

September 2024

Rhodo News

Newsletter 473



**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 Glory of Spring



Come and see R. chrysodoron and the other glorious spring blooms!

Calendar

12th October
Spring Festival

9th November
Birthday Bash

6th December
Cruise ship season begins

See us at: emuvallleyrhodo.com



Chairperson's Report

IT'S SPRING!!!!

Spring is sprung, the grass is riz.
I wonder where the birdies is.
They say the birdie's on the wing,
But that's absurd,
The wing is on the bird. (courtesy Tom McCallum)

It's still cold but some of our Rhodos and the cherries are flowering – way too early. All very confusing. Climate change has a lot to answer for!

WILD WEATHER

The first weekend in September has provided us with some wild weather. Waves have been splashing over the docks in Burnie, and there have been widespread power outages throughout Burnie and the surrounds. At the Garden, we've been spared the brunt of it despite having some trees down and a bit of fence damage.

NEW BALUSTRADES

We have won a grant specifically to fit a glass balustrade to the balcony. This will replace the wire balustrade we have had in place for decades.

Glass balustrades are very safe (children will not be able to use the wire to climb over the balustrade) and will vastly improve the view of the garden (we won't be seeing it through a cage) and will improve the experience that we and our visitors have. They will make the function room look even more attractive and very modern.

If any members have any concerns in relation to this, please let us know immediately. If there is widespread concern over the proposed change, we have the option to return the funds – which are available for this project only.

MEMBERSHIPS

Thanks for all members who have already renewed your memberships, the support is really appreciated. For those who have yet to re-new, please feel free to do so now. Membership rates are:- \$ 35 single, \$ 60 double, \$ 70 host.

Our bank details are BSB 633 000 Account number 186 234 688

UPCOMING DATES

Throughout September – Despite it's now being Spring, our popular Wednesday Winter Warmers will continue! It's still cold after all!!

12th October – Spring Festival.

9th November – Birthday Bash – a fun event for all the family, details soon.

6th December – start of the Cruise Ship season.

To once again quote the great Molly Meldrum – “do yourself a favour” and come up to the Garden. You'll be so glad you did.

ANT DRY

Chairperson & Acting General Manager

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Around the Garden

Welcome to our Spring edition, where if you looked over the balcony from the café, you would be right in thinking Spring was here a good month ago! But don't panic, there is plenty more still to bloom, it just looks and feels like everything is ahead of schedule....completely in the hands of mother nature.

I am going to keep it short and sweet this time around, heaps to do and I think the photos in this edition really do speak for themselves....and it's only just begun! As it's the change of season, please enjoy these photos that I've taken around the garden during the last few weeks. Happy Gardening! 😊

Neet (Horticultural Manager)



Magnolia campbellii



R. arboreum cinnamomeum



R. 'Burnie Chameleon'



R. irroratum 'polka dot'



Rhododendron arboreum ssp. arboreum 'Stowport'

This month I thought I might expand on this fine example of an arboreum. It was covered in last month's newsletter, showing the impressive display of "Stowport" brightening any dull winter's day at Emu Valley. The very existence of this plant we owe thanks to the late Dr. Noel Sullivan. Noel was an authority on all things Rhododendron and I am a product of his enthusiasm and patient teaching. In his lifetime he became a world renowned authority. He presented a Baron von Meuller Memorial address in 1997 in Melbourne.

On a trip to Sikkim in the Himalayas he came across a stand of R. arboreum ssp. arboreum and noticed an interesting form of this species. Some of the seed found its way into the cuff of his trousers, which he successfully raised to become the much loved plant we now enjoy. He registered this plant in 1991 as 'Stowport' coming as it did from his extensive garden at Stowport not far from Burnie. So there you go – that is how this particular star was born!

Now for the statistics as recorded in its registration. Flowers 37 in the truss, campanulate 50 x 35 mm vivid red paling to near white at the base, nectaries black-red. Leaves narrow elliptic 170 x 30 mm with plastered silver indumentum below.

Maurie

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



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