

June 2021

Rhodo News

Newsletter 441

evrg



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



Join us for our famous
Christmas in Winter!

At the Garden July 17th \$35 adults \$25 for under 16s
Put it in your diary—you will receive an invitation with booking
details shortly.

Calendar

Sunday 11th July
Armchair Travel to Japan

Saturday 17th July
Xmas in Winter
EVRG @ 1pm

Sunday 7th November
40th Birthday Bash

Saturday 13th November
40th Family Day Celebration

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com

General Manager's Report

Decisions

It was disappointing to finally make the call to close the garden to the public for all of June. It was simply that we do not have the volunteer numbers available to ensure someone is on duty at all times when members of the public might be there. It does however allow time for some sprucing up. We are still open for functions.

Whilst on making calls, I again remind all members and volunteers that the current policy is that private vehicles should not be driven around the garden. Should there be an accident, the vehicle owner would have to claim on his or her own insurance. Likewise damage caused to the garden or its equipment by a private vehicle will be claimed against the owner. Private vehicles are not to be used to drive visitors around. Also private vehicles should not be driven past the Nursery.

Study Desk

1) Juanita and I have just completed an intensive workshop conducted by Volunteering Tasmania. The title said it all — “*Fundamentals of Volunteer Management*”.

- recognise the benefits to volunteers and organisations maintaining best practice
- understand key principles for volunteer management and coordination
- understand the motivation of volunteers and why they volunteer
- understand the ability to review, reflect and reboot their volunteer management approach

We now have lots of homework and follow up!!!!

2) With the assistance of the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry we are progressing to having best practice policies and procedures in place. Workplace Behaviour, Position Descriptions, OH & S, Smoking, Dress Attire, Inductions — the list goes on. Emu Valley is a workplace and both employees and volunteers need to understand their rights and also what is expected of them.

Now for some fun news:

⇒ 7 November 40th birthday celebration for members and volunteers and their partners
\$40 per per person, which will cover dinner and entertainment.

The July newsletter will have details about booking tickets. I wish I owned a reliable crystal ball. Who knows what COVID restrictions will be in place. Our Social Team will be looking at all ideas that will allow as many as possible to attend.

⇒ Want to understand more about Japanese Culture or see some magnificent shots of Japan? Well, on Sunday 11 July we are very lucky to have Murray Giles present [*Arm Chair Travel To Japan*](#). Murray has presented this to all different types of audiences and will be in Tasmania in July.

Tickets are \$10 each or \$5 for members — includes afternoon tea. To help our Catering Team and adhere to COVID requirements if you are attending please email Sophie on enquiries@evrg.com.au and advise numbers. Money can be paid on the day.

I have seen part of the presentation and it looks great.

Australian Rhododendron Society (ARS)

On Thursday 27 May I took part in the last Executive Meeting of the ARS. All paperwork has now been completed for the Society to apply for deregistration. It is sad but a sign of the times. We really have to continue the vision of being “a world recognised woodland garden showcasing and protecting the Rhododendron Genus.” EVRG has to become a year-round operation and a major player in tourism and to achieve this always being on the lookout for ways to attract visitors and not just during Spring.

Don't let the winter blues set in and please, remember, thoughts on improving our garden or suggestions on how to bring much needed dollars in are very much encouraged.

June Forest Therapy session—June 27th 1.30pm.

Details here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/winter-wonder-walk-june-tickets-157712144269>

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

Around the Garden

Winter is officially here but as I look out of the office window, there is still a little bit of Autumn just hanging on. It was a great Season and the garden did us proud as did the volunteers who kept it in top condition for all of our visitors to enjoy. I would have to say that it was definitely the busiest I've seen the garden in Autumn, people walking around with cameras every day of the week and this was absolutely fantastic to see.

I am currently trying to come up with ideas and also open to suggestions from our valued members, about how to add colour to the garden all year round, really focusing on the winter and summer months in particular. This may not necessarily mean the need to add more plants as such, but think outside the square a little, just keep in mind the woodland themed garden along with countries of origin that we are known for. Feel free to send me an email, all ideas are welcome : Juanita.wood@evrg.com.au



Things to focus on during Winter:

As pests are inactive in the colder months, now is a good time to consider adding fruit trees to your garden. Suggested fruit trees are quince, apples and pears and not to forget the berry variety as these along with the deciduous kinds 'love a good chilling' said Peter Cundall in an interview a few years ago.

Prepare garden beds by adding dolomite lime to your garden now along with your ready made compost and / or mushroom compost. By adding lime, it will increase the soil pH and decrease the acidity so it obviously depends on what type of soil you are working with. Lime also improves soil texture and will allow plants to absorb other nutrients easily so it's a win win!

Think about winter flowering additions to your garden. Three that come to mind are daphne, Heliotropium arborescens (cherry ripe) and gardenia. They are all highly fragrant, gorgeous flowers and attractive foliage. I think we need to be adding the ones we don't have here already at EVRG.

Time to rug up and brave the elements! Happy Gardening, Neet 😊

New Members

A warm winter welcome to new members Brent & Ann Cox, Erik & Marianne Broeng, Sailen Bayracharya & Rupa Shreshna, Narendra Ghimire & Roshni Gautam, Colleen Atkinson, Gordon & Suzie Woolley, Alistair & Jo Ross, Jenny & Kerry Singline, Max & Heather Richardson, Rodney & Christine Medwin, Paul & Debbie Agar, Lisa Broman, Samantha Boarder, Jonathan & Kristen Smith, Robert & Dorothy Groenewege, Lisa Allen, Steve & Belinda Chapman, Roland & Karen Ashworth-Eck, Duncan & Sally Sadler, Lita Britton & Robbie Karinja, Kirstin Seaver, Peter & Ilona Barta, Jane Lang & Jamie Anderson, Greg & Dianne Woodhouse, Keith & Fran Christie, Yvonne Smith, Tony Bellette & Sally Watts, Clinton Griffiths & Warren Reading, and Joanne Bennett..

