

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2017



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<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

Thursday 8th JUNE

Rose Forum

Our Rose Forum in June is a wonderful opportunity to share the experience and knowledge of our two local rose experts, Kate Chinnick and Dennis Dempsey. We hope you will join us for this special day.

Some of you will have visited Kate's beautiful garden at Reidsdale, where she grows hundreds of roses of all types. The Heritage Roses in Australia Society selected Kate's garden for a visit by its members as part of their biennial conference last November.

Kate will talk to us about the history of roses and the many different types. She will share her tips about pruning the different types of roses, gained from her experience and wide reading.

Dennis is a Braidwood local, who grew up at Emu Flat. He is now a well-respected rose expert, with years of experience as a horticulturalist in Canberra. Dennis still works at the Rose Gardens at Old Parliament House, and he will share with us some of the rose management techniques he has developed there. Dennis and his wife Eileen returned to Braidwood in 2007. They have been developing a new garden since that time, where roses share space with many other favourite plants.

We are very grateful to Kate and Dennis for generously sharing with us their knowledge of roses and how best to care for them.

We will meet at the Braidwood Servicemens Club at 10am for morning tea and the talks will commence at 10.30.

There is a small charge of \$5 to cover costs.

Please register and pay at the Bendigo Bank by Saturday June 3rd and bring a plate of food to share for lunch.

REPORT FROM OUR GARDEN VISITS IN MAY

A group of our members met at Ryrie Park on a beautiful day in May, then carpoled for our visits to three very different gardens.

Alex Rea's garden

Our first stop was around the corner in Elrington St, where Alex Rea met us for a tour of her garden. Her small front yard and very large back yard are typical of many Braidwood town blocks. Alex inherited a few shrubs and trees from previous owners, as well as a unique historical collection of garden ornaments. Previous owners had used the back yard for vegetable growing, but Alex has transformed the front yard into a productive space as well.

After 10 years under Alex's care, the garden now reflects her dedication to productive vegetable and fruit growing. She grows a wide range of vegetables, fruits and berries, and is one of the drivers of the garlic-growing movement in and around Braidwood. Her garden is now a profusion of productivity. Over the years Alex has added her own collection of "interesting objects", which she uses as vegetable planters or compost bins.

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Alex generously answered all our members' questions and we all came away with a new awareness of how incredibly productive a Braidwood town garden can be.

Deua Tin Huts, Krawarree

We then drove 40 kms to the beautiful Upper Shoalhaven Valley, to meet Clare and Andrew Kavunenko at the Deua Tin Huts. Since 2010 Clare and Andrew have transformed a bare paddock into a home, garden and small accommodation business. Initially hundreds of natives were planted to create wind breaks, then a variety of exotic trees, shrubs, roses and flowering plants were added. A vegetable garden was painstakingly created from the rocky ground. The site is fairly exposed so plants have to be tough to survive. Andrew has kindly shared with us a list of the plants he has found to be successful in this location.



The house gardens are designed to take advantage of the beautiful views of the valley and the wooded hills in the distance. We all enjoyed our morning tea on the sunny and sheltered front verandah while gazing at the garden and the distant hills. Roses growing near the house and in the garden beds seemed to be thriving. In particular, I noticed the beautiful rose "Mutabilis" and the lovely climber "Rena". Behind the house, garden beds of both natives and exotic shrubs create privacy around each of the "Tin Huts", with paths leading to a large pond and barbecue area.

Andrew and Clare were wonderful hosts for our members. They gave us an extensive tour of the garden, and also showed us the 3 Tin Huts. These are spacious, comfortable and sustainable accommodation units, each uniquely decorated with Australian country furniture – the perfect escape from the pressures of city living.

Andrew from Deua Tin Huts has sent a list of trees and shrubs that have done well in his environment:-

The most successful native trees and larger shrubs indigenous to this area are :- *Euc. pauciflora* (snow gum), *Banksia marginata*, *Casuarina littoralis*, *Cas. nana*, *Euc. viminalis*

Other native trees that have done well include: *Acacia rubida*, *acacia dealbata*, *Euc. radiata*, *Euc. stellata*, *Euc. crenulata*, *Euc. moorei*, *Euc. macarthurii*, *Euc. ovata*, *Euc. parvula*, *Euc. nicholii*

Native shrubs that have prospered include: *Hakea dactyloides*, *Grevillia parvula*, *Prostanthera lasianthos*, *Melaleuca parvistaminea*, *Mel. decussata*, *Leptospermum lanigerum*, *Callistemon citrinus*, *sieberi* and *pityloides*.

Other smaller native shrubs include: *Grevillea lanigera* Mt Tamboritha, *Kunzea Badja* carpet, *Westringia Wynneyabbie* Gem, *Leptospermum "Mesmer Eyes"*

Most exotics that can handle the heavy frosts do OK here. We particularly like growing deciduous flowering shrubs like *Spiraea*, *Viburnums*, *Deutzia*, *Philadelphus*, *lilac* etc. The smaller deciduous trees that have done well include *Malus*, *Zelkova*, Japanese maples and birch trees. Some of the larger deciduous trees planted in heavier ground have not done so well.

