

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2014



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Notes From Our Garden Visits on Thursday September 25th

On Thursday 25th September an enthusiastic group braved the gentle but persistent rain to visit firstly Sue Murray's beautiful Braidwood garden & then on to 'Nithdale' at Ballalaba out on the Cooma Rd.

In 16 years, Sue has created a shady, welcoming garden of 1¼ acres with some large trees eg silver birches, manchurian pears, snow gums, golden willow & prunus nigra, underplanted with prolific groundcovers, bulbs, violets & many shrubs. The pergola at the front entrance enhances the pretty blue & cream timber home & we enjoyed our morning tea on the front deck & under shady trees. Thank you Sue for sharing your lovingly prepared garden.

Nithdale homestead is an 1838 house built of hand-made bricks fired on the property & is a good example of a Georgian country bungalow. Owner Tim Lenehan led us through the garden growing monstrous old pines, lombardy poplars, wisteria, japonica, & elms with stories of its history through previous owners. After a picnic lunch on the verandah, some of us walked up the chain of ponds, constructed by Tim, to repair a badly eroded creek & which now hydrates the surrounding pasture down to the Shoalhaven River, an impressive achievement. It was a treat to explore a secluded, historic property.

MEMBERSHIP

Could we remind those who are still to pay their 2014-2015 membership dues of \$15 that Fran Woods, our treasurer, will take your subs if you can ring her for instructions please. Also, if you need a copy of the newsletter mailed to you, there is an additional cost of \$5. This is a bargain for the chance to participate in our varied & stimulating program of monthly events & we'd love to see you!

Information on Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 2nd Thursday Cemetary Working Bee 10 am.

Bring your tools. If you have lavender plants to spare, please bring them too. Could you please give Margaret Royds a ring if you can help. Phone 4842 2964 Thankyou.

OCTOBER 11th Saturday Robertson Open Gardens.

The bus leaves Ryrie Park at 8.00am & returns before 6.30pm.

We will visit 4 gardens in the Robertson area. The most likely at this stage are Bundaleer, Lynwood Farm, The Moorings & The Garden. More information on these is available on the website: robertsonopengardens@gmail.com Please remember to wear your nametags if you have one.

Morning tea & lunch are available at different places in Robertson but to save time lunch can be pre-ordered. You can also BYO of course. If you wish to pre-order a picnic lunch, please contact Sue Murray on 4842 2381, or suemurray@yahoo.com

The cost is \$25 for the bus & \$5 per garden, \$20 for all gardens or \$15.00 concession. Please pay the \$25 for the bus fare at Bendigo Bank before Saturday 4th October. Payments for the gardens & lunch will be collected on the day.

There is a plant sale in town and a little bit of time over lunch to explore the town.

NOVEMBER 22nd Saturday 'Open Gardens'

As this sadly will be the last season to visit open gardens under the "Open Gardens Australia" scheme, we thought a bus trip to visit the 5 lovely local gardens open, would be very worthwhile.

We plan to meet at Ryrie Park at 9am. Bus to Lake Bathurst and visit "Bongalabi" -morning tea at the bus.

Travel to "Werriwa" (about 9kms from Bungendore). Here you can either enjoy your BYO picnic lunch or buy lunch.

From here we visit "Piccolo" in Bungendore, leaving at approx. 2.15pm to return to Braidwood and visit the 2 gardens open on the Nerriga Road, 'Brimar' and 'Mikabill'.

Each garden entry costs \$8, and it can be optional how many you choose to visit.

The cost of the bus will be about \$15 per person, depending on the number of members interested.

NOVEMBER 22nd – 23rd Open Garden

One of our members, Marilyn Carle, is opening her garden, 'Brimar' 9455 Nerriga Rd, over the Quilt weekend on Nov 22nd & 23rd. Marilyn has asked the Garden Club if we could hold a plant stall & help provide morning and afternoon tea on each day with money raised going to the Hospital Auxiliary, a very worthy cause. The Auxiliary is a volunteer organization consisting of a small group of people who raise funds to help provide the hospital with much needed equipment.

The Auxiliary will be providing and serving the morning and afternoon tea on each day, but being such a small group, any other help they can get will be much appreciated. Sally will organize a roster for Saturday and Jill and Frank Judge will organize Sunday. If you can pot up a plant or two, make a cake, slice or biscuits or help on either day for an hour or two, it would be very much appreciated.

Please give Sally a ring on 4842 2808 for Saturday or Jill 4842 8166 for Sunday.

Many thanks.

DECEMBER Thursday 11th Garden Club Christmas Party at Leonie's

More information in later newsletters.

MAILBOX

SEPTEMBER Friday 19th – Sunday 21st Better Homes and Gardens

www.bhglive.com.au

Goulburn Argyle Garden Club is taking a bus. Ring Annette Cave 4821 7138 if you are interested.

SEPTEMBER Saturday 27th- Sunday 28th

Plant Lovers Fair, Kariong Mountains High School, Kariong, Central Coast.

www.plantloversfair.com.au

OCTOBER Friday 17th- Sunday 19th

Galston Open Gardens www.galstongardenclub.com.au

OCTOBER Friday 17th – Sunday 19th

Dendi Orchids Open Weekend 9-4 daily. 624 Overs Rd, Griffith NSW. The Griffith Festival of Gardens is on at this time with some privately owned gardens open to the public. Phone 0269 622 007 for further information.

