

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2018



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<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

JULY Thursday 12th

WHERE: The Servicemen's Club

WHEN: 10.30am for a cup of tea or coffee and biscuit. Talk at 11 am

WHY: There will be a talk and demonstration by Irene Suffolk, the "pickle lady" and Gai Suffolk. 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 with answers to questions about showing cakes.

Irene and Gai Suffolk grew up on a dairy farm where their father, who was a great gardener, grew all of their vegetables and had an orchard full of fruit. They were members of the Rural Youth movement and have supported their local Show Societies for many years. Irene and Gai are both judges in various sections at local shows, and are involved with the RAS Southern District Exhibit where they hold executive positions.

They will be displaying some of their produce from the Sydney Royal Easter Show and demonstrating how to improve your pickle making techniques to prize winning standard.

Members with surnames beginning with M-Z are asked to bring a plate to share for lunch.

Report on the Talk by Judy Horton, 'The history of the Australian backyard', June 14th

We were very honoured and privileged to have Judy Horton speak to us at our meeting on 14 June as she is one of the best known garden and horticultural personalities in Australia and is an outstanding presenter.

This fascinating talk was not about backyards of cement and Hills Hoists, as one of the audience thought it would be (although the Hills Hoist did get a passing mention), but a review of changes in gardening from before the first settlers up until today and brought back some wonderful memories to many present of the gardens of their younger years. She also highlighted many of the influences on Australian gardens past and present, including: space, affluence, time, labour, water, weeds and pests, transport, world events, cultural 'cringe' and cultural changes.

Her presentation drew heavily on the resources at her disposal from the Yates company archives where she worked for 22 years as their communications manager and images from the archives illustrated many of her slides. Arthur Yates opened his first shop in Sydney in 1887 (predated by Auckland in 1883), introduced packet seeds in 1893 and produced the first Yates' Gardening Guide in 1895 (Judy herself edited five editions). The breadth and depth of her presentation was most impressive (almost dizzying), with a poor summary being:

Early years: Aborigines managing the landscape, first settlers clearing all the trees and then planted the bunya-bunya pine, the affluent invested in country estates (eg Brickendon Estate, Tasmania in 1820s), gardens worked by convict labour, hill station properties for the wealthy elite (eg Werribee Park in 1870s, Mount Macedon, Mount Wilson) as a summer retreat, trying to reproduce English gardens in Australia.

Early c20: Most urbanised country in the world, ¼ acre blocks, King Alfred bulbs sold for as much as 7 guineas each (1902), WWI disruption to trade and start of seed growing farms in Tasmania, Arsenic of lead sprays, May Gibbs 'Bush Fairies' book (1916), Edna Wallace.

1930s: Great depression – seeds to feed a family, Arts & Craft gardens, hoses introduced, awareness of friendly insects – 'learn to know your friends', 'Garden year with Mr Bear' - a rhyming monthly gardening guide for children.

1940s: WWII – 'Do your bit to grow food'; still feeding the 'mother' country post war, adverts using '2,4,5-T' and 'DDT' herbicides in the garden, introduction of mowers and other machinery ('men over 40 need to guard against physical strain'), Hill hoist invented (1945).

1950s: European migrants, hybrid tall upright roses, first swimming pools, Victa mower invented (1952).

1960s: More sophistication, pebbles, besser blocks, pavers, street trees, dad with vegie patch in the back garden and mum with flowers in the front, 'Silent Spring' environmental science book by Rachel Carson (1962) – nature is vulnerable to human intervention.

1970s: Bush gardens, tree ferns, eucalypt trees, eucalypt rounds, swimming pools, golden plants.

1980s: Jungle gardens, cocos palm, strappy plants, SE Asian migrants, machinery.

1990s: Formality, topiary, Mondo grass, white standard iceberg roses the only roses to grow.

2000s: Glitzy and shiny, anything but flowers and green, succulents, less toxic approaches, water tanks, chooks, vegie patch, compost, McMansions, outdoor rooms, internet, roof and vertical gardens (mixed success), rusty metal, tissue culture (reducing costs of plants).

Future: Flowers are coming back, particularly perennials, with new better varieties resulting from the certainty provided by plant breeding rights protection to plant breeders (eg Aussie Winners).

Judy is also a guide for [Botanica World Discoveries](#) Garden Tours and spoke about some of the upcoming tours.

