

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER MAY 2018



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>

JUNE Thursday 14th

WHERE: The Servicemen's Club

WHEN: 10.30am for a cup of tea or coffee, Talk at 11 am

WHY: We will be entertained with a talk by Judy Horton, well known horticulturalist, on the subject "The History Of The Australian Backyard."

Would members with surnames beginning with A – L please bring a plate of lunch to share.

History of the Australian backyard

Judy Horton is a horticulturist and garden adviser who spent 22 years with Yates. Since retiring from Yates three years ago she has taken on a role as a botanical guide for travel company Botanica World Discoveries and as the editor of *Our Gardens*, the Garden Clubs of Australia quarterly magazine. She has also been a radio garden adviser for more than twenty years.

One of Judy's responsibilities at Yates was to look after the company archives. These give a wonderful overview of gardening in Australia, particularly during the 20th century. Judy's talk draws on these archives and other resources to outline the trends, world events and social changes that have affected our gardens in that time, with particular emphasis on the ubiquitous quarter-acre Aussie backyard.

This is a fun talk that will have everyone recognising something they remember from past gardens and their childhoods. Judy will also pose a few questions about where our gardens are going in the future.

<http://rjhorton.com.au/index.html>

Report on Garden Visits on May 10th

The day started with an enthusiastic and informative demonstration by Jay of the high quality garden-tools which his company, European Tools Australia, imports from Holland, Belgium and Austria. Even in the dry, rock hard, conditions his spades, sporks and spats were able to turn over the soil in John and Margaret Tuckwell's garden with relative ease; while their array of short handled hoes and long handled Dutch hoes made weeding look a breeze. Jay did very well as members snapped up his discounted offers for his tools and sold out of the Dewit long handled spat shovel (as did Braidwood Outdoors later in the day). Note: a copy of European Tools Australia 2018 brochure was included in the goodies bag given out at the Garden Club Christmas party with Braidwood Outdoors being a retailer of their range and have generously offered a 10% discount to Garden Club members on their tools. While members were enjoying their retail therapy they also enjoyed a morning tea thanks to the M-Z members contributions.

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

Michael and Barbara Merrony's garden

This garden is hidden from view on Saleyards Lane. Mike prefers native plants and has experimented with many different varieties. Barbara likes colour, so she has planted roses and other colourful plants around the house.

The extensive native garden is mostly Mike's creation, out of what used to be a pony paddock. Development of the site began in the Spring of 2004. In March 2005 (and again in March 2007) a delivery of plants from Dealbata Cold Climate nursery in Dalgety gave a boost to the planting. Other plants have been added over the years as time and money allowed.

Mike's initial endeavours were focussed around the dam. Rocks were placed along the SE and SW slopes. Behind the rocks Mike placed gravel, and mulch. Steps were constructed in May 2006 at the N corner of the dam wall. Plantings along the NE corner of the dam wall commenced in the following months. The dam was full in June 2007 and was flowing around the western edge. Turtles, frogs, brown snakes and yabbies were seen in and around the dam. A heron left yabbie carcasses around the slopes of the dam.

In 2018 the garden has reached maturity and is a maze of paths surrounded by many different native plants. The surrounding paddocks are now hidden from view. Sadly the dam is dry, as a result of prolonged dry weather.

Plants doing well include:

Eucalyptus lacrimans, a tree to 15 m high, with an open, sparse, weeping habit, found along the road between Cooma and Kiandra.

Eucalyptus moorei, a lovely delicate mallee tree from the Nerriga area with fine, weeping foliage and cream flowers.

Eucalyptus gregsoniana, Wolgan Snow Gum, also found in the Braidwood area, a mallee with cream flowers in profusion in early summer, flowers in only its second year.

Eucalyptus parvula, to 15 m tall, described as "rare and scattered", occurs in grassy woodlands on damp flats in high cold areas such as the Kybean River.

Callitris oblonga, Corang Pine/Pygmy Cypress Pine, grows close to the bridge over the Corang River on Nerriga road.

