

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017



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<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

MAY Thursday 11th

Garden Visits

Our next garden visits will be to Alex Rea's garden in town, and perhaps another town garden, before heading to Krawaree to see the gardens at the Deua Tin Huts, created by Andrew and Clare Kavunenko. In 2010, Andrew and Clare bought their 15 acre property as a bare paddock in the Upper Shoalhaven Valley and have developed it as a home and a small accommodation business. Three freestanding, environmentally sustainable huts provide simple but comfortable accommodation in a beautiful rural setting, 40kms from Braidwood on a sealed road.

Andrew was a designer and developer of gardens in the Southern Highlands for many years, but the different climate of the Tablelands presented new challenges. The garden was designed to take advantage of the valley views and the wooded hills in the distance. Hedges and trees were first planted to create windbreaks, followed by plantings of exotic trees, shrubs and flowering plants. They also have a productive vegetable garden. Andrew and Clare will be happy to share the history of the garden's evolution, and answer any questions.

For the adventurous, an optional extra on the day will be a visit to the Tablelands Trees and Shrubs Nursery. This is an hour further along the road to Cooma on a mix of sealed and dirt roads. The nursery has a large selection of plants propagated on site and therefore well suited to our climate. John Bove has developed the garden and nursery over 30 years, and the mature trees and shrubs provide a beautiful setting for the nursery.

Plants for sale include ornamental and fruit trees, cold climate shrubs, alpine perennials and groundcovers.

While the nursery is "in the sticks" as their website explains, it is well worth a visit. John is a very knowledgeable plantsman and welcomes visitors by appointment. If you do plan to visit the nursery, can you let Sue Murray know (Ph 4842 2381) so we can advise John of the expected numbers, and organise transport.

We will meet at Ryrie Park at 9.30am on May 11th, to organise a carpool. The road to the nursery requires a reasonably sturdy vehicle, though not 4 wheel drive.

We will have a late morning tea at the Deua Tin Huts. Members with surnames starting with A-M, please bring a plate to share for morning tea. If you plan to visit the nursery, pack a picnic lunch. Bring a chair and a mug just in case they are needed. Remember **to wear your nametag**, and to **contribute to the transport costs** of the driver.

REPORT ON OUR VISIT TO MAJORS CREEK GARDENS ON APRIL 20th

On a calm, sunny and perfect weather day, about 25 of us visited 4 very different gardens and learned so much about gardening in the climate of Majors Creek.

Our first stop was at Marjorie and Randell Lemin's garden on their 1½ acre block, created in 2007. It began as a cleared paddock with a surveyors report suggesting some man-made channels, probably dug by the early Chinese settlers for their market garden and this Chinese beginning has influenced the choice of a life sized Chinese Warrior standing guard in a niche in the laurel hedge. Black Wattles were planted first to provide shelter for the fledgling garden but have now been removed and Portuguese Laurel and Eleagnus hedges now giving shelter.

A magnificent curved wisteria walk supports mauve Wisteria Sinensis and is sheltered from the strong westerlies by a long, well-trimmed laurel hedge which also separates the recreational from the utility areas of the garden. Expansive lawns, fruit trees, a woodland walk planted with rhododendrons and azaleas alongside a rocky water bed all overlooked by the home and surrounding verandah. A true haven for the dedicated gardeners.



Next on to "Sherbrook", the garden of Chris and Brian James set high on a hill overlooking the town. The home and garden initially faced major problems including difficult access, a sloping site covered in broom and long delays getting approval to build a house. Chris began her garden by planting trees from the school nursery as a windbreak, and hardy natives bought from Claire at Bunyip Jungle. These were to provide a windbreak as well as attracting birds. Trailer loads of newspapers were used as mulch to kill weeds and keep the soil damp and leaves were laid on top. The majority of the plants were gifts from friends or propagated by Chris in a greenhouse.

There are special places in Chris's garden... a "wedding garden" where her daughter Bec was engaged and married, trees planted as loving reminders of family, and a small memorial garden for her sister and mother. Many garden gifts are spotted throughout the garden with a large wire-fenced vegetable garden and shady spots to sit and ponder. A truly special place.

Our 3rd garden was to Chris's daughter Bec who is building her garden around an old Majors Creek cottage, now extended to provide space for her 3 children. Bec works as a gardener, having inherited the family 'green thumb' and love of plants. Like her mum, she loves to propagate and experiments with different plants in her garden, moving them around to find the best spots. A productive vegetable garden, a small orchard an active chook yard and space with room for 3 active children reflect a truly family garden.

