

August 2022

# Rhodo News

Newsletter 453



**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



## Food Handling Course

*Burnie City Council Officers Karen Welsh and Emily Neal presented a Food Handling Course at the garden on Friday 22 July. If anyone wants a copy of the presentation please contact Geoff. A lot of it is common sense, but it certainly makes you think of all the many things we should be doing, not just in a work environment. Thanks to Burnie Council for showing its ongoing support for Emu Valley. This time by allowing Emily and Karen to give their time. On the right is our own Beth Lockett.*

### Calendar

**Tuesday 16th August**  
Volunteer Workshop  
10.30 to 12.30 at EVRG

**Sunday 21st August**  
Volunteer Workshop  
10 to 12 noon at EVRG

**Sunday 21st August**  
Social Get Together  
From 12 noon

**Saturday 22nd October**  
Spring Festival

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

## *General Manager's Report*

### **WHY DISAPPOINT?**

"I suppose you are going to again mention the need for more volunteers." This was said to me recently when talking about the newsletter. I nearly said no but what the heck!

With the first of 35 Cruise Ships due early November, 29 function bookings over the next 12 weeks, influx of spring season visitor numbers and our Spring Festival on 22 October, you do not have to be Einstein to work out that we simply do not have enough volunteers.

Add the Tea Room roster to all this and you could have bet that I would be yet again screaming out for volunteers. Why not cut back a bit? Simple answer = we need the revenue to keep the garden open.

I really believe that we cannot continue too much longer with our present structure.  
—— 11 hectares with over 24,000 plants AND only one full time employee!!!!

Happy to discuss!

### **INTERNATIONAL LAMINGTON DAY**

This went off really well. We ran out on the actual day which was great. Thanks Marilyn for all the running around. Put 21 July in your diaries for next year. Now we have tested the water, it will be bigger and better. Forget about Big Banana or the Big Spud, Pete Stratford is already thinking about *The Big Lamington* — makes the mind boggle.

### **INSURANCE COVERAGE**

All volunteers will be receiving a copy of what they are covered for, should there be an injury whilst working at the garden. There will be a summary of entitlements along with the policy. Going forward this will form part of the welcome/induction package for new volunteers.

Please, to all of our fantastic members/volunteers over 80 years of age, do not run away. There is no coverage for you and this does not just apply to Emu Valley. It is an understatement to say that:



### **WORKSHOPS**

Spring is fast approaching and before we get the straight jackets out there are going to be two days when we can get together to discuss how we manage things. They will run for a maximum of two hours, with the format being —

- 1) An explanation of what is planned re cruise ships / big events / weddings / the importance of groups to the garden etc.
- 2) Break into specialised groups (maintenance, horticulture, tour guides, tea room, functions) — e.g. rosters / how long to take on tours / what should be said and what is not appropriate
- 3) Tuesday 16 August from 1030 to 1230
- 4) Sunday 21 August from 10 to 12

The two sessions are not restricted to present volunteers, but hopefully will attract people thinking of volunteering.

We will promote the sessions on Facebook, radio, media release etc, seeking volunteers and advising of the two days. Keep those fingers crossed.

**SOCIAL GET TOGETHER**

The Sunday 21 August Workshop will be followed by a barbecue from noon. Our catering team will be supplying the food. BYO drinks.

This is open to all members, volunteers and their families.

**SECURITY**

A reminder to please pop into the Tea Room and show your membership card. A week never goes by without people sneaking in and even when fronted refusing to pay. I know it's a pain, but showing your card might save embarrassment when volunteers chase after you.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES**

Another of my very subtle comments!

Our membership fees are due. This stream of income is so heavily relied upon.

**BECOME A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOURSELF**

**Options:** Single \$35  Double \$60  Host \$70 or \$120 (per base Membership)

*Children are always FREE when with a paying adult*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Name 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment can be made by either Cash, Credit Card or Direct Deposit (BSB: 633-000 ACC No: 186 234 688)

CASH  CREDIT CARD  DIRECT DEPOSIT (Ref: Membership)

DONATION (Tax Deductible)  RENEWAL OF ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

**Note:** Host Membership is the same as an Ordinary Member, plus 4 adult guest entries at any one time when accompanied by member.

Card Number:    Exp: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CCV: \_\_\_\_

Card Holder's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please post completed form to PO Box U33 Upper Burnie TAS 7320 or email to enquiries@evrg.com.au

As you can see, single membership is \$35 and a double \$60. This entitles you to unlimited admissions to the Garden and goes directly into maintenance of our wonderful facility. Extra donations are tax deductible, as we are a registered charity. The Host Membership (single \$70, double \$120) gives you four or eight free admissions for guests accompanying you. And don't forget your member discount on plants!

