

April 2023

Rhodo News

Newsletter 458



**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

Honouring the Walmsleys



Heather and Trevor Walmsley were to be awarded life membership at last year's AGM. We finally caught up with these two wonderful volunteers at our thankyou get-together and made the presentation.

Heather's famous photographic record of the Garden is a marvel to behold!

Calendar

Saturday 22nd April

Autumn Spectacular

At EVRG 10-3pm

Sunday 14th May

Mother's Day Luncheon

At EVRG—book now

Saturday 7th October

Spring Festival

(a week before the conference)

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com

General Manager's (Last) Report

April 5— The last cruise ship for the season!, and I couldn't be there to help out. But as a number of so-called humorous people have said to me: "Geoff Wood Who??"☺ Seriously though, as I write this, my



A cruise ship docked at the Port of Burnie.

last as General Manager, I do so with confidence that we are heading in the right direction to setting the framework that will ensure Emu Valley's future. The assistance and support we are receiving from the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, for example, is fantastic.

On Sunday 2 April we held a thankyou for our volunteers, and it was really encouraging to have such supporters as MHA for Braddon, Roger Jaensch, Burnie Mayor Teeny Brumby and other Councillors come along. It was equally encouraging to see over 50 volunteers enjoying themselves.

Conference 2023: 13 to 15 October

Last month I mentioned that the International Rhododendron Conference we are hosting in October will be in conjunction with our Spring Festival. Wiser people than me pointed out the pitfalls in doing this and the two events will now be held at different times. A detailed report will be in the May newsletter.



Publicity in Canada!

Back in February I met Wendy and Ross Rowe from Canada. This resulted in a wonderful article in the Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society newsletter. Nigel is attaching the article to the emailed copies of this newsletter.

Australian Rhododendron Society Visit

A group from the Australian Rhododendron Society visited us in March. Part of their feedback was as follows:

"We've returned home with cuttings from about 50 different species, far in excess of what we had envisaged would be the tally for this trip. The success is testament to Maurie's extraordinary knowledge of the gardens and its collection, and the time and effort Mary McConnell put in to hunt down plants prior to our trip."

Our Garden has an excellent rhododendron collection that is in large part due to Maurie, and I hope that this exercise is viewed as a way of contributing to his legacy, so that species Maurie and EVRG have sourced are safeguarded at other gardens around Australia.

It also goes without saying that EVRG's Mary McConnell is the sort of volunteer we all hope to attract and retain, and it is lovely to see the rapport and mutual respect she and Maurie have. *If only we could clone her!*

Thank You Geoff

After 9 years at the helm, our General Manager Geoff Wood is stepping down. A heroic effort! While all our volunteers are amazing, Geoff's role was tantamount to a full-time job! What a guy!!!

Around the Garden with Neet



Our Neet is as busy as a bee at the moment!

So no Around the Garden this month. But she'll be back next issue with the latest Garden news and horticultural tips !

ARS Visit

On the right you'll see one of the Australian Rhododendron Society members who visited recently—namely Rob Hatcher from South Australia. He is in the middle, between our own Mary McConnell and Maurie Kupsch.



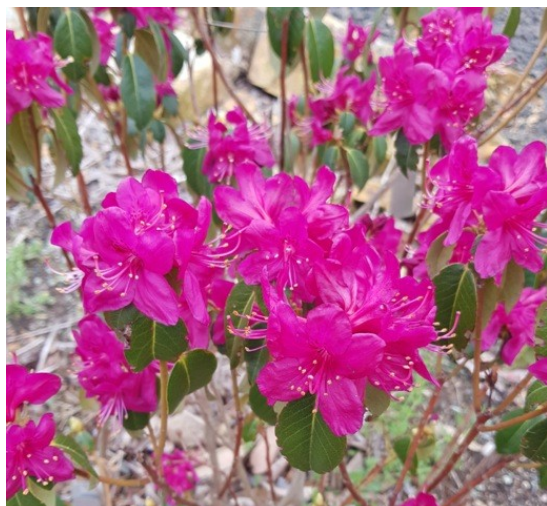
Thank You to Volunteers

Deputy Mayor Giovanna Simpson posted the following on Facebook after the 2 April get together. *“A wonderful afternoon celebrating the volunteers at the garden . I always go on about our City’s volunteers, but these guys are next level. Thank you for all that you do! X”*



Giovanna also posted photos, two of which are shown here. The lady presenting our retiring GM Geoff Wood with a gift is Rita Edwards.





R. concinnum var. *pseudoyanthinum*

R. concinnum has been found growing in West and Central Sichuan, Hubei and Shaanxi. It grows on the foothills of mountains, by streams and along the margins of forests. The species was collected and introduced by Wilson in 1908 and reintroduced in 1990.

Because of the large distribution area quite a number of various forms were collected causing a bit of confusion. Some were placed in synonymy under *R. concinnum* with mainly paler flowers. Two varieties were formed *R. concinnum* var. *benthamianum* having lavender-purple flowers and *R. concinnum* var. *pseudoyanthinum* having deep ruby-red flowers.

R. concinnum varies in height and shape in the wild depending on growing conditions. The dark green leaves are ovate to oblong-lanceolate, usually with yellowish scales underneath, sometimes larger on var. *pseudoyanthinum*. The flowers are widely funnel-shaped 5 lobed, deep or pale purple, purple, deep rosy-purple, purplish-lavender, deep pink, creamy-white tinged purple or white with or without crimson spots, the outside is usually scaly. At Emu Valley we grow a number of different colour forms which can be seen growing beside the Noel Sullivan Walk in Hubei with var. *pseudoyanthinum* growing in the northern corner of the Sichuan area. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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