

# BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

## NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2019



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<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

### LOCAL GARDEN VISITS - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March

The first garden we will be visiting is that of Bev Lightfoot at Araluen Rd Braidwood, where we will have morning tea. Bev and her husband created their garden from a blank canvas in 2003. Their garden is quite large with many different trees and a haven for many birds. It also has some lovely secret garden places to sit and relax. There is also a creek that runs along the back and what Bev enjoys most about her garden is the sound of the leaves rustling in the breeze and the sun filtering through the leaves. Her garden has a calming atmosphere and feels like a retreat. Bev said it is a garden she can get lost in.

The next garden we will visit is that of Jenny Wallace at Malone St Braidwood. Jenny began to create her garden in 2003 and as you walk through the arched entry covered in gorgeous roses, you are welcomed into a beautiful and magical garden. Every nook and cranny of this imaginative garden is full of surprises. There is a great collection of interesting plants and lovely sitting areas to relax and enjoy. Jenny describes her garden as QUIRKY!!!!

Our last garden is Pat Maher's garden at Reidsdale where we will have lunch.

From Pat...

'My garden at Sawyers Ridge Road, Reidsdale has a wooden fenced area around the house with a citrus corner, bay tree and vegetable patch behind a bamboo fence. Garden beds full of roses, penstemons, anemones, hellebores, salvias, daisies, lavender, banksias, grevilleas, etc and hedges of proteas, camellias, teucrium fruticans, english box and westringia surround the house. There are several small trees within the house garden and larger or will be larger trees, river, silver and purple leaf birch, Ginkgo, Persian Witch Hazel, Liquidambar and a recently planted peppercorn outside the house fence coming up the driveway. The driveway is lined with cottonwoods and there are golden and claret ash trees either side of the front gate. An orchard is fronted by a windbreak of Australian natives. Hopefully the crepe myrtle will still be in flower when you visit.'

**MEET: Ryrie Park at 10am to Carpool and receive a guide map**

**BRING: A chair, lunch & name tag**

**MEMBERS M-Z Please bring a plate of Morning Tea to Share**

We look forward to seeing you all on the 14th.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Just 30 minutes digging in the garden burns 250 calories,  
mowing the lawn burns 195c,  
weeding burns 105c and raking  
burns 100c.



# WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Georgina Hall & Chris James

## **REPORT OF MEETING - THURSDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2019**

Our first meeting for 2019 was held at the Servicemen's Club where 33 members and guests were enlightened with a talk by Jack Simpson, President of the Horticultural Society Canberra (produces the popular book 'The Canberra Gardener') on the topic "Trees of the Southern tablelands and their diseases". Jack is extremely well qualified to speak about tree diseases as he worked as a Forest Pathologist and Mycologist (someone who studies fungi and which is the main cause of diseases in trees) and is passionate about the topic.

Jack's presentation was structured around some of the most significant tree diseases, including: Cypress Canker which attacks at least 25 conifer species of the Cupressaceae family; Phytophthora Dieback disease which causes root rot in a broad range of plant species, including many native Australian and ornamental plants; Sirex wood wasp in pine trees; Myrtle rust in trees and shrubs in the Myrtaceae family and Powdery mildew.

While not a disease, Jack also commented on Elm Leaf Beetle infestations and possible treatment options. He remarked that in the absence of a good biological control none of the treatment options (banding, spraying and injecting) were ideal and would not lead to the eradication of the beetle's, only its control. Repeated severe infestations can lead to the decline and eventual demise of elm trees unless some treatment programme is introduced.

Jack observed that once a disease is introduced it is extremely difficult to eradicate it and that the severity of a disease can vary greatly by location. This necessitates the need for local studies and monitoring of pests and diseases and to have local strategies to adapt management systems to deal with the disease. Unfortunately cuts mean that there fewer and fewer Forest Pathologists to undertake the necessary scientific studies to respond to the increasing number of disease incursions into Australia.

We also had our first ever garden book / magazine exchange or sale (gold coin) over lunch. This was successful with quite a number of books and magazines bought and exchanged. The remaining books and magazines will be donated to the book fair and we intend to repeat the exchange later in the year.

A big thank you to members A-L for bringing the delectable lunch we enjoyed.

## **ELM TREE CENSUS**

The garden club is continuing with its census of Elm Trees in Braidwood and the surrounding areas with close to 500 trees recorded so far, with many more to add. This initiative follows a bad infestation of Elm Leaf Beetles throughout much of the district and the information collected will inform us on how we should respond to the infestation. If you have elm trees and have not yet responded to the census, please do so, with back ground and the questionnaire available [here](#)

## **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.

**'Perennial Hill' Garden, 1 Nero St, Mittagong** is open each weekend in March 10-4pm. And April Friday 19<sup>th</sup>-

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> 10-4pm. \$8 entry. <https://perennialhill.com.au>

**Retford Park**, 1325 Old South Rd, Bowral. Gardens Open on the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of March, April & May, 10am-4pm. Entry \$15.

