

October 2020

Rhodo News

Newsletter 434

EV RG



Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden recently lost two of our life members. Ray Tavner and John Hudson contributed in so many ways. Horticulture Manager Juanita spoke beautifully at Ray's Funeral as did Chairperson Ant Dry at John's.

Calendar

Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 October
Spring Festival
(No Social meeting)

Saturday 14 November
Trash & Treasure
EVRG 9am-3pm

Sunday 15 November
Social Get Together
EVRG 2pm

**Subject to confirmation in next newsletter

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com

General Manager's Report



I had a lot of fun taking Marie from Taroona (picture on left) around the garden. She is going to spread the word about the hidden gem and tell people we are a must place to visit.

Speaking of “going around the garden” how wonderful are Emu Bay Lions Club???? They donated a brand new buggy and it could not have arrived at a better time. We will officially say thank you at a later date but *now* it has been put to work straight away.



On the right you can see Robin Kay in the driver's seat, with Jennine Young next to her and back seat driver Kate Huett.

People are talking about the ShininYouku Forest Therapy Walks mentioned in last month's newsletter. Elspeth Brock has now conducted three at the garden. Keep an eye out for the next one. They book out quickly!



HELP HELP

We are doing everything we can to make up for the severe financial impact that has resulted due to COVID19. We are literally desperate for volunteers in so many areas. If you think you might like to help out just let me know — I promise that although I might try and twist your arm I will not break it. Cheers, Geoff 0427722060 /geoffreywood@me.com

September Social Meeting

The social meeting held on 20th September was well attended. Tributes were paid to Ray Tavner and John Hudson, who passed away during that week.

A lovely arrangement of red tulips and boronia were the floral display from the garden of Melvie and John Moore. Maurie's offering this month were a deciduous azalea and some verbena. Suggestions were made (very loosely) re crafts which could be made for sale in the garden shop and market stalls. The meeting concluded with a very welcome afternoon tea.

The gardens are starting to look their spectacular best, so, with your smiles we should easily outdo Covid19.

We are holding a trash and treasure market on Saturday 14th November. Sites will be offered to the general public and the social committee will have stalls and a sausage sizzle. We will have Christmas decorations, goodies and gifts for sale as well as good quality 2nd hand books, puzzles, games and other portable items which I am sure you would like to donate to the cause! Til next time, *Marilyn*

Around the Garden



It sure is such a specky place here at EVRG, and I for one never get sick of the scenery no matter what the weather throws at us or the season. At the teahouse end of Japan, it has been a photographers delight, capturing the flowering PRUNUS x yedoensis trees with a humongous number of bees buzzing busily to work their magic and also have an opportunity to be snapped close up by a camera lens. We sure are spoilt for choice and sorry to rub it in to those who can't visit at this time, but we seem to know how to put on a show and we are only getting better each year, so we hope that you add us on your to do list in the near future.

Here are a few things in short that has been happening around the garden in the last month:

- ◆ Platypus a plenty! We have these inquisitive creatures in all three lakes and they appear to be loving life and enjoying the peaceful early mornings, floating along the surface then duck-diving for their breakfast. I can't remember a day when I haven't seen them about!

- ◆ The 'Hybrid Hideaway' area will be ready for viewing and enjoyment from the 10th October so please come and have a look at what we have created. Pictures of the hideaway will be in the next newsletter

so for those that have no idea what I am talking about, you soon will.

- ◆ The plant sales area has been a massive hit since we have reopened it, to the point that I can't keep up the stock levels. With the biggest day on our calendar just around the corner, my aim is to have shelves full to the brim for this weekend so please be mindful that we are doing our best to provide unique and healthy plants but it is also not our main point of business and thank you for all of your ongoing support.
- ◆ Pest control on rhodos is still on going as is the weed control around the garden. Fertilizing and general plant health and tagging is happening on a daily basis.
- ◆ Dead heading of some of the big leaf rhodos is soon to commence.
- ◆ Sealing of the drains to the nursery and also the one below the Chinese pavilion on the way to the teahouse will be completed by the end of this month.
- ◆ Clover seed will remain to be a top priority to spread on steep terrain where there is erosion issues and the likes, as it appears to be doing a terrific job and has been well worth the trial in previous months.

Will leave it there for this month and hope to see some of you for our spring celebration weekend, come and say G'day. Happy gardening Neet 😊

Welcome

A warm spring welcome to new members Ralph & Lisa Young, Sebastian Franks & Helen Corlett, Jamie & Levea Goldsmith, Mervyn & Betty Kay, Roger & Kathy Luke, Anita Zama, Mark & Johanna Recklies, Judith Murphy, Susan & Levy Wigg, Bradley Barr, Lisa & Lee Turnbull, Neil Mitchell, Timothy Heaysman & Danita Harrison, Tim & Alicia Hingston, Jocelyn Cross, Anne Chess, Amelia & Brigid Gallagher, June Risdon, and Tseada Zekarias.



R. scabrifolium var. scabrifolium

The Noel Sullivan walk not only offers some wonderful vistas of our garden but is a great platform from which to view many of the species of plants we grow, R. scabrifolium var. scabrifolium is one growing near the right hand side as it meanders through the Yunnan area.

R. scabrifolium is a low spreading, or upright shrub to 3 m. The leaves are oblong-lanceolate the upper surface bullate, and quite bristly to touch, the under surface is pale green, quite hairy but soft to touch and covered in brown scales.

The crimson, pink, white or white flushed pink flowers appear at the junction of the uppermost leaves in several clusters often forming tight trusses on the ends of branches early in spring.

The Abbe Delavay first collected R. scabrifolium in 1887 on Heechanmen Mountain above Lankong in Yunnan. Growing among rocks and in scrubby pine and oak thickets so it is understandable that its growth should be quite tall at times. We grow two different collections, both having pale flowers but the leaves are the same growing long and have the feel of sandpaper. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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PO Box U33 Upper Burnie, Tasmania 7320