

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2014



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Notes from April Meeting

We visited three very interesting gardens this month with our first port of call at Di and Warren West's "Narranghi" Olive Grove where they grow and process their award winning organic extra virgin olive oil. Di and Warren took us on a very interesting and informative tour through the olive trees. Di's great great grandfather originally owned the property and it has now been in the family for over 100 years. "Narranghi" (peak of the mountain) is said to be an ancient aboriginal healing site. Warren showed us his pressing and bottling shed and explained the workings of the beautifully designed Italian pressing machine. They market their oil under the label 'Two Sisters' - Di's sister is a part owner of the property. We had our morning tea enjoying the panoramic view from their covered deck.

Sarah and Wayne Merriman's property on Tudor Valley Road is full of a great variety of plants and trees and they have created a fantastic vegetable garden. The rain didn't deter our group from enjoying the tour with Wayne around the garden and he was very patient in answering our incessant question 'what plant is that?' and explaining why he had planted a plant or tree in a particular position. Sarah and Wayne have created a wonderful garden, obviously with a lot of hard work and dedication.

We then went on to visit James and Belinda Royds at 'Duram Hall' a historic property that is now being run by the younger generation. James' mother Olive was also present to add her knowledge of the garden to his very informative talk on 'Duram Hall's' history. Durham Hall was first mentioned in the census of 1828. At the entrance to the garden a massive Wisteria's very thick trunk has nearly succeeded in pushing over a little slab hut. Nearby the roses Souvenir de la Malmaison (named in memory of Empress Joséphine's famous garden at Malmaison). and Madame Alfred Carriere both have a wonderful perfume. A rare plant Desmodium Amethystinum from Chile is to be found in this part of

the garden. The original garden design consisted of a looped carriageway, symmetrical pathways and garden beds edged in English Box and is thought to have been planted in 1840. We were in awe at the size of a very old Atlantic Cedar and admired the large Camphor Laurel believed to be one of the early plantings. Two of the very old roses, Madame Legras de Saint Germaine and Cromatela (Cloth of Gold) were planted before 1880.

James and Belinda were very welcoming and invited us into their lovely lounge room (in spite of our very wet appearance) to have our lunch out of the rain. Fortunately the rain stopped long enough for us to have a tour of the garden.

A great day was had by all with a good turn up in spite of such inclement weather.

A belated 'thank you' to Norma Flack, Janniece Elphick, Lyn Slade and Charmian Thomas for manning the garden club table at the Seniors Expo.

Welcome to new members Virginia Grootobink, Di West, Suzi Jarvis and Marguerite Gardner. It's great to have so many new members of late.

Information on upcoming events by Sally

May Meeting – Sunday 4th, Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th – Beechworth, Bright and surrounding areas

The full itinerary has been sent to everyone going on the trip. We are all getting very excited as it promises to be a great trip with lovely gardens to visit and scenery to admire.

June Meeting – Thursday 12th – at the Services Club

Guest Speakers Pat and Warwick Wright – "Whose the Smarter – Plants or Animals?". This should be a very interesting talk with a power-point presentation. We will have morning tea – can those whose surnames begin with letters N-Z please bring something to share. We will also have a plant swap so bring something interesting from your garden and take home another plant.

Around My Place by Pat

We have prepared the beds and planted out 6,000 garlic cloves over the Easter period. Bad backs and necks, aching limbs but a great sense of satisfaction now it is all done. Our daughter came down from Sydney and was a great help. Our autumn garden is looking good with the proteas, camellias, hellebores and chrysanthemums flowering and some dahlias and roses still hanging on to a few blooms. I have been planting a windbreak of natives in front of the fenced off vegetable garden and so far the kangaroos have left them alone. The berries have all finished and need to be cut back and tidied up. Seeds from Diggers have just arrived so I will have to start planting.



by Kate

Plant of the Month

Scabiosa

caucasica

- Native to the Caucasus, Nth Iran and N E Turkey
- Perennial, hardy to -20 degrees
- Prefers a sunny position with alkaline soil
- Grows to 45 - 60 cm high and wide
- Flower heads to 4 - 6 cm in blue, white or lavender
- Flowers all summer till first frosts
- Good cut flower and border plant
- Propagate from cuttings in summer and seed in autumn
- Good cultivars - "Clive Greaves"- blue, "Miss Wilmot" - white

What to do in the garden for May

- Evergreen shrubs can still be moved
- Spring flowering Camellias can be disbudded for larger flowers
- Tulips and Dutch Iris can be planted now
- Pinch back spring flowering annuals to strengthen growth
- Tidy Hellebores & apply a complete fertilizer + dolomite lime
- Monitor vegetable crops for pests and weeds
- Seedlings of Asian vegetables can be sown till mid May
- Prepare beds for Onion seedlings in late winter
- Plant new Strawberry plants
- Tie up sweet Pea plants
- Rake up fallen leaves and compost
- Try not to buy plastic wrapped early Roses as the frosts will burn them