

# BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

## NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019



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<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

### BUS TRIP TO CANBERRA - Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April

We meet at Ryrie Park at 8:30am to board the bus which will take us to Lanyon House. We do a self-guided tour of the gardens and an optional tour of the house is available at a cost of \$7 or \$5 concession.

Morning tea can be purchased at the Lanyon cafe or you can bring your own.

We then reboard the bus to go to Yarralumla Heritage Nursery and after looking around the nursery, we will have lunch in nearby Weston Park so please bring your own lunch and a chair.

Following lunch we go to Riverside Nursery in Queanbeyan and there you will get a discount on your purchases if you are a member of the Diggers Club and have your membership card with you.

We are hoping to be back in Braidwood at approximately 4pm

Bookings are open at the bank on 26<sup>th</sup> March, or you can pay via direct transfer - **BSB: 633 000 account number 118346444 (please put Canberra Trip in the reference section).**

**The cost is \$25 for members, \$45 for non-members. Bookings close at 5pm Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April.**

### Report of Local Garden Visits - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March

Over 40 happy gardeners visited three very different, albeit all delightful, gardens on a day when the rain held off until the visits were over.

We started at Bev and Eric Lightfoot's garden on Araluen Rd Braidwood which they started from a blank canvas in 2003. Their garden is quite large (~2 acres) with an attractive mixture of exotic and native trees providing a haven for many birds. It is almost an Arboretum with many different specimen trees, with lovely examples of weeping elm, cork, silver pear, weeping silver birch and silk tree among others. It has some lovely meandering paths and secret garden places to sit and relax, most notably a rotunda with a fire pit tucked away near the creek that runs along the back of their block. They also have some nice quirky pieces, including an old soap boiler now being used as a water feature and their very own obelisk weathervane. We also enjoyed a magnificent spread for morning tea there, thanks to the generosity of members M-Z.



The next garden we visited was a complete contrast, and belongs to Jenny Wallace in Malone St Braidwood. Jenny began to create her small and colourful garden in 2003 and has made great use of every inch available. You are welcomed by an arched entry covered in gorgeous roses, with some lovely burgundy iceberg roses in full bloom along the front of the house. The back garden is full of surprises with a great collection of interesting plants and lovely areas to sit, reflect, relax and enjoy. Jenny often holds Sunday afternoon musical soirees here as fundraisers for various causes.



The last garden we visited belongs to Pat and Laurie Maher at Reidsdale where we enjoyed lunch. Their garden is a lovely quiet and peaceful space in a gorgeous rural setting, which also benefits from rich basalt soil and good rainfall. You are welcomed by a driveway lined with cottonwoods with golden and claret ash trees either side of the front gate. The garden itself is more of a cottage garden style with garden beds full of roses, penstemons, anemones, hellebores, salvias, daisies, lavender, banksias, grevilleas and more. There are hedges of proteas, camellias, teucrium fruticans, English box and westringia surrounding the house. Their citrus trees are flourishing and they have created an eye catching globe clipped bay tree in the centre of their vegie patch.



More photos found at: <https://hope-today.org/pixt/bgc41/index.html>

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS  
Trish Cooper, Mary Emmett and Jennie Wallace

### **Garden Club Working to Preserve Braidwood Hospital Roses**



At the initiative of Jane Slade (lead nurse at Narbethong House), the garden club committee agreed to try and preserve the roses at Braidwood Hospital/MultiPurpose Service. Thanks to Dennis Dempsey (one of Braidwood’s resident rose experts), Jenny Marston and Margaret Tuckwell who on 11th March took cuttings from all the rose bushes in the Hospital grounds and cut back the 5 plants which are in the area of the first phase of the redevelopment. They will be ready to be dug up and kept in large pots until they can be replanted. Over 200 cuttings were then potted up and depending on the success rate, there will hopefully be plants available at the next Hospital Auxiliary Fete, as well as roses to replant in the hospital.

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>





### **Report of Braidwood Show Flower and Plant Judging**

For quite a number of years now the Flower Section has been set up (and down) by members of Braidwood Garden Club. It also sponsors the Grand Champion Exhibit of the Flower Section, worth \$80.00

The Chief Steward is Kate Chinnick who amazes each year with her memory of how the section is run. (She swears that each time is to be her last!) She had six helpers this year and all were needed as at times the pace was frenetic. That said, it is really a very enjoyable experience, logging in entrants exhibits, making sure they actually fit the category, placing flowers in the vases in the correct section, ensuring they have water and stand upright in their positions. Multiple entries and eager exhibitors sometimes mean quite a wait in turn, things can be seem very chaotic!

Despite the rather strange season in the lead-up to the Show, entries appeared to be up on the year before, though less out-of-towners. This year's villains were drought, wind and grasshoppers. However the weather, there are always a core group of local entrants whose gardens must be seen to be believed – little microcosms of loveliness. Hot winds were the enemy of the dahlia growers, and that category was well down in numbers.

Our own Marilyn Carle was the judge again this year and as we stewards followed behind her to record points awarded to exhibits, we also learnt snippets of information as to why some flower exhibits were better than others. The most important point gleaned was 'to be serious about trying to be perfect'... look carefully at your entries, remove spent or overblown blooms, leaves and petals with imperfections, including bites, brown spots, dust and wilting, and travel damage (crushes and creases). Colour is of no real importance, nor is rarity if the flower is not perfect! If a category requires no buds or leaves, remove them carefully. For Hydrangeas particularly, a nice round head is required with no older petals with brown marks on them Hint: a good idea is to dunk them in water up to their heads to maintain a clean and well-hydrated bloom. Sedum flowers should be open. Also remember to remove any wildlife from the flowers! Judging is firm but fair!

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Braidwood garden club members were very successful entrants at the Braidwood Show plant section with a wide variety of plants displayed. Many more succulents were entered this year and in beautiful condition. Shauntelle and Nathan Hindmarsh entered an amazing display of bonsai which was of great interest to everyone and won first prize.

The residents of Narbethong were very busy preparing their entries for the show and they were helped by the Men's Shed members who made a table for them to do their potting on. Judy Neilson won prizes for her potted plants and Marge Burns won for her cactus garden. A bus takes the residents for a preview of the pavilion on the Friday which they thoroughly enjoy and they are now getting very busy preparing plants for the hospital fete.

Grand champion was won by Charmian Thomas who entered 5 beautiful ferns of different varieties and she also won a first in the novelty plant section.

John Tuckwell won Reserve Champion with a spectacular red begonia.

A big Thankyou to Marja Baumann for her hard work & who has been organising and arranging the plant section for over 10 yrs.

Congratulations to all exhibitors and winners, and especially the volunteers as the Show would not be the success that it is without you. A great effort!



### **Elm Tree Census**

Over 2100 elms have been identified to date and still counting (including elm trees in thickets), of which some 1700 are covered by the census, with a further 400 identified but not yet formally recorded. Just 3 properties account for around 950 of the trees recorded and close to 600 of the trees are on Council land, although less than 40 are large trees within the Braidwood town area.

It appears that golden elms have been more affected than others, with some English elms also badly affected. Chinese and weeping elms have typically been hardly affected.

If you have Elms on your property and still to record them, please do so by completing the form located [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/>

#### **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/>

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## UPCOMING GARDEN CLUB EVENTS FOR 2019

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

## **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