

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2019



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THURSDAY OCTOBER 17th - Bus Trip to Berry

Bookings are open for our bus trip to Berry on the South Coast, visiting 4 beautiful gardens in and around Berry. The Berry Garden Festival starts on that day so the gardens will hopefully be at their spring peak.

We will meet at **Ryrie Park at 8.15am**. The cost for the bus and entry into the gardens is \$50-00 and payable by direct deposit (**BSB: 633-108 Acct:1183-46444** - please include your name and "Berry" in the detail) or at Bendigo Bank by **Friday 11th October**.

We shall arrive at the first garden, Oke's Camellia Garden, at approximately 10.45am. Morning tea will be available to purchase from the Berry CWA and a toilet will also be available. After viewing the second garden, Bel Air, we will break for lunch at Apex Park at approximately 12.45pm. We will break for an hour so that we may enjoy a leisurely lunch, BYO or purchased locally and/or enjoy a browse around some of the lovely shops found in Berry.

After lunch we will visit two more gardens before leaving at 3pm to return to Braidwood at approximately 5.30pm.

If you would like to join us on this trip but are experiencing financial difficulties, please contact John Tuckwell (President) on 0408 625 156 or Rosemary De Martin (Vice-President) on 0439 412 134 to discuss the situation in confidence with the view to the garden club offering some assistance.

There is scope for limited pickups along the Nerriga Road. If you live out that way and want to take advantage of this, please contact Amanda Scott on 0404 834 632.

Report on Willinga Park & Milton Visit

On 29th August a hardy bunch of Garden Club members were not deterred by a 'less than promising' weather forecast for our trip to the coast. With 21 members on the bus and three travelling by car, our first stop was at 'Willinga Park', where we spent a fascinating morning exploring this amazing development on a 2,000 acre property at Bawley Point.

Apart from competitors and others involved in horse events, Willinga Park is not often open to the public except during special events such as 'Sculpture for Clyde', an annual celebration of local, national and overseas sculpture. The outdoor artworks were exhibited at Willinga, which was open to the public for nine days only. (The major prize-winning sculpture becomes a permanent installation in the Sculpture Walk on the Batemans Bay foreshore).

We were fortunate that despite a cold breeze and grey skies, the rain held off during our visit. Most of the group chose to board the Park's first bus tour of the day, which provided an extensive and informative introduction to the property.

Current facilities include a world-class equestrian centre featuring the latest in equine technology as well as high-standard accommodation for both horses and their owners. In addition to current facilities for events such as camp draft and dressage, construction is ongoing. The show jumping arena is well advanced, with a conference centre and accommodation (capacity 280) nearing completion. The extensive buildings have won several architectural awards and are set in beautifully landscaped gardens.

The gardens at Willinga Park have been developed on remnant degraded grazing country, beginning in 2010 with a five hectare site. Plans for the next few years include extending the gardens to encompass three hectares of native woodlands to the west of the existing gardens, planting only endemic species.

More than 11,000 trees, shrubs and plants have been incorporated into the property. The plantings in the gardens are mainly Australian natives, some endemic to the area, with an established micro-climate.

Garden Club members particularly commented on the inspired use of unusual plant combinations. In one location we noted extensive carpets of native violets planted close by raised beds of massed grey-blue succulents, both blending comfortably among the dramatic modern architecture and beautiful stonework.

The internal tour bus dropped its passengers at the highest point of the gardens, giving us a downhill stroll to meet up with the rest of our group already admiring the many sculptures scattered throughout. It was great fun comparing our interpretation, appreciation (or otherwise) of the artworks and trying to guess which were in the running for the major prize of \$50,000*.

At lunchtime we moved on to the lovely little town of Milton, though unfortunately by this time the rain had arrived. Most of us scattered to the welcoming warmth of nearby cafes for lunch, after which there was time for a stroll around the interesting small shops along the main street until time to meet our bus for the homeward trip.

*The major prize of \$50,000 went to David Ball's sculpture 'Fracture 2' (pictured below).

