

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB



OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

President: Sue Murray 4842 2381

Secretary: Jane Moore 4842 1494

Treasurer: Fran Woods 0422 181 020

Newsletter Editor: Margy Gardner 0412 616 352

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

NOVEMBER Thursday 16th

Garden Visit to Bombay

Meet at Ryrie Park at 9.30 am to car pool. Expected return to Braidwood about 3 pm.

BYO picnic lunch & chair. Members with surnames starting with **A-L** please bring a plate to share for morning tea.

- 9.30 am Meet Ryrie Park
- 9.45 am Depart Ryrie Park for first property (14 km)
- 10.00 am "Wilmont" - Cathy & Laurie Ffrench – MORNING TEA
Morning tea – Cathy providing urn and cups. Plate to be provided by members surnames A to L
- 11.15 am "Ridgewood" – Bronwyn Johnson (2.5 km)
- 12.45 pm "Little Bombay" (3 km) - LUNCH
Lunch – Club urn and cups, members bring picnic lunch and chair
- 2.45 pm Return to Ryrie Park.

These three contrasting gardens are situated not far from town and within a short distance of each other. The owners have had to face a range of common problems encountered by anyone trying to establish and care for gardens on rural properties - including poor soils, sometimes limited water supply, exposure to all weathers, and the presence of stock, wildlife and feral animals.

- 'Wilmont' – Little Bombay Road (Cathy & Laurie Ffrench). The garden was started from scratch about 15 years ago in a bare paddock with sandy pebbly soil, on a fairly exposed site. A mixture of exotic and native species have been planted along a buffer bank for protection from westerly winds. The garden is continuing to evolve, expressing Cathy's love of native plants and including a cottage garden at the front.
- 'Ridgewood' – Tally Ho Road (Bronwyn Johnson). The original garden dates from the early 1990's, starting off with several fruit trees, exotics and a few native plants. Since Bronwyn arrived 16 years ago, a number of older plants have been removed and the garden expanded by the addition of many more Australian native species, particularly bird-attracting plants.
- 'Little Bombay' – Little Bombay Road (Jan Loveday and family). The present lovely garden has continued to mature since this historic property was bought by Jan and her late husband John in about 1973. After enriching the soil, planting was begun using both exotic and native plants arranged along the lines of 'garden rooms', with stone dividing walls being built over a number of years. The large old trees planted for shade and shelter are now a feature of the garden.

Report on the Bus Trip to Goulburn on Thursday 12th October

This bus trip was enjoyed by 24 members on a perfect spring day.



Our first visit was to **Kentgrove** (67 Gorman Rd, T: 02 4822 1133) where owner Doug Rawlinson gave us an account of the history of the property which he lived in for a while during his youth when it was a large sheep property (3,000+ acres) and prior to that it was one of the largest orchards in Australia with 30,000 fruit trees at its peak when it had its own cannery and selling jams under the 'Argyle' label. Doug purchased the property in 2006 and has developed the gardens virtually single handedly and on a very limit budget. Despite this, the results are most impressive. The gardens have been developed using sustainable principals and include a 750 m2 'Victorian

Kitchen Garden' constructed on a tennis court; a 200m2 'Temperate Rainforest Room' constructed in part of the old jam factory; and an 800 m2 'Japanese Garden' as well as an Australian Native garden space and some English-style gardens, with a formal French style garden with an Australian twist under construction. The property was full of innovative solutions and some were greatly impressed that the kitchen garden was fully covered by shade cloth with raised beds surrounded by generous paths.



The second stop was at **Riversdale** (2 Twynam Dr, Goulburn, (02) 4821 4741) which is a National Trust property and is a fine example of a Colonial Georgian home surrounded by splendid gardens and picnic grounds. Riversdale is renowned for its collection of fine Australian Colonial furniture and arts and craft. Built in the late 1830s as a coaching inn, Riversdale later became home to the district surveyor, Edward Twynam and his family in 1875. The group firstly enjoyed a tour through the gardens (photo) where we learnt about how they are progressively trying to recreate the gardens as they were first envisaged, before an optional tour of the house. We then enjoyed a

BYO picnic lunch and a further wander through the gardens.



The last house and garden we visited was **Garroorigang** (photo) Historic Home (209 Braidwood Road, Goulburn, T: 02 4822 1912). The property is part of the National Estate and is a site of National Historical Significance. It dates back to 1857 and was originally built as an inn on the road to the goldfields then serving as a private boarding school (1868-1883), before becoming a private home and from 1920 that of the Hume family (descendants of the explorer Hamilton Hume). Stuart Hume treated us to comprehensive tour of the house and of the reconstruction of the school classroom in the old stables, and well as an appreciation of the gardens and their reconditioned

horse drawn Oxford carriage and milk delivery carriage.