Events/Social Report

Out of necessity this will be a brief report - I am going on holiday!!! Our BBQ on 17th May was very well attended and appreciated. More than 40 people came for lunch. Ant did the honours as BBQ chef. It would be remiss of me not to mention a few people who went above and beyond. Robyn Kay for 2 days of prep work, Bev Duncan and her family for clean up duties and ditto Morva Morris. Also, two exceptionally important people who are always prepared to put up their hands for volunteering duties, Neet Wood and Sophie Clements. The committee, with the support of the upper echelon, have decided that this will be the first of an ongoing quarterly event, to be held at the beginning of each season.

Have a great winter, talk to you again in July. Marilyn van Druuten 0423 784 431 email: davmar678@gmail.com

Legends of the Garden—John Hudson



John is handed his richly-deserved Life Membership by Geoff in 2016.

In 2016, John became a life member of the Emu Valley Rhodo Garden. The citation statement read out by Ant Dry said:--

“A great ambassador for Emu Valley, John is always quick to quietly influence his considerable local network to promote the garden at any and all levels. He’s an avid promoter of the garden wherever he goes on his many travels, and his generous financial contributions over the years have been very much appreciated, helping us to implement his ideas to develop and maintain the garden. It is our privilege to honour John for his exceptional contribution to the Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden.”

On his death, John left a major bequest to the Garden.

Background

John’s Grandfather arrived in Australia from Yorkshire in June 1891. He was a solicitor, and set up practice in Zeehan. Very early in his career, he accused a judge of being “stitched-up”, and was found in contempt of court, was fined and sentenced to a month in prison. He later successfully applied for the order to be buried, allowing him to continue his legal practice. According to John, his grandfather’s office was “probably in one of the 20 hotel poolrooms” of Zeehan, then a booming mining town of some 10,000, similar to both Launceston and Hobart.

John’s father Leslie spent his childhood in Zeehan. He was sent to grammar school in Launceston to continue his education, then to University where he graduated with a law degree. The family moved from Zeehan to Wynyard in 1910 and Leslie married Gladys Fogg from a well

-known Ulverstone family in 1918. John was born 3 years later in 1926. In 1943 and 1944 John, at only 17, commenced military service, joined the Navy as a radio sonar operator. He attended university in Hobart and was an excellent student. He loved sport, playing cricket, football, and was a member of the university rowing crew. After completing his law degree, he was approached by one of his father’s legal competitors Chris Wilson of Crisp, Edwards and Wilson, and he joined this firm in 1950. With the retirement of Wilson, he became a partner in 1952.

Marriage

John’s wife Margaret worked with her father Eric Foster as a florist. John, a 24 year-old returned serviceman became interested in a 17 year old florist in the mid-1950s. He had to be very patient and came a poor second to the demands of the florist shop. Eventually they were engaged, but John still had to wait. His courting in the early days was walking her home, Saturday night dances at the old Burnie High School Assembly Hall and another walk home. John’s first car was a 1935 Morris 8 Tourer, which meant less walking, but widened their scope of courting. Apparently, a favourite spot was amongst the sacks of potatoes on the Pier. They eventually married in 1956. Exactly a year later their son Alan was born. David was born later. They loved to dance and continued to enjoy dancing up till Margaret died in 2006 from a brain tumour.

Working & family life

John often worked down the west coast and he loved this area, especially the natural beauty of the mountains, lakes and rivers. There were a lot of family trips to the west coast and his sons can remember him testing them on the names of the mountains and rivers. He had a real passion for geography. He also loved picnics along the wonderful north west coast. After retiring, John served as the coroner. He oversaw about 50 coronial enquiries over 10 years. He spent many hours documenting reports on a mining accident, a train crash at Hampshire, an accident on the Franklin River and on a failed attempt to row across the Bass Strait, causing loss of life on a searching fishing boat.

After Margaret’s death John travelled a number of times to by himself to Europe, America, Russia and followed the silk road from China. His knowledge of history and geography made these trips very special. He formed friendships with many of the touring parties and corresponded with them for many years until it became too difficult.



Rhododendron kyawii

As spring gives way to summer and the flowering season draws to a close, the last crimson-scarlet flowered rhododendrons to bloom at Emu Valley are *R. kyawii* (we have about 12 plants in different spots). They produce their tubular-campanulate trusses among large elliptic-oblong leaves; the under-surface of these leaves is covered with a sparse fawn indumentum which usually disappears as they mature. These flowers form trusses of twelve to sixteen with darker nectar pouches at the base.

Maung Kyaw discovered this species in September 1912 near Paypat bungalow, at Myitkyna, northeast Upper Burma. Forrest and others introduced it in 1919 from western Yunnan. In cultivation *R. kyawii* reminds me of two other species in the same sub. Section that we grow - namely *R. elliottii* and *R. facetum*. All three have crimson-red flowers, however the leaves of these two are smaller.

We grow *R. kyawii* in Burma and Yunnan where their bright flowers add drifts of colour among the green to welcome in the New Year. *Maurie*
P.S. from Pam – have you had a go at pronouncing this rhodo name as it is a short one this time BUT would you believe it is pronounced (chaw'-ee).

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc.
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