with the support of locals and members of the garden, it is very much appreciated.



Mary has managed to snaffle Maurie for the past few Tuesday mornings and this is where you will see them both out and about talking and tagging plants. It's been one of those jobs that needs desperately doing and thankfully they are now well on the way with having an ID for a lot of the rhodos especially targeting the species, which will be a massive help when it's time to take cuttings and not to mention the importance it will have on the database.

The area which is having a bit of a transformation is almost complete. I am pretty sure I am the only hold up now, so I need to stay focused and get the job done so that we can finally reveal the secret area along with showing off how creative and talented our volunteers really are! I am really pleased with how this area is looking and I hope you are too 😊

Other jobs happening around the garden:

- ◇ Spraying for petal blight, thrip and lace bug has well commenced, and we are now up to our second application for the entire garden.
- ◇ Cleaning drains and waterways must be attended to weekly and should not be left up to one individual, so is quite time consuming
- ◇ Slate that was donated has now been sorted and stacked neatly around the car park wall
- ◇ We have ordered more clover seed. It will be applied to bare banks that needs the fretted soft soil stabilising as well, so as to add colour and goodness back into the soil.
- ◇ Continual track and rock wall maintenance
- ◇ The removal of a few bits and pieces along with low and overgrown branches around the garden is to make way for more species. We are chipping away at the list when possible.

Weeding is still always 'that job' that will be never ending but at least we will never be out of work, so if you have any spare time coming up and you think that working outdoors in the warmer weather alongside a pretty amazing group of people is something that interests you, then please get in touch with us today. This Spring is already shaping up to be a great colour display around the entire garden and I am really looking forward to being able to get out and amongst it all and photograph as much as I can, so that you can all enjoy it even if you aren't able to visit us in person. *Neet* 😊

A Message from Marilyn About Our Social Meetings

I would love to make the 3rd Sunday social meetings a bit more interesting, but will need your help.

At our next Get Together on September 20th at 2pm, we will include some crafts and preparations for the upcoming Spring Festival. We will be using items from the garden and a little extra perfume to make magic. This will be at no cost to the worker bees, everything provided. Crafts are suitable for both men and women, so come and enjoy a cuppa and some creativity.

October, of course, will be an incredibly social occasion with the Spring Festival. So, put on your biggest smile and defy coronavirus!! November is not that far away, with a plan to raise much needed funds to compensate for the past six months. Details will be provided as we get closer to the various dates.

It is important to note that I would like all volunteers, both members and non members, to feel included in our social meetings. Watch this space, this is just the beginning! *Marilyn* ph 0423 784 431



*A Sneak Peak into Neet's
Current Working Space*



Ode to My Father

Today you would have been 99
Twenty years gone
Father of mine
Your influence spread far and wide
Across the world
Still at my side
In a valley in a far flung land
Rhododendrons
That felt your hand
You planted seed and grafted stalk
Nurtured each one
And still they talk
Of the man who made it happen
Creative fire
Time cannot dampen

Karenne Griffin

Daughter of our Legend, Noel Sullivan

4 July 2020



Emu Valley Garden

Profit & Loss Account for the year to 30 June 2020

	<u>YTD</u>	<u>% of Rev</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Cumulative of total</u>	<u>Prior year</u>
<u>REVENUE - Net</u>					
Admissions	100,325	42%	1	42%	110,167
COVID-19 Cash Boost	22,000	9%	3	72%	-
Donations & capital fund drive	5,237	2%			8,177
Bequests	10,000	4%			161,510
Plant sales	5,854	2%			12,293
Catering	47,611	20%	2	62%	52,377
Weddings & events	5,989	3%			6,016
Raffles & social	150	0%			445
Subs & membership	15,000	6%	4	78%	12,420
Cottage income	9,709	4%			9,648
Sundry	- 1,756	-1%			1,089
Employment programs	-	0%			9,791
Grants	7,500	3%			57,160
Books & souvenirs	7,049	3%			6,370
Interest received	2,943	1%			3,059
TOTAL	237,611				450,522
<u>EXPENSES</u>					
	<u>YTD</u>	<u>% of Exp</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Cumulative of total</u>	
		<u>% of total</u>			
Accounting & consulting	7,900	4%			5,212
Advertising	4,690	2%			4,872
Bank charges	1,341	1%			1,402
Insurance	9,346	4%	3	84%	6,043
Membership activity	1,622	1%			719
Office supplies & printing	5,131	2%			6,296
Repairs & maintenance	82,610	37%	2	79%	80,914
Telephone & postage	5,537	2%			6,565
Staff Costs	94,117	42%	1	42%	99,399
All other	10,545	5%			4,885
TOTAL	222,839				216,307
Net profit (loss)	14,772				234,215
Less: depreciation	71,347				69,793
Reported surplus / (loss)	- 56,575				164,422
<u>ASSETS</u>					
Building and garden	1,792,733				1,847,005
Stock & prepayments	5,714				11,493
Debtors	12,878				1,486
Cash	269,177				273,606
Liabilities & provisions	- 43,783				- 40,297
NET ASSETS	2,036,719				2,093,293

<u>Breakdown of repairs & maintenance</u>		
Garden development	8,478	3,750
Garden maintenance	17,192	26,793
Motor vehicle	9,298	23,134
Repairs - building	8,447	2,037
Repairs - plant	76	503
Repairs - roads	760	609
Repairs - Water	17,969	2,980
Weed / pest control	20,390	21,108
	82,610	80,914

If any member wishes to receive a more detailed set of the financial statement, please contact Sophia in the office, and these will be forwarded to you.



R. protistum var. giganteum

George Forrest first discovered R. protistum in May 1918 and the following year discovered R. giganteum, both in Yunnan. For many years these two plants were considered to be different species, the main difference being in the leaves. While R. protistum had a glabrous underside, R. giganteum had a continuous brown to fawn indumentum.

Considering the size that R. giganteum attains in the wild (20-30 meters, hence the name) and can take 50-60 years to develop indumentum, it is now evident that they are one and the same species, R. protistum being just the juvenile form.

At Emu Valley our plant is around 30 years old and has been flowering well for the last three years. The new leaves develop indumentum around the edges, another sign that our R. protistum is starting to mature.

R. protistum has a wide distribution in the wild from Yunnan to South-east Tibet, East Arunachal Pradesh, North-east Upper Burma and North Vietnam. The flowers are tubular-campanulate produced in large trusses of up to 30 and can range in colour from pale rose, crimson-purple or rosy-crimson. The leaves are also quite large 50 long x 90 mm wide. Our plant resides in Upper-Burma and can be viewed from the Noel Sullivan walk. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc.
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