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

Our last stop was at [Nirvalley Homestead Nursery](#) (629 Cullulla Rd, Tarago, 02 4849 4481) where the full range of cool climate plants is not fully obvious when you first arrive. Ably guided by the owner Peter Campbell, the bus was soon full of plants.

David from Braidwood Buses ensured we all got there and back safe and sound and almost on time...

Braidwood Cemetery Working Bee on Sunday 15th October



A small group of willing helpers from the Garden Club and the local community turned up to assist in spreading mulch from two large pine trees cut down by the Council. The mulch was spread on the cemetery children's garden and used to create some new paths. Thanks to Margaret Royd for coordinating the working bee and to Chris & Karen Nelson, Roger James, Chris Watkins, Brian & Marilyn Carle and John & Margaret Tuckwell for spreading the huge mounds of mulch.

Garden Club Photos

For our new members and others who may have forgotten, our Garden Club has a website that has some wonderful photos of past trips going back to 2011. This site has some good information on the club and is wonderfully maintained by our Treasurer, Fran Woods who takes the photos and adds them to our site. Do check them out and a huge thanks Fran!

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com/photo-gallery/>

Garden Clubs of Australia 2018 Calendar

If anyone would like a garden calendar for next year, some are available from our secretary Jane Moore Give her a call on 4842 1494 if you would like one.

UPCOMING GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

DECEMBER Thursday 14th

Christmas Lunch.

More details to be announced in the next newsletter but keep the date free.

Bathurst/Blue Mountains Trip - 28th and 29th October

Twelve members are looking forward to an exciting trip which has been organised by Bronwyn Johnson with a visit to the famous Mayfield Garden on the agenda, as well as some of the gardens in the Bathurst Open Gardens event. We will report back to you all about it in the next newsletter.

FROM THE MAILBOX for your information

My Open Garden

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

The following gardens are open in the coming week.

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

- [Chinoiserie](#) : Mittagong
- [Coorong](#) : Jindera
- [Gairloch Garden](#) : Oberon
- [Mayfield Garden](#) : Oberon
- [Nooroo Garden Mt Wilson](#) : Mt Wilson
- [Perennial Hill](#) : Mittagong
- [Retford Park - National Trust of Australia \(NSW\)](#) : Bowral
- [Riverina Iris Farm](#) : Wagga Wagga
- [Wild Meadows](#) : Little Hartley
- [Wildwood Garden](#) : Bilpin

You might like to visit these regularly opened gardens.

- [Bebeah](#) : Mt Wilson
- [Bundanon Homestead & Garden](#) : Illaroo
- [Everglades Historic House & Gardens](#) : Leura
- [Mayfield Garden](#) : Oberon
- [Merribee](#) : Numbaa
- [Nooroo Garden Mt Wilson](#) : Mt Wilson
- [Perennial Plants Nursery](#) : Canowindra
- [Secret Garden and Nursery](#) : Richmond
- [Tablelands Trees and Shrubs Garden & Nursery](#) : Cooma

OCTOBER Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th

'Old Graham' Homestead, Hovells Creek. Open Garden

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

OCTOBER Sunday 29th

HARPERS MANSION Garden and Plant Fair, Berrima 10am - 4pm Phone 0409 823 861

Stalls include specialist plants, gardening equipment, furniture and decorative items, \$5 entry

Enquiries Sue Maude 4861 5753 <http://harpersmansion.com.au/announcements/garden-and-plant-fair>

NOVEMBER 4th/5th

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

NOVEMBER Sunday 5th

Riversdale Rare Plants & Growers Garden Fair, 2 Twynam Drive Goulburn

<https://www.goulburnaustralia.com.au/Event-Calendar/Riversdale-Rare-Plants-Growers-Fair.aspx>

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 scentsastic, 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>

NOVEMBER Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th

Crookwell Garden Festival Gardens open 10-4pm on both days. Garden-Lovers Market: 8.30am-2pm Saturday. Tickets can be purchased at the Crookwell Visitor Information Centre-\$20 for entry to all 10 gardens(valid for both days) or \$5 for a single garden. Free entry for children under 15.

There will be a wide variety of town and country gardens open for viewing. The popular Garden Lovers Market will be on Saturday at Bartholomew's church hall and grounds in Denison Street, Crookwell.

NOVEMBER Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th

Braidwood Open Gardens: 10am-4pm Entry \$5 per garden, under 18s free.

