

# BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2017



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<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

### APRIL Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>

Because our usual meeting date is the day before Easter, we will meet instead on 20<sup>th</sup> April, a week later. We will be visiting 4 gardens in and around Major's Creek. Two of these are the creations of mother and daughter team Chris James and Bec Bigg and Marjorie and Randall Lemin have also offered to show us their garden. The fourth garden will be a surprise!

We hope you will be able to join us to see 4 different local gardens, all reflecting the love of gardening which we all share.

We will meet at **Ryrie Park at 9.15am** to car pool and arrive at Major's Creek about 10am. The roads to some of the gardens are passable but may be a bit rough after all the recent rain, so a few good reliable vehicles will be needed. 4WD is not necessary. Please bring a picnic lunch, a mug and a chair.

The club will provide tea and coffee for morning tea and lunch and members with surnames from **N to Z** please bring a plate of morning tea to share.

There will be a plant swap with a gold coin entry to take part so bring a plant and you can take a plant home with you. Also if you have special autumn leaves in your garden, bring one for our "Autumn Leaf Competition" to be held over lunch time.

As we are car pooling, remember that if you are a passenger, a contribution to the driver's costs is a Garden Club policy & don't forget to wear your Name Tag.

### REPORT ON OUR VISIT TO MILTON/MOLLYMOOK/ULLADULLA ON MARCH 9<sup>th</sup>

On a slightly overcast morning 25 of us set off to Mollymook for our first garden of the morning. We pulled up at a house screened by a lovely bamboo hedge. We later found out this was a non-invasive clumping bamboo called Tiger Grass. We were met at the house by the owner and the president of Ulladulla garden club. The owner gave us a brief talk on the design of the garden; they had spent time in South East Asia and wanted a garden to reflect this. The garden was 3 years old, but already very lush and green, which showed us what a wetter milder climate could achieve. The plants were

interspersed with sculptures such as a large Buddha and a vertical statue of the 3 Wise Monkeys. There were quiet sitting areas throughout the garden and photos of how the garden had evolved were on view.

Our next garden was a few streets away and very different to the first, but no less beautiful. We were led through the house to a deck overlooking the garden. A magnificent morning tea was waiting for us there being served by other members of the Ulladulla garden club. This garden was a mix of vegetable plots, fruit trees and ornamentals. I think we all had citrus envy at the size of the lemon and lime trees. I struggle every year to keep a lime tree alive during the winter. We were all very surprised by the size of the passionfruit, but it wasn't the lush climate that had made them so big, they were a large variety. Following morning tea we were given a talk and information about the Biennial Garden Club convention which is taking place in Ulladulla in November.

We next went to Milton to wander the shops and for lunch. Some had so much to eat at morning tea they didn't need lunch which gave them extra time for shopping. Others found the local cafes much to their liking.

Following lunch we went to a nursery in Ulladulla where the owner gave us a talk on frangipani. Unfortunately this didn't leave us with much time for nursery browsing as we had to move on to our final visit of the day.

The final garden in Ulladulla was different again to the others we had seen. It was owned by an 87 year old lady, and was obviously her pride and joy. She can no longer manage all the work herself, but informed she had employed her handyman young and was training him to her way of doing things. Two standouts in the front garden for me were the beautiful old fashioned hydrangea and the espaliered camellia underneath a front window. We were then led to the back and what a treat it was, an amazing garden that words alone cannot describe. There was a beautiful pink flowering eucalypt also full of rainbow lorikeets enjoying the nectar, many different forms of abutilon, more than I had known existed, and old standard eucalypts with a kookaburra in the branches. A bower was being constructed at the bottom of the garden using metal frames used for concreting arched to a central plinth and a climbing plant was slowly covering it all. I could go on like this forever without really painting a full picture, so why not visit our website

[braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com](http://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com) to see photos actually taken on the day.

## Carwoola Garden Aid

Alex Rea is collecting plants for Carwoola gardens affected by fire, and will deliver them in 3-4 weeks. Plants can be brought on our Majors Creek day or deliver them directly to Alex at 43 Elrington St. Plants should be labelled so people know what they're getting. Plastic knives make a good plant label!

## UPCOMING GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

Plans for the next few months include

\* In May, Clare Wilder and Andrew Kavunenko from the Deua Tin Huts have invited us to visit their garden. Andrew is a landscape gardener, with many years' experience in the Southern Highlands. Moving to Krawaree 7 years ago, Andrew and Clare had to adjust to a very different climate and new challenges, while setting up their unique accommodation in keeping with the history and environment of this beautiful area. Andrew and Clare will be very happy to answer questions and discuss the problems they have faced.

\* During winter, we have a few ideas for our meetings. Gary Watkins-Sully at the Cheese factory in Reidsdale has offered to host an apple-tree grafting workshop, while sharing his amazing knowledge of Heritage apple varieties. Gary's knowledge in this area is phenomenal. 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 area.

