

# BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

## NEWSLETTER APRIL 2016



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<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

### **MAY Thursday 12th**

#### **INDOOR MEETING WITH SPEAKER MICHAEL BLIGH, A LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT SPECIALISING IN DESIGNING PRIVATE GARDENS**

Venue Braidwood Servicemen's Club

Time 9.45 for 10.00am start

Michael Bligh lives in Goulburn and is very familiar with the Braidwood climate and environs. His talk will include garden design, suitable plants for our area, good watering systems and suggestions for soil improvement. He illustrates his talk with slides.

As the talk will conclude at midday, we are asking members with surnames beginning with the letters 'N' to 'Z' in the alphabet to bring a small plate of food suitable for lunch to share with other members. This is instead of morning tea.

For more information go to [www.michaelbligh.com/](http://www.michaelbligh.com/)

### **THE BRAIDWOOD HOSPITAL GARDENS**

The Garden Club has been asked to help with a planned renewal of the Braidwood hospital gardens. Once plans for this are finalised, our members will have the opportunity to provide some practical help in the gardens. Keeps an eye out in future newsletters for more information.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

David McClymont and Michael Marston

### **A CALL FOR HELP from Margaret Royds**

Some garden club members may be members of Braidwood Urban Landcare. It is a bit late for this month's working bee but a reminder that the Memorial garden in the Braidwood Historic Cemetery was designed and planted by garden club members and it could do with a bit of maintenance. It is more fun to have a group working bee and maybe a picnic or a tour around the cemetery with someone like Mary Appleby who knows all the grasses or Olive Royds on the old roses. Braidwood Urban Landcare put in an application to renew the hand gate and restore the pathway up beside the creek which is a pretty walk up to some old cottonwood poplars.

## Report on the Crookwell Gardens Visit by Sally Matthews

### Two Inspirational country gardens designed by Edna Walling

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, a busload of club members visited two gardens designed by the great Edna Walling. Both gardens are considered to be amongst the greatest Australian country gardens.

After a drive through very dry rolling hills a few kilometres out from Crookwell, we reached the entrance to “Markdale”, a 3300 hectare sheep and cattle station. The long eucalyptus-lined driveway provided an appropriately rural introduction to the 2.5 hectare garden and homestead area.

The garden was begun in the 1920s, and extensively re-designed by Edna Walling in the late 1940s. Edna’s signature features such as low dry-stone walls, a series of garden “rooms”, a reflecting pond, careful integration of the surrounding landscape, and restrained planting schemes provide a beguilingly relaxing environment.

The grey green leaves of the beautiful Silver Pear, planted close to the house inspires the exact same shade on the verandah’s wooden louvres. The bark of the grove of Silver Birches is set off by dense under-plantings of lavenders, salvias and a variety of dark-hued groundcovers with contrasting foliage. Swathes of seaside daisies flank a narrow gravel path. A profusion of butterflies, the light playing through the red leaves of smoke bush, and the scent of a several small purple budlijea make a walk down this path a sensory delight.

The luxurious new “Canberra-mix” lawn and the healthy appearance of all the plants bear witness to the 24/7 use of bore water sprinklers, and to the full-time efforts of Lee and other horticulturalists and gardeners over many years.

The station has a variety of historic accommodation (including an 1850s stone house) for rent. Gardeners may wish to explore possibilities further at [www.markdale.com/](http://www.markdale.com/)

The second Edna Walling garden (“Kiloren”) overlooks the pretty town of Crookwell. We were fortunate to view this garden, as it has recently been sold after many years of love and care by gardener and author Jenny Churchill and her husband Rob. We were shown a photo of the house and garden taken in 1951. It showed a bare and exposed hillside site. The quiet, sheltered and verdant garden of today shows what can be achieved with 65 years of sustained, skilled and creative effort. Clearly the beautiful garden of today is no instant backyard makeover!

Edna’s approach to planting and design is still evident throughout the garden. A stunning sinuous dry-stone wall can be seen to one side of the house. Carefully selected flat stones make steps between garden levels. Other stone walls are softened by tumbling ground covers. Casually self-seeded annuals (such as honesty, verbascum) are set against more structured perennials, shrubs and trees.

In more recent years, the Churchills have developed a “Wild Garden” to one side of the older garden. A white wooden gate opens enticingly into an abundant, less structured area. Seeded grasses, spring flowering bulbs (“the leaves of the bulbs can wither and die after flowering without spoiling the overall effect...”) honesty, Japanese windflowers, forget-me-nots, and primroses sprawl under a Manchurian pear, aspens, silver elms and hawthorns. The wild garden includes various benches from which the play of light on foliage and seed heads can be enjoyed. Edna would have approved this delightful development.



‘Markdale’



‘Markdale’



‘Kiloren’

## **Braidwood Garden Club Website**

The photos from the Crookwell Gardens trip are taken by Fran Woods, our Treasurer, who also does a great job of maintaining our BGC website. A full photo gallery of our trips to some wonderful gardens is there to see and well worth checking out. <https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

## **A Note From A BGC Member, Randall Lemin**

Long, long ago I seem to recall a request from a new arrival to the district & Club requesting advice on a suitable species for a hedge in the district.

After trialling a few options at Majors Creek, here are a couple of suggestions that we have found doing well at Majors Creek apart from the obvious choices.

All evergreen:-

*Elaeagnus pungens* (Silverberry) grows fast & tolerates clipping well. I couldn't find out what variety it is, but ours is not variegated. Some are around the back of St Andrews Anglican Church near the northern fence, behind the toilet. It could be left as a rough shrub or clipped.