National Trust Members Free. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/places/retford-park/>

### **MARCH Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Horticultural Society of Canberra Autumn Flower Show Lancaster Hall Wesley Centre Forrest, Sat noon-5pm, Sunday 11.30-3.45

### **MARCH Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>**

The Goulburn Rose Festival showcases the roses of Goulburn and includes a strongly contested Competition in which anyone can enter roses for judging, from Champion growers to ordinary home gardeners and even children. Prizemoney is donated by local businesses, organisations and individuals. Venue Veolia Arena, (Goulburn Showgrounds), 47 Braidwood Rd Goulburn. Admission \$5, Competition Entry Fee \$1 per entry.

<https://www.goulburnrosefestival.org.au>

### **MARCH Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>**

#### **Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show**

If you are planning a visit to the show, tickets are now available. <http://melbflowershow.com.au>

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

### **APRIL Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>**

The Collectors' Plant Fair. 100+ Stalls, Plants, Planters, Books, Flowers, Orchids, Bulbs, Perennials, Indoor Plants, Shrubs, Natives, Seeds, Coffee. Hawkesbury Race Club, Clarendon. NSW Phone Linda Ross, 1300 133 100  
<http://www.collectorsplantfair.com>

**MAY Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>** Collector Village Pumpkin Festival celebrating Rural Life and the Harvest Season. 100 stalls, Pumpkin Competitions. <http://pumpkinfestival.com.au>

**MAY Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>** Tallong Apple Day <https://www.tallongappleday.com>

**AUGUST 9<sup>th</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER** Autumn Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March-Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June. Spring at Wildwood, 29 Powell's Rd, Bilpin.  
Salvia Shows in April. <https://www.wildwoodgarden.com.au> Phone 0417 042 460

### **AUGUST 24<sup>th</sup> Saturday –SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday**

#### **Sculpture On The Clyde**

Batemans Bay and the amazing Willinga Park in Bawley Point will be transformed in the last week of August when sculptors from all around Australia and overseas set up their sculptures to create an artistic and cultural hub. <http://sculptureonclyde.com.au/> & <http://willingapark.com.au/>

### **DATES OF LOCAL SHOWS**

**Braidwood Show** Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019

**Goulburn Show** Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019 Phone 48216813

**Tarago Show** Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019

### **UPCOMING GARDEN CLUB EVENTS FOR 2019**

**April 11<sup>th</sup> Bus Trip To Canberra**

**May 9<sup>th</sup> Local Garden Visits**

**June 13<sup>th</sup> Floral Arrangement Workshop with Marilyn Carle**

**July 11<sup>th</sup> Talk on Native Seed Propagation**

**August 8<sup>th</sup> AGM**

### **MERRIBEE GARDENS VISIT by Amanda Scott**



In January my husband and I spent a lovely day wandering through Merribee Gardens, located in Numbaa, about a 10 minute drive east of Nowra. We have visited the garden several times over the past decade and have seen it develop into the magical garden it is today. It never fails to inspire us and has sparked many a garden project! The owners, Lucy and Richard Marshall are often in the garden during their Open Days and are happy to chat about the garden. They purchased the circa 1850 property in 2000 and have spent the last (almost) two decades developing the garden with the assistance of horticulturalist James Thompson.



Approximately two kilometres of pathway move through various garden rooms on the seven-acre property – there really is something for everyone! The property is flat and the paths well maintained, so it is very accessible for all.

There is an extensive rose Garden with 1000 David Austin, old English and old French roses, a formal potager including a herb and medicinal garden, topiary and parterre. A Provence style lavender paddock is a new addition along with a studio where various gardening workshops are now held.

Some of my favourite parts of the garden are the allee of Chinese Elms that greet visitors on arrival, a Crepe Myrtle walk set up with tables and chairs, to enjoy refreshments in the shade and the secret, walled Snow Pear garden – this is particularly lovely. My husband is quite taken with the copse of Bunya pine and I'm sure has aspirations to include something similar in our own garden (hopefully where the nuts won't fall and kill anyone!).

The garden is open to the public on the first Wednesday of the month.



## **PLANT OF THE MONTH**

### **by Kate Chinnick**



**Aster  
amellus**  
**(Italian aster)**

- Native of eastern half of Europe and Turkey
- Grows to 45 – 60 cm
- Evergreen perennial
- Leaves are oblong and dark green
- Spreads from underground rhizomes
- Attractive spikes of small daisy shaped flowers, pink, blue or purple
- Very hardy and easily grown in sun or part shade
- Propagate from division in spring or late autumn
- Many popular cultivars available

### **What to do in the garden for March**

- Prepare areas for spring bulbs
- Continue tying Dahlias
- Dead head annuals and perennials as flowers fade
- Overgrown perennials can be divided
- Sow sweet Peas
- Plant or move evergreen shrubs now before cooler weather
- Feed roses for good autumn blooms
- Prune Jasmines and late flowering Clematis
- Remove dead wood from deciduous shrubs and Roses
- Plant Asian Greens, Broccoli, Cabbage & Cauliflower
- Remove finished vegetable crops and compost
- Pick up any fallen fruit & dispose of if diseased