

Rhodo News

Newsletter 439

April 2021



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

Libs Make Major Commitment To Garden



Above are: Geoff Wood, Sam Biggins, Steve Locke, Neet Wood, Ant Dry, Leonie Hiscutt MLC & Roger Jaensch MHA

Press Release: 20 April 2021

Helping the Rhododendron Garden continue to bloom.

"The award-winning Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is a jewel in the crown of the North-West, loved by locals and a magnet for tourists. A re-elected majority Gutwein Liberal Government will fund the completion of the beautiful garden's automated irrigation system, with \$61,273 to ensure its ongoing success. This is the final stage of irrigation automation at this tourism icon, which will add important equipment including new pipes, pumps, sprinklers and bore facilities.

I absolutely love visiting this incredible asset, and would like to acknowledge the amazing work the dedicated volunteers do to keep it so pristine, healthy and vibrant."

Roger Jaensch, Liberal Member for Braddon

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com

General Manager's Report

ME TO BLAME

Finally — Our April Newsletter !

There is so much to mention.

Our Autumn Spectacular went off really well and a huge thankyou to everyone who helped prepare for the day and worked on the actual day. I thought I was early arriving at 7 in the morning but I certainly was not the first!



It was exciting to have Braddon MP Roger Jaensch once again visit and make an announcement about funding. The completion of the automated irrigation system and hopefully the introduction of a bore water set up is so important to EVRG's future — especially with climate change starting to have an impact.

Recently at 10.30 at night two vehicles pulled up to the main gates. It was evident that those in the cars were up to no good. They were spotted by a neighbour! I am so glad we now keep the gates locked. We have tightened security even more so since this latest and will soon review the whole garden security set up.

A reminder to all volunteers not to fiddle with any of the irrigation set-up. By this I mean taps, valves and sprinklers. Our Horticulture Manger has full responsibility for irrigating the garden. She must be contacted if anyone has concerns about what needs to or not to be watered. Adjusting water flow, as happened recently, would have been carried out with the best intentions but resulted in a lot of confusion and the automated system not working all of which resulted in a cost to us, having to call in irrigation experts.

Renovations to the Tea Room are due to commence in June, but this might not result in us being unable to cater for visitors. The Catering and Management Teams will look at this as work time frames become more clear.

Next month's newsletter will be out on time — I promise 🙄
Geoff — geoffreywood@me.com / / / 0427 722060

Fellowship Coffee Morning

Great news, Bev Duncan has joined me as part of the social committee, as such she will be organising the social coffee mornings. This will free me up to concentrate on the Autumn Spectacular. The date of the next coffee morning hasn't been decided yet—we'll let you know!

On the Autumn Spectacular front, we were very pleased to have a good number of stall holders accepting the invitation to participate, with a wide range of goods.

David and I ran our Trash and Treasure stall, starting on the Easter weekend and ending after Autumn Spectacular. Contributions were gratefully accepted.

For info, always feel free to contact me on 0423 784 431. *Marilyn*

Around the Garden

Welcome to our Autumn edition where there is lots to mention but not exactly sure where to start.

Our Autumn spectacular day was on again and held Saturday April 17 so we were all busy buzzing around trying to get the high traffic areas up to scratch for you to all come and enjoy what we get to see and spend time amongst every day. We are again adding new tracks with dry rock wall entrances, one which will lead up to our Abies densa so people are able to view the striking blue cones which are a must see. We are also madly weeding, brush cutting, pruning back off tracks, mulching and chipping where possible along with the main gazebo posts are getting a bit of TLC.

Autumn is the best time to be planting out while the soil is still warm and this will be taking place as soon as we have a bit more of a reliable rain fall heading in our direction. Mulch as much of the garden now as possible as it will lock in the moisture which helps to repair and or condition the soil as well as give the garden an easy and quick fresh look. Fertilize the lawn by using a slow release fertiliser which will help the lawn strengthen and repair in time for winter. I must admit it has been a few years since we have fed the lawns here at EVRG, so I will put this towards the top of my to do list right now.

I will round this off by saying a massive thank you to all members and volunteers for the countless hours that you all spend in the garden. We have been extremely fortunate to have the dedicated team that we do, and even though we are getting smaller numbers that are hands on, every now and then when you least expect it, along comes another two or three new pairs of helping hands. That is exactly what has happened of late and wow look at them go!



They have settled in well to the EVRG life and we are now looking at a new set of slate steps that look natural and still fit in with the countries-of-origin style, serves a purpose and is using up resources that were donated to us a few months back.

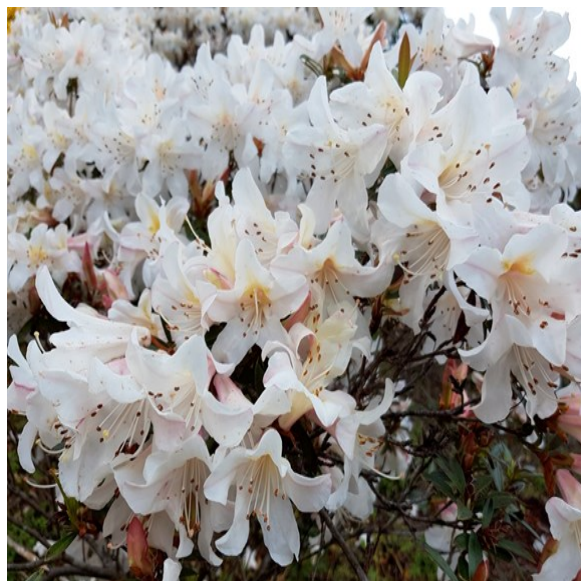
It's not yet completed, but here is a sneak peak of their handy work (on the left). Great job again by all, I hope that we have many visitors over the next few weeks as autumn is such a spectacular time here at EVRG.

Happy Gardening,

Neet

New Members

A warm and colourful autumn welcome to new members Janelle Thomson, Janet Horan, Jonty Stubbs, Sandy Eyles, Elizabeth Brookes, Kerry Lucas, Jo Corvinus-Jones, Paul Campbell and Evan Pollett.



R. formosum Var. *formosum*

When this plant came to my attention very early in my rhododendron journey it was called *R. iteophyllum*—an easy to grow shrub and in mid October could be relied upon to produce masses of white to white tinged pink flowers. The leaves are linear to linear-lanceolate, being one of its main distinguishing features. But after a revision of the genus in 1980 it became synonymous with *R. formosum* Var. *formosum* along with *R. gibsoni* and *R. formosum* var. *salicifolium*.

R. iteophyllum was first collected by J.D.Hooker and T. Thomson in October 1850, at Bor-Panee, Khasia Hills in Assam, and introduced by Thomas Lobb a collector. It is rather scattered in Northeast India, its native habitat, and varies from a broadly upright shrub, a straggly plant growing to two meters high to a compact plant depending on the growing conditions.

At EmuValley, our plants are all from one seed collection and are compact shrubs to around 1metre high and can be relied upon to flower profusely in spring. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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