

August 2021

Rhodo News

Newsletter 443



**Sustainable
Tourism**
Accredited
Business

Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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Patrons: (International) Kenneth Cox, (Tasmania) Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, Barbara Baker AC

Partnering with local talent.



The Burnie Highland Pipe Band came up for a photo shoot early in August. We are delighted to be entering a partnership with the Band and look forward to seeing a lot more of them, entertaining us in the future.

Calendar

Saturday 2nd October
EVRG AGM
3PM

**Saturday 16th
October**
Spring Festival

Sunday 7th November
40th Birthday Bash

Saturday 13th November
Family Day Celebration

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com

General Manager's Report

Oh Chairperson +++ *Wherefore Art Thou?*

It's strange how things give you a jolt. I was looking forward to Ant Dry returning from interstate as we have so much going on — budget issues, building permits, planning for our AGM & Director Appointments. Whilst he is in quarantine from an interstate trip things have been put on hold but how fortunate we are. The garden is still open, events are planned and function bookings are being taken.

We have the COVID Check In App and for anyone not having this on their phone or not wanting to use it, people can fill out their details on available forms. It is compulsory for everyone.

In July we held the informative Armchair Travel to Japan presented by Murray Giles. Thirty five people attended and had a great time. Thanks to Marilyn van Druten the Function Room had a Japanese theme and we made some extra dollars with sales from her handiwork. We also got a new volunteer!!!



Murray and Barbara Giles love EVRG

The following week saw Christmas in July and it was a great success. Due to COVID19 numbers were restricted and thank you to those members who dropped out to allow for others to attend. As usual EVRG's Catering Team excelled. MC Peter Stratford's poetry readings were a highlight and he displayed hidden auctioneer talents.

The Christmas Tree was one of our Wollemi Pines

with the successful bidder being MP Roger Jaensch adding to his collection of our garden plants.



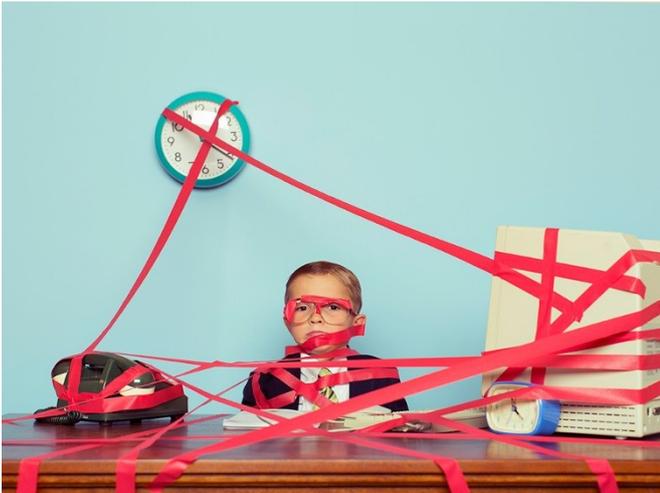
Volunteer Numbers

Information days were held on 29 & 31 August. Eight people have registered interest and all going well they will fill some of the gaps in the Tea Room roster. There are still a lot of holes and with less than a month to busy Spring it is a concern. I know, "broken record me" but if you know of someone who might be able to help do some arm twisting (but only mildly).

Get The Diaries Out

There will be three parts to the Big Birthday on the 7th:

- ◆ A large memorabilia display available for everyone to view all day in the Function Room.
- ◆ From 2 to 4pm we will be saying a big thank you to volunteers and members, past and present for everything they have done to make this garden the beautiful place that it is. Everyone is invited to come along, catch up with people you might not have seen for a long time and see what is planned for the future. There will be entertainment to enjoy, and the opportunity to sing happy birthday to YOUR Garden. It is important that those intending to come register your name by sending a quick email to enquiries@evrg.com.au. It is not anticipated that COVID restrictions will have eased and every effort is being made to not have to cut off numbers.
- ◆ Finally there will be a ticketed formal celebration in the evening from 5.30 pm, a Cocktail Party with a Fabulous Floral Theme. Details for ticket sales will be in September's Newsletter.



Chairperson Ant Dry is experiencing the joys of red tape.

Extensions to the Tea Room

Members will recall that we talked about starting the extension to the tearoom in June / July of this year. This was after brief consultations with builders, drafts people and engineers.

Members may have noticed that it is now August, and nothing appears to have happened. Like most lay people, we had no idea of the complexity of the process we had entered into.

The problem is that the extension includes a change to the footprint of the building (of a mere 2 metres or so).

This, it would seem, is a major undertaking and requires planning approval, plumbing approval, building approval (who knew they were all different?), the input of a surveyor, drawings from an engineer, water searches, and an investigation of how many car-parking spaces we have!! There are probably more people to be involved, people we still do not know exist.

What we have achieved so far is to obtain the publication of the “Notice of Application for Land Use Permit” proposing to extend the function room. This seemingly simple document is the result of weeks of work by all of the above-mentioned professionals.

I would ask members to be patient, as we work our way through the remaining red tape involved in getting this build to happen.

The build will happen, it just won't be in the expected timeframe.

The next set of problems we are to face is as a result of the building boom in the State. These problems are the shortage of materials and the availability of our builder. These are unknowns until we have the final plans approved.

