

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2017



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<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

DECEMBER Thursday 14th



Christmas Lunch

Marilyn and Brian Carle have generously offered their home on the Nerriga Rd as the venue for this year's Christmas lunch.. Lunch will be provided by Vanessa and her team from Vanilla Catering and the Garden Club will provide drinks and nibbles, with the cost at \$35 per head.

The booking sheet is available at Bendigo Bank but do remember that you must be a Garden Club member to attend our functions, so if you haven't yet renewed your membership, this is a good time to do so. **Please book by Friday December 8th.**

As always this will be a fun event, with Christmas raffles, a plant swap, and a "Best Posy" competition. We will also be testing our horticultural knowledge with a quiz and plant identification competition.

Marilyn Carle will judge the best posy, and reminds us that a posy is not just a bunch of flowers!

From the 'Australian Judging Manual', a true posy is not more than 23cms overall, with fresh plant material. Small flowers are more suitable and may be of mixed type or only one type. It should have a circular outline and be shaped like an upturned saucer.

Posies can be finished off with a frill of tulle, lace or paper doily or a ring of leaves, and may have a ribbon decoration.

So, we will all be challenged to meet that definition! Bring your posy in a jar with no identification.

This is a good opportunity to share the plants we know do well in our climate. If you can, please bring a plant (or several plants) for the plant swap. A gold coin donation is all it takes to select a plant or two to take home on the day.

We will meet at Ryrie Park at 11.am to car pool. Directions to the venue will be available then. If you need more information please email braidwoodgardenclub@gmail.com, or phone 48422381.

Report on the Gardens of Little Bombay

Thursday 16th November was a perfect day for our garden visits to Little Bombay. This is an area not often visited by locals, and we were all amazed at how beautiful it is. The day started at "Wilmont", the home of Cathy and Laurie French, where 35 club members gathered for morning tea. After a huge family reunion at their home the previous weekend, Cathy and Laurie made us very welcome.

Their garden was started from scratch 15 years ago, and has been created from an exposed paddock with light sandy soils. Protection from westerly winds has been created by a buffer bank at the front and side of the house. Here cottage garden plants predominate, and a very pretty border of colourful and reliable plants gave us a guide as to what plants do well in our fairly harsh climate.

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At the rear of the house, many hardy native species combine in a border of Australian plants. The harsh winter this year took its toll, but many lovely Callistemon, Grevillea and Crowea species survived. This area attracts many birds and insects. The garden provides an attractive setting for socialising, with views in every direction and we all enjoyed a very relaxed visit with time to chat over tea, scones, and lots of other goodies provided by our members.

We then moved on to the property called ‘**Little Bombay**’ which was originally owned by Joseph Taylor, an early settler in the Braidwood District. The ruined stone barn (1846) was built by convicts, and other very early stone buildings still survive. The property was bought by John and Jan Loveday in about 1973, and they travelled from Canberra on weekends to work on rejuvenating the property.



While this garden now has a wonderful sense of times past, it was a series of rubbish strewn paddocks with a few old trees when the Lovedays discovered it. While renovating the old barn to create a comfortable home, they planted many trees for shade and shelter, and they are now mature and very beautiful. The Lovedays designed a garden for family relaxation, with pleasant shady areas, as well as open areas for games. Fruit trees and a productive vegetable garden were also planted and nurtured over the years.

Jan has a particular love of old roses, and our members spent a lot of time trying to identify some of the classic roses she has planted over the years. Some very beautiful mature trees also drew our attention. These included a Chestnut, a Linden, a Crabapple and a Tasmanian Blackwood. The oak hedge was a final interesting and unusual sight.

Our third and final garden visit was to ‘**Ridgewood**’, the creation of Bronwyn Johnson who moved here 16 years ago.. The site has a wonderful view to the east, and the elevation means that many native species will grow here which would not survive on lower, more frost-prone areas. Bronwyn has removed many of the plants left by previous owners, and has experimented with a wide range of native plants. Her aim is to create a garden which attracts native birds and insects, though she also has to contend with regular incursions by other native animals as well as ferals.



The plants which survive and thrive include several varieties of Correas, Callistemons and Grevilleas. A particular favourite is *Grevillea asplenifolia* but *Grevillea baueri* and *Grevillea arenaria* have also proved reliable. Bronwyn has created a wonderful bank of native and exotic species behind her house, which provide shelter as well as constantly changing combinations of colour and texture.

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All our members had a wonderful day, returning home with a new appreciation of this little community of keen gardeners, in a very beautiful part of the Braidwood area. Our thanks go to our hosts for the day, for so generously welcoming us and sharing their insights into gardening in cold climates and on exposed sites. Special thanks to Bronwyn for organising the day, and preparing the detailed garden notes.