The last garden, "Long Flat", owned by Bob and Carol Lane overlooks a valley with 3 large lakes and acres of sloping lawn edged with animals... a large elephant, a group of giraffes and a pig climbing over a fence. The garden is part of the 3,000 acre property created over 50 years and at this time of year, the many Manchurian Pears (Pyrus Ussuriensis) are ablaze with colour. A tennis court fenced on 3 sides, a rose arbour covered in New Dawn roses, a rose garden featuring the pretty pink rose "Happy Days", a fire pit surrounded by seats and a pizza oven, and large, shady trees suggest a family who enjoys their country refuge.

What a treat for all who shared the day.

NB Sue Murray is looking after a pink flowered coffee mug left at "Long Flat". Call her on 4842 2381 if it is yours!



"In My Garden" Contributions

In each newsletter we try to include a garden description by one of our members. This task has fallen mainly to members of the Committee, but this month we have a wonderful contribution by Dawn Evans. We would love to have all our members contributing to this, to make the newsletter even more interesting! If you feel you can write a short/medium/long description of your garden, to share both your successes and frustrations, Margy Gardner would love to hear from you (daisymarg2000@yahoo.com.au). She will then be able to allocate you a month, open to negotiation of course. You don't have to be a plant expert or a great writer – everyone has a garden story to tell. Photos can be uploaded as well. Contributions can be emailed to the Garden Club email address, or given to Margy Gardner, Sue Murray, Jane Moore, or any other member of the Committee.

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

Carwoola Garden Aid

Alex Rea took a delivery of plants to the organisers of this project a week or two ago. We missed this delivery but there will be a further collection and delivery in Spring. If you have plants set aside to assist those who lost their gardens in the Carwoola bushfire, thank you on their behalf. Alex will arrange another delivery in Spring, so if you can keep them alive over winter, that would be much appreciated.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

Bec Bigg

UPCOMING GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

JUNE MEETING

A Rose Forum to be held at the Servicemens Club where our local rose experts, Kate Chinnick and Dennis Dempsey, will share their knowledge and experience with us.

JULY MEETING

Apple grafting workshop with a talk by Gary Watkins-Sully, the heritage apple guru, plus lunch at the Cheese Factory. Gary's knowledge of Heritage apple varieties is phenomenal and we are very fortunate that he has rediscovered and saved so many rare apple tree varieties from properties throughout the district. This will be a rare opportunity to share his knowledge and to ask questions about the cider industry in this region.

AUGUST MEETING

The AGM with talks and photos from the Chelsea Flower Show from 2 of our members who are visiting the world renowned show this year.

Bathurst/Blue Mountains Trip in Spring

Expressions of Interest by May 15th

We would like to start detailed planning for this proposed trip, but at present we do not have enough expressions of interest to go ahead. To pay for the bus and accommodation for the driver, we would need around 30-35 people. You don't need to make a definite commitment at this stage, but if you think you would be able to join us for a 3 day/2 night trip to this beautiful area in mid-September or October, please let us know ASAP. The cost for the bus, two nights' accommodation and possible garden entry fees will be in the range of \$300 to \$400 per person. This depends on numbers, and on available accommodation.

If we don't have enough people to be able to do this trip, we could consider an alternative of a one-night trip to the Southern Highlands. There are many Open Gardens in this area in spring, which could be viewed at a leisurely pace if we stayed overnight.

If you are interested in doing one of these possible trips, please contact Sue Murray (48422381), or reply directly to this e mail from the Braidwood Garden Club, **by May 15th**. We will then decide whether either of the trips is viable. We understand that some people don't enjoy long bus trips but if you can join us, we would love to have your company. Our last overnight trip to the Beechworth area was a really special experience.

FROM THE MAILBOX for your information

The following open gardens or events are open within the coming week.

Visit the 'My Open Garden' website <http://www.myopengarden.com.au> for more information.

