

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

An Early Spring



After a record warm July, many plants are coming out early. The big leaf rhododendrons usually begin their spectacular displays in August, but began weeks ago! Such as this unregistered cross Maurie created 10 years ago, which we call 'Lady in the lilac dress'.

Calendar

Saturday 7th October Spring Festival Friday 13-15th October ARS Conference

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com



From the Board

Chairman's Holiday

I have been away from most of June, all of July and will return on 8th August. There is little to report from me for this month's newsletter. I shall have much more to report on in the next newsletter.

Just a few reminders:-

Australian Rhododendron Society (ARS) Annual Conference

Yet another reminder that this conference is to be held at the Garden from Friday 13th October through Sunday 15th. Remember, this is a prestigious event, and the invitation to host it should be seen as a compliment to the Garden and testament to the years of hard work put in by all our volunteers. Thanks to Geoff Wood and Nicole Maxwell for initiating and co-ordinating this in conjunction with the ARS. Please register to attend and support this great opportunity.

Spring Festival – 7th October.

Please keep in mind that one of our two main fund-raising events is approaching -7th October - it will be upon us sooner than we think.

Renovations - internal

The expected start date of 21st August is still looking good, in fact the builder may be able to do some work before that date (we have a function on 19th August so the main function room will not be touched until after that). We shall keep you updated.

Renovations - external

Members will have noticed that the renovations to the plant store have been started. The front has been changed and the roof is higher (to meet building standards). The alterations will be completed very soon. *ANT DRY Chairperson*



Volunteering at EVRG

Hello from the Volunteer Department and welcome to another volunteer profile.

Meet Leonie, one of our many wonderful volunteers. Leonie was looking for activities to do once she had retired from work. She attended a Burnie City Council volunteer information session and happened to run into Geoff Wood. He suggested that she should come and volunteer at EVRG rather than for the Burnie City Council. Leonie decided to do both. She now divides some of her time between welcoming cruise ship passengers and doing visitor information at the museum for the council and being part of the team at EVRG. At the garden, Leonie started out tour guiding, which she still does occasionally, but then she was asked to help out in the tea room when another volunteer was out of action, and she has been a valued member of the tea room team ever since.

Leonie enjoys the interaction with the other volunteers at the garden. As a gardener, she appreciates the beauty and diversity of our garden. She loves meeting people from all over Australia and around the world and being able to share her local knowledge with them by giving great tourist information and travel suggestions.

If there is anyone out there who would like to learn more about volunteering at EVRG, just make contact with me at <u>volunteers@evrg.com.au</u>. I would love to hear from you, and you would be doing the garden and yourself a great favour. To all our current volunteers, you are awesome, and our garden is a better place because of you. Regards to all, *Meredith*.

Around the Garden

Welcome to the last month of winter.....my least favourite time of the year as I am a cold blooded creature and I need the sun to function, however there are still plenty of things ticking along nicely so nothing to be too concerned about.

It looks to me as though Spring is coming early, despite the icy breeze that's still blowing. Flowering plums are out, our big leaf rhododendrons have been flowering for the last few weeks but are all at staggered stages with plenty more yet to bloom, along with many Spring flowering bulbs. We had an exceptionally wet June but overall has been a mild Winter. Having said that, the wet month didn't allow us to spray as many applications of mancozeb for petal blight as I would have liked.

Some maintenance tasks can't possibly be followed through if things such as weather doesn't permit us to. Mancozeb is something that we aim to spray with to avoid or lessen the blow of petal blight around the month of June and not to mention it is more than a one treatment plan. We have however sprayed for petal blight once last month but with the wet /dewy conditions of late, it has made it near impossible to get any more than one application on. We are doing the best we can with the conditions that we are dealt with and hope for a second application once we get a dry and fine day. Some things such as this just can't be helped. I am sure we will still get a wonderful flush of brilliant colour come August.

Hydrangea pruning has begun and this time around I might make some cuttings from the offcuts. It could be a mixed bag of colours once they are available for sale but who doesn't love a good surprise?

The moongate is progressing nicely too. The river rock that is being used to create a decorative effect is a little time consuming, again in this kind of weather, but the finished product excites me! Well done moongate team!

Continuing on from my previous newsletter, where I made mention of planting out, Trevor and Maurie have now found new homes for a total of 218 plants. Another mammoth effort from these two who must have one leg longer than the other to deal with the steep banks. Well watered in now I'd say!

Plant sales area is getting a much needed face lift. We are still going to keep it simple but classy and inviting. We are wanting people to feel like the plant sales area and tearoom are connected, which at the present stage it doesn't. People are confused where and how to pay for plants so by the time we are finished, we hope it all flows together nicely and can also be a place to sit and take a break amongst it all.

Ongoing jobs:

- drain and sump cleaning
- woodchip pile is becoming smaller but still plenty of areas to cover, great work team getting this moved as quick as you have
- ♦ pruning
- ♦ track maintenance
- man fern frond removal bit of a mission in the next couple of weeks to get stuck into a hard to get to area cut, drag out and mulch.

Upcoming jobs:

- fertilise some areas
- painting repaint and freshen up bridges and garden structures where needed
- spraying for thrip when it starts to warm up a bit
- brush cutting and lawn maintenance
- spraying of weeds etc. Pressure hose slate in Japan, teepee and hop scotch in kids area and stairs leading down to the car park.

Bring on some slightly warmer weather and hope to see you around the garden soon with new changes to be seen and enjoyed by everyone.

Happy Gardening, Neet



Rhododendron ungernii

Rhododendron ungernii is one of the few European species native to North- East Turkey and the Caucasus Mountains where it can be found growing in mixed Abies, Picea and Beech forests.

This species was discovered by Baron Ungern-Sternberg in 1885 in the Artvin region, north-east Turkey growing with its close relative R. smirnowii and first introduced in 1886.

The funnel-campanulate flowers which can be pale rose, pink or white with or without pale green spots are produced in large trusses of 20 or more flowers.

Leaves can be oblong-oblancolate or obovate to 25cm long and 7 cm wide, the upper surface dark green and glabrous, lower surface covered with a thick, woolly, fawn or white continuous indumentum.

At Emu Valley you may need to take a cut lunch if you wish to visit R. ungernii as the single plant is growing near the water tanks on the western side of the garden. The trip is worthwhile though as Nepal is the country to the north from where you can view the extent of the garden from the highest point. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododen-



dron Garden is proudly spon-



















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PO Box U33 Upper Burnie, Tasmania 7320