

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2020

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<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

THURSDAY 12th MARCH

Bus Trip to Gardens in Yass

Where: Meet at Ryrie Park, Braidwood

When: 08.30 am sharp please and return around 5.00pm

Members A-L please bring a plate of morning tea to share.

Lunch to be kindly provided by Yass and District Garden Club Cost: \$30 per person (anyone who has difficulties meeting the cost of the trip please contact John Tuckwell on

0408 625 156 to discuss what can be done to address this). **Please pay at Bendigo Bank by Friday, March 6.**

For our first bus trip of 2020 we are going to Yass and will be visiting the gardens of three members of the Yass and District Garden Club and a brief visit to Turners Wholesale Nursery.

Margaret and Ken Reidy's garden in the centre of Yass will be our first destination, where we will also have morning tea. Their home was built in 1920 for the family of T.J. Sheekey, who had built up a major business in Cordial and Aerated Water. Much of the original planting has gone, but there are still tall cypresses and Wisteria which has spread right through the property. Margaret and Ken have revitalised the garden with flair and sensitivity. Close to the house is a paved courtyard with on one side a rockery, with a profusion of flowering plants including at least 100 Bonica roses. The courtyard centre is an outdoor dining area which incorporates the domed cistern that would have been an item of pride to the Sheekeys, as connoisseurs of water. Beyond the courtyard, steps lead up through an original portico to a grassed and treed area edged with stone retaining walls, also original. A paved path lined with flowering plants leads to a new gazebo with an elaborate fountain and beyond that to a third level of the garden, left open for a range of activities. The front garden has mass plantings of perennials which require little watering and in Spring spectacular roses climb over the wooden gateway.

We will then briefly visit **Turners Wholesale Nursery** for some retail therapy. This is a small family business that has been operating for over 20 years and provides quality plants at reasonable prices. They specialise in hedging plants but also have a small but interesting range of native and exotic plants. See: <http://www.turnerswholesalenursery.com/catalogue.php> for an indicative list.

Our next destination is **Kim and Bimbi Turner's garden** and One Tree Olive Grove at Bowning where Yass and District Garden Club has very kindly offered to provide us a delicious sounding lunch of sandwiches, mini quiche (gluten free), savoury finger food and fruit. There will be lots of space to wander and relax in the garden at this place. As they will be hosting a wedding there in a few weeks' time the garden should be looking close to its best. In 2007 their 1850s homestead was in an old orchard girthed by a fence two metres from the verandah posts and little garden. 12 years later, it now nestles into a 2 acre plus garden with the design and construction of a ha-ha wall, arbors and pergolas. From the car park there is an infant crepe myrtle grove. To the south the east, a rose garden is found following the grape and rose covered pergola. Following through the garden is a nuttery, green houses, potting shed and vegetable garden. The herb and citrus courtyard leads to the 160 year old olive tree and then native and memorial gardens with grey and red plantings, framed by white and mauve wisteria. This then leads to a path flanked by climbing white bridal veil rose, and double delight and anniversary roses under shady deciduous trees and onto croquet lawn where a bride might walk to her marriage ceremony. There is also a lilac walk, fruit arbour into a royal rose garden leading to yuka planting. Their garden has a collection of local garden art and bird and reptile baths.

Finally we will go back to Yass to visit **Edwina & Jim Hagan's** 1.4 acres garden at the old 'Rose Inn' dating back to 1837. They describe it as a seasonal garden – "rapturous in Spring, heartbreaking in Summer, glorious in Autumn and starkly beautiful in Winter". When they took over the house and gardens these were "obscured, mysterious and intriguing, by tangle wood and thicket, a veritable Sleeping Beauty". Their restoration had three guiding principles: to retain the existing gardens and just tidy them up, to be drought-resistant and to be low maintenance. Having spent "hundreds of thousands of dollars" working towards these principles, we will enjoy the fruits of their labour and vision in this historic property.

All these gardens and Turner's Nursery can be accessed by people with mobility issues and there should be access to toilets at, or near, all the gardens.

