

July 2022

# Rhodo News

Newsletter 452



**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](mailto:enquiries@evrg.com.au) Office Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm

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



*Join us once again for our famous*

***Christmas in July!***

***At the Garden July 16th 12-3pm \$35 adults \$25 for children (12 & under)***

**BYO—Bookings essential—[www.trybooking.com/CADFZ](http://www.trybooking.com/CADFZ)  
2-course roast meal. Call Geoff for further info 0427 722060**

## Calendar

**Saturday 16 July**  
Christmas in July  
12 to 3pm at EVRG

**Thursday 21st July**  
National Lamington Day  
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sunday at EVRG

**Saturday 22nd October**  
Spring Festival

See us at: [emuvalleyrhodo.com](http://emuvalleyrhodo.com)

## *General Manager's Report*

### **COVID / COVID Keep Away**

Fair dinkum this should be our Catch Cry — yell it loud. We have been reasonably lucky so far. Let's hope it stays that way and especially with the Tea Room and Function volunteers. We are that light on with numbers that as we re-open on 30 June there are not enough volunteers to help out, without asking people to double up or more on rosters. If there are groups, organisations or simply people you know who might be able to assist please pass on my details.

The garden is looking great and planning is underway to conduct a Volunteer Workshop Day to look at ways we can keep it that way. All areas will be covered —

Catering / Food handling / Coffee machine / Cash register / Buggy driving / Walking Tours / Garden group visitors / Cruise Ships — Once a day has been set a notice will be sent out.

On Wednesday 29 June I will be attending a Cruise Tourism Workshop:

*“This workshop will focus on assisting tourism businesses to better understand how they can work with cruise lines visiting North West Tasmania, ensuring we are delivering high-quality visitor experiences in a COVID-safe way.”*

This is great news — update next month!!!

### **General Manager's Position**

Some months back I mentioned my wish to stand down. I have been asked a number of times when this will be happening. The matter has been discussed at Board level as to the best way to proceed. Whatever path is taken it will be one that helps Emu Valley into the future.

Thus, the short answer is that in the short term you still have me to put up with. 😊

### **Security**

Last newsletter mentioned people not paying. When you visit now you will drive down and come across witches hats and signs. Hopefully this will stop (to some extent) these people — e.g driving down to North America and not coming back to pay or just one or two people heading to the Tea Room to pay and lying about how many were in the vehicle. Not joking — as member John Englund was placing the witches hats for the first time two people drove down and when stopped the conversation was, shall we say, interesting! At least I did not feel like my nose might get a whack as nearly happened on Easter Sunday.

Please, when visiting pop into the Tea Room and show your membership card.

### **Water Leaks**

Fingers crossed the water leaks from copper piping have been fixed. With plumber, plasterer and painter bills the cost will be in the vicinity of \$12,000. Our Insurance Broker, Armstrong's, has been very helpful. Insurance claims are in the process of being submitted. Hopefully no more forced closures, and repairs are not too far off, so our Function Volunteers can get the kitchen pantry and cupboards resorted.

### **Forget Those Extra Kilos**

National Lamington Day is on Thursday 21 July — Indulge at EVRG !!! Put it in your diary!

I'm broken — Marilyn & Beth have placed a restraining order on me — No sample tasting !!! Meanies.

Your broken record here — keep on keeping on your support for Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden.

Geoff — [geoffreywood@me.com](mailto:geoffreywood@me.com) / / / 0427722060



## Two Visitor Letters

### From Karen Dowie:

Hi Geoffrey,

I recently had the pleasure of attending a function at the EVRG on May 30th.

Although the gardens were closed to the public our group was hosted by the beautiful team of volunteers- led by Marylin Jacques and Kate Huett. We had delicious morning tea and gathering in the tea rooms followed by a walk around the gardens.

It was a perfect calm Autumn day - which highlighted and showcased the beautiful gardens! It was a privilege to be able to visit the gardens once again and I know the ladies were appreciative of the opportunity! We all agreed how beautiful the gardens were and what a credit to the hard working volunteers it is!

I sincerely hope your committee has been able to find a way to continue the wonderful work of the EVRG team and it will continue to operate in the future- it is a very appreciated beautiful asset to the community!

Thank you,  
Karen Dowie

### From the Trans Ed room at Hellyer College

(On June 8 we welcomed a team of students from Hellyer College. We had a great time with them and in the short time they were with us cleared an area for a waterfall in Japan and also cooked up some yummy tastes and hopefully there will be further visits. Plans are in place to offer regular work experience both in the Horticulture and Hospitality areas.)

Hello, We would like thank you for inviting us to the garden in the Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens.



We enjoyed participating in the different activities that you had planned for us and we had lots of fun and it was very exciting.

We had lots of fun in the garden doing different jobs here and there. We are proud to say that it was the best time we have had with Geoff and the other volunteers.

We would like to thank you for the day we had with everyone.

Yours sincerely, Trans-Ed  
Class





## Highland Pipers on Tour

Emu Valley's bus recently went on a trip to Geelong.

Ok, actually the Burnie Highland Pipe Band borrowed it. It is great being able to work with other non-profit organisations.

There is not a ring in, in the photo on the left. The 'non highland uniformed' gentleman is Spirit of Tasmania Hotel Manager Simon Cazaly, who is a member of the band!

## How Fortunate We Are

For many years now Emu Valley Garden has not just had the honour of the serving Governor of Tasmania being a Patron, but in so many ways they have each shown their support for us.

It was a pleasure to welcome Tasmania's present Governor, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC and her husband Mr Don Chalmers AO to our magic garden on May 23. Her Excellency was certainly impressed by what she saw and will visit us again at our Spring Festival in October!!!!



*Her Excellency  
The Honourable Barbara Baker  
AC*



*Kevin Betts (A Valued Volunteer) helping to keep our wee waterfall flowing. Sorry about getting your name wrong last month, Kev!!*



*The new path and railing at the location of our abies densa (Himalayan Fir) referred to in Neet's column.*



## Rhododendron sulfureum

Most of the plants in subsection Boothia have yellow flowers, *R. sulfureum* being one such plant. It has a distribution from southeast Tibet through Upper Burma and into west and north west Yunnan, often growing as an epiphyte on cliffs and rocks. It can be a compact rounded or broadly upright shrub to 2m high.

The flower colour ranges from greenish yellow, deep yellow or sulphur yellow, the outside covered in scales and the flowers supported by a large calyx. The leaves are obovate to elliptic, upper surface dark green and shiny, lower surface sometimes glaucous.

*R. sulfureum* was first introduced by George Forrest in 1910 from Yunnan, while other collectors found it in Burma in 1919 and 1953. In cultivation it is a compact or broadly upright shrub to 1 meter high, well covered with bright green leaves.

At Emu Valley we grow a number of plants in the Yunnan section and these are easily spotted from the Noel Sullivan Walk. *Maurie*

*The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:*



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