

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2018



President: John Tuckwell 0408 625 156

Secretary: Jane Moore 4842 1494

Treasurer: Fran Woods 0422 181 020

Newsletter Editor: Margy Gardner 0412 616 352

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

SEPTEMBER Thursday 13th

Charley's Forest Garden Visits

We will be visiting two completely different gardens at Charley's Forest on September 13th. Donna Sherriff and Mark Sullivan are both accomplished gardeners, and their gardens reflect two very different approaches to landscaping. They also reflect two completely different soil profiles despite being located very close to each other.

Mark Sullivan is an artist, a landscaper and a drystone wall builder. His garden is located on old gold diggings, and close by are the remains of Chinese rock walls, built to stabilise water races. Mark bought 200 acres in 2003 and started to plant a garden on what was formerly farmland. The soil is dry and infertile, so he planted hundreds of natives, mainly from tube stock grown locally by Lyn Ellis and Murray McCracken. He also planted some strategically placed deciduous trees, particularly Chanticleer Pears and Pinoaks, and many Cabbage Tree Palms.

With help from a local architect and builder, Mark created a very modern house which he commenced building in 2009. The house is surrounded by a landscaped garden combining the elements of rock, water and plants chosen for their connection to Gondwanaland vegetation. Below the house the garden blends into the natural landscape, with a dam providing a focal point in the distance.

Donna Sherriff moved to Charley's Forest in 2007, and since then she has created a very European garden around her 90 year-old farmhouse. Donna inherited a very small garden close to the house, with three lovely old trees – a chestnut, a walnut and an apple tree. In complete contrast to Mark's land, Donna's garden is on the basalt belt of very fertile deep soil which runs through this area. She has the advantage of the "Monga Mist" and the higher rainfall associated with her location close to the mountains. She also makes her own compost and continually replenishes the soil with horse manure.

Working at the Wicked Cackle Nursery in Bungendore gave Donna access to plant knowledge and a supply of trees and shrubs which she has used to create a densely planted garden full of European trees and shrubs. Contrasting red and green foliage is a feature of her garden, and plants are placed to complement each other in size, shape, texture and colour. She is also developing a combined orchard and vegetable garden, with berries of all kinds on the perimeters.

Donna has welcomed us to her garden now, but feels that the best time to see her garden is in Autumn, closely followed by November. She has generously invited us to return to the garden at those times to see the seasonal changes.

Arrangements for September 13th

We will meet at Ryrie Park at 10am for a demonstration of Rocky Point garden products, followed by morning tea. Members with surnames from A-L are on morning tea roster this time, so please bring a plate to share.

Following this we will car pool to Charley's Forest, visiting Mark Sullivan's garden first. Mark will talk about drystone walling techniques, but in the time available he is not able to provide a demonstration. From there we will travel a very short distance to Donna Sherriff's garden where we will have lunch and a tour of her garden. We should be back at Ryrie Park by around 3.30pm.

Addresses and directions to the gardens will be provided on the day. The gardens are about 25 kms from Braidwood, via Mongarlowe. From Mongarlowe the road is mainly dirt, but is in very good condition. The entrance to Mark's garden has a couple of rough patches, so cars with a high clearance are recommended. We can sort this out when carpooling on the day.

Report on AGM

Our meeting in the woolshed at Mona was enjoyed by 40 members and the lunch of soup and dessert, provided by the committee, was delicious. Prior to the AGM and the election of office bearers for the next year, members were able to wander the gardens around the homestead and we thank manager Suzanne Gearing for all her help at Mona.

At the AGM Sue Murray stood down as President after 4 years in this role but continues to serve on the committee. All are extremely grateful to her for her inclusive leadership, enthusiasm, and attention to detail, with Sue overseeing more than 40 highly successful events during this time.

All the committee members from 2017-18 stood again and were joined by Amanda Scott. The office holders on the committee are as follows:

John Tuckwell	President
Sue Murray	Vice-President
Jane Moore	Secretary
Fran Woods	Treasurer
Amanda Scott	Assistant-Treasurer
Margy Gardner	Newsletter Editor

Other members on the committee are: Marilyn Carle, Rosemary De Martin, Bronwyn Johnson, Leonie Jolley, Jennie Marston, Chris Riley and Charmian Thomas.