Giant Dragonfly- Tobias Bennett



Report of Bungendore and Warri Gardens Visit 12th September

More than 36+ members thoroughly enjoyed a day out to local gardens on a cool overcast early spring day, which turned quite windy later on. The day was bookended by two gorgeous spring days!

We started at the delightful and newly restored 1887 house and garden "*Thornleigh*" belonging to Anthea Thomson, which was highly commended in the 2019 QPRC heritage awards. Kevin Jones, her friend and lodger, has spent the last year lovingly redeveloping the garden and his efforts were not in vain.

This town garden is densely planted with cottage plants, roses and has the lushest lawn you could image. The whole effect is topped off with some quirky sculptures (eg a death adder with a hearing aid) and a windmill.

Despite its uniform, lateral streetscape, the house comprises two titles. It is joined in the centre by a shared common wall, affording open fireplaces to each of its Eastern and Western components. The lawn and surrounding beds have been designed to set off the front of the house and form an amphitheatre effect.

The restoration of the gardens surrounding this dwelling demanded an empathetic understanding of its history, which was commensurate with the planning and execution of their passion to restore its 19th Century profile.

Anthea also kindly let us go through their delightful home which has been restored with an amazing attention to detail to reflect the origins of the dwelling while not excluding the luxuries of modern living. The stained glassed windows, gold detailed cornices and designer wallpaper are but three such examples. Such a feat cannot be achieved without considerable passion and commitment.

We also enjoyed a great morning tea there under their veranda with many delicious cakes and slices thanks to members M-Z.



The second garden we visited was Marcia and Brian Voce's garden '*Piccolo*', a mere half kilometre away, which has been progressively planted and extended since they moved there in November 1999, although it was formed from a framework of trees, roses and shrubs some years older - the remnant of their former herb garden is now the site of their present home.

The theme of the woodland garden at *Piccolo* aims to present a smooth transition of interest from season to season. The garden covers almost an acre and ranges from intimate plantings to wilder garden and grassed areas as you progress away from the house ending with a dam.

At the entrance to the garden there is a lovely area of daffodils and hellebores among silver birches, with a bridge over the garden to the front door. With the stone fruit in blossom there was some lovely colour. Within the main garden there is an interesting circular gravelled area edged with box and a narrow grass garden known as the Sea Garden covered with a collection of shells and seaside memorabilia from their coast home.

They provided a slideshow in their studio which gave insights of the garden changing through the year.



Some members then wanted some retail therapy and visited Phil's Emporium (St Philip's Anglican Church Op Shop, 27 Butmaroo St, Bungendore) for some bargains.

The third garden was Lesa and Laszlo Schuster's garden where we had lunch. They built their home in Warri in 2014 and started the garden from scratch shortly after that. It is mainly a native garden, but Lesa is in the process of establishing an herb / cottage garden near their home. They have a productive vegie patch and also fruit trees and soft fruit.

Their block is very windy, and they have had to plant a substantive wind break. Laszlo leads on the native side and explained how they were using the quick growing Floribunda wattle to improve soil fertility, being a legume, and encourage other longer-lived trees and shrubs to grow.

They shared their tale of woe of their Canberra blend lawn, which was going well until the scarab grubs, kangaroos, rabbits and lack of rain did their worst. They are going to replace it with Kangaroo grass. Like so many gardens on rural blocks, their new trees, shrubs, and the vegie patch all need to be protected from various pests by netting (although these were largely removed for our visit).

Further information on their plantings below.



Not only did we have a lovely day, but our visits were greatly appreciated by our hosts. Brian Voce wrote afterwards "Marce said it was the best of garden visits she could remember, and we found your members delightful, offering a lot of genuine brightness ... Marce, particularly appreciated the demonstrated interest and was pleased to be able to provide the odd cuttings and pickings to obviously keen gardeners". He also sent a photo, along with a few words about our day to the Bungendore Weekly. While Lesa Schuster wrote on Facebook "We absolutely loved hosting the garden club, it was really lovely to see everyone sharing ideas - we learned much today!"

