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Rhodo News

Newsletter 471



**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



Some of the local college students have been helping out on our western hillside. Photo by Neet.

Calendar

July/August
Wednesday Winter Warmers

27th July
Christmas in July!

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com

Chairperson's Report



WINTER

June and July have traditionally been our quietest months of the year. It's winter. The weather is poor, and the flowers hide their blooms. Visitors generally stay at home near their fires. The garden drips with rain and the critters breed happily.

This year things have improved though:-

- We have hosted “winter warmer’s” at lunch times on Wednesdays. There were supposed to be held only during June, but have proved to be so popular that we have extended them though to August.
- We held a Sunday brunch on Sunday 7th July
- We have had a number of garden clubs visit
- We have been hosting and will continue to host the Coastal Art Group who have been holding sketching classes at the Garden.

Come and visit us – there is always something to do and see at the Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden.

ANT DRY

Chairperson & Acting General Manager
0400 841 011 antdry@bigpond.com



Inside the plant hut. (Another of Neet's photos.)

Around the Garden

It may not be raining here like your typical winter, but the relentless frosty mornings make it bloody hard to bend over to clean out water ways, when you're struggling to move with 10 layers on! Now there's a funny image for you all to think about! I'm not really complaining, the sunny days to follow have been completely worth it—just not used to this kind of winter.

All the waterways between each lake are now flowing again and the platypuses are loving the fresh top up. Last week while I was cleaning out the drains between lake pearl and the Japanese covered bridge, I was lucky enough to see 3 platypuses, all in a pond of their own. They sure are a great time waster and its pretty amazing that we have them here in the garden and see them on a daily basis. Pretty spoilt really!



You may have seen on our facebook post that at the beginning of June we had students from TAFE's Certificate III in Horticulture studies in to start working on their very own patch here at EVRG. The students get an opportunity to practice practical skills aligned to their learning outcomes in our gardens and we get to see their amazing work unfold.

This year the students get their very own patch to do something amazing with - we can't wait to see how it unfolds! A fab collaboration with [Tas TAFE](#)! We will keep you posted with their progress!

Jobs to do this month:



If you haven't done so already, get stuck into pruning your hydrangeas. Don't let them go to waste though. If you have a spare gap that you want to try and fill, no need to get too fussy, just whack the off cuts into your spare space straight into the ground and Voilà. 9 times out of 10 they will strike just like that 😊



Now is a great time to transplant / relocate deciduous trees and shrubs while they are dormant, as it will allow them plenty of time to settle.



It's also a great time to prune roses and fruit trees while they are also dormant. If you don't get them all tidied up in July, you still have August up your sleeve.



Perhaps an inside 'green thumb' job is more your thing—indoor plants need some lovin' too. Come and see what we have here to help you achieve this indoor task. We have new pots that have just arrived along with everything you need from indoor potting mix, indoor food and of course indoor plants (just in case you're in need of a few more to add to your already huge collection). The plant hut is open from 10 to 3 daily.

Happy gardening,

Neet (Horticultural Manager)



Rhododendron griffithianum

This species is found growing from East Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and into North East India in conifer, rhododendron and moist deciduous forests, where it can grow to a broadly upright tree to 12-15 meters high. Leaves are oblong-lanceolate, oblong-elliptic or oblong-oval 10-30cms long, upper surface dark green matt, under surface pale glaucous green, and the stems and branches have smooth, brown, flaking bark.

The large, widely campanulate flowers can be white or white flushed pink with a yellow or pink flush inside towards the base, sometimes fragrant and presented in lax trusses of 3-7.

This beautiful species was collected by W. Griffith in Bhutan. J. D. Hooker also collected it in Sikkim in 1849 and introduced by him in 1850, many other collectors finding it

throughout the eastern Himalayas. *Rhododendron griffithianum* caught the eye of many hybridizers and a large number of delightful hybrids have it as one parent, as when teamed with *R. fortunei* to produce the many 'Loderi' crosses. At Emu Valley we grow a number of plants of this species in Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim areas on the western side of the garden. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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