I am not brave enough to suggest an updated start time, but please rest assured - it will be as soon as it can be achieved. *Ant Dry*



UPCOMING EVENTS

<p style="text-align: center;">AGM Saturday 2nd October</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SPRING FESTIVAL Saturday 16th October <i>See our Garden at its Flowering Peak</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">40th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION Sunday 7th November <i>Memorabilia & Cocktail Dinner</i> Tickets on Sale Soon!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FAMILY FUN DAY Saturday 13th November <i>Kids Activities & A Scarecrow Build- ing Competition!</i></p>

Details on our Website
www.emuvalleyrhodo.com





Around the Garden

Welcome to the last month of winter. Fingers crossed it doesn't drag on any longer, because I know that I am busting to see more sunshine and flowers in bloom sooner rather than later!

There are a few large leaf rhododendrons flowering now along with the usual early flowering rhododendron chrysdoron, rhododendron 'Stowport' and rhododendron 'Rosebery Gold Mine'.

The spring bulbs are popping up and the hellebores around the main gazebo have been showing off some really amazing colours this season with some younger seedlings still to grow in size. This time next year it will be a great little pocket of colour.



The steep path leading down into North America has had a bit of a face lift with slow gradual steps added on the 'steep pinch' sections only. These look fantastic and have already had many positive comments from the public, who say that people in the past have avoided this section due to how steep it was. Now they have the enjoyment of using these steps to take in the gorgeous vista looking down onto lake Pearl and its surrounds.

A handrail is still yet to be constructed but steps are open, safe and ready to use. Have a look at picture (on the left) to see what I am talking about. 😊

Picnic tables and seats around the garden are either getting rebuilt if needed or just a fresh coat of paint. We have a lot of them around the place to tackle but it's a great job to do in winter in and out of this wet weather.

We are more than just a garden. People think that to be a volunteer you need to be a green thumb, that's not always the case. We need handy people of all trades for a bit of anything and everything. A good example of

this is with the maintenance and upkeep of the seats and tables.

EVRG is a great place to meet new people with enjoyable and satisfying tasks in all aspects of the garden – tearoom, catering, social committee, outdoor and maintenance crew. Please get in touch if you'd like to be part of the team. 😊 Happy gardening and bring on spring! Neet



Vale Doreen Stratford



Sadly we lost a wonderful volunteer and more importantly a wonderful person with the passing of Doreen. Along with Pete, Doreen was part of the Emu Valley family for 17 years. During this time she contributed in many ways. Garden, catering, tea room, meeting and greet—you name it, Doreen did it.

As a member recently mentioned, Doreen was always there with a smile and an ear for anyone not having a good day.

Events/Social Report

Lots of great news coming from the Events committee - some we are keeping under wraps until final arrangements have been made. However, as a teaser, fairies, gnomes and, I believe, a hobgoblin. How about a semi formal occasion?

We had a great couple of weeks in July, a trip to Japan, without leaving your armchair. Murray Giles gave great insight into Japanese culture and traditions. We decorated with traditional Ikebana floral arrangements and cherry blossom gift lines.

One week later we celebrated Christmas in winter with all the traditional food and trimmings. A Wollemi Pine was decorated and later auctioned. We also auctioned a beautiful print depicting the garden through the year, the original painted by a local artist. Jigsaws, cards and magnets from this artist are also available at the garden.

To finish - our end of season BBQ for all volunteers will be held on August 31st from 12 noon.

Marilyn van Druten 0423 784 431



Our New Patron

It is wonderful to be able to announce that Tasmania's new Governor, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, has accepted EVRG's invitation to be a patron. When an opportunity arises we look forward to being able to show Her Excellency around our garden.

Ms Baker was born in Hobart and represented Tasmania in tennis and hockey as a teenager. She became a lawyer in 1983 and a Federal Court judge in 2008. She retired from the judiciary at the beginning of this year, returning to barrister work before being appointed our new Governor in June.

As we all know, our last patron was Her Excellency, Governor Kate Warner AC. She was a great supporter of our work and we will always be grateful for her gracious involvement.

We are very grateful to our new Governor for maintaining the tradition of the Vice-Regal incumbent becoming our patron.

Her Excellency, Governor Barbara Baker AC



R. cubittii 'Ashcombe'

R. cubittii 'Ashcombe' was a very popular species at early Rhododendron Society meetings when monthly 'show and tell' competitions were held. The delicate colour and size of the flowers proving a winning combination.

R. cubittii is a upright spreading shrub 1.5-2 meters high with peeling brown bark revealing a shiny smooth bark beneath, the branchlets are bright green and somewhat sparsely bristly. Leaves are oblong-lanceolate 9-10 cm long and 3-3.7 cm wide, the upper surface dark green, the under surface some times glaucous and covered with medium-sized scales.

The large corolla is widely funnel-shaped 5 lobed, the margins are undulate, white, or white flushed pink with a yellowish blotch at the base and light brown spots. These flowers are produced in groups of three to four at the ends of last year's growth.

R. cubittii was only collected once by G. E. S. Cubitt in the Bhamo Division of North Burma in March 1909 and introduced by him the same year, with no reference to its growth habit in its native home. Thus R. cubittii no longer holds species status. It has been placed into R. veitchianum (Cubittii Group) which is found in similar locations in Burma.

Maurie

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc.

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