

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER March 2015



President: Sue Murray 4842 2381

Secretary: Shauna Moses 4842 2230

Treasurer: Fran Woods 0422 181 020

Newsletter Editor: Margy Gardner 0412 616 352

UPCOMING GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

APRIL Thursday 16th We will car-pool our visit to 2 local gardens.

Meet at Ryrie Park at 9.30am to carpool to Kerry Mitchell's garden. We will hand out a "mud map" with detailed driving instructions & have morning tea there, so it's the turn of members with initials A-M to bring something to tempt us.

Kerry writes:

"My name is Kerry Mitchell & my husband & I have moved to Braidwood for health reasons & to take advantage of your wonderful climate. I had a nursery at my old address at Kurrajong, west of Sydney but was hampered by the heat & lack of water. I also do mail order from my website www.salviasplus.com. In November we relocated to this property on the river to facilitate the establishment of the nursery & display gardens. Eventually there will be about 2 acres of garden where customers can see the plants I grow & then visit the nursery. We understand that the cooler climate here will make the growing of many of my tender salvias difficult & that the need for shade/glass houses is imperative. It will take a while to start the gardens as there is huge amount of cleaning & clearing to do, a bit overwhelming at the moment.

The nursery usually has at least 200 varieties & species of salvia potted up, but I also love other plants- perennials, climbers, old fashioned roses, cool climate trees & shrubs & camellias, particularly perfumed species & hybrids & unusual old varieties of japonicas. I have a lot of rare or unusual plants & have a stall at the Collectors Plant Fair in Richmond, near Sydney, every year. This year I won't be there as due to the move I don't have enough stock. If the Plant Fair is at Lanyon next year I hope to also have a stall there. I import a lot of seed from overseas & have done a lot of research to understand which plants will succeed in a climate like Braidwood's with hot summers & cold winters. I usually sow 150-200 different species every year. I started this year's cache yesterday. Bulbs from South Africa & South America, woodland perennials from North America, plants from China & the Caucasus. I describe my nursery as a 'sunny day' nursery, one where you can spend a while pottering around to find something different. I have small numbers of a lot of species but not a lot of one thing, unless it has been ordered. I will also be having a stall at the Braidwood market in the park.

I will always help people with any knowledge I have about the suitability of any plants that I sell. If you have any plants that you have had trouble sourcing I am happy to take orders & try to track them down for you. I have a friends with rare plant nurseries & can find most things. I will be ordering bare rooted stock from a specialist wholesaler in Victoria in May as there are plants that I want for my own garden so if you want to order anything let me know. I will try to have a list of available plants ready for the Garden Club visit on April 16. I look forward to your visit. Regards, Kerry Mitchell"

We then return to Braidwood & head out to Teresa Lindwall's garden with our 'mud map' as a guide. It's about half an hour from Braidwood & we aim to be there at 12.00 to 12.30 for lunch so bring a picnic, as usual.

Teresa Lindwall's Garden

Teresa's garden spills down the hillside & around her home to create interesting 'rooms' around each corner. Teresa has built her garden, by herself over many years; and so has a wonderful variety of plants curtailed by a beautiful bush setting.

MAY Thursday 14th May

Bus trip to gardens in the Nimmitabel region.

We will be visiting 3 lovely gardens around Nimmitabel including 'Shirley' which is a wonderful property, not often open to the public so how lucky we are to have this opportunity. Shirley has been recently re-designed & extended by Paul Bangay & is an all-seasons, mature garden with oaks, elms, ashes, poplars & birches with extensive water features including ponds, fountain and a huge lake. Not to be missed if you have not been before. Also a visit to the Tablelands Trees & Shrubs Nursery which is above the snowline so the plants they grow are very suitable for Braidwood gardens and they look forward to our visit.

COST \$30 per person. Payment at the bank to be advised.

Report of our March visit to 3 Mongarlowe Gardens

Our first stop was at 'Chee Dock', the home of Kaye McCarron & her son James Cook who started the repair of the 1870's house in 1989 while developing a garden. The property is beside the Seargents Point Creek and the garden was created with winding paths down to the creek. The established garden is never watered these days & due to cadmium pollution of the creek from the early gold mining, the vegetable garden is watered from the Mongarlowe River. As Kaye & James are horticulturists, the garden is full of fruit trees, flowering shrubs & bulbs- a delight.

We next ventured to Marie Harris's home & garden on Half Moon Rd. Marie & her husband Alan have lived here for 10 years, extending an old 'weekender' & creating an amazing garden in a very dry & rocky environment growing both natives & exotic plants, all blending beautifully with the surrounding landscape. A netted vegetable garden, landscaping with logs & rocks, a large chook yard and green lawns are a real tribute to Marie's love of gardening & the natural landscape.

Our last garden was to 'Hollow-Wood', Karen & Frank Hansby's new garden surrounding a very old pioneer cottage on Budawang Rd. The spectacular location has large, old trees with many more new tree plantings, vegetable garden beds and a creative chook shed. The challenge of repairing & renovating the historic cottage while establishing the garden is a labour of love & deserve admiration for a generous & welcoming hostess.