We also thank Marilyn Carle very much for her inspiring and mesmerising demonstration of floral art after the lunch and for donating her arrangements to the raffle.

President's Report 2017-18 by Sue Murray

A very big welcome and thanks to all of you for joining us at the Braidwood Garden Club's Annual General Meeting. It's great to see a big turnout, and to welcome some new members as well as many familiar faces.

This is my fourth AGM as President. During those four years I've shared some wonderful experiences with many of those here today, as well as others who can't be here today. Braidwood Garden Club is a great way to meet new people. I'm very grateful for this opportunity and I look forward to new friendships made in years to come.

During our monthly activities on each 2nd Thursday, we share our love of plants and gardens, we go to some amazing gardens both local and further afield, and we attend talks and demonstrations by experts in different garden-related fields. And every time we meet we cement old friendships and make new ones.

This year our membership numbers have grown, and we currently have 93 members. This is a record, and reflects a steady increase in our membership since 2014 when our membership was 42. I hope this trend continues despite the impact of the current drought, which makes gardening so much more challenging

Since our AGM last year we have engaged in a range of different activities, both locally and further afield. We usually have 2-3 bus trips each year, in Spring and Autumn. In September last year we went to Floriade and to the beautiful garden at Tulip Tops. At Floriade, the Head Gardener gave us a talk and a tour, which made the visit so much more interesting and informative for those lucky members who were able to attend. Our thanks to Rosemary De Martin and her daughter Jasmine, who organised the talk and tour. The visit to Tulip Tops, which only opens for a few weeks each Spring, was another highlight of the day.

In October a visit to Goulburn revealed hidden treasures at the gardens of Kentgrove, Riversdale and Garoorigang. A visit to Nirvalley nursery on the way home was also a revelation and as always our members couldn't resist buying new plants. This nursery is highly recommended as a great source of plants suitable for our climatic conditions. Thanks to Charmian Thomas who organised that very successful day out, and who is also our reliable "tea lady" at our monthly activities.

By November the roses were in full bloom in local gardens, and we were privileged to see some wonderful old heritage roses in Jan Loveday's garden at Little Bombay. The old stone buildings gave us a glimpse into the early history of our district, and the rambling garden designed and made by Jan and her late husband John provided a lovely place to wander in.

On the same day we visited two gardens at Little Bombay, belonging to two of our members. Cathy Ffrench and Bronwyn Johnson welcomed us for morning tea and lunch, in their very different gardens, reflecting their love of particular types of plants, and the different microclimates within a very small area. Our thanks to Bronwyn Johnson for organizing a very enjoyable day at Little Bombay, and to the garden owners who generously welcomed us on the day.

Our Christmas party in December, hosted by Marilyn and Brian Carle, was a great success. It was held on a very hot day and attended by 50 members, so we thank Marilyn and Brian for opening their home to so many of us. It was so successful in fact that we plan to repeat the same experience this year. We hope to see many of you there, and ask that you book well ahead, as last-minute bookings make it hard for seating and catering arrangements. The venue can cater for 50 people at the most, so make sure you book early! In 2018 we have had several talks and demonstrations. In February Jennie Marston presented an illustrated talk on

the walled gardens of Scotland and Ireland that she had visited with her husband Michael. Jennie is unable to be here today but we thank her for sharing these beautiful gardens with us, and for her other work as a member of our Committee.

Several gardens within or near Braidwood have been visited during the year. We visited gardens both old and new, small and large. In March, John and Margaret Tuckwell invited us to their new home and garden in Wilson St, on the site of the first Anglican Church in Braidwood. On the same day we saw the town gardens created by John and Charmian Thomas and by Janneice Elphick. Finally we had lunch in Margaret Royds' new garden on the Bedervale estate, with sweeping views of the town and surrounding countryside. Our thanks to all those local gardeners for their hospitality.