Text by John Tuckwell. Pictures: courtesy of Fran Woods.

Natives planted in Lesa and Laszlo Schuster's garden at Warri

We have planted 100's of natives, creating rooms, windbreaks, pretty spaces. Many birds are coming here now including a rare robin, wrens, willy wagtails, honey eaters and many more, including a kingfisher!

Callistemon species include: c. violaceus, c. pityoides (alpine bottlebrush), c. pallidus (lemon bottlebrush), c. citrinus Endeavour, Mauve Mist, Candy Pink, White Anzac, Kings Park Special, Pink Champagne.

Callistemon viminalis 'Dawson River Weeper' is doing well near the dam. All bottlebrush are doing well after plenty of water to start with.

Wattles:

Acacia floribunda (along the fence line)
Acacia longifolia
Acacia baileyana (Cootamundra Purple)
Acacia boormannii (Snowy River Wattle)
Acacia iteaphylla (Flinders Ranges Wattle)

Grevilleas:

Grevillea Hills Jubilee
Grevillea iaspicula (Wee Jasper Spider Flower)
Grevillea banksia x *bipinnatifida*
Grevillea barklyana
Grevillea Canberra Gem
Grevillea x *gaudichaudii* – prostrate, near the dam
Grevillea Bronze Rambler – sprawling groundcover, near the dam

Tea trees:

Leptospermum scoparium (manuka)
Leptospermum scoparium Crimson Glory
Leptospermum morrisonii Burgundy - in hedge and near the dam

Banksias:

Banksia ericifolia
Banksia paludosa Little Pal – near the dam
Banksia canei (Alpine) – near the dam
Philotheca myoporoides (Native Wax Flower)
Westringia Wynyabbie Gem
Melaleuca linariifolia (Snow in Summer)
Festuca glauca (blue fescue grass)
Eucalyptus caesia Silver Princess
Doryanthes excelsa (Gynea Lily), if protected from wildlife, grows here too

BRAIDWOOD HOSPITAL FETE National Theatre Saturday 19th October

This year, more than ever, the Hospital Auxiliary is hoping to raise as much as possible from our Annual Fete for the wonderful new Braidwood Hospital currently being built and the much needed equipment needed to be acquired. So..... The Cake Stall is hoping our wonderful gardeners/cooks will be able to make some cakes/ slices/ preserves etc.

Could you please deliver them to the National Theatre on the day from 9.00am. If this is not possible please ring Sally Thackway 48422808, for alternate arrangements.

The Hospital Auxiliary Committee very much appreciates any contribution you can make. Please call Sally on 0409 227 108 if you have any queries.

Also the plants you have potted up can be left at the Theatre on Friday 18th afternoon & Saturday morning. Please call Di Roach on 4842 7175 for any plant queries. Your contributions will make a huge difference to the success of these stalls.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS
Kerrin Glover, Lesa Schuster, Nola Westmore & Suzie Wood

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

You can pay \$20(plus \$11 if a mailed newsletter is required) at the Bendigo Bank, in person or online BSB 633-000 Acct No 118 346 444 & please add Annual Subs to the comment.

All members were notified in the July newsletter about the renewal of membership for 2019-20 & thanks to most members who have now renewed. We are in the process of revising our membership database and membership distribution list and ask if you have not yet got round to renewing your membership to do so shortly. The end of October is the cut-off date for a newsletter mailout. Please note, if you joined the garden club after May 2019 this also includes your 2019-20 membership.

GARDEN CLUB EVENTS FOR 2019

October 17th Bus Trip to Berry Open Gardens

November 14th Local Garden Visits

**December 12th Christmas Lunch – Pot up a plant now
for the ‘Flowering Pot Competition’**

FROM THE MAILBOX for your information

My Open Garden

For gardens and events in NSW and ACT, log in to this website <https://www.myopengarden.com.au>

SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 14th September- 3rd November

‘Nooroo’ Garden Mt Wilson. This magnificent garden, planted in 1880 is open daily in spring from 10-5pm and is famous for its wisteria court. <https://www.nooroomtwilson.com.au>

OCTOBER Saturday 19th Braidwood Hospital Fete, National Theatre Braidwood

A request for all gardeners to pot up some plants for the Fete and keep the date free to support our local Hospital.

