

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 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>

OCTOBER Thursday 11th

BUS TRIP

Bundanoon and Robertson Garden Visits

Bookings are now open at Bendigo Bank for our all-day bus trip to Bundanoon and Robertson. The bus fare is \$40 for members (\$60 for non-members). If you have not yet renewed your membership, this can also be done at the bank.

Please book and pay by Friday 5th October. If paying online by EFT, please include your name plus "bus trip". This trip will be limited to 45 people - so book promptly!

Note: If any member is unable to attend an event due to financial stress, please approach the President or Vice President to discuss your situation, in confidence, in terms of possible assistance.

We will meet at Ryrie Park at 7.45 a.m. to board the bus – leaving Braidwood at 8.00 a.m.

At the end of the day we expect to return to Braidwood at approximately 6.00 p.m.

Members with surnames from M-Z are on morning tea roster this time, so please bring a plate to share. We will have lunch in Bundanoon, where there is a choice of cafes. If you intend to bring a picnic lunch, it may be wise to bring a folding chair in case outdoor public seating is unavailable.

We have a full day planned, visiting two Bundanoon gardens and one in Robertson. The gardens vary in style and in the owners' choice of plants to suit their different locations.

Garden 1 – Bundanoon (Cosette Morris)

One of the prettiest gardens in the village of Bundanoon, reflecting the owner's flair for colour and design. Large trees form the background of the garden and flowering plants such as mollis azaleas, rhododendrons, bulbs and perennials provide the colour. Climbing clematis, roses and wisteria drape themselves over arches and obelisks. Walkways linking garden rooms, gates and steps reveal different levels of formality throughout the garden.

A summer house provides a view over the fish pond and is a delightful spot for reflective thoughts, especially in the warmer season. A covered vegetable garden keeps pests away and provides for the home. Regular layers of mulch, manures and blood and bone have ensured this garden looks stunning in all seasons.

Garden 2 – Bundanoon (John Pryce-Jones)

This 2000sqm property nestles at the top of a thickly vegetated gully of large eucalypts. An eclectic approach has been adopted in the garden, with mixed plantings of exotics, natives and perennials. Stepping down from the main garden is a terraced walkway of tree ferns in keeping with the rainforest feel of its surrounds. Dry sandstone walls and timber terracing have been added to contain and safeguard the sloping beds and pathways.

Many parts of the garden are in shade for most of the year. Shade-tolerant natives such as dianella, lomandra and gahnia grow well, with hellebores scattered throughout. Several species of plectranthus provide colour and contrast with softly textured grey or purple leaves and white to purple flowers adding variety from summer into autumn. Hydrangeas and camellias also do well.

Garden 3 – Robertson (Margaret & Roger Roberts)

'Gardenalia' garden and nursery in Robertson was established only five years ago and covers more than an acre of land. This is a very different and eclectic garden, featuring containerised gardening and showcasing various plants and pots. The owners have loved and collected pots and statuary for more than 40 years.

Potted gardening provides the focal point, with more than 1,200 pots individually irrigated and integrated into the garden. Other points of interest are the perennial borders, disease resistant roses, espaliered fruit trees, peonies, hostas, epimediums, trilliums, frittalarias, clematis and hellebores. Bulbs are also featured, along with a Japanese garden, composting orchard, large vegetable garden, chooks and aviaries. Rare and unusual collectors' plants are for sale, all propagated on site.

Report on the Charley's Forest Garden Visits, September 13th

On September 13th a large group of garden club members met at the Servicemen's Club for a talk by Adele Stephenson about Rocky Point garden products. Rocky Point is a family company based in Southern Qld, which started as a sugar cane farm. Their garden product business began with sugar cane mulch but has expanded to include many other items.

Braidwood Rural will be stocking some of their products and taking orders for others. Jeff White, the manager at Braidwood Rural, outlined plans for changes to the business and an expansion of their product range. Many lucky members went home with Rocky Point products won as Lucky Door prizes, while others purchased items for sale at discounted prices.

After a delicious morning tea, we drove out to Charley's Forest to visit two completely different gardens. The contrast between the gardens created by Mark Sullivan and Donna Sherriff within a very short distance is amazing. The difference can be attributed to both the soil conditions on each property, and to the design principles and plant choices which have guided the two gardeners.

Mark has a background in both art and landscape design. These are evident in the house and garden he has created on land with a history of gold digging and farming. A Chinese water race from the gold rush days reminds us of the mining history of the area. The array of old farming equipment deposited there in later years also recalls the agricultural history of the area. Mark has created "historical sculpture" from these abandoned relics, and incorporated them into the garden in a very natural way.