Another bus trip in April took us to two English style gardens at Nelligen, and then to the Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens. Despite the heat at the coast it was a very successful day. Rhonda Brousek, our local bus driver, impressed everyone with her amazing driving skills. We thank Braidwood Buses for their very helpful service and look forward to sharing future adventures with them. Also thanks to John Tuckwell our Vice-President and Jane Moore, our Secretary, for organising the garden visits on that day.

Our May garden visits again took us to gardens in or close to Braidwood. Firstly, John Tuckwell hosted a visit by a representative of European Tools. Many of us took advantage of the chance to buy some high quality garden tools at discount prices. If you missed out, the tools are available or can be ordered through Braidwood Outdoors, with a 10% discount for Garden Club members.

Then we moved on to a talk by Tim Wimborne at his garden in town, where he is experimenting with permaculture principles. Tim also spoke to us about his venture into commercial production of Australian Mountain Pepper, based at his property at Budawang. We hope to visit this property once Tim has established his commercial orchard. After that we went to Mike and Barbara Merrony's native garden on Saleyards Lane, to see their amazing native garden and to learn which native plants can survive this very demanding climate. By the time we visited my garden for lunch the cold and wind had defeated most of us, so I appreciate the fortitude of those who stayed with us to the end.

In June we were privileged to hear a fascinating talk by well-known garden expert, Judy Horton, on the history of Australian Backyards. Thanks to Fran Woods, our Treasurer, for organizing this talk, and to Judy for traveling to Braidwood and sharing all her amazing knowledge with us.

Our July activity was something a little different – a talk on preserving garden produce and the presentation of preserves at agricultural shows. This was very enjoyable and informative. The presenter was Irene Suffolk, a very experienced show judge, assisted by her sister Gai. Thanks to Jennie Marston who suggested and organised this talk.

And here we are again in August at our AGM. The list of our activities gives you some insight into the skills, talents and hard work which every member of our Committee brings to the running of our club. All of them perform multiple roles to make the Garden Club such a great local organisation. I would like to acknowledge their hard work with a round of applause. Every month they combine their skills to bring us yet another wonderful day out. They have also combined their culinary skills to provide our lunch today. I'd like them all to stand so we can acknowledge the hard work they put into the Garden Club throughout the year.

This year there are very few changes to the Committee, as everyone is happy to continue in the roles they currently perform. We do feel there is a need for an Assistant Treasurer, and I feel a need to step down as President after 4 years. I have really enjoyed my time as President but it's time for a change and new ideas. I'd like to acknowledge the wonderful work done during the year by John Tuckwell, our Vice-President, who took over my role on many occasions during the year while I was away.

Today we are having a demonstration of winter floral art by our Committee member Marilyn Carle. Last November, at the Biennial Convention of Garden Clubs of Australia, Marilyn received the Joan O'Brien Award for "achieving excellence by an individual in Floral Art". This is a national award, and was a well-deserved recognition of Marilyn's skill and contributions to Floral Art over many years. We are very lucky to have Marilyn as a member of our club.

A few final thanks are in order. To the Bendigo Bank staff who do our banking, take our bookings and generally provide a service way beyond that required, we thank you. To Braidwood Buses and to Rhonda the amazing bus driver, we also thank you sincerely. To the Braidwood Servicemen's Club and to Michelle Griggs for always having the meeting room ready for our events, we are very appreciative. The Club provides a venue for our Committee meetings as well as our talks and we always feel very welcome there.

We also thank Kate Chinnick for her contributions to our monthly newsletter, with her columns on Plant of the Month and "What to do" each month, as well as her plant quiz at the Annual Christmas Dinner. Kate also makes our name badges! Kate is a longstanding club member but is unable to be here today.

Finally, my personal thanks go to all those who have been on the Garden Club Committee in my years as President. It's been a great experience and I look forward to many years of active Garden Club membership.

