

April 2022

Rhodo News

Newsletter 450



**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

EMU VALLEY RHODODENDRON GARDEN

Autumn

SPECTACULAR

SATURDAY 23 APRIL
10am - 3pm

Discounted entry of \$10 (Members and Children are FREE)

- Market Stalls
- Families Welcome
- Entertainment • Plant Sales
- The Garden's Famous Tea Rooms & BBQ

Calendar

Saturday 23 April
Autumn Spectacular

Thursday 9 June
Social Get Together
10am at EVRG

Saturday 18 June
Art Exhibition

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com

General Manager's Report

What a great way to start the second month of Autumn!!! The Demons are undefeated and the weather in Tassie has been magic. Oops — AND Emu Valley is looking fantastic. Fair dinkum, how can you not love the place? Just looking out over the balcony is great, let alone taking a walk or buggy ride to see what has been achieved in 40+ Years.

I am pretty sure I have mentioned this in the past (like 100's of times) but new volunteers are very, very welcome. What is different now is that this is having a real impact on our bottom line. I know Neet has touched on this in her report but please, if you can help out or know of someone who might be interested let me know. A look at the May / June roster for the Tea Room is enough to ring the alarm bells. At present the best scenario might be to only open on certain days — a real backwards step after what we have achieved over the past few years and with tourist and visitor numbers increasing in the region it will not be a good look for Emu Valley. I am not trying to be Mr Doom & Gloom — just being realistic.

As I write this the Federal Election date has yet to be announced. I have been asked what I am doing to seek funding guarantees. Chairperson Ant Dry and myself have regularly been updating the various politicians (Federal & State) along with Council etc. If any announcements are made I will try and get an update out.

Warning to the weather gods — be nice on April 23 ++++ **Autumn Spectacular at Emu Valley!** Speaking of which we need volunteers to drive one of the three shuttle buses, help with traffic control and meet and greet — lots of fun. At 1230 State MP Roger Jaensch will officially do the “Turning on of the Automated Irrigation System” which sees this project now fully completed.

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



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
0427722060 geoffreywood@me.com

On Thursday 21 April, groups of students and families from Children's University (CU) will visit EVRG. Having thoroughly enjoyed past visits, CU are excited to return and continue learning about EVRG, its history and the wondrous experience it offers visitors. CU aims to foster a love of learning, broaden horizons and support aspirations in children and young people. On the left we see Pete Stratford with a CU group last year.



Around the Garden

With only 23 sleeps left as I write this until our 'Autumn Spectacular' day is here, we are extra busy tidying garden beds, pruning back from pathways, brush cutting, spraying for weeds, rock edging, hedge trimming, redirecting water ways, stocking up on plants to sell on our special day, ready for you all to enjoy the entire garden in full Autumn delight!

The garden colour is changing everyday and if this weather continues the way that it has been, people are going to be in for a real treat when you see so many amazing rich colours right throughout the 11 hectares. Bring the family and pack the camera, I promise that you won't be disappointed.

I know I mention our super handy and irreplaceable volunteers a lot so here is a bit of a heads up, I'm about to do it again! Some of our volunteers who have been here for years, their time with us here at the garden is up as they have reached the retiring age and want to enjoy their time doing what they want, when they want, and I completely understand that for sure. The amount of hours they spend here in rain, hail and shine is just phenomenal and I cannot thank you enough for all that you have done and for those who continue to do for EVRG, we will be forever grateful.



One of the latest projects built by one of the volunteers who has left is now complete and you will find it in the 'Hybrid Hideaway' kids area. Great timing for the Autumn Spectacular day and also school holidays that will be here before you know it. See Stella in the picture (left) loving the newest addition. Thank you to all volunteers, both indoor and the outdoor crews.

I had the pleasure of meeting the one and only Pete Tease from Yamina Rare Plants earlier this month and along for the visit was Graham Warwick from Moidart rare plants and garden. They were in Tasmania collecting plants and cutting material to take back, but also delivering plants to some Tassie nurseries while they were here. I was fortunate enough to have a few delivered for the garden that we haven't been able to track down from local nurseries. These will be a great addition to the garden. I hope to have them planted out over the next few weeks, as Autumn is the perfect time to be planting, but you already knew this didn't you? 😊

So that's a wrap. Lots to do and plenty more cuttings to take so make sure you come and say G'day on the 23rd at our Autumn Spectacular day and keep your fingers crossed for perfect weather 😊

Happy gardening, Neet

Happy gardening, Neet





Calycanthus chinensis

How about a change from rhododendrons? As you may be aware, Emu Valley is planted out in different countries where most of the rhododendrons species grow. In these areas we try to grow other trees and shrubs native to these countries, Calycanthus chinensis, known as Chinese sweet shrub, is one such shrub, originally known as Sinocalycanthus chinensis but in 1964 was placed in the Calycanthaceae family of “Allspices” from North America.

This rather rare Chinese native hails from Zhejiang Province in south-eastern China. It is a medium sized deciduous shrub with large broadly elliptical shiny green leaves which turn a soft yellow in autumn. The white 70mm dia. nodding flowers are similar to that of camellia and appear in late spring, early summer. The white flowers edged with a delicate pink have overlapping petals in a shallow cup shape, round a second ring of smaller, narrower pale yellow petals, maroon at the base, protruding to form a tight crown round yellow anthers. Rather spectacular in other words and fairly rare - a must see in fact!

We are growing this plant in southeastern China in Zhejiang Province and I took this photo in December. We just hope the wallabys and possums can't find it until it is well established! *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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PO Box U33 Upper Burnie, Tasmania 7320
