

Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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Chairperson: Ant Dry Newsletter Editor: Nigel Burch

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

On Track With The Renovations



Our builders assure us that the renovations will be finished on time, well in advance of our Spring Festival.

Calendar

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

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com



From the Board

Renovations - internal

The renovations started on time. The builder moved on site on Monday 21st August and within two days we had new doorways, old doors bricked up, and walls and counters ripped down. The place is looking very messy (as does any building site), but the bones of the new space are there, and it is going to look very good when it's finished.

The cabinet makers, window tinters flooring specialists, the plumbers and the electricians have all been in and will re-appear as required. It's all happening at the EVRG. The builder assures us that the job will be complete by late September, in plenty of time for our first event this Spring on 7th October.

Renovations - external

These too, are continuing and when we open our visitors will be greeted with a wonderful splash of colour and a huge array of greenery.

Access to site

Please remember though, that this is a construction site. It may be tempting to come and have a sticky-beak, but please resist the urge. For insurance purposes, we must restrict access to staff (including garden volunteers) and trades people. The gate may be left open, but this is only to allow access to authorised people.

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.

One of our main fund-raising events is coming around again. On 7th October we celebrate the Spring Festival. This will double as our "opening event", as it will be first time we host visitors at our re-furbished site. By the time this goes to press we will already have held our first organising committee meeting but anyone wishing to assist with organising will be welcome. Please phone me on 0400 841 011.

Cruise ship planning / experience / slight change

The first Cruise ship of the season will be docking in Burnie on 19th November. We are planning to hold a pre-season briefing on Friday 27th October at the Garden at 10 a.m. Anyone with any suggestions to make on the running of these visits, please attend and put in your tuppence worth. This is the only way we learn how to improve the experience we provide the visitors.

Just putting one suggestion out there: One way to make the day easier on volunteers is to end the shuttle bus service. It would be replaced by the tour buses that already go to the City Lookout, Guide Falls, the Emu Valley Rhodo Garden, and then Hellyer Road. These bus operators are keen for us to do this too, as they are trying to fill their buses.

Doing this we will lose very few, if any, visitors. The advantage is that we would have to find six fewer volunteers (3 drivers, 2 people at the City Centre, and one cashier taking entrances fees). We may even get more revenue as the bus operators have agreed to pay us for every person on the bus, and not only for those who visit the garden.

This would free up 6 volunteers and allow us to lighten the burden on the others so that we can concentrate on giving our visitors the best experience they could get!

It is especially important as there is one week in January where we have 9 cruise ships in 8 days. Enough to drive any volunteer nuts. Think about it and let me know how you feel.

Event organiser

We are hoping to employ an event organiser. This person would be responsible for overseeing the organisation of the two main fund-raising events of the year, the Spring Festival, and the Autumn Spectacular, as well other events that may arise. They would also be expected to find sponsorship opportunities, sufficient to cover both his/her costs and to contribute to the garden's revenue. They would be expected to manage the PR and social media in relation to events. They would manage the retail area and order and control stocks.

A more detailed job description is available to applicants on application.

This opportunity is open to members only until close of business on Friday 15th September. If there are no suitable candidates for the position at that point, the position will be publicly advertised. If you are interested in this position, please send a CV to me on antdry@bigpond.com.

Café Manager

We are also looking to employ a café manager. This would be a person with proven experience in the field. His/her duties will include:- menu creation and design, menu costing, ordering and control of inventory, vendor relationships, quality control, OH&S compliance, market trend research, liaison with the events management team and team direction. The person should be familiar with HACP procedures and protocols. They would be expected to maximise the yield of the café area. A more detailed job description is available to applicants on application.

This position is in addition the positions already occupied by the wonderful ladies in the kitchen and tearoom. The idea is to reduce the burden on these incredible people by not overloading them with stuff that is relatively boring but essential. The job's main purpose is to ensure that our volunteer ladies are not overburdened. This opportunity is open to members only until close of business on Friday 15th September. If there are no suitable candidates at that time, the position will be publicly advertised.

If you are interested in this position, please send a CV to me on antdry@bigpond.com.

ANT DRY

Chairperson & Acting General Manager.