Note: For those at our last meeting, you will be wondering why we are not visiting Peter Crisp's Gardens and Gallery at Bowning as announced. This is because since then they have decided to close their gardens indefinitely until they recover from the drought, animal damage and now floods.

REPORT OF THE CHRISTMAS LUNCH - THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER 2019

The Braidwood Garden Club held its 2019 Christmas Party at the Braidwood Servicemens' Club hall. The committee thought long and hard about holding the party given recent events, but in the end decided to go ahead with it to provide a distraction to the burden that the ongoing fires are placing on us all.

In the end 39 members and guests attended and enjoyed the wonderful food from Vanilla Catering - thank you Vanessa and thank you committee members for generously providing the various appetisers.

The quizzes confounded once again with a dizzyingly array of different quizzes, including: a Mastermind Garden Quiz; 'What weed is that?' picture quiz; Garden Crossword and Haiku poem. Thanks to both our quizmasters - Rose De Martin and Bronwyn Johnson. They feel that more garden-related homework needs to be done by many! 'B minus. Could do better...'

There was a flowering pot plant competition which was judged by a popular vote with each person having a Christmas bauble to vote with. Again we have to question our membership's gardening ability when a plant that was not in flower got the most votes! It was a lovely plant in a magnificent pot so well done Leonie Jolley

Another innovation was a "Thing from my garden" table to which a number of members brought something of interest or something which needed identifying from their garden,

There was Plant Swap table, lucky door prize and a 'super raffle', with the prizes were as usual organised by Leonie Jolley. Our raffles raise money for the club to be able to subsidise bus trips, lunch occasions, etc and give money to garden related causes, like prizes at the Braidwood Show. Many thanks to all who contributed to its success including the Braidwood Servicemens' Club who provided the hall for no charge.



Kate Chinnick - Life Membership Award

We also had an important presentation to make at the Christmas Lunch. That was a life membership award to Kate Chinnick and it is worth restating why she was presented this award:

Kate will be known to all members, new and old, for her monthly articles on 'The Plant of the Month' and 'What to do in the Garden' on the back page of the newsletter which she has done since at least 2010, but it may have been earlier – our records are a little hazy then.

Kate and her husband Mick bought their Reidsdale property in 1997 and moved into their newly constructed home in 1999. They started their garden from scratch and have moved the fence twice so far to accommodate her ever-increasing garden.

It was not long before they were involved with the Braidwood Garden Club, with Kate taking on a number of the roles over the years, including being:

- Elected onto the Garden Club Committee in 2003/04 and 2004/05 and again from 2008/09 and 2009/10;
- Then she was elected President of the Garden Club in 2010/11, a role she excelled in for the next 3 years until 2012/13.

Kate is now a renowned rose collector, particularly heritage roses, with more than 200 different varieties in their garden and counting.

She is also very generous in opening her garden to groups and the public, such as the Braidwood Open Gardens Scheme and the World Heritage Rose Society to name but two and it is high time the garden club visited her gardens again, since our last visit was in June 2015.

Other examples where Kate has supported the garden club in recent years include her co-presenting a rose forum, with Denis Dempsey, in June 2017 and leading a plant propagation workshop in June 2013 and that is just from the records we have access to.

She still makes the badges for all our new members and those who have lost them (but managed to forget hers for the party!). Life membership to Kate is a truly deserved award and we congratulate her.



As part of the Christmas Quiz, Bronwyn and Rosemary decided that everyone should attempt to write a Haiku poem. And they did. They are wonderful and we share them in the newsletter.

From Team "Blueberries"... Picture a rosebud, a feat of Nature's work, A wonderful sight.

From "The Magnificent Seven"...Crows in the cornfield Noise and smoke from the tractor Airborne once again.

From the "Red Hot Pokers"...Leaves, bark blowing in Smoke, flames, cattle bellowing Eerie orange glow.

From "The Sparkles"...Wild red glow fire roaring Brackish smell, smoky haze, burnt leaves whirling
Hearts pounding, terror all around.

From "The Bottom Table"...The cat jumped over The blueish hibiscuses Landed on daisies

From "The Plant Wranglers"... Smoke fills the sky The fires around Braidwood town Fill my heart with
dread.
And... Smoke fills up the air I am unable to draw breath Please come southern wind.