On our way back to Braidwood, we stopped off at the Misty Mountains Nursery on the Kings Highway owned & loved by Richard Barker who is a species specialist. Cold climate plants & perennials were too hard to resist for many of us & we enjoyed the expert guidance of Richard through the hidden delights of his nursery & hillside property.

A very lovely day.

New Members

We warmly welcome Morna Winter-Irving to our club & hope she will enjoy our visits to wonderful places.

FROM THE MAILBOX for your information

MARCH Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th 10am-4.30pm \$8.00 entry

Open Gardens at a lovely country property called Terry Hie, 3438 Braidwood Rd, Lake Bathurst. This garden has a strong design based on circles and squares linked by pergolas and arches draped in wisteria and roses. Sweeping beds create internal vistas and allow glimpses beyond, and towering trees are balanced by lush underplantings. Nyssa, pyrus, abutilons and crocosmia in lovely autumn colour. New shrubbery in pinks and blues

APRIL Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th 10am to 4pm

The Garden Party, 1067 Kings Highway, Nelligen COST \$7 entry to both gardens

Two open gardens at Nelligen with live music as visitors wander through the gardens or enjoy morning tea/afternoon on the lawn. There will be stalls selling home made cakes & goodies as well as plants. On both days special guest speakers will be presenting in the marquee. Sausage sizzle and home made ice cream will also be for sale.

Contact: pj_blanch@bigpond.com or 02 4478 1244

JUNE Saturday 13th

'Friendship through Gardens'

A Bundanoon Garden Seminar will be held in the Soldiers' Memorial Hall, Bundanoon on Saturday 13 June 2015 9.00 am – 4.00 pm. Speakers include Sabrina Hahn, John Siemon, Stuart Read, Elaine Musgrave. There will be a Botanical Art exhibition and the sale of Garden Tools, Garden Ornaments and Plants.

\$30/person, all inclusive (promotional pack, morning tea, lunch) with discounted bookings for large groups (15% on a booking of 20) For further details: www.bundanoon.nsw.au

Bundanoon Sesquicentenary The Garden Seminar is sponsored by the Bundanoon Garden Club Inc.

Local contact: Mrs Suzy Molyneux (02) 4883 6073 tonym109@bigpond.net.au

APRIL Saturday 11th Sunday 12th

The 10th Collectors' Plant Fair will take place on Saturday 11 April, 8am to 4pm & Sunday 12 April, 9am to 4pm, at the Hawkesbury Race Club, Clarendon NSW featuring 60 nurseries. Tickets can be prepaid & gardening talks by guest speakers are extra.

<http://www.collectorsplantfair.com>

GARDEN HELP

Some members may be interested in getting help with work in their gardens and Rebecca Hall (who has run workshops for Landcare) is looking for gardening work. Her details are:-

Rebecca Hall

Ph. 4846 1454

\$30 per hour

She is a delightful young woman and would be very pleasant to work with.

Do you have an email address which we can add to our list? It saves on postage and means you get other advices about gardening activities too late for inclusion in the Newsletter.

IN MY GARDEN by Charmian Thomas

It feels like Autumn is creeping in on us.

We have quite a small garden at the front with no lawn to mow and after coming from a large garden on 5 acres, we do not miss sitting on the ride-on mower.

In the front, we have 5 birch trees which are starting to colour and drop their leaves. Up the front path, we have rosemary on each side but probably due to the lack of regular pruning, have grown too big and some are dying out in the middle. I think they are going to need replacing. The roses have been beautiful this year, as they have been all around town and we have been trying to grow Star Jasmine along the fence for privacy. For the last 3 winters, we have covered them as they suffered from the frost and they look very healthy at the moment, but we are unsure if we should cover them again this winter. Anyone have some advice??

John's vegetable garden has done well. The cucumbers have been pickled, pesto has been made, and the many tomatoes made into passata. Beetroot will soon be ready to pick and we also have garlic, capsicums and some stray pumpkins. The strawberries and rhubarb have been producing, though the strawberry plants probably need replacing next year.

Happy gardening from your faithful and dedicated tea lady. Charmian

PLANT OF THE MONTH by Kate Chinnick



Agastache

"Firebird"

(Hummingbird Mint)

- Native to Mexico, N America and C & E Asia
- Aromatic perennial
- Belongs to the same family as Giant Hyssop
- Attractive blue/green leaves
- Height 1.1m X 60cm
- Flowers from Summer to Autumn
- Prefers full sun in well drained soils
- Propagate by seed or division in Spring or semi-ripe cuttings in Summer
- Propagate from division in spring
- Leaves can be used to flavour tea

What to do in the garden for April

- Trim evergreen shrubs - Pittosporum, Euonymus & Conifers before winter
- Choose trees for Autumn colour while still in leaf
- Plant or move Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Pieris and Camelias
- Check Conifers for dead foliage
- Sow Sweet Peas (St Patrick's Day)
- Look for Liliium, Hippeastrum and Sprekelia bulbs
- Tidy leaves on Hellebores, Winter Iris and Aquilegias
- Sow Asian Greens, Broad Beans and Peas
- Grow Brassicas (cover with fine netting to keep butterflies off)
- Remove three year old Strawberries and replace with virus free stock
- All mummified fruit should be removed and bagged (not compost)
- Collect leaves for composting