

April 2024

Rhodo News

Newsletter 469



**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

The Drought Breaks!



The first Tuesday in April brought 47mm (nearly two inches!) of rain to break our summer drought. It was welcomed by all, as you can see! We never realised wombats could dance!

Calendar

Saturday 13th April
Autumn Spectacular
10am—3pm

Thursday 25th April
ANZAC Day
Garden opens from 12.30pm

Sunday 12th May
Mothers' Day

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com

Chairperson's Report



AUTUMN IS HERE!!!!!!!

Definitely my favourite time of the year for the garden. We may be a Rhododendron garden, and our Rhodos may be magnificent when they bloom, but very little beats the Garden in its full Autumn colours.

Come and celebrate this wonderful time of the year with us this Saturday 13th April, when we are open from 10 to 3 to showcase our Spectacular Garden.

FUN FACT ABOUT OUR JAPANESE FISHERMAN

On the Island in the middle of the Japanese Sea, at the bottom of the garden, we have a statue of a Japanese fisherman. He is sitting contemplatively fishing, with a fish on the end of his line. He is a great feature, and the visitors all love him.

We had some Japanese visitors recently who were delighted with him, but informed us, with very straight faces, that he was not in fact Japanese – his clothing and hat were Vietnamese. Woops! It appears we have a problem with illegal immigrants.

CORE VALUES

We have received encouraging feedback on our quest to define our core values. I attach once again the sheet of key words for members to consider.

Please circle your five top key values and return the sheet to the office or to me at antdry@bigpond.com.

Initial findings on Core values will be published in next month's newsletter.

DIRECTORS POSITION VACANT

Once again, I am calling for anyone interested in serving on our Board of Directors. We are specifically looking for a person skilled in sales and marketing.

Anyone interested in the position should contact us on enquiries@evrg.com.au

UPCOMING EVENTS / DATES TO KEEP OPEN

13 April – Autumn Spectacular 10-3

25 April – ANZAC Day – open from 12.30 only

12 May – Mother's Day.

June – Wednesday Winter Warmers

July – a Gin and Jazz evening – date to be finalised.

Enjoy April!

ANT DRY

Chairperson & Acting General Manager

0400 841 011 antdry@bigpond.com



Around the Garden

As I am preparing this for the April addition of the newsletter, it has FINALLY started to rain. Fingers crossed for a regular rainfall from here on in! I can't remember a summer (and now we are well into Autumn) quite so dry and it's not much fun!

I have spent a bit of time this week amongst the vireyas as I have been taking more cuttings. For those that haven't been to see our collection of these gorgeous tropical rhododendrons, they are in bloom now and have produced a perfect amount of cuttings for me to take and add to our back up collection, as well as stock to sell in about 4 years time.

The outdoor crew suggested at the last BBQ get-together to pick a day to all work together in one area and tackle the not so pleasant jobs, as we could all get stuck into it and have most of it done in a day if we work as a team. This has now eventuated and is working a treat! A few Tuesdays working on blackberry infested sections and being scratched to smithereens and then another Tuesday working amongst 'Man Fern Gully' where we pruned the man fern fronds back from the walking track from one end to the other. It is a great opportunity for everyone to work together and to also work with others that they wouldn't normally work along side, plus further their skills while having a chat and getting the work done. It's a win-win for everyone 😊

Mary has taken a record number of species that need cuttings taken and I can happily say that I have found every single one of them, and they are now growing on the hotbed. Some are only a few individual cuttings, others a few punnets. I took what I could from the sad plants so fingers crossed we have a good strike rate. Still have more cuttings to take but definitely filling the hotbed nicely.

Plant sales area is still looking great and attracting many locals having repeat visits which is fantastic. Pots are watered daily and we haven't had any pest damage so far, so I am happy with this win.

Mulch is still coming in by the truck load and has been an extremely generous donation which we are very grateful for. Any areas that have been sprayed or weeded and needs a quick 'pick me up' is exactly where any of this mulch can be unloaded.

We are still having possum issues. Thinning them out isn't as easy as thinning the wallabies out! We will just have to persevere and set more traps. Even then when we catch them, we still need to relocate them. Very time consuming not to mention heart breaking when you look around to see the damage that they have done. We have already spent thousands on clearing the bush line so that over hanging branches are now no longer their ticket into the garden, so we will just have to continue to do the best we can with the resources that we have.

That's it for this month as I have plenty to do in preparation for the Autumn spectacular festival, so I hope to see a lot of familiar faces around the garden next weekend.

Neet 😊

Horticultural Manager



Most of the outdoor crew, mulching man fern fronds during our working bee.



Rhododendron semibarbatum

Here is a rather unique, although not a very showy rhododendron from the wooded mountains of Honshu., Shikoku and Kyushu Japan. The Japanese plant collector Tschonoski discovered and first introduced this species around 1870 and by Wilson in 1914 when he sent seed to the Arnold Arboretum.

R. semibarbatum forms an upright bushy shrub 0.6 – 2 m high in the wild but usually half this height in gardens. The branchlets are pubescent glandular with long stalked glands, the leaves are elliptic- ovate, the upper surface dark green, the under surface pale green. The margins are covered with small bristles and flower buds are produced crowded underneath these leaves at the ends of the branchlets, and appear at the same time as the leaves.

The rotate-campanulate flowers are small 1.5-2 cms wide white, white flushed pink with red spots at the base of the lobes, the stamen are partly covered with white hairs. The flowers tend to

be lost underneath the leaves. These plants are more for the enthusiast collector than the home gardener.

Maurie

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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