Sue Murray

August 9th 2018

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

FINANCIAL YEAR 2017 - 2018

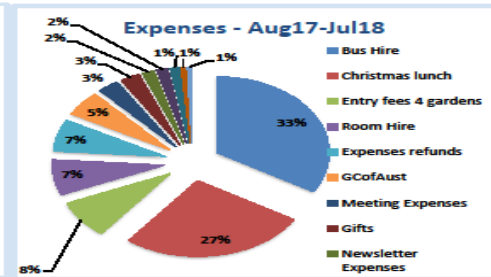
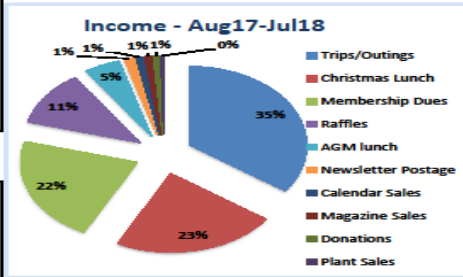
Financial Summary (August 2017-July 2018)

Opening Balance = \$2,205.83

Closing Balance = \$3,672.96

Income	Amount	Code
Trips/Outings	\$2,900.00	12A
Christmas Lunch	\$1,890.00	6A
Membership Dues	\$1,803.00	1A
Raffles	\$940.00	2A
AGM lunch	\$410.00	5A
Newsletter Postage	\$111.00	9A
Calendar Sales	\$80.00	8A
Magazine Sales	\$79.00	7A
Donations	\$71.55	11A
Plant Sales	\$35.25	4A
total:	\$8,319.80	

Expenses	Amount	Code
Bus Hire	\$2,310.00	9B
Christmas lunch	\$1,850.00	19B
Entry fees 4 gardens	\$555.90	20B
Room Hire	\$520.00	2B
Expenses refunds	\$466.29	15B
GCoFAust	\$368.14	17B
Meeting Expenses	\$204.16	12B
Gifts	\$193.33	4B
Newsletter Expenses	\$115.55	18B
Donations	\$110.00	10B
Advertising	\$88.00	8B
Sponsor 4 GCoFAust	\$50.00	3B
Dept Fair Trading	\$45.00	16B
total:	\$6,876.37	



Notes:

1. Garden Clubs of Australia (GCoFAust) (17B) includes our national membership plus insurance
2. Meeting Expenses (12B) includes petrol gift for speakers, and our self catering.
3. Trip payments refunded (15B), plus miscellaneous expenses
4. Donation (10B) to Braidwood Show for prizes
5. Sponsor 4 GCoFAust (3B) cover registration cost for member to attend GC of Australia annual meeting

UPCOMING GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

OCTOBER Thursday 11th

Visit to 3 Nerriga Rd Gardens

NOVEMBER Thursday 8th

Bus trip to Bundanoon and Robertson.

DECEMBER 13th

Christmas Party

Braidwood Preschool still needs another garden for their open gardens fundraiser during the Festival of Braidwood (24-25 November). If you are willing to open your garden for this good cause please contact Josh Collier josh.c@acgfs.com.au 0418 149 288.

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 September Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd 10am-4pm.

SEPTEMBER Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th and Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th

"Daffodils at Rydal". An annual event held in the 2nd and 3rd weekends of September to celebrate the arrival of spring. Thousands of daffodils have been planted in the parks and gardens of the village of Rydal and its surrounds. \$10 entry takes you to all the gardens. <http://www.rydal.com.au/events>

SEPTEMBER 15th – OCTOBER 14th

Floriade

SEPTEMBER Saturday 22nd – OCTOBER Sunday 7th

Sculpture In The Paddock will be held in a rolling 50 acre paddock on Shaw Vineyard Estate, 34 Isabel Drive, Murrumbateman. It is a free event.

<https://www.sculptureinthepaddock.com.au>

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 Thursday 18th – Sunday 21st

Berry Garden Festival Gardens open 10am – 4pm daily \$20 for all 8 gardens or \$5 for individual gardens.

www.berrygardens.org.au

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.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 TRAVELS By Bronwyn Johnson

In May/June 2015 a friend and I drove through south western England and Wales, following a typical tourist trail from one grand home to another, with a particular interest in gardens. Spring was a warm and sunny season that year, which produced an excellent display wherever we went. As other travellers will know, such well-kept gardens are always worth a visit, but several really stood out in both beauty and botanical interest.

