

December 2022

Rhodo News

Newsletter 456



**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 Office Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm

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

Pete's Christmas Present



Emu Valley's resident poet and Burnie personality Pete Stratford received his well-deserved Life Membership at our AGM in November. He is congratulated here by our General Manager Geoff on the left, and Chairman Ant Dry on the right. Heather and Trevor Walmsley were also awarded life memberships, but were unable to be present.

Calendar

Sunday 18th December

Christmas Get together
At EVRG 1pm

Saturday 11th February

Music Amongst the Rhodos
More info to come.

Saturday 22nd April

Autumn Spectacular
At EVRG

13-15th October

International Conference
At EVRG

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com

General Manager's Report

We have found a space to hold an end of year get together — Sunday 18 December from 1pm. Barbecue and some wine & beer supplied.

As we rush towards the hectic end of year festivities come along and relax and catch up and even go for a stroll around your garden

Thankyou to all those who accepted various positions at the AGM. It was an honour being able to present Pete Stratford with life membership. Unfortunately due to ill-health Heather and Trevor Walmsley were unable to attend and receive their life memberships. We will catch up with them in the near future 😊.

Any Suggestions ???

We will soon have to make a call on replacing one of our two golf buggies. My little mechanical brain tells me it is simply wearing out. It only lasts 4 or 5 trips and has to go back onto the charger. These vehicles are not made for the continuous steep climbs around the garden. Any thoughts about an alternative would be appreciated.

Only a brief report this month. Fingers crossed our volunteer numbers might take a leap upwards soon.

Have a wonderful Christmas, Geoff. 0427722060 // geoffreywood@me.com



Watch out for Scams

In common with other organisations that have websites and Facebook pages, we receive many scam messages. Unfortunately, other people may also receive scam emails that pretend to come from us. Our email address and the names of our voluntary staff are easy to find.

So be wary of any email or message that purports to come from us. Is the spelling bad? Is it a strange or unexpected message? Is the sender address different from usual? Does it ask you to click on a link?

Take the picture of our resident echidna on the left. Do echidnas wear hats? Even at Christmas? Or is it more likely that Neet has doctored the photo????

No Newsletter in January

As usual we take a newsletter break in January. Next issue is February 2023.



Around the Garden with Neet

It's beginning to look a lot like a white Christmas..... this is my attempt of humour as I think Spring skipped us and Winter has been extended! All jokes aside, it is time to wind down and reflect on the year that has past and for some, 2022 has many happy memories and for others it might be a year where it's been a bit of a tough ride and already looking forward to a fresh start. Regardless of which category you fit under, we have had another jam-packed year here at EVRG, with many projects started and completed along with new adventures to be had for 2023.

We are always thinking of ways to add colour in and around the garden especially in our off-peak flowering season. As you are all passionate gardeners, you would all appreciate the beauty of the garden no matter what time of the year, but it's also nice to have more of a draw card for those who are less enthused with lack of flower presentation. You all know what we have here and what we are capable of, so my question to you all, seeing as though this is a garden for all to enjoy, what are some things that we could create or buy or do for the garden space to attract other non-green thumbs into our beautiful space? If anyone has any ideas or suggestions, I would be very keen to hear them. Feel free to scribble me a note or an email and we can throw around some ideas. Just keeping in mind that the garden is presented in geographical arrangement, therefore your ideas must be able to slot into these specific countries ☺. For all weird and wacky ideas please send them to - Juanita.wood@evrg.com.au

Here I go again, talking about the weather, but the unpredictable rain hail and shine of late is making it hard to pick a day to spray and be successful. We'll stick to brush cutting for time being and there sure is plenty of that at the moment, but that's all part of gardening. A garden will never be fully complete, and I am sure you all understand and are nodding your head as you read this. Piles of mulch to be bagged up or loaded up with the tractor and distributed around the garden beds is high on the agenda, but it's a job that anyone can do and any help will be very much appreciated.

I haven't had to run the irrigation for the garden as yet, only up in the nursery, so we have saved on water so far this year. However I am sure it is not too far away and will be a daily occurrence soon enough. There is plenty of irrigation maintenance to check before we fire up the water lines, so will organise a team of us to walk the hills in the coming weeks to make sure all joins are connected and that the sprinkler heads are still intact and filters are clean and ready to go.

Will keep it shorter than normal this time around. A quick shout out to all of the amazing volunteers that are the backbone of the garden. I cannot thank you enough for your time and passion for this place, it doesn't go unnoticed and I couldn't be more prouder of you all. To the wonderful membership and visitors aplenty, thank you for your contribution as we wouldn't be able to fund the projects that we undertake without your continuing financial support.

Have a great Christmas. Stay safe and be merry! Happy gardening, Neet ☺





Rhododendron prinophyllum

Rhododendron prinophyllum is one of a number of deciduous azalea species native to the eastern states of north America and Canada. It was introduced to Europe early in the 1800s, where it proved to be quite hardy.

R. prinophyllum forms a shrub to 3m in the wild, but usually smaller in cultivation. The tubular-funnel shaped rose pink, sometimes white flowers are rather densely glandular on the outside and are produced in flat topped terminal trusses of 5-10 flowers usually at the same time as the elliptic or oblong-obovate dull light green leaves appear.

As R. prinophyllum grows near to and is related to R. periclymenoides in the wild hybrid swarms between these two are bound to happen.

At Emu Valley Garden we grow a couple of forms of this plant, the one in the picture could even be one of these hybrids with R. periclymenoides as it usually has 12-15 deep pink flowers and is more showy than R. prinophyllum, still a delightful plant. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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