OCTOBER Saturday 18th - Sunday 19th

The Iris Society Of Australia presents The 2014 Iris Show at the Community Hall, Great Western Highway, Blackheath. 11-5 Saturday, 9-2 Sunday. dicoxiris@bigpond.com

OCTOBER Saturday 25th- Sunday 26th

Bundanoon Garden Ramble 9.30 – 4.30 www.bundanoongardenramble.org.au

NOVEMBER Sunday 2nd

Riversdale Open Garden 10am-3pm. Tour with garden architect Michael Bligh \$10.00

NOVEMBER Sunday 2nd

The Southern Highlands branch of National Trust have their AGM with a talk on historic gardens of Scandinavia

NOVEMBER Sunday 16th

National Trust. There is an open invitation to Harpers Mansion at Berrima on Sunday 16th November 10am-4pm for the opening of the Heritage Rose garden. There will be 2 guest speakers on heritage roses. Adults \$5.00. Also,

NOVEMBER Saturday 15th

Braidwood District Garden Competition
www.landmarkbraidwood.com.au

MARCH Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd 2015

Just a friendly reminder about the Plant Fair at Lanyon Homestead in March 2015. If you're looking for a terrific event for your members to enjoy this coming season, now is the time to get organised!

Time: 10am – 4pm

Date: Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 March, 2015

Venue: Lanyon Homestead, Tharwa Drive, Tharwa

Entry: \$10 including walks and talks, exhibitions and children's activities

2015 MAY 5th – 24th **Garden History & Landscapes Tour** From Nice to Paris. May 5th –24th Shauna has brochures.

CRYSTAL BROOK LAVENDER FARM

www.lavenderatlaggan.com.au

PLANT OF THE MONTH by Kate Chinnick



Michelia figo (Port Wine Magnolia)

- Native to western China
- Slow growing evergreen bushy shrub to 3m tall
- Prefers a sheltered position in full sun or part shade in rich moist soil
- Has glossy dark green leaves
- Singular tulip shaped flowers, heavily perfumed in the evening
- Propagate from semi hardwood cuttings in late summer & autumn
- Require minimal pruning, trimming off dead wood or weaker side shoots
- Excellent in large tubs or courtyards near doorways for the scent
- protect from heavy frost

What to do in the garden for October

- Prune flowering shrubs as they finish flowering
- Thin out Camelias and shorten branches
- Azaleas should be clipped back and remove any dead wood
- Roses will respond to fertiliser & added water from mid month
- Remove last years dead growth from Begonias and Fuchsias
- Nip out Sweet Pea shoots to encourage lateral growth
- Plant out dahlia tubers (insert stakes before planting)
- Gladiolus corms can be planted at two weekly intervals (90 to 100 days to flowering)
- Dead head annuals and bulbs
- Feed bulbs with fertiliser high in potash for next years flowers
- Sow seeds of Tomatoes, Zucchini, Silver Beet, Beans & cabbage
- Make supports for Peas and climbing Beans
- Mulch well to hold in the moisture

AROUND MY GARDEN by Sally Thackway

What a difference the rain has made!! The lawn, now growing at a rate of knots is lush and green and the rolling hills in the paddocks, dotted with little black calves and their mothers look beautiful.

The deciduous trees are rapidly covering themselves in bright green leaves. The birds too, seem so happy. Willy Wagtails are calling to each other and even at night I have heard them. The magpies are trilling and the high pitched twittering of the little wrens is constant. We have beautiful little red-browed firetails who regularly gather in our bird baths for a chat and a wash. The chorus of frogs too is very noisy but lovely. And we have seen our first snake!

Our fruit trees have made a beautiful show of blossoms this year. The red flowering quince is looking superb and makes a stunning vase of flowers for the house.

Coming from a warmer climate to Braidwood, I seem to have planted many trees and shrubs in the wrong places so have been moving them to more suitable spots in the garden. My arm muscles have never looked better!

We have just made a new driveway and have lined that with white flowering dogwoods so I'm looking forward to seeing them grow and flower. I was so taken with a beautiful specimen that we saw at Marina Tyndale Biscoe's property at Mongarlowe last year, when we walked down the path to the creek. I hope ours will look as lovely.

I recently received some bare rooted roses I had ordered - lamarque, dupontii and souvenir de la malmaison - all old fashioned, perfumed climbing roses from a nursery in the lower Blue Mountains who specialise in old world roses and perennials. If you are interested the address is <http://www.honeysuckle-cottage.com.au>. Philip has built some rustic and formal pergolas for them to climb on.

The garden beds at the front of the house facing east have snowflakes, blue lobelia, bluebells and grape hyacinth at the moment and look so pretty all blue and white with the mauve flowers of the teucium hedge against the house. Forget-me-nots, white honesty and hellebores are growing together on the southern side under the cotoneaster along with many weeds and grass, which I must get onto.

In the courtyard there are pots of white tulips and white jonquils in the long bed above the courtyard wall. I'm ever hopeful that the wisteria and grape will cover the pergola over the courtyard this spring and summer giving us some protection from the hot summer sun.

Last year we converted our old Shearer's Quarters into accommodation for our family and friends so I have been busy creating a garden around the building. I have planted a may bush hedge on the western side where the wind barrels in and some lilacs, mock orange, viburnums and crab apples, and lavender around the low verandah. Also hellebores at the edge of an old photinia and cotoneaster. Just need a magic wand to accelerate their growth!

We are so fortunate to experience four seasons here. It's so exciting to watch the changes in the plants as they grow, die back and emerge again each year and there are always surprises when there is a good season. Let's hope for some this spring!