All 4 plants thriving.

Banksia canei, shrub to 3 m, grows in subalpine regions from 750 m to 1500 m, found S from Tuross R to NE Victoria. Has bushy habit that may inhibit destructiveness of the black cockatoos towards *Banksia marginata*. Flowers in its second year.

Patersonia sericea, native iris, perennial, flowers short-lived

Asterolasia trymalioides, Alpine Starbush, alpine plant from Kosciusko & Victorian High Country. Thriving OK in Braidwood. Flowers profusely early Spring.

Parahebe perfoliata, Digger's speedwell, blue flowering shrub to 50 cms tall, also white form, some plants have flowers for most of the year.

In the past eight years some plants haven't fared all that well.

Eucalyptus kybeanensis – *Eucalyptus kybeanensis*, described as a very hardy, bushy tree to 8 m with smooth, silver trunks, said to grow happily in any soils, except boggy or wet. Since 2008 two have died. Only one is surviving, planted near the top of the dam wall where it seems to be thriving.

Eucalyptus stricta, Blue Mountain Mallee Ash (also from the Budawang), when mature has glossy bright green leaves and spectacular smooth, white/silver trunks. A couple have died, appear not to like strong hot winds, some stems die off but lignotuber sends up green shoots in spring.

Two Forest Red Gums, *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, appeared to establish themselves OK but died in dry periods - some regeneration in damp spring weather at stump.

Propagation.

Some plants appear easy to propagate from seed, for example *Euc gregsoniana*, *Lomandra*, *Casuarina* species, *Banksia canei*, *Callitris oblonga* (but slow growing), *Leptospermum squarrosus* (has flowers ranging from white to pink, seed collected from along the Tolwong Road north of Nerriga), *Hakea macreana* (seed collected from the headwaters of the Corang River in the Budawang, has a mass of small white flowers in spring, said to grow to 10 metres, Wrigley¹ identifies it as a screening plant) and *Hakea sericea* (very prickly needle-like foliage said to provide good cover for small birds, white/pink flowers in winter).

Some plants that may be of interest:

Melaleuca decussata – plants from Currajuggle Nursery, possibly frost tender when young, one plant in garden 3 metres tall and soon to have mass of purple flowers.

Melaleuca thymifolia - 2 plants purchased from Yarralumla Nursery, still thriving after 9 years just above the high water level of the dam.

Acacia blayana - discovered by John Blay in the Wadbilliga National Park near Bega as recently as 1/5/1982. John Blay is the author of **On Track: Searching out the Bundian Way** (NewSouth 2015, \$39.99) about rediscovering an Aboriginal track that gave access from Twofold Bay on the NSW South Coast to the Monaro high country close to Kosciusko.

Mike has had variable luck with Banksias - *Banksia canei* seems to be a little fussy in its location - it is reported to grow "in low woodland and heath on rocky slopes and gullies of subalpine regions between 750 & 1500 m alt." (PlantNET – FloraOnline)

The local *Banksia marginata* survives OK. One coastal *Banksia integrifolia* has survived its first winter. One *Banksia ericifolia* had its first flowers (just 2) after 14 years of slow growth.

Mike recommends the following book as an invaluable resource for information about native plants:

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS for Canberra region gardens and cool climate areas.

Fifth (revised) edition 2015

Reprinted 2016

Published by the Australian Native Plant Society Canberra Region Inc. Retails at about \$35 – 366 pages. Many coloured photos. Chapters comprise: The Canberra Environment; Designing your garden; Managing your garden; Finding your plants; plant descriptions listed under: Groundcovers, Herbaceous plants, grasses and clumping plants, Ferns, climbers, Shrubs – small, medium, large, Trees, & finally container plants.

Sue Murray's garden.



Maples showing their brilliant Autumn colour.

