

November 2024

# Rhodo News

Newsletter 475



**Sustainable  
Tourism**  
Accredited  
Business

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

## *What a Beautiful Balustrade!*



*Our main-building balcony has had a major improvement, thanks to the initiative of board member Cyndia Hilliger and a grant from our ever-supportive Burnie City Council. The wire fence has been replaced with a clear high-quality glass balustrade. Check it out next time you drop in!*

### Calendar

**Monday 25th November**  
Cruise Ship Pre-season Briefing  
*At the Garden at 10.30am*

**Sunday 1st December**  
AGM  
*At the Garden at 3.30pm*

**Friday 6th December**  
Cruise ships begin

See us at: [emuvalleyrhodo.com](http://emuvalleyrhodo.com)

## Chairperson's Report

### TASMANIAN TOURISM AWARD

We have been named as finalists in the Tasmanian Tourism Awards. This means that we have been judged by the Tourism Industry Council of Tasmania to have “reached the highest national industry benchmark standard for excellence, innovation and sustainability in Tourism.”

It follows a lengthy process during which we had to submit a written application along with photographs. The bulk of the work was done by Sophie – in addition to all the mountains of work she already does. Thanks Sophie, an excellent job, and a tribute to you! More than that, it is a tribute to the founders of the garden and the volunteers who through their amazing efforts and dedication have turned what was a barren wasteland into one of the finest Gardens on the planet. We all have much to be proud of. The winner of the award will be announced on 8<sup>th</sup> November, and while winning would be good, being a finalist is sufficient recognition to allow us to boast loudly and proudly!!! Congratulations to us all.

### SPRING FESTIVAL

Our Spring Festival was another wonderful day. We had large numbers of visitors, many of them first time visitors. The stalls were all happy with the crowd, the music was well received, and everyone had a fun time. The weather even behaved itself – thankfully, as it had rained all day on the Friday! We took over \$ 10,000, a record!

### OCTOBER BLOOMS – “go fund me pages.”

Last month we announced that we would launch a number of “go fund me” pages and listed a few projects that we would use to seek funding. To test the system we launched the one we thought would be the most appealing, the “Protecting our platypus” page. We are waiting to see how successful this is before launching any further pages. So far reaction has been extremely muted, so we watch this space with interest.

### NEW BALUSTRADE

Thanks to a grant from the Burnie City Council, our new glass balustrade has been fitted, and it looks magnificent. It has improved the outlook from the café and does an excellent job elevating the whole building. It also provides some protection from the wind – an unforeseen advantage, and our visitors are now warmer and snuggler when sitting on the balcony. This was an initiative of board member Cyndia Hilliger. Thanks Cyndia.

Once again, thanks to the Mayor, Councillors, and the Burnie City Council for providing the bulk of the funding for this project.

### CRUISE SHIP PRE-SEASON BRIEFING

The first cruise ship will arrive in Burnie on 6<sup>th</sup> December. In preparation, we shall be holding a pre-season briefing on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November at the garden at 10.30 a.m. Please will anyone interested and/or prepared to assist this year please attend.

### 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. Memberships are on a pro-rate basis, as the year progresses. Members renewing now need only pay 75% of the fees above. Our bank details are BSB 633 000 Account number 186 234 688.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 3.30 p.m. at the Garden. I would encourage all members interested in the future of the Garden to attend. There will be discussion about our future and the Directors will be explaining our current situation and providing a map forward.

Two of our Directors (Neet Lowry and Cyndia Hilliger) are up for re-election, and one (Ian Jones) is up for confirmation. There are two vacancies. We are calling for nominations for directors. Nomination forms can be requested from Sophie at [enquiries@evrg.com.au](mailto:enquiries@evrg.com.au) or collected from the office. Specifically, we are seeking Directors who are in a position to assist with Marketing and Finance and who can demonstrate how their involvement with other volunteer organisations has led to an increase in revenue. Nominations, signed by two members and the proposed candidate, must be received at the office by close of business 10 days before the AGM, or by 4.00pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

*Ant Dry*

*Chairperson & Acting General Manager*

0400 841 011 [antdry@bigpond.com](mailto:antdry@bigpond.com)

### NEW WEBSITE

We have a new website,  
[www.emuvalleyrhodogarden.org.au](http://www.emuvalleyrhodogarden.org.au)  
This is a magnificent site, and all are encouraged to take a look.  
Another mammoth effort on Sophie's part. Thanks again,  
Sophie.