Evergreen exotics like *Lonicera nitida*, *Escallonia Iveyi*, *Viburnum Tinus* and of course *Photinias*, all do well here. There are plenty of cold climate herbaceous perennials that do well and roses seem to do particularly well too.

Tablelands Trees and Shrub Nursery

Ten of us then continued along the Cooma Rd to Countegany, where John and Shilo Bowe have established a nursery specialising in cold climate plants. While it is very much "off the beaten track" the nursery is a beautiful place to visit.

The garden is sheltered by trees and surrounding hills, and the professional nursery produces and sells a wide range of plants ideally suited to our climate. The healthy plants tempted all of us to buy, and we came away with boots crowded with trees and shrubs. The garden and nursery are usually open to visitors. They have a website www.tablelandsnurseries.com.au with plant lists and contact numbers.



The long drive home over the mountain and through the Shoalhaven Valley was beautiful in the late afternoon. Our grateful thanks go to those who volunteered to drive, and to all the garden owners who welcomed us so generously.

Beautification of Wallace St and Ryrie Park

QPRC recently organised a meeting of community representatives, to share ideas with the consultants who will be providing advice to the Council on this project. Sue Murray was invited to attend to represent the Garden Club. A lively discussion took place, with some really interesting ideas coming from representatives of both our local schools, as well as adults of different ages, representing various groups within our community.

The observations made by students of both our schools about how they currently use Ryrie Park, and ways they would like it to change, were both interesting and enlightening. The adults present also had some good ideas to contribute! All these ideas were discussed in a very open way, and we all really appreciated the opportunity to have some input into planning for our town.

The consultants are specialists in Heritage Landscape Architecture, and were very receptive to all ideas presented at the meeting. Their report will be received by QPRC in the next few months. We look forward to seeing how they incorporate such a range of different views in their final plan.

UPCOMING GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

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 Garden Visits, Spring 2017

We have a number of members interested in this proposed trip, but there are not enough to pay for a bus trip. An alternative being considered is to organise a car pool of members who are keen to do this trip.

We are planning our trip around the Bathurst Open Gardens Weekend on 28th/29th October. The theme for this weekend is "A Country Garden Ramble". There are 10 gardens open to visit over these two days, in and around Bathurst.

The Bathurst/Orange region offers many places to visit, in addition to the open gardens, so a very enjoyable trip is guaranteed. A visit to the renowned Mayfield garden at Oberon will be part of this trip. The Japanese Garden at Cowra could also be included on the way to Bathurst, if there is enough interest in this.

Having a car pool offers the flexibility to stay longer, to explore this very interesting area. We can organise accommodation for you, or you have the freedom to make your own arrangements.

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

Those currently on the list for this trip will be contacted in the next few weeks to see what their preferences are. If you haven't already let us know that you are interested, please contact Sue Murray on 48422381, or at suejmurray@yahoo.com

FROM THE MAILBOX for your information

A Notice From Digby Hildreth (highfalutinfilms@gmail.com)

"I believe your members will be interested to learn that the beautifully shot and fascinating film, 'SEED: The Untold Story', will be released in Australia and New Zealand on May 20 on iTunes, Google Play, Vimeo on Demand and Xbox.

"SEED: The Untold Story" follows passionate seed keepers protecting the world's 12,000 year-old food legacy, in the face of the eradication of the vast majority of seed species.

With biotech chemical companies such as Monsanto controlling most seeds, farmers, scientists, lawyers and indigenous seed keepers fight a David and Goliath battle to defend the future of our food.

These reluctant heroes rekindle a lost connection to one of humanity's most vital resources, and keep alive a culture in which seeds are rightly revered."

Here's a link to the trailer: <https://vimeo.com/97882647>

<http://www.transitionsfilmfestival.com/event/seed-the-untold-story/>

<http://www.seedthemovie.com>

My Open Garden

Visit the 'My Open Garden' website <http://www.myopengarden.com.au> for information on the latest Open Gardens in NSW.

OCTOBER 8th-14th

NATIONAL GARDENING WEEK

National Gardening Week offers a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the simple joys of gardening and to highlight the associated environmental, social and health benefits. Whether it be maintaining a few pots on a balcony, a suburban backyard or a large country expanse, the enjoyment, the improved mental and physical wellbeing and the satisfaction gardeners gain from 'getting their hands dirty' is universal.

JUNE 24th Saturday

Bundanoon Garden Seminar

The Bundanoon Garden Club have again organised a Garden Seminar, 9am-4pm to be held in the Soldiers' Memorial Hall, Bundanoon. The speakers include Michael McCoy, Elwyn Swane and Paul Tyerman with Botanical Art on exhibition and for sale, Garden Tools, Iron Work, Compost, Orchids, Garden Ornaments, Botanical printed fabrics, and Plants for Sale.

\$35/person, all inclusive (promotional pack, morning tea, lunch)

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/252897

Contact Suzy Molyneux 4883 6073 suzym109@bigpond.com or www.bundanoongardenclub.com.au



Working in your garden will strengthen your body and soothe your soul

OCTOBER 21st/22nd

BUNDANOON GARDEN RAMBLE – COMING OF AGE!