Report on the Bathurst Open Gardens Trip - 28th and 29th October

A small group of Garden Club members spent a weekend in and around Bathurst recently. We combined to car pool and travelled to Bathurst via Taralga and Oberon. Our first visit was to the well-known garden at Mayfield, near Oberon. The scale of this garden is incredible, and the water gardens in particular were very beautiful. In time this will be a truly amazing garden, as the plants mature and the different areas develop their own unique character.

We visited many gardens in and around Bathurst, and found opportunities to buy some unusual plants along the way. Our last visit was to a spectacular garden called Hillandale, at Yetholme. This garden is open on the last weekend of each month, and has a small nursery of unusual plants. It was one of the highlights of our very enjoyable trip. Our thanks go to Bronwyn Johnson who did an amazing job of organising the weekend.

Kerry Mitchell's Nursery at Farrington

Kerry Mitchell relocated her "Nursery in a Garden" from the Blue Mountains to Farrington several years ago. She was a regular at the monthly markets until this year, when family illness intervened. Kerry is now able to resume her business and welcomes visitors to her nursery from 9am to 5pm on Friday to Sunday, and at other times by appointment. She is an expert on salvias but has a wide range of rare and unusual cold climate plants for sale. The nursery is located on a beautiful stretch of the Shoalhaven River at 153 Farrington Rd, Bombay. Check Kerry's website www.salviasplus.com for more information, or phone 4842280, or 0407637600. Kerry is a member of our club and her nursery is well worth a visit!

Dennis Dempsey's Book Launch

On Saturday November 25th, Braidwood Garden Club members joined Heritage Rose experts for the launch of Dennis Dempsey's new book, called *Braidwood Country Garden*. As the cover says, this book contains "40 years in 80 pages". Practical advice on all aspects of cold climate gardening is included, as well as the invaluable knowledge Dennis has gained through his years specialising in rose gardening. The information is written in a very readable style, with many illustrations. This is the first book about the gardening challenges of our local area. It will be available for sale at several local outlets, and also at our Christmas lunch, at a cost of \$30.

AWARD TO MARILYN CARLE

At the Garden Clubs of Australia National Convention held in Ulladulla from 5th-10th November, Braidwood Garden Club member, Marilyn Carle, received the Joan O'Brien Award for excellence by an individual in Floral Art.

Marilyn has been a fully qualified florist for 24 years, managing various florist shops and working at the Governor General's Residence and Parliament House. During this time she has been an active member of the Floral Art Guild of ACT. She has both participated in, and been involved in the planning of, many Floral Art competitions, Horticultural and Agricultural Shows, Floriade, the ACT Flower Club, Lanyon Homestead Fair, and flower displays for many churches, the Royal Canberra Show, the ACT Quilters Guild, the Embroidery Guild ACT, and the Centenary of ACT.

Marilyn was the President of the Floral Art Guild for 6 years, and as President of Australian Floral Art Association from 2003-2006 represented Australia in Japan at the World Seminar and World AGM.

Marilyn has also attained the Australian Floral Art Judges qualification which has enabled her to carry out judging at Horticultural and Agricultural Shows in Australia, the Floral Art Guild 40th Anniversary Seminar, and Flower Shows. She has also judged on the International stage including the Pakistan World AFAA Seminar.

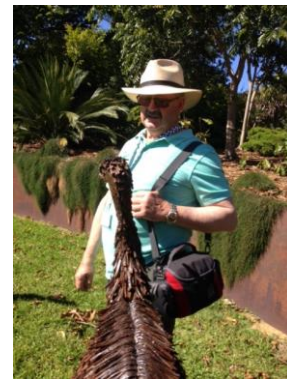
Marilyn's involvement in the Floral Art national and international scene it has not only given her great pleasure but also the great opportunity to contribute to the ongoing success of Floral Art in this country.



Willinga Park

As part of the program of the Garden Clubs of Australia National Convention, Marilyn and Brian Carle, Michael and I visited Willinga Park at Bawley Point. This is the home, garden and equestrian centre of Terry Snow. He greeted our bus and guided us through the spectacular 5ha garden only started in 2010. It consists of over 8000 plants, the majority of which are Australian natives and those endemic to the area. A large reservoir and cascading pools both create features and help water the gardens. Corten steel, concrete and large timbers create steps, retaining walls, picnic areas, and structural artworks throughout a truly beautiful garden.

The garden visit was followed with a tour of the award-winning equestrian centre that comprises facilities for dressage, polocrosse and campdrafting competitions, along with stables and camping facilities for competitors.



Garden Clubs of Australia 2018 Calendar

Each year Garden Clubs of Australia compile a really useful calendar, for sale at \$10 each. These make good presents so if you need a calendar or a gift, check them out at the Christmas lunch. Limited copies are available!