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

## *Around the Garden*

While I was lucky enough to have the recent school holidays off and not have the frozen early starts like normal, the outdoor volunteer group weren't so lucky. They braved several massive frosts here in the garden, morning after morning and while it made it super hard to get going and warm up, they said it was sure worth being here and able to snap some amazing photographs. Whilst the garden lends itself to an amphitheatre style layout, frosts usually occur here only when its absolutely freezing and normally don't bother us too much, but it just goes to show how cold this winter has been, doesn't it!



Moongate update - the structure has been built off site at our handyman and handylady's home as that's where all of the tools are to create this massive masterpiece. The framework that you can see in the photograph (on the left) will soon be transported to the garden for the reassemble, stage three of the project. We are on target with time and costings. This is going to create further interest in the garden and we can't wait! Well done guys!

Around the outside of lake Grebe (the lake you look directly onto from the balcony), it has had a much needed tidy up. The outdoor crew have spent many hours here weeding, pruning, barrowing in fresh mulch and removing some azaleas that were a bit on the wild side, which really detracted from this area. Looking out from the tearoom now, it has really opened up this area and will allow for the taller avenue of rhodos towards the back of the pathway to really be a standout showcase piece, ready for this upcoming flowering season. Great job team!

Our big leaf rhododendrons are now starting to colour up. It's a pretty special time of the year as this is just the beginning of our flowering, and with blooms being so staggered, there is always something to see no matter what time of the year you may visit. The frosts have knocked around a few of the big leaf blooms last week which unfortunately tends to happen, so some of them have opened from a crisp white petal which quickly turned to a brown petal display. On the plus side, plenty more still to flower so not all is lost. Rhododendron magnificum (as pictured on the right) would be one of my favourite species from the big leaf family, just for the colour alone.

For those who may not know, we now have beanies available for purchase. These will not only keep your ears toasty, but by buying one, you are helping to promote this garden that you are all proud members of! We can even pop them in the post and send them to you, so no one misses out!

Caps and beanies available with our logo as pictured on the kids below.

Members price: \$15.00ea

Non-members price: \$20.00ea

Postage & handling: \$10.00





Modelling our beautiful beanies

Signing off to enjoy a bit of sunshine, so enjoy the last month of winter and bring on springtime sensations!

Neet

## Day of Community Service

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July, Emu Valley was again fortunate to have a group of Tasmanian Uni students and staff spend the day working with us. A big thankyou to UTAS Community Experience Coordinator Vanessa Henry and to EMU Valley’s Steve Locke and Deb & Paul Agar.

Deb summed up the day : *“What an awesome bunch of young and not so young adults. We all had a blast”*

Watch this space for more UTAS Involvement - much appreciated.

Geoff

## What Does Our Horticulture Manager Get Up to Outside???

Roller Blading is such a gentile sport —— No It Ain’t!!!



With Neet are (from left) Di Connelly, Ten Saltmarsh and Rosie Heathcote-Degen.

Back over the June long weekend, Neet was part of her team competing in Adelaide. She’s the scary-looking one on the right in the photo. No wonder our weeds in the garden stand no chance.

PS: Guess who got sin binned?



Some of the UTas staff and students hard at work on our Day of Community Service.



## Rhododendron tsariense

Rhododendron tsariense was first discovered by R. E. Cooper in June 1915 at Pumthang, in Bhutan—later by Ludlow and Sherriff in south Tibet, and Kingdon Ward found it in Assam in 1938. In each case growing on rocky hill sides and in rhododendron and conifer forests.

There are two forms usually found in cultivation: a compact rounded shrub up to half a meter high and wide, and a broadly upright shrub to 1.5 meters high. The small leathery leaves are elliptic or oblong-elliptic, upper surface dark green (the young leaves are covered with tomentum), under side is covered with a thick

woolly, rust-coloured or cinnamon indumentum making a very attractive plant when the white, pink or white tinged pink flowers with or without red spots appear in mid. October. It's a shrub which lends itself to being planted at eye level to view the delightful indumentum.

Our plants at Emu Valley are growing in the Bhutan section of the garden. If you wish to see them, a walk along the middle road is needed, just past a delightful stand of R. maddenii pink form on the left side. *Maurie*

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



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