

December 2020

Rhodo News

Newsletter 436



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

Come to our Christmas Breakup!
Sunday 13th December 4.30pm



A change of date—our December Get Together will now be on Sunday 13th December, and combined with our famous Barbeque, Fun & Refreshments, starting at 4.30pm.

Calendar

Sunday 13th December
Social Get Together with
BBQ & refreshments from 4.30pm

January
No Social meeting

January
No Newsletter

See us at: emuvallayrhodo.com

General Manager's Report



What an understatement - - - as we head towards Christmas and 2021 how important has your membership, volunteering and overall support been!!!

The upcoming year certainly seems a brighter prospect than it did just a few months back.

2021 sees Emu Valley Rhododendron turn 40 — watch this space for ways we are going to celebrate and make everyone feel part of this remarkable garden.

I will be out of Tasmania from 20 December and it is great to be able to advise that in my absence Graeme McShane will take on the responsibilities of General Manager. Graeme is a Director of the garden, a rhododendron enthusiast and a member of the Horticulture Team. Even though Graeme lives more than 200km away he is often at EVRG. He is a wiz on special days with Plant Sales. His email contact is graeme.mcshane@gmail.com

Have a great Christmas and please do not forget any ideas you might have for the garden to be more well known or increasing revenue suggestions just let me know.

Happy Jingle Bells! Geoff 0427722060 geoffreywood@me.com



Our First Trash & Treasure

While not a roaring success, our first Trash and Treasure/Christmas stall raised over \$350. This was pure profit for the garden. The second Saturday raised \$157. Both weeks had good plant sales which went through the tearoom till (and not included in the above figures). I would like to thank all volunteers and members who gave their time, donated goods and attended for their moral support. This will now be an ongoing event every Saturday til December 19th and further donations would be gratefully accepted.

One good suggestion from a member was that we hold a 'farmers market' style stall at the garden once veggie gardens and fruit trees became productive. Feedback please! This would have to be fresh produce only as all regulations would have to be adhered to. If we can average \$150 a week, we will have managed to cover a little of the shortfall from the cancelled cruise ships.

Our December meeting HAS CHANGED from our previous advice and will now be held on Dec 13th, as part of our get together for ALL VOLUNTEERS and members at 4.30pm. *Marilyn* 0423 784 431



Around the Garden



Irrigation season is well and truly here, so with that in mind, strict water management is a must. As most of you would already know, the top section of the garden (from the middle road and up towards the water tank and boundary line) is now automated and working efficiently. There has been a time or two where technology has tried to outsmart us but with the help of the eagle eyes from volunteers, we have managed to fix the up stands (sprinklers) that want to come on when people are taking a dry stroll along the Noel Sullivan track and have become a little damp. I guess it's all part of it. I know I have mentioned this before, but I feel I need to mention it again, all blue stop taps that are on the irrigation lines right around the garden are not to be fiddled with. If someone believes there is an issue/leak/line blow out etc, my top advice would be to take a photo of it with some type of landmark in the photograph and send it to me either text or email so that I can get the problem sorted. Over the next few weeks, maintenance will be undertaken on the more established area, the lower half of the garden. 😊

Plant sales in the past few months have just gone bananas! I would like to thank everyone who has chosen to purchase plants from us here at EVRG. Your ongoing support is what keeps the garden evolving and will continue. EVRG have been lucky enough to obtain a biochar burner and is situated up at the nursery. We recently had the first demonstration on how to turn dry sticks and limbs into a product that we can return to the soil and has many beneficial factors for not only maintaining a healthy soil balance but an increase in plant health and water retention. By having the burner here for those important points just mentioned, it will also reduce the amount of waste that we burn up on the fire pile and becomes a health and safety winner as well.

While the rhodo season may be over for a lot of them, we still have some amazing plants really showing off their true colours. Still in the Ericaceae family, *Kalmia-Latifolia*, otherwise known as mountain laurel, is worth its weight in gold. I hope to plant out a larger section this coming Autumn as I would love to expand on the area and the collection itself. Unfortunately, these won't be for sale here at the garden for a few more years as the ones that we have big enough in the nursery will go straight into the ground in our North American section. See picture below, however it doesn't really do them justice. Plenty to see and even more to do so happy gardening everyone and have a safe and Merry Christmas. Neet 😊





R. campylogynum

R. campylogynum is quite different from most rhododendrons in that the single campanulate flowers are held on long stalks above the foliage and are thimble shaped. They range in colour from claret to red, purple, black-purple, pink and cream often with a bluish bloom.

R. campylogynum var. myrtilloides is a compact spreading form to 150mm with small leaves and purple to deep purple flowers first collected by Kingdon-Wardin June 1914 on N'mai Divide north-east Upper Burma and by other plant hunters in Yunnan, Assam and Tibet where it forms low mounds which carpet sheltered slopes.

Var. charopoeum a taller growing shrub to 600mm with larger deep plum-purple to pale rose flowers,

the Abbe Soulie collected this form in July 1903 at Tsekou, east Tibet, other collections were to follow from Upper Burma and Yunnan growing on alpine meadows. Both forms are free - flowering and easy to grow.

These two forms can be seen growing in Upper Burma and Yunnan areas at Emu Valley. *Maurie*



The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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