[Beyond Avalon](#) : Black Springs

[Gairloch Garden](#) : Oberon

[Mayfield Garden](#) : Oberon

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

[Nooroo Garden Mt Wilson](#) : Mt Wilson

[Private Gardens of Monaro - Private Tour Dates 2017](#) : Cooma

[Wildwood Garden](#) : Bilpin

You might like to visit these regularly open gardens:

[Bebeah](#) : Mt Wilson

[Bundanon Homestead & Garden](#) : Illaroo

[Everglades Historic House & Gardens](#) : Leura

[Mayfield Garden](#) : Oberon

[Perenniale Plants Nursery](#) : Canowindra

[Secret Garden and Nursery](#) : Richmond

[Tablelands Trees and Shrubs Garden & Nursery](#) : Cooma

IN MY GARDEN by Dawn Evans

On a very hot January day 8 years ago, I moved to Braidwood. The house I found was almost new and faced east. Couch grass grew in front, a dunny lane was sited on the southern side and a barbed wire fence of sorts separated the the vacant block on the northern side.

The entire back yard which faced west appeared to be a gravel road base 5 inches thick. It was solid and designed so that no vehicle would ever get bogged. This was removed bit by bit using a crow bar and mattock. The soil underneath appeared reasonable.

The number 1 job was to concentrate on this by defining an area for a carport and garden implements etc,etc. A windbreak was needed so off to Braidwood markets for tube stock. Tall growing Ovens wattles (A. Pravissima), were planted along the back fence and grey wattles (name unknown) Snowy R.Wattle (A.Boormanii), Callistemons and Leptospermums made up the windbreak. These have continued to grow and grow but the bottlebrushes and tea trees have now been cut to approx 1 metre high. There is room for a lilac, 2 cream flowering Luma Apiculata, syn.Myrtus Luma and a Grevillia Canterbury Gold. The sun filters through allowing other smaller plants to grow with a vigorous orange Grevillia Victoriae adjacent. This grows naturally in the mountains around Canberra where it is constrained by granite rocks and boulders.

The clothes line is now in its 3rd position where a tall growing Albizia (Pink Silk Tree) partly overhangs it. Because it is deciduous, there is no problem in winter. Underneath the clothes line the area is now covered with very small pebbles bordered by cream coloured paving bricks. The unglamorous unmentionables can flutter out of sight of the neighbours. Salvias and other perennials add colour and attract bees whilst the trees shelter an assortment of birds. A lovely area to relax in.

A pebbled pathway leads from this area to a Eucalyptus Moorei (Little Sally) on the northern side of the house, It has forgotten it should be a Mallee and wants to grow into a tree. A purple callistemon next to it is beloved by spit fire caterpillars making growing difficult. The Lady O Grevillia next to it has no such problem. Nearby an Eriostemon (Wax flower) now called a Philotheca, enjoys morning sun. Dwarf Ovens Wattles that grow along the fence line having forgotten they should stay short. Hakea Serica is interspersed with these, the intention being to reduce the glare from next door's roof.

The front yard has another Albizia next to 3 Silver Birches with a Rhododendron growing underneath. Various bulbs show their heads at the appointed time. Correas, Choisya (Mexican Orange Blossom), a dogwood (Cornus Florida) and smaller shrubs survive and some unfortunately do not. Near the letterbox, a Crab Apple shares space with an Escallonia and pink rock roses. In front of the house, Hibiscus Syriacus, Rhododendrons, Lorapetalums, Choisya and Daphne are happy but a Pieris (Lilly of the Valley) shrub is finicky. Small growing perennials and bulbs complete the picture. Next to the steps, another Choisya, a gift from a friend, has problems. Madam Butterfly also likes it but not the other 2, just that one. Her cream and green caterpillars grow very large and are hard to see. Complementing the front garden beds the couch lawn continues to grow, sending runners into unwelcome places.

On the southern side, between the lane and the house, pink flowering Abelias and Camellias grow in part shade. A Magnolia Little Gem and a Prostanthera Lasianthus (Victorian Christmas Bush) have also found suitable positions. It is a garden that provides pleasure mixed with frustration.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

by Kate Chinnick



**Eleagnus
pungens**
(Silverberry)

- Native to Japan, very hardy
- Evergreen shrub to 4.5 metres tall and 6m wide
- Suitable for hedging
- Leaves are glossy green above and silvery white underneath
- Flowers are small creamy white with brown dots, very highly perfumed in Autumn
- Fruits are reddish brown with silver spots
- Grows well in most positions
- Varieties "Goldrim" has yellow margins on the leaves, "Aurea" has broader yellow, "Maculata" has broad yellow central patches on each leaf
- Responds well to pruning
- Propagate from soft tip cuttings in Spring or semi hardwood cuttings in summer

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 the