Mark's very modern house, which he designed and built with the help of a local architect and builder, is perfectly suited to the location. The garden is a combination of native and introduced species, which merge into the surrounding landscape in a seamless way. The soil is very dry and infertile, so Mark's choice of plants is limited, but suited to the conditions. Most of the natives were bought as tubestock & propagated by Lyn Ellis and Murray McCracken at the nearby Currajuggle nursery. Interspersed with the natives are some mature deciduous trees, providing contrast and reflecting seasonal changes.

Mark has used local stone to build drystone walls and paths around the house, as well as a water garden featuring ferns and hellebores. He is now very fire conscious and is developing his garden to withstand fire in this very dry period.

A few kms away, Donna Sherriff has created a completely different garden. Around a 90 year-old farm cottage, she has designed a garden using trees and shrubs reflecting our European heritage. Donna started with a very small garden and three trees – a chestnut, a walnut and an apple tree, inherited from previous owners. The garden is located on a belt of basalt soil running through this area with deep fertile soil which holds moisture well. Donna also receives the moist air from the Monga Mist, rolling down from the Budawangs close by.

This garden features plants which survive and thrive in our climate. Donna's years working in a nursery in Bungendore gave her access to trees and shrubs selected for colour contrast and the beauty of seasonal changes. There are many different types of crabapples, which flower progressively throughout Spring. Reliable plants such as daffodils, hellebores and nandinas provide colour in late winter and early Spring. Viburnums and other shrubs were just coming into leaf and Donna has invited us to return in November to see the garden in its full Spring beauty, and again in Autumn to see the stunning colours of the trees she has planted for Autumn colour.

In the last three years Donna has been working on her orchard and vegetable garden. The many different fruit trees and berries will provide a wonderful harvest. Donna plans to convert her raised beds to ground level vegetable beds in time, as she finds the raised beds dry out quickly, and worms seem to prefer to be at ground level!

We all enjoyed lunch under the spreading chestnut tree on a perfect Spring day. Thanks to both Mark and Donna for sharing their beautiful gardens with us.



Donna's Garden



Mark's Garden

More photos are here ---- <https://hope-today.org/pixt/bgc37/index.html>

UPCOMING GARDEN CLUB EVENTS FOR 2018

NOVEMBER Thursday 8th

Visit to 3 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.

SEPTEMBER 15th – OCTOBER 14th

FLORIADE <https://floriadeaustralia.com>

SEPTEMBER Saturday 22nd – OCTOBER Sunday 7th Sculpture In The Paddock

This event 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 Wednesday 3rd – Saturday 6th Floral InterACTION. 100 Competitive Works in Floral Designs

A Meeting of Creative Minds and Lots of Floral Art & Designs.

A demonstration by Richard Go & Ikebana Designer & Teacher, Vesna Isik.

Contact President Ngaire Gamack 0451 681 003

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

OCTOBER Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th

The Horticultural Society of Canberra Inc. presents The Iris, Rhododendron & Azalea Show, Lancaster Hall Wesley Centre, National Circuit, FORREST ACT 2603

Phone Secretary 6251 2859

<http://www.hsoc.org.au/pages/events2.htm>

There are other exhibits of Orchids, etc. & a Wonderful Plant Stall all grown by the members of the Society.

<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 and Sunday 11th

The Horticultural Society of Canberra Inc. presents The Spring Exhibition and Rose Show, Lancaster Hall Wesley Centre, National Circuit, FORREST ACT 2603

Phone Secretary 6251 2859 <http://www.hsoc.org.au/pages/events2.htm>

There will be other exhibits of Orchids, etc., and a Wonderful Plant Stall all grown by the members of the Society.

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

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.

A Garden I Have Visited by Sue Murray

Mount Vernon, George Washington's home and garden in Virginia USA

The name **George Washington** is synonymous with the story of American Independence. His fame, first as a military leader and later as the first president of the USA, has obscured the fact that he was really just a gardener at heart. Even when he was preparing for a battle with the British Army in August 1776, he wrote a letter to his land manager at Mount Vernon, directing the planting of groves of trees on either side of the house.

If George Washington really did chop down a cherry tree, as legend tells us, he certainly made up for it in later life.



This is Mount Vernon, Washington's estate on the banks of the Potomac River, not far from Washington DC. I visited the house and garden in September 2017. Travelling from Boston through New York, Philadelphia and finally Washington DC, stories,

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statues and images of George Washington are everywhere. This area is the birthplace of American independence. In DC, the Washington monument dominates the landscape for miles around.