## Around the Garden

As Spring unfolds here at EVRG, visitors are greeted with a burst of colour and life everywhere as far as the eye can see. The garden is looking absolutely spectacular at the moment and it sure is a pleasure to work amongst every day. The echidna's are happily digging holes throughout the garden looking for their next snack and a few of the cold blooded reptiles have been spotted sunning themselves around the place. With mild temperatures and increasing daylight, it provides the perfect backdrop for revitalising the garden, and now is the perfect time for some essential tasks to consider this season:

### 1. Soil Preparation

Spring is the ideal time to prepare your soil for planting. Test your soil's pH and nutrient levels, then amend it with compost or well-rotted manure to enhance fertility. Cultivating the soil will also help aerate it, promoting healthier root development for your plants.

### 2. Planting Vegetables and Herbs

With the risk of frost behind us, now is the time to sow potatoes and other vegetables like peas, carrots, and lettuce. You can also start herbs such as basil, parsley, and chives, which thrive in the warming weather. Consider using seed trays or direct sowing into well-prepared garden beds.

### 3. Flowering Plants

Spring is exploding with blossoms. Plant hardy annuals and perennials like pansies, snapdragons, and delphiniums to add vibrant colours to your garden. You can also divide existing perennials to promote growth and create more blooms.

### 5. Mulching

Applying mulch around your plants (but not too close around the collar of the plant) not only enhances the garden's appearance but also helps retain moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature. Organic mulches, such as straw or wood chips, can break down over time, enriching the soil.



### 6. Pest Management

As the weather warms up, pests become more active. Keep an eye out for aphids and caterpillars. Implement natural pest control methods like companion planting or introducing beneficial insects, such as ladybugs, to help manage pest populations.

### 7. Planning for Summer

Now is a great time to think ahead. Consider what you want to grow in summer and start planning your garden layout. Whether you're expanding your vegetable patch or creating a new flower bed, sketching your ideas can help you visualize the space.

Thanks to Alan for taking this sneaky shot of two of our hard working outdoor crew. Having a lovely time out there on the boat, pulling out weeds from lake grebe. Just one of the many interesting jobs that we carry out here. 😊

A quick recap from our Spring Festival day ~ what a turn out! People were everywhere, buying plants, cold drinks, sausages and hamburgers like they were going out of fashion, the vibe was electric. The garden was looking extra specky after rain the day before, which freshened everything up, timed it perfectly! Thank you to all who had a hand in making the day a success. We are now working on fresh stock and will hopefully soon have some gifts available for Christmas, so keep an eye out for these! 😊

*Neet (Horticultural Manager)*



## Rhododendron cyanocarpum

R. cyanocarpum is yet another species from the rhododendron rich province of Yunnan in China.

The name means “with blue fruits”. It forms a very neat upright shrub in our garden, with lovely shaped leaves showing that it is related to R thomsonii. In fact it was once known as R thomsonii var. cyanocarpum.

The branches are very stiff and the leaves have a bluish green tinge, which are quite a feature. The flowers are a delicate pale pink with a distinctive bright pink stigma – very attractive. In the wild the flowers could vary from white, creamy white, pink to rose pink, flushed rose to purplish rose. The calyx is cup-shaped, smooth and greenish. The capsule has a bluish-glaucous bloom and the leaves have a yellowish green mid rib on both surfaces.

Introduced by Forrest in 1910 and few times more in 1922, it was first discovered by that well-known plant hunter Abbe Delavay, growing on Tsang chan, Western Yunnan. To find it growing at Emu Valley, look on the left side of the road to the Chinese pavilion, just before the large camellia relative Schima argentea (look it up on google or our March '20 newsletter). *Maurie*

*The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:*



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

