

March 2022

Rhodo News

Newsletter 449



**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

Getting the Message Out



We have a number of beautiful self-standing banners we use as decoration at the Garden. They are also available for various meetings and functions outside. This photo was taken at a recent conference at Camp Clayton in Turners Beach (northwest coast) and illustrates how dramatic and effective they can be.

Calendar

Saturday 26 March
Armchair trip to Japan
12noon at EVRG

Saturday 23 April
Autumn Spectacular
Details to follow

Thursday 9 June
Social Get Together
10am at EVRG

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com

General Manager's Report



As much as it might increase visitor numbers the only Emu we have at Emu Valley is Edgar who protects the place from his vantage spot on the balcony. He does not bite when photos are being taken (even when someone tries to hang off his neck)! We recently had visitors wanting to see our Emus. Edgar did not suffice and they got back in their car and took off.

Visitor numbers are up and down. You cannot predict how busy we are going to be. For example last Sunday up until 1pm the place was dead but then we had to call out for help. Tour group bookings on the other hand are still down and with four cancellations for March it hits the hip pocket. Hopefully things will pick up and we are out there looking for new marketing possibilities.

I am hoping we get a good number for our “Harps and All Things Japan” on 26 March. Local Tasmanian Harpists the Glissandros from 12 noon are giving their time to help Emu Valley Garden, as is Murray Giles, whose presentation about Japan is very entertaining. This is what has been circulated on social media —

“A cultural afternoon of exquisite music and international travel.

Local Harpists Glissandros will start the occasion with an hour-long concert, followed by a virtual tour of Japan with Murray Giles. Murray, who is retired from the University of New England has travelled to Japan 46 times leading small groups who wanted to undertake a specialised tour.”

All this for \$20 and afternoon tea is included. Tickets need to be purchased before the event by going online <https://www.trybooking.com/BXNJF> or contact me.

Keep getting the word out — Emu Valley Garden is open for business! We need to encourage more visitors and emphasise that with our commercial kitchen and function/meeting room we can cater for just about any event.

Check out the calendar of events. There are a couple of other ideas in the melting pot:

Armchair Travel to Japan and Harpists – 26th March 2022

Autumn Spectacular – 23rd April 2022

Art Exhibition – 18th June 2022

Christmas in Winter – 16th July 2022

National Lamington Day – 21st July 2022

Spring Festival – 22nd Oct 2022

Daylight Saving Concert – 19th Nov 2022

Happy Autumn! Geoff — 0427722069 geoffreywood@me.com



Around the Garden

Autumn is here and I've already started snapping photographs of the changing colours in the garden and very much looking forward to the weeks ahead. For those who are able to visit, plenty of time to organise a day trip, so pack a picnic and bring the camera—you won't be disappointed.

We always have heaps going on in the garden and the month that's just gone has been no exception. Here is a brief update and also what is to come.

- The last section of the irrigation has now been installed and officially all wired up and on the app, which I can access from my phone wherever I may be. For example the other night it started raining fairly steadily so with one touch of a button, I was able to switch off the watering schedule that was due to start watering at 10pm. So easy! It saves on water as well as over-watering. There will always be ongoing maintenance but it's just like everything else and is now part of the outdoor routine upkeep.
- Due to regular rain/showers/and now consistent irrigation, everything has grown at least a foot longer than normal for summer, so there is plenty of selective pruning taking place and a lot more to follow. We are making a concerted effort to chip where possible and add it back to the garden as mulch.
- Cuttings are slowly filling the hotbed. This time last year it would have been full but have had to try and juggle a few more things this time around. There is a great selection of hybrids as well as species and other plant and shrub varieties amongst the mix. Best time to take these are early in the morning before it gets too hot, and after it has rained or they have been freshly irrigated. All plants harden off at different times, so it really is just a matter of taking the time to walk around and inspect each plant individually.
- The much anticipated moon gate has officially begun. With a lot of time spent on research, seeking correct approval where necessary, and the location firmly locked in, the next step was to find the sandstone in which to construct this magnificent creation. Well, I can tell you now that the sandstone has arrived at the garden and it looks amazing! And just to create even more interest, there is work going on behind the scenes to bring a little unique and quirky pizzazz to the same area, but two separate projects! They say a garden is never complete and this one has so much potential, it's just so hard to switch the imagination off sometimes. ☺
- We are also working on a new addition to the 'Hybrid Hideaway' (kids area) and hope to have it in place before the Easter break which is just around the corner. So come and check it out on your next holiday.
- Now is an ideal time to dig a hole and plant those trees and shrubs that you've purchased but had no idea where to put them! I know this happens to all us mad gardeners because I've learnt from the best, my Dad does exactly this and it appears I have followed suit! While the soil is still warm during the Autumn season and the rain is a little more reliant, now is the perfect time to get planting. So no more excuses!

Will have to leave it there so until next month, happy gardening. Neet 😊





Rhododendron sanguineum ssp. didymum

R. didymum is a low growing late flowering rhododendron from the Salwin-Kiu Chang Divide, eastern Tibet and North West Yunnan. It can be easily recognised by the dark blackish-crimson flowers and small rigid obovate to oblong-obovate leaves. The upper surface is dark green and the under surface covered with a thin white indumentum.

Rhododendron sanguineum var. haemaleum is very similar to ssp. didymium but with deep black-crimson flowers and is a larger plant.

Ssp. didymum was originally collected as a species in its own right but is now a sub-species of R. sanguineum. It was collected and introduced by Forrest in September 1921 and later collected by Rock, Ludlow and Sherriff and Elliot in the same regions growing on moist stony alpine slopes amongst boulders. In western gardens plants may need a little lime to grow their best.

Our plants are growing in the Tibetan section and can be viewed from the top road. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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