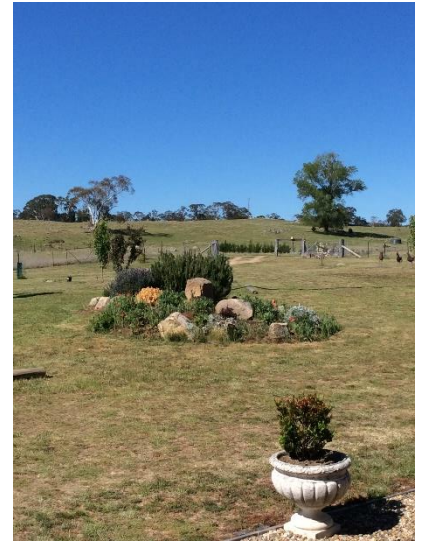
Mona, Bedervale, Nithsdale, Tillararra, Wynlen House and 14 Solus Street will all be open this year. A fundraiser for the not-for-profit Braidwood Preschool. <https://braidwoodgardens.com.au>

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

IN MY GARDEN by Jennie Marston



Michael and I moved into our brand new home almost three years ago having bought our 40ha several years before that. Despite the land being very bare from years of heavy grazing, and the ground around the house being churned up by the construction and associated vehicles, I had grand plans and expectations for the area I had decided to garden. These plans were far too large to manage but I was (and still am) determined not to give up.



My plans were inspired by the garden of Janalli, near Mt Macedon, Victoria. Of course they have plenty of rain there! They had a series of large garden rooms, but had spent a lot of money on the garden so that it could be used for weddings etc. So I have planned a series of gardens each with its own theme.

It has been a battle to dig new beds, prepare the ground that was very sandy, I won't call it soil, and then find plants that survived in poor soil, and are not ravaged by lack of rain, lots of wind, frost, rabbits and wombats. We have enclosed the garden area in netted fencing that in the main keeps rabbit and wombat out. We are fortunate to have a creek that we can use to water the garden and Michael has installed hoses and watering systems where possible. Before that I carted thousands of watering cans of water!

We have planted a lot of deciduous trees including plane trees, crab apples, maples, flowering cherries and ornamental pears. Most have survived but they have been slow to grow. This month it has been lovely to see the green leaves and blossoms on all these trees appearing and softening the harsh winter look. I am hoping that they have now settled in and will grow more vigorously this year to provide much needed summer shade. The windbreak hedges have also been slow, so most plants have been exposed to this year's strong winds.

Some plants that appeared to survive the first two winters have not survived the harsh frosts of this winter. My Little Poly (dwarf polygala), the diosma, and some daisies have not survived but I was pleased to see the gaura and nepeta had fresh shoots under all the dead growth and are now growing again well. My plan for using certain plants has gone out the window. If it grows, I plant more of it, so I have lots of rosemary, lavender, lamb's ear and dusty miller (*Senecio cineraria?*). I am always most grateful when friends arrive with cuttings from their garden. The hellebores I have been given have flourished but will wait and see how they survive the summer. I had a packet of California poppy seeds that I threw into a bed two years ago, and they continue to multiple and grow, their red flowers among the first to appear in spring. I also grow wonderful weeds! No sooner do I weed a garden, and the weeds are back again! I am surprised that many of the natives I have planted have not survived.

This month, most of my roses are growing well, although I have managed to kill a few. My hard work in the orchard seems to be paying off with trees looking healthy and fruit is appearing. I now need to net the trees! I was very surprised at my great crops of veges in the first year in such poor soil so I have been busy planting with the hope of another bountiful crop. I have decided not to try over winter as I do not get the same results. We have also splurged this month and bought a tiller, chipper and a light-weight spade. Michael has many projects of his own and I am not able dig new gardens, but the tiller is fantastic and



Michael can have a new bed dug in minutes. As we have lots of fallen trees, the chipper has provided the much needed mulch on the garden and I hope the trailer-loads I have put onto my plants will benefit them and restrict the weeds. The light-weight spade is great for my shoulders and suits the digging I do.

Michael has memories of playing in an olive grove as a child in Adelaide, so he has planted a grove of 21 trees of three different varieties this month. Today I have been planting out all the plants I bought at the Hospital Fete! This is a busy time and I am exhausted at the end of the day, but what would I be doing if I didn't have my garden!

PLANT OF THE MONTH **by Kate Chinnick**



Trillium sessile "Wood Lily"

- Native North America
- A clump forming rhizomatous perennial
- Likes a cool woodland habitat, partly shaded
- Grows to 38cm tall and a spread of 45cm
- Has three dark green marbled leaves
- Fully hardy
- Stalkless maroon or white flowers with lance-shaped petals
- Propagate from seed in Autumn or division in Summer

What to do in the garden for November:

- Deadhead annuals for longer flowering
- Prepare beds for summer and autumn annuals
- Continue to tie and pick Sweet Peas
- Tall Bearded Iris can be divided if congested (after flowering)
- Trim evergreen shrubs and hedges
- Check Roses for insect or fungal problems
- Deadhead Roses regularly
- Seedlings of Beetroot, Cabbage, Cucumber, Melons, Pumpkin, Sweet Corn and Zucchini can be planted
- Tomato seedlings can be planted now (plant deeply for better roots, keep frost covers handy in case!)
- Remove finished winter crops
- Remove weeds before they seed