

May 2022

Rhodo News

Newsletter 451



**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



Meet our new casual employee!

This is Alan Maxwell. He is a qualified horticulturalist & golf course greenkeeper with 40 years of experience in all different garden climate regions. Alan has worked in some of the most recognised gardens in the Whitsundays, Northern Queensland, Cook Islands throughout SE Qld, Sydney, NSW, South Coast and now Tasmania.

His interests are photography, karaoke and you better watch out because he is also a medieval sword fighter! I think it would be a safer option to come and say G'day to Alan when he has a brushcutter in hand rather than a medieval sword! Alan's main focus is to keep up with the brush cutting, weed eradication and spraying of pests. Once this is in hand, we can look forward to seeing him put his handy skills and qualifications into action throughout the 11 hectares 😊.

Welcome to the team Alan! Neet

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com

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

- Christmas in Winter – 16th July 2022
- National Lamington Day – 21st July 2022
- Spring Festival – 22nd Oct 2022
- Daylight Saving Concert – 19th Nov 2022

Below are some pics from our Autumn Spectacular wedding display and a visit from the Order of Sovereign Military Knights Templar, Burnie.



Calendar

Thursday 9 June
Social Get Together
10am at EVRG

Saturday 16 July
Christmas in Winter

Thursday 21st July
National Lamington Day

General Manager's Report

For all those local garden lovers, Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is urgently seeking volunteers to assist in maintaining this wonderful icon of the North West. Anyone who is interested in donating a few hours per week or seeking options to their Centrelink requirements, the Garden would love to hear from you. Whether you prefer to work in the gardens, assist in the Tea Room and catering areas or are available to share your knowledge of infrastructure maintenance - any hours you can volunteer would be very much appreciated 😊 Please contact the team at EVRG on enquiries@evrg.com.au, call on 64331805 or contact via the Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden webpage.

Please feel free to use this on your online sites, notice boards or wherever.

This month's newsletter is a wee bit late because I once again have not had the time but it has been good in that I can now give more of a report on some issues.

Where to start?

Dogs or No Dogs — That was the question!

For those who know me it does not take much to realise that I am a real dog person. So I put forward a suggestion that we allow our canine friends with stipulations. After much discussion it was decided not to change our present policy. This being that visitors can bring their dogs into the garden but they have to remain in the vehicle. Being the humble being that I am, I admit that the points raised against the suggestion are pretty valid.

Security

Unfortunately there is an increasing number of people driving into the garden and cheating the system. We even had one couple pinch some of our bark using their shopping bags! Fair dinkum - not exaggerating. You will soon see a notice on social media advising that we are non-profit, privately owned and an entrance fee applies. There are a number of ways people sneak in. This includes saying they are members. Please, we are asking all members who visit to first come to the Tea Room before wandering around your garden, show your membership card and like all visitors from now on receive a stamp confirming your entry.

Renovations

Our plans have finally been approved by the various authorities. A huge thankyou to Chairperson Ant Dry for his perseverance. We will now await an updated costing from the builder and this will go to the Board to deliberate on what we can and cannot afford to do.

The priority is most definitely to upgrade the Tea Room and hopefully increase our gift shop area. No matter what we proceed with there will be a degree of risk as we cannot predict what lies ahead and including when cruise ships will once again be visiting Burnie. This is why we must continue looking for different avenues to increase revenue.

Price Increases

In line with increases for cruise ship visitors the concession entry fee will be moving from \$12 to \$13. Buggy tours will move from \$5 to \$7 including children. I recommended this after discussions with a number of volunteers and also talking to about 30 passengers over the past few weeks.

What Else?

Member Nicole Maxwell has taken on the task of wedding coordinator and has already drummed up new business. Her display in the North American rotunda on Autumn Spectacular Day was brilliant. Keep an eye out for our new wedding packages to be released soon.