*Prunus lusitanica* (Portugese Laurel) grows moderately fast & tolerates clipping well. Shade makes our plants a little less vigorous than the ones in full sun. A good example grows along the fence between Cedar Lodge Motel in Phillip Hart's garden (opposite Dentist). He's just clipped his hedge hard & it has bounced back quickly.

*Loropetalum chinensis* (Fringe flower). Our varietal is "Burgundy" but it would appear most seem to do OK around here. Roughly clipping it as as a hedge and it tolerates that well.

For a native, try *Grevillea barkleyana* (Gully grevillea). It seems to love Majors Creek area, doing almost too well, and has flowers most of the year. I have had to cut back part of the oldest plant and it has re-shot well. It does equally well in both sun & shade, attracts native mynahs all the time as it has the odd flower all year round, even outside prime times. It is a great windbreak. It's apparently a bit endangered as well, as it only seems to grow in the Bunyip State Forest in Victoria with another subspecies on the NSW Nth Coast. It is supposed to grow to 8 metres and ours are around 4 metres within 5 years, so don't plant in a small garden. It would be good to trial it as a farm windbreak.

*Thank you Randall for some local and useful information.*

## **FUTURE DATES**

### **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS for the remainder of 2016**

#### **JUNE 09 CHOOK RUN**

A visit to the 'Mulloon Creek Natural Farms' Egg Farm at Duralla to inspect the pasture raised poultry operation and a visit to 2 domestic chook sites.

#### **JULY 14 FLORAL DEMONSTRATION AND WORKSHOP WITH MARILYN CARLE**

Marilyn, a very knowledgeable florist with years of experience, will help each of us create our own floral arrangement. There will be a small cost to cover materials used.

Venue: The Braidwood Servicemen's Club including Morning Tea and finishing around midday. Could members with surnames beginning with 'a' to 'm' please bring a small plate of morning tea to share thank you.

#### **AUGUST 11 AGM with a guest speaker**

#### **SEPTEMBER 8 VISIT TO ARALUEN GARDENS AND LUNCH AT WISBEYS I**

#### **OCTOBER 13 POSSIBLE BUS TRIP TO BERRIMA TO BE CONFIRMED**

**NOVEMBER 10 BUS TRIP TO CANBERRA GARDENS** (This was scheduled for Oct 2015 but cancelled due to wet weather)

#### **DECEMBER 8 Christmas Lunch**

## **AROUND MY GARDEN by Pat Maher**

I am now the happy owner of a new pergola, built by my husband Laurie, to my instructions!! Lots of discussion about what colour to paint it and a few test patches but in the end we decided that it would soon be covered with roses and a grape vine and the three of us (daughter No 3) all agreed that the colour we chose is OK. I had a bit of trouble with the planting and had to use the crowbar to dislodge a few big rocks but the three climbing roses and the grape have settled in nicely and are looking very healthy – looking forward to next Spring.

It has been a great season for roses and my climbing ‘Amber Glow’ and ‘Lamarque’ are still happily flowering as are fragrant, deep pink, bush roses ‘Old Fragrance’ and ‘Best Friend’ (named by the RSPCA to honour the unconditional special friendship that comes from having a loving pet).

A beautiful time of the year when the trees are changing colour and my sesanqua camellia hedge has just started to flower. Oh, and just to let you know, my ‘pink ice’ proteas are still producing new flowers.

On a sadder note something has eaten my rocket seedlings down to the stalk – could it be a rabbit? The same thing was happening to my lettuce until I covered them. So it goes with the ‘ups and downs’ of gardening but persevere we dedicated gardeners do!!

## **FROM THE MAILBOX for your information**

**JULY 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>** The Queensland Garden Expo is a 'must see' in 2016 for green thumbs and novice gardeners alike. Held in the Sunshine Coast hinterland town of Nambour, this three day expo is Queensland's premier gardening event.

**OCTOBER 22<sup>nd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup>** Bundanoon Garden Ramble

The 20<sup>th</sup> Bundanoon Garden Ramble will be held on the weekend of October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. This annual event in the village of Bundanoon features eight private gardens that will be opened from 9.30am to 4.30pm on both days. This year there are some larger gardens with expansive vistas as well as half acres in the centre of the village with lots of garden art and innovative design features.

## **From The Yates Garden Club Newsletter** **Thirsty Citrus Plants**

“Unless you’re getting regular autumn rainfall, give your citrus a deep drink each week.

Inadequate soil moisture can affect ripening fruit, so it’s important to ensure the water is getting down into the soil. It’s as easy as mixing 15ml of [Yates® Waterwise Soil Wetter Concentrate](#) into a 9L watering can and watering over the root zone (or potting mix for container grown citrus).

This will help the water penetrate below the surface and down into the roots where it’s needed. And to help keep citrus leaves healthy and green and nourish the developing fruit, feed each week with [Yates® Thrive® Citrus Liquid Plant Food](#). Just mix 2 capfuls into a 9L watering can and apply around the root zone of in-ground and potted citrus.”

<http://www.yates.com.au/#VdgGd2CaPjTBBmWT.97>



## PLANT OF THE MONTH

by Kate Chinnick



**Grevillea  
iaspicula  
(Wee Jasper Spider  
Flower)**

- Native to Australia
- Fast growing compact shrub to 2 metres
- Upright habit with pale green smooth foliage
- Attractive spider-like cream and pink pendulous flower clusters
- Flowers prolifically May to November
- Attracts nectar feeding birds
- Grows well in semi shaded positions
- Frost resistant and will tolerate exposed conditions
- Responds well to pruning

### What to do in the garden for May

- Evergreen shrubs can still be moved
- Spring flowering Camelias 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