For the 21st year you are invited to ramble around beautiful private gardens in Bundanoon on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 October.

The 21st Bundanoon Garden Ramble will be held on the weekend of 21 and 22 October 2017.

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. A combination of both large and small gardens will delight visitors.

The Soldiers' Memorial Hall in the main street of Bundanoon will feature a Garden Market with plants and gifts for sale. Other interesting displays, including an exhibition by the Bundanoon History Group will be open for viewing in the main street.

Visit the gardens and other activities by bicycle; use the free shuttle bus or if you wish to avoid delays use your own transport.

Purchase tickets in the Soldiers' Memorial Hall.

Tickets valid for both days and with garden descriptions and map are \$20. This includes all eight gardens or \$5 for a single garden.

Refreshments are available in one of the gardens, as well as in the cafes in the village.

For more information visit www.bundanoongardenramble.org.au or contact

Robin Coombes on 0488 508 598.

Bundanoon adjoins Morton National Park. For weekend stays, other activities and free accommodation bookings, contact the Southern Highlands Visitor Information Centre in Mittagong.

www.southern-highlands.com.au Free call 1300 657 559.

OCTOBER 28th/29th

'Old Graham' Homestead, Hovells Creek. Open Garden

<http://www.myopengarden.com.au/openGarden.jsp?id=1652>

NOVEMBER 4th/5th

Millthorpe Garden Ramble <http://www.millthorpevillage.com.au/events-venues/>

NOVEMBER 5th-10th

Garden Clubs of Australia Convention, Ulladulla

The 2017 GCA Convention is hosted by the Ulladulla and Districts Garden Club in the beautiful Shoalhaven Area of Sun and Beaches in Southern NSW. The hosts have assured us of a scintastic, scentsational event with planning well underway. Lots of exciting gardens and beautiful places to see, starting **Sunday 5th November 2017** with the **AGM on Wednesday 8th November 2017**

<http://www.gardenclubs.org.au>

IN MY GARDEN AT BOHUN HOUSE by Margaret Royds

With great relief I left the large, cold Bedervale homestead and the large old garden in which we had struggled for years. It was a forest of aging pines when we went there, blocking any light into the dark interiors. Bulldozers cleared out the pines but the soil was poor and nothing grew until we put in a water supply and sprinkler system. I longed to see ornamental trees so Martin gathered autumn leaves in Canberra and spread them across the front lawn.

My new minimalist solar house was a relief to move into and I didn't plan to have a garden, just a few pot plants in the courtyard in front and wild flowers on the banks. With no cows, the paddock grass took over. I could mow on the flat but the rest was out of control. So the bank at the back had to be cleared and terraced, beds made, mulched and smothered with wood chips to keep the grass at bay until ground covers and shrubs could take over; paths made with sawdust and a set of steps so I wasn't quite like a mountain goat. The front bank was supposed to be a Ha-ha but was a steep slope so I covered it with prostrate grevillea. Then there was the westerly wind so in went the hedges. The underground water tank in the front looked like a helicopter pad. First I painted it green but that did not work so I covered it with soil and mushroom compost and started planting it out with thyme and surrounded it with a box hedge. Now I would like I see it as a labyrinth. The old pot plants from Bedervale had to be planted out so that was another bed and then they had to be protected... more plants. The chooks couldn't keep their yard down so I planted an orchard. Then I really missed having birds so completely forgetting the grass problem, I planted 300 flowering native shrubs in the paddock above the house. I had avoided trees as I love my panoramic view but Michael Bligh convinced me that I needed a couple at the entrance and one for shade for the car and also a few beds need rounding off easier for mowing. That's means making them bigger. What was a saying about not being tied to a garden?

PLANT OF THE MONTH

by Kate Chinnick



Mahonia
lomariifolia
(Holly Grape)

- Native of Myanmar and western China
- Evergreen shrub to 3m X 2m
- Thick cane like stems topped with whorls of dark green spiny leaves
- Upright spikes of sweetly scented yellow flowers in Autumn to Spring
- Flowers are followed by purple blue fruit
- Frost hardy
- Prefers a fertile soil protected from hot afternoon sun
- Propagate by cuttings or rooted suckers from base of plant
- (apologies for the repeat, but too good not to !)

What to do in the garden for June

- Camelias are blooming so buy new plants now
- Older Hydrangeas may be pruned now - remove older grey wood and reduce younger canes to a good pair of buds
- Plant new deciduous trees, shrubs, roses and vines
- Lift Dahlia tubers, divide and store in sawdust in dark dry area
- Houseplants should be moved away from heaters
- Do not allow vegetable plants to dry out
- Prune Pome fruits (Apple, Pear, Quinces etc.)
- A winter spray of pest oil or copper spray will clean up fruit trees
- Shred prunings and add to compost or mulch
- Remove any broken or crossed branches from trees or shrubs
- Rake fallen leaves onto beds or compost - don't burn