Honey / Honey +++ Get Your Honey

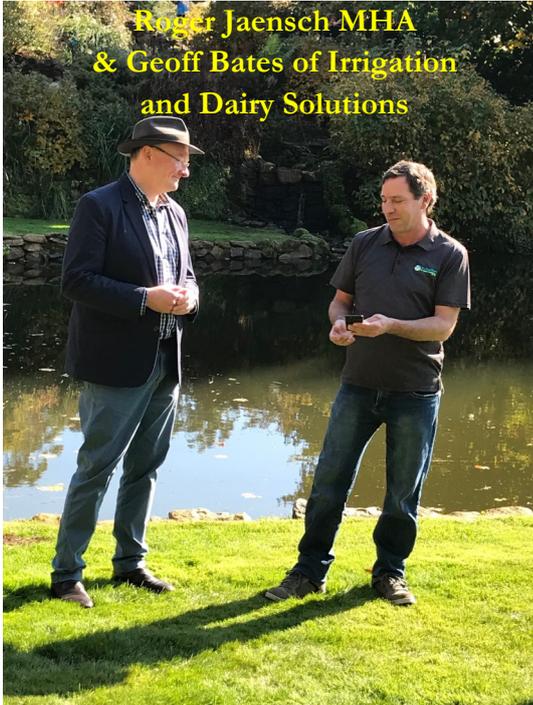
As well as our great jams we sell in the Tea Room you can now purchase Tasmanian Kirkwood Harvest honey. All going well it will be on the counter by the time you have read the newsletter.

Re the jams — keep us in mind later in the year if you have berries you might be able to donate.

Autumn Spectacular

I have only one word to say to everyone ——— 'THANKYOU

Cheers! Geoff geoffreywood@me.com /// 0427 722 060



**Roger Jaensch MHA
& Geoff Bates of Irrigation
and Dairy Solutions**



**Kevin Bates (Volunteer) Helping
Keep Our Wee Water Fall Flowing**

At the official opening of our new automated irrigation system



**Volunteers
Barbara Caple
& Val Eastley**



Eric Weeks — The Rock Wall Wonder

Around the Garden



Thank you to each and everyone one of you who took the time to help out in preparation for the Autumn spectacular day and also for our wonderful visitors and members who came out on a pearler of an Autumn day to support our wonderful garden. THANK YOU ☺. The weather was extremely kind and we had a lot of interest in our variety of stalls that were held both inside and outside in the garden. The day was a great success.

Our outdoor volunteers have been exceptionally busy moving mulch to all areas of the garden as we haven't used straw this year like we have in the past. This was partly due to lack of man/lady power but it's to be expected and was only a matter of time until this caught up with us. With the support of the Busbys from Doctors Rocks over many many years, we hope to be able to continue to collect hay bales but just not in the quantities as we have in the past. We have however been fortunate enough to have several truckloads of woodchips/mulch donated from locals in the area and we are extremely grateful for their generosity.

Just a few notes:

- Cutting of the sandstone for the moon gate has begun! There will be progress updates in the months to come, so watch out for these.
- Autumn is the best time to plant out so I need to get a bit of a list happening to see what needs to be in the ground before I miss out on warm autumn soil.
- There is still some amazing colour throughout the garden so don't miss out on great autumn foliage while you still can.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs now! In my opinion, mass planting is the best to create that wow factor! Also planting in pots rather than directly into the ground is another option if you are limited for space. That way you can move colour around to suit.
- This year we will be leaving our plants in the plant sales area, unlike we have in the past. So if you're in need of something a little different, don't forget to come and check out our plants available. Gift vouchers have also been a popular choice. You can spend them on garden entry, tearoom and plants!



On the left above, you will see two visitors from the Children's University tour last month. On the right are samples of the superb local honey we now stock for sale to bears and other visitors!

That's it for now, so enjoy what's left of the autumn colours no matter where you are reading this from.
Happy gardening, *Neet*



Rhododendron selense ssp. dasycladum

Rhododendron dasycladum was first discovered and introduced by George Forrest in July 1913 from north-east of the Yangtze bend, north-west Yunnan, and later found by others in the same region and also in Sichuan. R. dasycladum was found growing near conifer forests and open rocky scrub. They noted that there were a number of forms, some low-growing compact plants near a metre high, while others were large spreading shrubs to five metres. Of course the height is usually lower in western gardens.

R. dasycladum has now been reclassified as a sub-species of Rhododendron selense. Rhododendron selense ssp. dasycladum has oblong, oval or elliptic leaves, the upper surface dark green, under surface glabrous or with a thin coating of hairs. These plants give a delightful display of funnel-campanulate, white flushed rose flowers with a rash of deep pink spots on the inside of the top petals.

At Emu Valley we have six plants of the compact form and they are now about a metre high, having spread into each other to be quite a spectacular sight. Early October is the time to see them in their full glory in the Sichuan section. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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