Thanks to the A-L members we all enjoyed a delicious lunch after the talk and thanks to Judy Horton for donating a copy of the latest Yates' Gardening Guide (44th edition) for the raffle.

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

UPCOMING GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

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.

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

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.

Retford Park Bowral

Gardens Open August Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th 10am-4pm and September Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd 10am-4pm.

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 10th

Orange Open Gardens 10am-5pm

Explore stunning gardens of Orange and support Orange Public School. 8 gardens for \$25 or \$5 per garden. Kids free. orangeopengardens@gmail.com Phone 0437602228

NOVEMBER Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th

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

Travels in China by Jane Moore

Recently John and I toured some of the amazing sights of China. Our first surprise was Beijing, which we had expected to be really polluted but instead we saw wide roads with beautiful roses growing on the road side and centre divide of the roads. I suppose we were lucky to arrive just as they were in full flush. The national flower of China is the peony and they were planted everywhere, but unfortunately not in flower yet. The palaces we visited in Beijing had gardens attached, in which there was a strong theme of architectural stones. The Summer Palace was an example of this along with a large lake with beautiful buildings set into the hill.



We left Beijing by bullet train for Xian, home of the Terracotta Warriors. It was quite amazing to realise that the faces on the terracotta warriors were the features of men who had lived over 2000 years ago. The museums that house the warriors were set in beautiful parkland. I was most impressed with the mature copper beech trees and it has left me with an urge to plant a copper beech in my Garden. Xian still has the original medieval walls and the local government has decreed that no more high rise should be built inside the walls. More beautiful parkland were just outside the walls which are exactly 120 metres wide because the maximum distance an archer could fire, was 60 metres.

We flew from Xian to the beautiful city of Guilin, which is built where two rivers meet and has some beautiful scenery. We would have loved to have spent longer here, but only had one night. A walk to dinner in the rain took us



past the beautiful pagodas to the sun and moon set in lovely gardens which we couldn't really appreciate in the dark and rain. The following morning we went by boat along the Li River to Yongshui, through the quite spectacular Karst Mountains. Yongshui was one of the smallest places we visited and we explored some of the more rural villages who were growing the vegetables for the region. John had sweet corn envy, they looked much better than our summer crop had been.



From Yongshui we went by coach back to Guilin, giving us another perspective of the impressive Karst scenery. We then flew to Chengdu to visit a panda research and breeding station which was one of the highlights. We learnt so much including the fact that they show sex education videos to the pandas (seemingly captive male pandas haven't a clue). From Chengdu it was another bullet train to Chongqing (population 34 million!!!) where we were supposed to board a boat for a Yangtze River cruise, but the river was too low for the cruise ship, so we were taken by bus downstream to our ship. We had 3 nights 2 days on the ship, cruising through the 3 gorges to the huge dam they have built across the river. The scenery was spectacular between several large cities on the river bank. We left the boat at the 3 Gorges Dam to fly to Shanghai. Having had several very hot days in Chengdu and on the river, Shanghai was warm and rainy. This is where we visited the Yu garden, a former private garden with a 400 year history. To get to this garden we had to go through a very crowded market which was part local produce, part tourist trap. The push through the crowds was well worth it as the garden was beautiful.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

by Kate Chinnick



Forsythia

(Golden bells)

- Native to mostly eastern Asia
- Member of the Oleaceae family
- Prefers a part shady to full sun position (may need shelter in colder areas)
- Grows to 1.8m tall and is deciduous
- Flowers are gold or yellow on bare branches in winter and early spring
- Flowers are borne on year old shoots – remove older shoots after flowering
- Propagate from soft tip cuttings in summer or hardwood in winter.
- Some varieties root where they touch the ground
- Many different cultivars can be found

What to do in the garden for July

- Remove flower buds from spring annuals for better displays
- Rhododendrons, Azaleas & Camellias will need watering leading to blooming
- Prune Wisterias and deciduous climbers
- Prune later flowering shrubs (not spring flowerers)
- Order summer flowering bulbs - Lilliums etc.
- Clean up prunings from fruit trees and mulch
- Sow Globe Artichoke and Asparagus seeds
- Clean and sharpen secateurs, loppers and saws
- Sand and oil (linseed oil) wooden handles on tools
- Turn over vegetable beds for spring plantings
- Watch for pink bud swell on early Peaches & Nectarines & spray for leaf curl with copper or lime sulphur