OCTOBER Thursday 17th – Sunday 20th

Berry Garden Festival 10am -4pm daily, \$20 for all 8 gardens or \$5 for individual gardens.

<https://berrygardens.org.au/berry-gardens-festival>

OCTOBER Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th 9.30-4.30

Bundanoon Garden Ramble is in its 22 year with 8 private gardens open from 9.30 – 4.30. Free shuttle buses are available from garden to garden with market stalls set up in the village and the Soldiers’ Memorial Hall.

A display of old farm equipment set up in the Old Goods Shed and refreshments, provided by the Lions Club available in one of the open gardens. Tickets \$20 for all 8 gardens or \$5 for a single garden, valid for Saturday & Sunday and are for sale in the hall from 9am. <http://www.bundanoongardenramble.org.au>

NOVEMBER Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th

Crookwell Garden Festival. 9 Beautiful cold-climate gardens open all weekend. Garden lovers market on Saturday. www.crookwellgardenfestival.com

Gardens I have visited – Magdalen College, Oxford by John Tuckwell

Magdalen College is important to me. Not because I studied there - I went to Reading University, although I did go to Magdalen College School in Brackley. But because my parents were tenant farmers of the college and as part of the tenancy we farmed the water meadows on the college grounds in the centre of Oxford. The college then sold our farm requiring the proceeds for the restoration of their tower, with my father being offered a position as a gardener as part of the compensation package. Pop, as he was known, worked there for 12 years until he retired in 1986. So, when in Oxford during our recent holiday it was high on our priorities to revisit the college.

The garden has outstanding English herbaceous borders, which are some of the best one is likely to come across, matched by immaculate lawns. While the grassed cloister quadrangle is a magical space - there was a wedding there when we visited. The gardens also include walks through parkland, known as the Grove, along the water meadows, which are full of snake's head fritillaries in the spring, and onto a deer park. Pop looked after the fallow deer (been there since 1720s) and always phoned his grandchildren on Christmas Eve to tell them that the deer had left!

The gardens originated at the foundation of the college in 1458 and have continued to develop ever since. In total they cover around 12ha. Entry is free.



Herbaceous Border in the President's Garden



Detail of the Herbaceous Border – what a hosta



St John's Quadrangle is edged by stunning white hydrangea arborescens 'Annabelle'



So simple, but so effective.



Near the end of Addison's Walk



Wild flower lawn – currently very popular in the UK

THE PLANT OF THE MONTH by Kate Chinnick



Deutzia
gracilis
“Nikko”

- Native to Japan, related to the Philadelphus but smaller
- Small low spreading deciduous shrub, 60cm tall & up to 1.2m wide
- Pale green foliage often turns burgundy before shedding
- Flowers are starry and white in summer in spikes
- Prefers a sheltered site in semi shade
- Good rock garden plant
- Often puts down roots when it spreads
- Propagate from cuttings in late spring
- Other larger Deutzias are also good shrubs

What to do in the garden for October

- Prune flowering shrubs as they finish flowering
- Thin out Camelias and shorten branches
- Azaleas should be clipped back and remove any dead wood
- Roses will respond to fertiliser & added water from mid-month
- Remove last year's dead growth from Begonias and Fuchsias
- Nip out Sweet Pea shoots to encourage lateral growth
- Plant out dahlia tubers (insert stakes before planting)
- Gladiolus corms can be planted at two weekly intervals (90 to 100 days to flowering)
- Dead head annuals and bulbs
- Feed bulbs with fertiliser high in potash for next year's flowers
- Sow seeds of Tomatoes, Zucchini, Silver Beet, Beans & cabbage
- Make supports for Peas and climbing Beans
- Mulch well to hold in the moisture