

May 2021

Rhodo News

Newsletter 440



Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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Autumn at Emu Valley



Yes, we truly are A Garden
For All Seasons!

Calendar

Monday 17th May
Volunteer's BBQ
EVRG 12 noon

Sunday 7th November
40th Birthday
Time to be advised

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com

General Manager's Report

I've done it again! The newsletter is late again — all input reached our editor Nigel on time except mine.

As I write this the state election final vote count has not been totally finished. During the campaign both the State Liberal and Labor Party's showed their belief in the role of Emu Valley both now and to the future — Thank you.

Whilst on thankyou, it was fantastic to receive advice that we were successful with a grant application of \$8,000 to go towards the purchase of a much needed new cash register. This came about through the Federal Government's Stronger Communities Program. Applications were submitted to Braddon Federal Liberal MP Gavin Pearce, after which a committee shortlisted us for on-forwarding to Canberra for the final selection process.

Hot off the Press +++++ Just received advice that our application for a grant from Burnie Council's "Application for Financial Assistance - Special Round 2020/2021 Program, for \$4,500, was successful. This is for the purchase of a coffee machine.

Both the cash register and coffee machine will be ready to go in our soon-to-be renovated Tea Room.

With the State Election, Grant Applications and Autumn Spectacular, and day to day tasks, things have been pretty busy of late. Now a lot of time will be put in working with our hard-working Committees and Directors to put the 2021 / 2022 Budget together. Our Chairperson and Treasurer Ant Dry has a difficult task looking into his crystal ball with so many uncertainties ahead due to COVID19!

Please keep up your support and keep on passing on your suggestions and thoughts.

Cheers! Geoff — geoffreywood@me.com /// 0427 722060

Events/Social Report

Autumn Spectacular has been and gone with a takings of just under \$4,500. When final figures are in they will be included in the annual financial report. All in all it was a fairly successful day.

Now for the fun part. The Events/Social committee would like local members to join them in thanking the volunteers for the incredible amount of hard work, both leading up to, and on the day. We will be holding a **BBQ on Monday, May 17th, from 12 noon**. This will be a joint venture between this committee and Neet. However, we would appreciate an **RSVP**, so we can cater for you all.

Marilyn van Druten Ph: 0423 784 431 email: davmar678@gmail.com

New Members

A warm and colourful autumn welcome to new members:

John & Blanka Andersen, Kelvin Jowett, Jim & Sue O'Brien, Alex Nicholas & Beverley McNamara, Andrea Downing, Russell Wither, Clifton & Juanita Smith, Peter Atkin & Karmina Gordon, Valma Eastley, Robert Genders, John Girdauskas & Malcolm Elmer, Christopher & Jennifer Nadler, Jenita Lusted & Rebecca Wells, Anthony & Anne Lucadou-Wells, Laurel Barnett, Jim & Yvonne McIver, Hilbert & Jasmin Garlando, Jenni Bradley, Bryan Grinton & Rachel Downey, Sonja James, William & Kathleen de Gabrielle, Daniel & Heidi Crawford, Helmut & Barbara Gruner, Russell & Jakki Boucaut, Leon & Zoya Tasi, Rod & Janine Hall, Leanne Holland, Michael & Christine Davies, Charmaine Talagn, Brian McRoberts & Juji Ybanez, and Dean & Melanie Creedy.

Around the Garden

I would like to start by saying thank you to all who came and supported EVRG at our Autumn Spectacular day last month. The timing was perfect as the garden was at its Autumn best with so many fantastic displays of colour in all directions and has definitely been a photographer's delight! A lot of prep work goes into making the day a success and with our wonderful crew that we have on board to do just this is just amazing, so a big pat on the back to you all.

Autumn is a great time to be out in the garden here in Tassie. Not too hot or cold, can rely on a little more from the rainfall to water everything as well as it refreshes lakes and waterways, and might be lucky enough to find a few mushrooms to cook up a feed with. Autumn jobs may consist of planting out spring flowering bulbs in mass numbers to create that wow factor. Bulbs may include daffodils, dutch iris, hyacinth, ixia, freesia, tulips, ranunculi the list goes on and on. Pick a spot with light, well drained soil or plant straight into pots which can be moved to wherever you like and whenever you like.

Garden critters like the snails and slugs come out in this season so be on the look out, especially if you have planted out young seedlings, mostly devoured in the dark of the night.

Autumn is the perfect time to be planting new trees and shrubs providing the soil is moist enough. To see best results, it is important to make sure the soil is well prepared. Add gypsum to clay soils to help improve the structure and by adding an organic matter to whatever your soil type might be is a must.

Plants such as weeping cherries, crab apples and many spring flowering fruit trees and roses are all found in bare-rooted stock areas and can usually be purchased at a fraction of the price compared to other times of the year, so keep an eye out for these now.

Here at EVRG we are always mulching, pruning, track maintenance, painting, mowing lawns, all of the usual stuff, but soon the steps from last month's newsletter will be complete with safety handrail and a Japanese theme, and then moving on to a few more larger projects within the garden.

Enjoy your time outdoors and happy gardening *Neet*

Children's University Tasmania



For some time EVRG has been one of the *Learning Destinations* for the Children's University. This is done by encouraging and celebrating a diverse range of extra-curricular learning experiences in and outside school.

As with many so many other things 2020 slowed our participation down. We will be ramping this up and hopefully seeing more young members of our region visit.

Children's University is for children and young people between the ages of 7-14. Each member of Children's University is issued with a Passport to Learning where they keep a record of their learning. At the end of each year children are awarded with a certificate at a formal graduation to recognise and celebrate their achievement.

Who knows — there might be aspiring gardeners amongst the students. One thing we do know, is that it is a win-win situation. EVRG is a partner in a great scheme and more mum's and dad's get to know about us.



R. brachycarpum

Rhododendron brachycarpum was one of the first species to be planted in our Japanese section once the area had been cleared.

This rhodo is widely distributed in the mountain regions of North and Central Japan and in Korea where plants under the Tigerstedtii Group are reported to withstand extreme cold conditions.

R. brachycarpum grows to form a shrub to 2.5 meters with oblong - obovate leaves which are retained for up to 3 years. These leaves show signs of a compacted fawn to brownish indumentum on the under side or glabrous in Ssp. fauriei. Flowering usually starts mid October forming an upright truss of 10-20, colour is usually white with green spots but can be white flushed pink with a greenish-brown faint flare with green spots.

R. brachycarpum was introduced around 1900, with the var. tigerstedtii being introduced by Dr. Tigerstedt to his famous Mustila Arboretum in southern Finland from Kongosan in central Korea. We grow R. brachycarpum Ssp. brachycarpum and Ssp. Fauriei—also var. tigerstedtii. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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