Volunteer Profile—Bethwyn

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

Meet Bethwyn. One of our many hard-working garden volunteers. Bethwyn has been at the garden for about 3 years. She was looking for a volunteer position to fulfil her Centrelink obligations and heard about us through a family acquaintance. She works two days a week at the garden in all weathers. Bethwyn really enjoys being outside in the garden. She says that it feels like another world when you are in the garden. It does not matter what is going on in your life or what jobs are waiting for you at home. You just get out in the garden and forget about everything but what you are doing. It is very therapeutic. She is always kept busy, whether it be weeding, raking paths, cutting back blackberries, pruning and general tidying. She has amazing mountain goat like abilities and goes up slopes that would put someone half her age to shame. Gardening certainly keeps you fit! She enjoys the wonderful rapport and camaraderie

that exists between the volunteers and says that all the volunteers get along really well together.

Thanks, Bethwyn, for all your great work. 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>. Regards to all, *Meredith*

Around the Garden

It looks as though the call last month for an early Spring was pretty much on the money. A lot of lovely colours throughout the garden, but with much more to come, so please don't think you are missing out.

While the garden remains closed to the public due to major renovations, the outdoor crew are taking full advantage of being able to make extra noise on the tools and are kicking goals. We have priority to have the garden looking it's best for the upcoming Rhododendron conference as well as our Spring Festival in October, and we are all doing as much as we can every day that we are here. There has been no slacking off just because the gates are closed, and soon enough you will all be able to see the effort that has gone into the last few weeks (which feels like months).

It was suggested to me that perhaps for this month that instead of a page full of words, that I show you all a pictorial edition instead. So here it is, enjoy ©

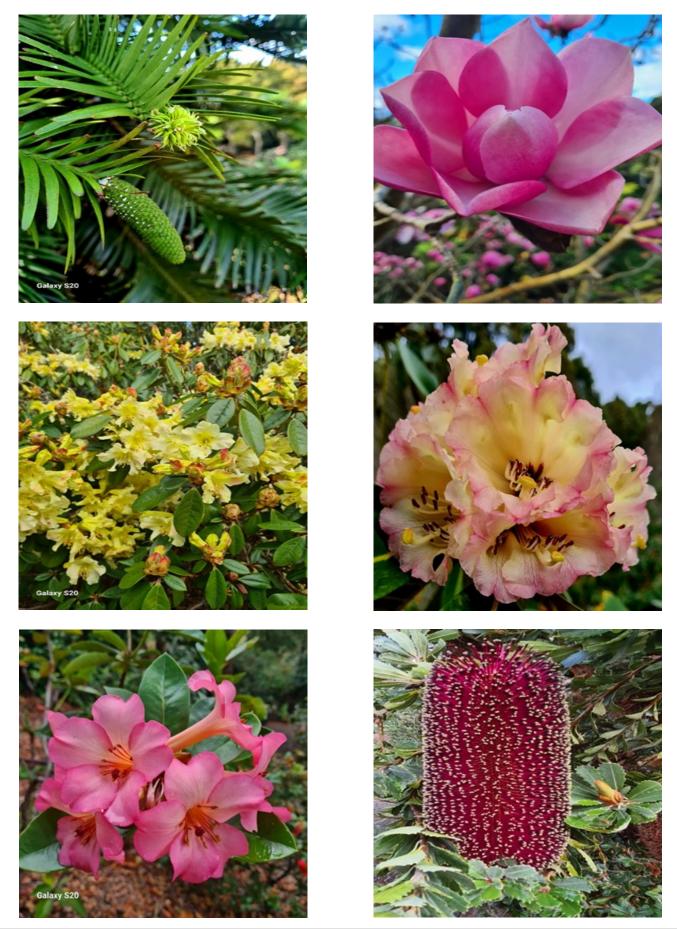
Happy Gardening, Neet











September 2023



Rhododendron calendulaceum

If your taste is for an easy-to-grow deciduous azalea species, R. calendulaceum is well worth a try. In cultivation this species will grow from 1.2 to 1.8 meters high, well branched and cover itself with tubular-funnel shaped yellow, orange or red flowers just as the leaves start to emerge. The flowers appear from terminal buds in loose trusses of 3-8, the stamens can be 3 times longer than the corolla tube. The leaves are elliptic, oblong-obovate or lanceolate, upper surface dark green and sparsely pubescent, under surface pale green and sometimes covered with minute hairs. R. calendulaceum has a wide distribution from southern Pennsylvania, through West Virginia to North Carolina and

Georgia where it can be found growing along the banks of streams, on hillsides and in undergrowth making a wonderful display at flowering time. It is hard to say when it arrived in Europe perhaps as early as 1750 – 1800.

At Emu Valley Garden we had one or two plants very early though not in their country of origin, but as the American section was cleared many plants have been planted there. They start to flower from mid October onwards. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:





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