

December 2021

Rhodo News

Newsletter 447



**Sustainable
Tourism**
Accredited
Business

Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

Postal Address: PO Box U33 Upper Burnie Tasmania 7320 Phone: 6433 1805

enquiries@evrg.com.au Office Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm

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

Creating a Partnership



The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Garden and Emu Valley have together signed a Memorandum of Understanding, creating a great partnership. They will provide us with assistance and advice in respect of both curation and horticulture, as well as our working together on marketing ideas. Above are the RTBG acting Director David Reid (signing), with our Ant Dry and Geoff Wood (standing).

Calendar

NO NEWSLETTER IN JANUARY

MERRY CHRISTMAS

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com

General Manager's Report

Our Christmas Cheer at Emu Valley Garden has just been made that bit better by being successful in gaining a grant for \$1500 to go towards supporting the needs of our volunteers and even hopefully encouraging more on board. The grant came through the Australian Government's Community Grants Hub. Part of the letter received states — *“In Australia, more than 8.7 million people volunteer each year, freely giving their time and skills to help others. Volunteers are an important part of the fabric of our society”*

Office Contact

From 20 December through to 4 January Admin. Officer Sophie is taking a much deserved break. There will be a message left on the answering service which in part will advise that for urgent matters I am to be contacted.

The garden and Tea Room are not closing and we even have weddings on January 1 & 4.

The Tea Room is very short of helpers — hint hint!!!!

Thanks to Warren (Wazza) for all the new and redone signs—such as our Devonshire Teas sign on the right.

Looking Ahead

If someone has a crystal ball that comes with a guarantee I would very much like to borrow it. Hopefully with the Tasmanian border reopening on 15 December much needed visitor numbers will increase. From the middle of the month we are running a twelve week marketing / advertising campaign on both radio and our very popular online sites. We have to keep getting the message out that Emu Valley is a garden for all seasons. (How would you like a mulled wine and pizza in winter? — just one of my crazy thoughts).

There are a lot of ideas in the melting pot, some of which will give relief to the volunteers. All going well our February newsletter will give more details.

Toowoomba Chronicle

That's right - I have not lost my marbles. We were very fortunate to have a visit from Mike Wells. I pinched this description from Mr Google — *“Qualified and experienced horticulturist, educator, garden writer, speaker and broadcaster.”*



Mike is hoping to conduct a garden tour to Tasmanian next year with Emu Valley on his priority list. Check out the attached article he did on us in the Toowoomba Chronicle.

Also look up Mike's Facebook page — Wellsley Horticulture. He certainly is passionate about what he does.

Moongate

Due to the generosity of the late David Cherry funds were set aside to construct a Moongate (google it!). Volunteer Barry Morrell designed and with the assistance of other volunteers constructed the steps leading down from the Japanese Tea House and the steps in North America. He has now designed a Moongate and will soon be looking for a team to help the building of this. It is great to finally be able to announce things are under way.

As we draw to a close for 2021 it would be so remiss of me not to once again mention our wonderful team of volunteers. Be it Bethwyn and Adrian in the garden or Sunhil and Sue in the Tea Room or Heather and Coleen in the Kitchen, it is remarkable how much is achieved. So, to everyone I wish you a very happy Christmas. Keep safe and keep on supporting Emu Valley. Geoff — 0427722069 // geoffreywood@me.com

Around the Garden



Merry Christmas everyone! It's been a hard year for many but working here at EVRG makes it so much easier knowing that there are many happy people bursting with a bucket load of enthusiasm to tick off a mile long list of jobs. Thank you team, it's been another fun and interesting year with you all and looking forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

The water bore is now complete including the cage surrounding the important pump lines and the electrical side of it. Would you believe that we now have water whenever we need it at the flick of a switch, literally! Knowing this just gives security that the garden will have sufficient water during those warmer months when the plants are needing it the most. Along with being able to keep fresh water up to our much loved platypus, which is absolutely fantastic.

Irrigation and Dairy Solutions will make a start within the next fortnight to complete the automated watering system in the lower half of the garden. This is another project that we have spoken about for a long time and very excited to have this completed by the end of this year.

Some of our volunteers have spent many many hours up in the nursery nailing a new plastic wall along our 32m plant tunnel. This project came about because I found that there was inadequate light filtering through this tunnel and as a result the plants (predominately our vireya variety) weren't growing as well as they should have been. Now they have more light as well as extra warmth which will help promote new and healthy growth, which in turn will allow us to sell more in the plant sales area along with planting additional stock out in the garden here. Thank you to those people involved in this not so easy project. 😊

It's that time again to deadhead the big leaf rhododendrons along with some of the well known species such as rhododendron nuttallii which smelt absolutely amazing this flowering season. This is a massive task to undertake and is usually in the hands of one, or sometimes two volunteers. If there is anyone out there wanting to help us this year, please feel free to contact us we'd really appreciate the help and it's very rewarding too.

Cuttings, cuttings and more cutting to take again this year! It will be very helpful knowing that majority of the garden have now been labelled which makes taking cuttings from a plant with the correct name on it all that much simpler, so thank you.



We have many new projects in which we'd like to start fresh in the new year so everyone watch this space. Until then, I hope Santa finds you all and remember that we are a garden for all seasons, so support the locals and support us here at EVRG. We are a fantastic garden and encourage you all to visit either with family or friends or even on your own. We'd love to see you!

Happy gardening, Neet





Rhododendron griersonianum

R. griersonianum is a plant much admired by hybridizers, as the brilliant geranium-scarlet narrowly funnel shaped flowers appear in late November/early December. This unusual colouring and late flowering means it has often been used to make many interesting crosses. It can easily be recognized by its long tapered flower buds similar to those of R. auriculatum.

R.griersonianum grows into a broadly upright shrub, 1.2-2.5 m high in cultivation, the upper surface of the lanceolate leaves are pale green with deeply impressed midrib and veins, under surface covered with a thick woolly, light brown indumentum. The foliage and flower buds are long and conical with the outer scales long and thin, the leaf and flower stalks, branchlets and even the outside of the flower are all densely bristly making for a very desirable plant.

George Forrest first discovered and introduced this interesting plant in June 1917 in the Shweli-Salwin Divide, west Yunnan also discovering it in the N'Maikha-Salwin Divide, north-east Upper Burma growing in pine and mixed forests. At Emu Valley the interested wanderer can see these plants in full flower at the beginning of December along the Noel Sullivan Walk where Burma meets Yunnan areas. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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