A very early jonquil

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS
Fran and David Pritchard-Gordon, Sheelagh Noonan

UPCOMING GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

JULY Thursday 12th

Meeting at the Servicemen's Club starting at 10.30am for a cup of tea or coffee and there will be a talk and demonstration by Irene Suffolk, the "pickle lady". Irene is a pickle and cake judge at the Royal Easter Show and other regional shows and will talk about making pickles etc from your produce and how to show them and will be able to answer questions about showing cakes. Members with surnames beginning with M-Z are asked to bring a plate to share for lunch.

AUGUST Thursday 9th

AGM at Mona & memberships are due on the day.

Nominations are invited for 1 vacant position, an Assistant Treasurer, on the committee. We would welcome a new member to join our "happy band" so please think about playing an active part of this club.

SEPTEMBER Thursday 13th

Out of town garden visits.

OCTOBER Thursday 11th

Bus trip to Bundanoon and Robertson.

NOVEMBER Thursday 8th

Visit to Nerriga Rd Gardens

DECEMBER 13th

Christmas Party

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 open gardens or events are open within the coming week:

- Retford Park - National Trust of Australia (NSW) : Bowral
- Wildwood Garden : Bilpin

Then, coming up in about 4-5 weeks time Retford Park - National Trust of Australia (NSW) in Bowral will open from Sat, 30 Jun 2018.

Also you might like to visit one of these gardens that are open regularly, or by appointment:

- Bebeah : Mt Wilson
- Bundanon Homestead & Garden : Illaroo
- Campbell Rhododendron Gardens : Blackheath
- Everglades Historic House & Gardens : Leura
- Mayfield Garden : Oberon
- Merribee : Numbaa
- Perenniale Plants Nursery : Canowindra
- Secret Garden and Nursery : Richmond
- Tablelands Trees and Shrubs Garden & Nursery : Cooma

We hope you have a chance to enjoy one or more of these gardens/events.

Prior to visiting, make sure that the property is open when you are planning a visit and don't forget to let the garden owner or event organisers know that you heard about them on My Open Garden and maybe add a comment to their garden profile.

SEPTEMBER 15th – OCTOBER 14th

Floriade

OCTOBER Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th

Robertson Open Gardens

Stroll through 7 beautiful gardens ranging from smaller town gardens to larger country gardens. 10-4pm.

\$20 for all 7 gardens or \$5 for a single garden. <https://robertsonopengardens.weebly.com>

OCTOBER Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th

Bundanoon Garden Ramble

Eight stunning private gardens will open from 9.30am to 4.30pm. There will be market stalls at the Soldiers' Memorial Hall and refreshments provided by the Lions Club will be available in one of the open gardens.

\$20 for all 8 gardens (valid for both days) or \$5 for a single garden entry. Free shuttle bus between gardens.

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

NOVEMBER Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th

Crookwell Garden Festival There will be 8 gardens open, both in and out of town showcasing a variety of garden styles and cool climate plantings. A garden lovers market on Saturday from 9-2pm at the Crookwell Public School in Denison St.

www.crookwellgardenfestival.com

GARDENS I VISITED ON MY HOLIDAYS

THE MIRACLE GARDEN: DUBAI (UNITED ARAB EMIRATES) by Jennie Marston



We visited Dubai in March this year. After leaving the modern city of artificial ponds, lakes, and grass we travelled about 25km through dry, sandy suburbs to the site of the Miracle Garden. Rain and wind are rare in Dubai, but this day there was a slight wind and the air was dustier than usual.



The Miracle Garden, indeed a miracle in this climate, was opened in 2013 and covers over 7 ha. The overhead shot (courtesy of Google) shows the circular plan of the garden surrounded by pine trees. There are purported to be 100 million plants, predominately petunias and sunflowers.



PLANT OF THE MONTH by Kate Chinnick



**Camelia
sasanqua**

- Native of southern Japan
- Evergreen shrub to 5m tall
- Thick dark green shiny leaves
- Single or small clusters of flowers from late autumn to winter
- Need shelter from strong winds
- Frost hardy
- Prefers a fertile, slightly acid soil protected from hot afternoon sun
- Suited to being espaliered on a wall or fence
- Propagate by cuttings in late summer or grafting
- Also suited to potting

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