Yet it is at Mount Vernon that the real George Washington comes alive. Land on the Potomac River had been in the family since 1674. George inherited Mount Vernon in 1761, and hired his first gardener in 1762. His priority was growing food, and at that time most of the garden was cultivated for growing vegetables, fruit and nuts. Since the 1760's, Mount Vernon's kitchen garden, the Lower Garden, has been continuously producing vegetables, fruits and berries. Espaliered fruit trees such as apricots, peaches, nectarines and cherries grow on the warm brick walls, while espaliered apples and pears are used as fences to divide and protect the vegetable beds. The Lower Garden was supervised by George's wife Martha, as part of her responsibility for ensuring a continuous supply of good food for the inhabitants of the estate.



The Lower Garden

George was always interested in garden design, drawing inspiration from a book by English architect and landscape designer Batty Langley, called *New Principles of Gardening*. Over the years, in between wars and politics, he applied these principles to create a naturalistic landscape, with some formal elements. The house is approached from a sweeping guitar-shaped entrance lawn called the Bowling Green, surrounded by trees. Hidden behind a wall on the right are the kitchen gardens, while behind the trees on the left is the Upper Garden.

Originally the fruit and nut garden, the Upper Garden later evolved into a formal “pleasure garden” where beds of fruits and vegetables were surrounded by dwarf box hedges, and wide bands of flowering plants. In 1784 George began planning a greenhouse to grow citrus fruits and delicate tropical plants. The building is both beautiful and practical.

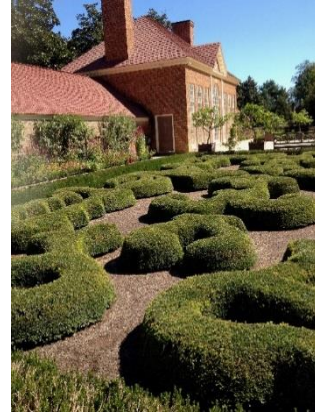
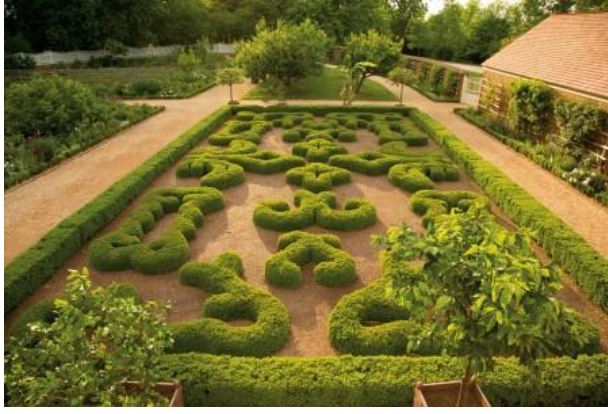


The wings on either side of the greenhouse were added in 1792 and were used as slave housing.



The view from Mount Vernon to the Potomac River.

George was continually experimenting, spending much of his time in his small “Botanical Garden”. Here he tested the survival of new plant varieties including new pasture crops, as well as seeds, cuttings and bulbs sent to him from all over the world. This was his favourite part of the garden in later life.



In front of the greenhouse are formal knot gardens.

George Washington retired from public life in 1796. He wrote that “I am once more seated under my own vine and fig tree.....and hope to spend the remainder of my days in peaceful retirement, making political pursuits yield to the more rational amusement of cultivating the earth”.

I think most of us would echo this thought.

Sadly, George died in December 1799, aged 67 years.

*The Braidwood Hospital Auxiliary Annual Fete is being held on Saturday, 20 October, so start thinking about the plants (and cakes) you could donate. All contributions would be greatly appreciated.
Plants and cakes can be delivered to the National Theatre after 2pm on Friday 19 or early Saturday morning. You can also organise to leave plants with Jennie Marston (0408 406192) earlier.*

PLANT OF THE MONTH by Kate Chinnick



Euphorbia myrsinites

- Native to southern Europe
- Prostrate trailing evergreen perennial
- Blue green oval leaves spiral around stems
- Each stem ends with a rounded flower head of chartreuse
- Suitable for sunny rock gardens and trailing over walls

- Grows to 15 - 20cm high and 60cm wide
- Self seeds readily (not badly!)
- Flowers from September to January

What to do in the garden for October:

- Prune flowering shrubs as they finish flowering
- Azaleas should be clipped back & any dead growth removed
- Choose new Azaleas & Rhododendrons while in flower
- Roses will respond to fertilizer
- Check Roses for fungal problems & mulch to retain moisture
- Nip out Sweet Pea shoots as they reach top of supports
- Gladiolus corms can be planted at two weekly intervals (90 to 100 days to flower)
- Dead head annuals and bulbs (don't remove foliage)
- Feed all bulbs with a high potash fertilizer
- Plant Pea and Bean seeds and erect supports
- Plant out Lettuce, Cabbage etc.