\* Another idea is to have a "Rose Forum" where our local rose experts share their knowledge and experience with us. At the same time we can all learn how to prune our roses correctly! We have several serious rose experts in our membership, so this is a great opportunity to find out about how to care for these beautiful plants, and how to integrate them into our garden designs.

In Spring, we will visit both local gardens and those further afield. We hope to organise a bus trip to the Bathurst/Oberon area. This would include the Bathurst Open Gardens weekend, a visit to Mayfield at Oberon, and perhaps some Blue Mts gardens. If you are interested in this trip, we need to know soon. Planning for these trips is complex and requires a lot of time, so we need to know if we have enough interested members to go ahead with this. Friends of members are of course welcome. If you would like to be part of this trip, please phone Sue Murray (0248422381) or Jane Moore (0248421494), or just reply to the garden club email address.

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

## OVERNIGHT VISIT IN SPRING

An overnight trip in spring would require at least 30 people to come and it is a probable 2 nights away in October or November. We have a few ideas but would also welcome suggestions from our members. We will aim to keep the distance to within a 3-4 hour bus trip, if possible. The Bathurst/Oberon area, the Blue Mountains or the Southern Highlands are all possible in that time. The more suggestions we have the better, so please share any thoughts you might have with a Committee member or via the club email.

## FROM THE MAILBOX for your information

### APRIL Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>

The Collectors Plant Fair at the Hawkesbury Race Club in Clarendon NSW with 80+ growers, plants, planters, books, flowers, coffee. For a full list of activities log on to... [www.collectorsplantfair.com.au](http://www.collectorsplantfair.com.au)

### APRIL Easter Monday 17<sup>th</sup>

Leeton Open Gardens 10am- 4.30pm Visit 6 gardens for \$20 or \$5 each garden (includes morning or afternoon tea). Lunch available-\$8. For enquiries call Alanna on 0417 127 411

[www.leetongardenclub.com.au](http://www.leetongardenclub.com.au)

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### *My Place by Pat Maher*

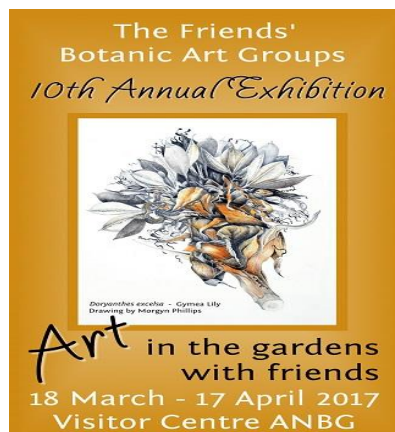
*It has been raining at our place in Reidsdale for about a month and consequently things are shooting out of the ground, weeds included, in happy abundance. A Eureka lemon I planted about 4 years ago is loving the rain and has a great crop of lemons, the best yet. I prefer it to the Meyer, although it is not as juicy, it has a stronger lemon flavour. My sasanqua camellia hedge has just started to flower and a very large white clematis is putting on a second flowering as are some of my roses.*

*Unfortunately this year the birds have taken most of the fruit even though the trees were netted (obviously not well enough). We did have a bumper crop of raspberries and blueberries and still have a few frozen ones left to put on our porridge.*

*The possum, who has been coming onto our verandah for some years, now has a baby who is not at all shy and just sits munching on the plants when we try to shoo it away.*

*All in all, happy with our lot - plot, and thankful for the rain!!*

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## PLANT OF THE MONTH by Kate Chinnick



**Indigofera**

**australis**

**(Australian Indigo)**

- Native of Australia
- An evergreen shrub (can be deciduous in heavy winters)
- Grows to 1.8 metres tall and 1.8 metres wide
- Blue green pinnate leaves, hairy on the underside
- Prefers full sun or part shade in light well drained soil
- Flowers mauve/pink in racemes through the warmer months
- Trim to shape after flowering
- Take semi-ripe cuttings in early or mid summer

### What to do in the garden for April

- Trim evergreen shrubs so they recover before winter
- Choose trees for autumn colour
- Good time to plant or move Camellias, Rhodo's & Azaleas
- Look for Liliun, Hippeastrum & Sprekelia Bulbs
- Complete planting of spring bulbs
- Tidy leaves of Hellebores, Winter Iris & Aquilegias
- Sow Asian Greens, Broad Beans & Peas
- Plant all Brassicas (cover with fine netting against white butterflies, old lace curtains ideal!)
- Remove all old leaves from Strawberries (put in garbage)
- Remove 3 year old Strawberries & replace with new stock
- Repot herbs and pot plants with new potting mix
- Pick up any fallen fruit & dispose of if diseased