UPCOMING GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

After the Christmas lunch, the Committee will take a well-earned rest until February 2018. We already have many plans for next year, starting with a talk in February by Jennie Marston. Jennie and Michael visited England, Scotland and Ireland earlier this year, and went to the Chelsea Flower Show. They then went to many walled gardens in Scotland and Ireland, and Jennie will present an illustrated talk on the gardens they visited. For all of us who would love to visit these gardens, but may never have the opportunity, Jennie will share the highlights of their trip. The venue for this event will be Servicemen's Club. Look for more details in the next newsletter in late January 2018.

Other events planned for next year include visits to several local gardens, and a trip to 2 gardens in Nelligen, followed by lunch at the Bateman's Bay Botanical Gardens. We have guest speakers lined up for the winter months. Keep the second Thursday of each month free for these varied and interesting events.

Visit to the Melbourne Flower and Garden Show 2018?

As you may remember, last year we tried to organise a trip to this iconic garden show, with other visits to gardens and nurseries in Victoria. We had to abandon the trip due to insufficient numbers to support a bus trip. However, the success of the car pool trip to Bathurst has revived the idea that we could do the trip to Melbourne by carpooling. This was a very successful venture, and as long as we have enough willing drivers, we could consider a longer trip to Melbourne and surrounds. At this stage this is just a suggestion, but if you are at all interested, please reply to the Garden Club gmail account to register your interest. The Melbourne Flower and Garden Show will be held from 21st to 25th March 2018.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS
Cathie & Phillip Owen, Mary Smeeton, Megan Withey

INSTAGRAM

For those members who follow Instagram (and why wouldn't you, it's amazing) the Garden Club now has an account, managed by Rosemary De Martin. If you search 'braidwoodgardenclub' you can 'follow' and get regular postings of interesting garden pictures.

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.

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
- [Perennialle Plants Nursery](#) : Canowindra
- [Secret Garden and Nursery](#) : Richmond
- [Tablelands Trees and Shrubs Garden & Nursery](#) : Cooma

These gardens will be open in about 4 weeks time-

- [Gardenalia Open Garden and Plant Stall](#) : Robertson : from Sat, 30 Dec 2017
- [Hillandale garden and nursery](#) : Yetholme : from Sat, 30 Dec 2017

IN MY GARDEN by Rose de Martin

Despite owning our property for ten years, we have only been living here for just over three.

The house was established in the early eighties, so the largest trees are of that era, and provide the tall structure to the garden. To the East, the front of the house, are two large Cupressus (which provide deep shade, too much in winter, so we've lopped the tops). To the West and South are very tall radiata pines and Cupressus too, slightly problematic height wise, but brilliant wind breaks!

The flower gardens were odd shaped plots that I have removed to open up a 'lawn' area, out the front of the house. The plant material I moved to the edges of the house paddock.

There are specimen trees of pine, ash, beech, blue gum, crab-apple, sycamore, pin oak, pittosporum, amongst others, an old fruit orchard that needs a lot of work; apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherry, apricots and more - and the insect pests that come with them.

On the Southern side is a 'woodland' of specimen trees, some of which need removing as they have suffered over years of dry and stress and overcrowding. At the back of the house, apart from the windbreak trees, is an immense banksia Alba rose, which the cattle keep pruned over the fence.

I have established flower gardens where there weren't any with rose, iris, annuals, etc., and planted more exotic trees.

To the North-West, past the BBQ hut, is a hot house / potting shed, large pines and a temporary garden (the pines need lopping and room for a truck to come into...)

This Northern area is where I have my raised vegetable gardens, old railway sleepers and corrugated iron sides. I am a lousy vegetable grower, but always have parsley somewhere.

My garden isn't planned or formal, and I don't have massed plantings - a hodge podge that is constantly changing and being added to. I would love to have more of all sorts of plants (a greedy gardener). I spend hours in the garden and always bring flowers into the house to further enjoy.

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PLANT OF THE MONTH by Kate Chinnick



Mary Queen of Scots

- Hardy hybrid of *Rosa pimpinellifolia*
- Originated in Northern Europe, between 1790 - 1830
- Flowers only once in summer followed by dark maroon hips
- Covered by small fern like leaves and sharp prickles
- Compact round bush reaching 1.5 metres
- Prune to maintain shape in winter if required
- Propagate from cuttings
- According to legend Queen Mary brought this rose from France
- Perfect for a small hedge

What to do in the garden for December

- Plant summer and autumn annuals
- Remove weeds and top up mulch
- Watch for sucker growth from below the graft on roses and remove
- Dianthus can be layered or cuttings taken
- Finish pruning spring flowering shrubs
- Deadhead annuals and perennials to promote more flowers
- Take cuttings of Daphne, Grevilleas and Buxus
- Remove whippy growth from Wisterias
- Twist off finished Rhododendron flowers & spray for lace bugs
- Divide Bearded Iris if congested, plant new outside growth and discard old rhizomes
- Continue to make sowings of vegetables
- Prune stone fruits and thin fruit if too heavy
- Watch for Pear and Cherry slug - spray with Success or Dipel