

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER JULY 2014



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 14 AUGUST

At

The Braidwood Regional Arts Group Building in

Wallace Street at 10.30 am

Notes from July Meeting

Ken Bradley's talk and photos of their gardens of mangos, bananas, beautiful orchids and other tropical plants in Thailand and Burma was fascinating. Ken and his wife Jenny spent 25 years overseas while Ken, a geologist, was working for an American oil company. They also spent time in Azerbaijan, where, without a garden, they tended potted African Violets. I was very surprised when Ken mentioned Windermere Road where they lived in Rangoon as that was the same street we lived in when on posting to Burma from 1970 to 1973 – 'what a coincidence!'

While in Azerbaijan Ken helped organized the transport of donated food and equipment for the 900,000 displaced persons from the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict over border territory.

Ken is President of Garden Clubs Australia and he and Jenny now have a lovely 5-acre garden in Dural.

Information on Upcoming Events by Sally

AUGUST 14 AGM and Lunch
10.30am at Braidwood Regional Arts Group Building, Wallace Street (left hand side next to Mobil Service Station)

SEPTEMBER 25 Visit to local gardens to see flowering bulbs (note change of date – 4th Thursday, not 2nd).

OCTOBER 11 Date to be confirmed – Bus trip to Robertson Open Gardens

NOVEMBER 13 Visit to local gardens TBC

DECEMBER 11 Garden Club Christmas Party

This year we are holding our AGM at BRAG in Wallace Street where our Christmas party was held last year. Following the meeting the committee would like to provide you with a delicious home cooked lunch as our thank you to all the members for supporting us this year. As we need to know the numbers for catering could you please RSVP to Sally 4842 2808 by August 7.

It has been a great year for our club with many gardens visited and an incredible 20 new members.

Some of the committee have served for two years and will be standing down. Please consider nominating for a position on the committee and thus sharing the responsibility of making our club a going concern. We need your support to keep our club active. To help you understand what is involved, below is a description of the role of each committee member.

President : Chair meetings, assist in planning the programme of outings for the year, thank hosts and organize thank you gifts.

Vice-President : Stand in for President when absent.

Secretary : Prepare agenda for meetings as required, in conjunction with the President; take committee meeting minutes and attend to any correspondence; allocate the organisation of one monthly outing or meeting to each committee member. Place newspaper ads as required.

Assistant-Secretary : Stand in for Secretary when absent.

Treasurer : Receipt all incoming money, pay accounts, balance income and expenditure, prepare list of names for payment of outings at the bank, maintain membership list.

Newsletter Editor or Editors : Report on monthly outings and meetings; collate all information from members into newsletter. Distribute newsletter; maintain email list.

Catering : Bring urn, tea, coffee, milk, sugar, etc to meetings as required. Advise members via newsletter whose turn it is to bring morning tea.

Raffle Organiser : Run raffles including organizing prizes.

General Committee Members (2 / 3) : Assist with monthly outing organization.

Please don't be daunted by the above. None of it is difficult and there will be heaps of support from all the committee members. If you are interested in being on the committee and would like to talk about it, please feel free to ring Sally 4842 2808 or Helen 4842 2924, if you would like to discuss anything. The main thing is that we all enjoy ourselves and expand our gardening knowledge!!

We are looking forward to everyone attending for an enjoyable social gathering!



PLANT OF THE MONTH

by Kate

Hellebore X

hybridus

(Winter Elegance series)

- Native to NE Greece and European Turkey
- Growing in scrub and on the edge of woods in heavy soils
- Prefers a part shady position in rich moist soil (under deciduous trees)
- Grows to 45cm high
- Leaves are glossy dark green, divided and evergreen
- Flower heads are nodding, white with dark red spots
- Flowers June to September
- Propagate from dividing in Spring or from seed (seedlings appear around the parent plant & can be transplanted)
- Hardy to -15 degrees

What to do in the garden for August

- Prune and spray Roses later this month
- Plant new bare rooted Roses (soak in seaweed solution before planting)
- Plant summer and autumn flowering bulbs
- Winter flowering shrubs can be pruned now
- Prune and feed Daphne after flowering
- Prune Crepe Myrtle, which flowers on new wood
- Cut ornamental grass clumps to the ground
- Perennials may be divided as the weather warms up
- Prune Jasmines and summer flowering Clematis
- Prune Hydrangeas to two strong buds
- Spray Peaches and nectarines for leaf curl
- Plant Onion seedlings, Asparagus crowns & Spinach seedlings
- Check herbs for dividing and replanting
- Prepare vegetable beds for spring planting

Around My Place by Lois McKenzie

It's been 11 months since I moved back into my 1860's cottage in Cowper St. Prior to moving I potted roses, penstemons, salvias and lavender cuttings – most were very successful except for clematis cuttings. Rose cuttings that took exceptionally well were a purple cemetery rose (deep purple) 'Cecile Brunner', 'Apollo', 'Dorothy Perkins' and David Austin 'Anne Boleyn'.

Most of the work has been done in the back yard because it was the most neglected (all the roses had reverted to root stock so I have also purchased some new ones such as 'Heavenly', 'Acrteroa', 'Monsieur Ronsard' (Red). I have also planted cool climate grevillias such as 'John Evens' and 'Forest Rambler' to encourage native birds. So far three bush pigeons and a baby kookaburra have visited.

At the back of the block is an orchard with 16 apple trees (of which I can only identify three) 3 cherry trees, 2 quinces, 1 mulberry, 2 peaches and 2 young berry vines which make the most amazing jam. There's a small chook house with currently six chooks and they free range in the orchard and fertilize it.

Being winter the work hasn't slowed down, two loads of topsoil with mushroom compost and three bales of lucerne later.

For the first time I had success with a Chinese Lantern tree as I've always lost them to frost in the past. This time I provided a shelter of a tree trunk, a fence and bushes of budlia (grown from cuttings) to bring in the butterflies.

Finally all the plants from Victoria have been planted. Unfortunately a galah landed and broke a dusky pink correa in half and I quickly planted the broken piece. It took, so now I'm doing cuttings of green and ground cover white and they have taken.

My favorite dahlia flowers, a cerise and pink and lemon corms were moved and flowered late autumn. I have read that you should dig them up and store over winter in sawdust but I have never done this as they flower every year!

Tragedy struck recently and I lost three chooks to a fox on a misty morning so it was a big job doubling the height of the orchard fence. I miss my retiree speckles (7 years old).

The compost heap is going well and the first one is resting with occasional turning. I also have two liquid fertilizer bins of cattle and horse manure.

I have just received one of the roses many of us admired on one of the garden visits in Victoria called 'Sweet Sonata', a deep pink/peach and beautifully scented, from Clare. Now where can I plant it?

I only had time to make a tin water tank cut in half into a raised vege garden for summer, but managed a small crop of corn, tom thumb tomatoes, rocket, snap peas and red onions. The tomatoes were also enjoyed by the chooks and my Jack Russell cross Katie (who is also partial to strawberries, carrots and apples) and one chook 'Houdini' was very keen on the rocket! I tried Bronwyn Richards french pumpkin recently and have dried the seeds to plant later in the year. This pumpkin has a rich flavour and dense texture. I love collecting seeds including cottage garden seeds. I didn't realise foxgloves and cosmos have so many tiny seeds.

Finally I have to mention the recent Gardening Australia program segment on weaving baskets and sculptures. I've wisteria vines that need pruning – now where are my secateurs?

Happy Gardening!