

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER MAY 2014



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Notes from May Meeting

Well our trip to Beachworth and surrounds was a delight with high praise due for Sally Thackway's planning and choice of the gardens visited. Beachworth is a great little town with interesting shops and restaurants and the Armour Motel was very comfortable with clean, well-appointed rooms and a very helpful proprietor. The Autumn colour around the town was amazing.

The first garden we visited was "Dunraven" at Woomargama just off the Hume Highway where we stopped for lunch on our way to Beachworth. Jane Snow whose family has owned the property for 30 years guided us around a beautiful old garden; it was previously the property of the Fairburns. The garden is extensive with many roses, one bed in particular of 'Summer Memories' a creamy white which does not suffer from black spot, was much admired. The roses 'Sally Holmes' and 'Many Happy Returns' were admired for their delicate pink hue and lovely perfume. Other beautiful roses in the garden were 'Princess Alexandra of Kent' a dark pink and 'Mutabilis' a large shrub rose which opens a creamy yellow, changes to pink and finally to crimson giving the appearance of butterflies covering the bush. Mutabilis is a very disease resistant, easy care and free blooming old garden rose that needs plenty of room to grow and bloom. Other plants much exclaimed over were Witchhazel 'Crazy Philpa', euphorbia ground cover, small white star flower, a very old weeping mulberry, deep purple salvia, two very old cumquats in pots and an Acer negundo 'Flamingo' a small, very hardy tree with striking pink tinged new leaves that become green with white variegations as they mature. Jane buys most of her roses from Treloars and feeds them with 'Sudden Impact for Roses'.

We arrived in Beachworth with time to settle in and check out the shops, have a glass of red from a local winery and then go on to the Bridge Road Brewery in an old Coach House where Sally had booked us in for dinner (good pizza, soup, ribs and kransky sausages).

Monday morning saw us at Peter Andersons garden which is full of interesting plants and art created by Peter from found objects; echidnas made from iron shearing combs and goannas and birds from bolts, coils, nuts and tin. A very unusual Chinese quince and the abundant 'Pinkie' climbing rose were standout plants for me.

We then went on to Chris Dormer and Andrew Box's garden 'Nine Mile' at Stanley, the name derived from 'Nine Mile Creek' running along the bottom of the garden. An 1857 miner's cottage surrounded by a copse of original hazelnut trees is a point of interest. The garden was planted in 1982 to highlight a brilliant feast of colour in autumn and this it certainly does. Cecily found a beautiful fuchsia 'The Fairy' at the side of the house and persuaded Chris to give her a cutting. (Robyn later found two pots of 'Fairy' at the Humming Garden and generously gave one to Cecily and me).

On the way to Bright we stopped at the Fruit Orchard farm shop where many purchased very tasty apples and pears.

On to Bright for lunch and a good look around and then to the Brown Brothers Winery at Milawa to taste some good wines and purchase a bottle or two, the mustard farm shop for tasting their many varieties and again at the cheese factory; both local Milawa products were very good and many purchases were made.

On Tuesday we went to the 'Humming Garden' in the foothills of the Mt Pilot National Park, near Chilton. This is a large garden and nursery with many 'rooms' each with its own character and style displaying an extensive collection of native and exotic plants. Tina and Gavin were very welcoming and many plants were purchased and then labeled with our names by Scotty, our very obliging bus driver.

On to Eremaea Australian Native Garden at Yackandandah, a beautifully designed garden using large rocks, logs and gravel pathways to display over 100 varieties of natives – correas, croweas, grevilleas, acacias, goodenias, eremophilias, persoonias and dampieras to name a few. This garden is owned by Diana Leggat and Martin Rigg who provided a sumptuous morning tea.

Our last port of call before heading home was the gallery and garden of John Derma, an internationally renowned potter. The walk up the long driveway (500 metres I think – too narrow for the bus) was worth the view at the top; many interesting trees lined the driveway which led to a beautiful enclosed garden full of camellias, and designed to give protection from the wind. A tornado in 2005 flattened many trees (I think John said about 300, too many to clear away so he left them where they fell). His pottery bowls and vases are beautiful and his homeware bowls, mugs and plates are oven and dishwasher proof of great design and colour.

Once again thank you Sally for organizing such a wonderful trip.

Information on upcoming events by Sally
MEETING PROGRAM

12th JUNE Talk by Pat Wright at the Services Club at 10am

10th JULY Talk by Ken Bradley, President, Australian Garden Club

14 AUGUST AGM followed by social occasion with a fabulous lunch put on by your committee at the Braidwood Community Arts Centre

June Meeting: Meet at the Services Club at 10am for morning tea (members, surnames N-Z please bring something to share) followed by a very interesting talk entitled "Whose the Smarter – Plants or Animals?" We will also have a PLANT SWOP so bring something along and take home something new. There will be a raffle with a chance to win a fantastic prize! - \$2 a ticket or 3 for \$5.

July Meeting: To be held at the Services Club

August Meeting: To be held at the Braidwood Community Arts Centre in Wallace Street. Following our AGM the present committee members invite you to stay for a delicious lunch with an opportunity to discuss your ideas for forthcoming meetings with the newly elected committee.

Around My Place by Pat

Lovely sunny autumn days, forget the housework, out in the garden planting seven new plants bought on the Beachworth trip plus seeds from Diggers (not yet planted!!), not enough time in the day, perhaps if I got up earlier I would get more done but it's still dark earlier so why not stay in bed a have a little read – 9am seems a good time to get out in the garden!! The eternal, constant weeding continues but beds are starting to look good again. My daughter bought me a Manchurian

Pear for Mothers Day - have chosen a spot close to the planned stone wall (it's on my husband's list) needs boxing in as it's on a small slope, full of stones of course so will have to build up the soil. I have bad news about my native windbreak, a wombat I think, pulled out one of the plants which obviously didn't taste good, so left it lying on the ground (have replanted it) ate the blue grass which I had covered with wire netting (not a problem for a wombat!) pulled off the covers on several other plants but fortunately didn't like them either. I have put up more fencing and can only hope the plants survive to adulthood.

Now I'm sure you are all sick of me babbling on so please email me What's Happening in Your Garden for the next few newsletters, the more contributions the better. My email address is: maher.pat@bigpond.com



Plant of the Month
Iris
unguicularis
(Winter Iris or
Algerian Iris)

by Kate

- Native of Algeria, Tunisia, S W Turkey, W Syria, Greece & Crete
- Perennial, hardy to -15 degrees
- Prefers a dry sunny position in slightly alkaline soil
- Grows into a clump to 45 - 60 cm high and wide
- Evergreen beardless variety with dark green grass like leaves
- Flower heads to 8 cm in blue, white or lavender with yellow throats
- Flowers from Autumn to Spring
- Flowers will be more noticeable if foliage is cut back before flowering
- Propagate from division in spring using large clumps as smaller ones do not thrive
- Good cultivars - "Mary Barnard"- blue, "Walter Butt" - mauve

What to do in the garden for June

- Camellias are blooming so buy new plants now
- Older Hydrangeas may be pruned now - remove older grey wood and reduce younger canes to a good pair of buds
- Plant new deciduous trees, shrubs, roses and vines
- Lift Dahlia tubers, divide and store in sawdust in dark dry area
- Houseplants should be moved away from heaters
- Do not allow vegetable plants to dry out
- Prune Pome fruits (Apple, Pear, Quinces etc.)
- A winter spray of pest oil or copper spray will clean up fruit trees
- Shred prunings and add to compost or mulch
- Remove any broken or crossed branches from trees or shrubs
- Rake fallen leaves onto beds or compost - don't burn