• **ABBOTSBURY**

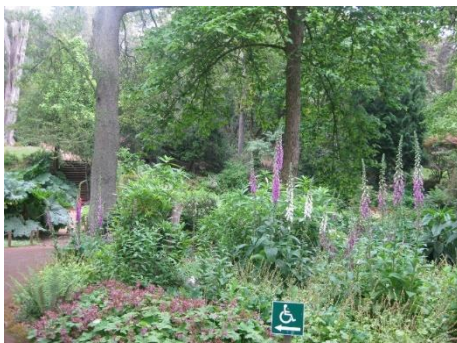
Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens have been created on 23 acres near the village of Abbotsbury in Dorset.

The Gardens have a long history dating from their origin in 1765 and are Grade 1 listed in the UK National Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

Abbotsbury Gardens are located in a wooded and sheltered valley very close to the sea at Chesil Beach, near Chesil Bank shingle bar. This unique location produces a micro-climate in which delicate plants not usually grown in southern England can flourish, and plants that would otherwise need greenhouses can be grown outside. We noticed many plants familiar to Australian gardeners, including subtropical species. In some parts of the Gardens we found it hard to believe that we were in England!

Exotic plants are well represented on the site, many of which were newly discovered species when first introduced. There are formal and informal gardens, with woodland walks and walled gardens. The gardens also contain zones which exhibit plants from different geographical areas.

This fascinating garden in an unusual location is well worth a visit, full of interest given the broad range of interesting plants from around the world, including bamboos, palms, magnolias, camellias, rhododendrons and many unusual trees and shrubs. The wooded valley has some of the tallest oaks in the UK and the magnolia walk leads to a view of the Jurassic coast. This is traditionally a spring garden but now has colour all year, particularly March through to October.



BODNANT

Bodnant Garden is a National Trust property in the foothills of Snowdonia at Tal-y-Cafn, near Colwyn Bay, Conwy, Wales.

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

The 32 hectare garden features scenery, plant collections and horticultural styles from formal to pastoral and wild to exotic. Based on one family's vision, the garden was established in 1874 by Victorian entrepreneur Henry Pochin, who transformed the landscape with rare trees and shrubs from around the world. Visitors can enjoy Italianate terraces with roses, herbaceous beds and parterres, shaded shrub borders and the drama of The Dell, with its waterfalls and towering conifers. Every season brings new delights - magnolias and rhododendrons in spring, roses and water lilies in summer, rich leaf colour in autumn and frosted landscapes in winter. When we visited on a perfect spring day, Bodnant provided endless beauty around every corner, particularly spectacular roses and clematis, all arranged in well-chosen colour groupings - a photographer's delight! Highly recommended.



IN CLOSING ... To my mind, however, the most spectacular horticultural sight we found in Wales was at Powis Castle. One side of the garden is bordered by (up to) 14 metre high yew "tumps" - quite breathtaking when you think of the effort it takes to keep them pruned to shape. (First impression is that of huge green rocks or some creature from science fiction). Garden as sculpture, par excellence!

PLANT OF THE MONTH **by Kate Chinnick**



**Viola
odorata**

"Sweet Violet"

- Native to most of Europe
- Evergreen spreading rhizomatous perennial
- Dark green kidney shaped foliage
- Beautiful flowers from winter to spring lilac, blue, white or pink
- Frost hardy and good ground cover
- Highly perfumed flowers for shady areas
- Prefers moist, cool soil in shade
- Propagate from division in spring or autumn

What to do in the garden for September

- Tie Sweet Peas to supports
- Dahlia clumps left in the ground can be divided now
- Plant new perennials & pot on any cuttings
- Winter flowering Sasanqua Camellias can be pruned after flowering
- Feed Camelias, Rhodo's, Azaleas, Daphne, Pieris and Ericas with old animal manure
- Plant and repair lawns
- Still plant onion seedlings
- Tomato seedlings should not be planted yet (late frosts!!)
- Weeds are thriving, keep them clear
- Spray Peaches and nectarines for leaf curl at pink bud swell
- Prepare vegetable beds for spring planting
- Enjoy the spring bulbs