

August 2023

Rhodo News

Newsletter 462



**Sustainable
Tourism**
Accredited
Business

Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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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: emuvallleyrhodo.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 volunteers@evrg.com.au. 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.*



Rhododendron ungueri

Rhododendron ungueri 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-oblanolate 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. ungueri 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-



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PO Box U33 Upper Burnie, Tasmania 7320