The Magnificent Seven were the overall table winners on the day, and very pleased they were too!

REPORT OF THE FIRST 2020 MEETING - A talk by Andrew Forster

On Thursday 8th February we had our first Garden Club meeting of the year. About 34 members rolled up for a wonderful talk by Andrew Forster who is Head Gardener for Floriade, in Canberra.

Floriade, now in its 33rd year, is held for 30 days in Spring, during September and October, and held at Commonwealth Park in Parkes ACT.

Testament to career longevity, Andrew has worked as a gardener at Floriade in some capacity since its inception, originally as an apprentice, then becoming Head Gardener in 1997. And after 30 years he's still enjoying it!

Preparation for Floriade starts about now, the planning of course starts the day after the last one. The challenges for a successful Floriade are still there - apart from the weather, an uncontrollable – however some aspects have become easier with practice and time. The most important thing, Andrew said, is the correct soil mix over the best drainage mix. (These come from a supplier and Sponsor in Yass). Everything is placed new each year, from paths, drainage and water lines to garden size and shape and volume, (some are mounds), and over a million bulb and annuals planted. A huge task carried out by Andrew and his team over the preceding months. All this must be returned to the way the park was prior to the Floriade event, every year!



As part of the yearly calendar for Events ACT, Floriade is Canberra's biggest revenue raiser and tourism drawcard with a diverse program, including arts and music, wine and food, horticultural workshops, cultural celebrations, market traders and more.

Andrew's very entertaining and informative talk covered not only Floriade but his job as a gardener, and this sometimes entails trips overseas to similar events, as a speaker and spectator, meeting all sorts of people and dignitaries, including our Queen Elizabeth.

He is foremost a gardener, and said that he is more than happy to talk to anyone about their garden, the problems and successes, especially after the drought and bushfires have made gardening so much more difficult. He feels he has been very lucky. And we were too!

Rosemary De martin.



'Braidwood Brilliant' Waratahs Working Bee - 22 March 2020

We have a wonderful waratah named after our town, but have very few examples actually grown around Braidwood. So, following a suggestion by Cathie and Philip Owen, the Braidwood Garden Club Committee decided to pay for the purchase of ten 'Braidwood Brilliant' Waratahs to be planted in the public area at the beginning of Bombay Road just before the Braidwood allotments and Braidwood Common. This also forms part of the activities being planned and undertaken to mark the 40th anniversary of the formation of the Braidwood Garden Club.

This area is managed by the Braidwood Urban Landcare Group (BULG), who is delighted by the donation. It has been decided that the waratahs will be planted, have guards fitted and mulched at a working bee to be held on Sunday 22 March 2020 from 10 am -12 noon. In addition bulbs lifted from Floriade will be planted and the spring planting of fruit and other trees will be weeded. This will be a joint Braidwood Garden Club and BULG working bee.

Following the working bee there will be an unveiling of a plaque by BULG thanking the sponsors of the overall project with Mayor Tim Overall and Braidwood Community Bank manager, Nick Fry, in attendance, amongst others, and a demonstration of the use of the outdoor gym equipment by Hollie Bakerboljkovac's Motion Ninja Academy. This will be followed by a bring-a-plate lunch.

If you wish to participate the arrangements are:

When: Sunday 22 March 2020 from 10am.

Where: Start of Bombay Road @ the Braidwood allotments.

What: Bring hat, block out, gloves, energy and enthusiasm, plus a small plate of food to share for lunch and your own drinks.



THE EDEN PROJECT and THE LOST GARDENS of HELIGAN in CORNWELL by John Tuckwell

When staying in Cornwall last year we took the opportunity to visit two of the must-see gardens in the UK – The Eden Project and The Lost Gardens of Heligan, which are both connected by the same founder and rediscoverer, Sir Tim Smit.

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

The Eden Project

The Eden Project is at Bodelva, north-east of St Austell on the south coast of mid Cornwall. It commenced in 1995 as a sterile clay pit and opened its doors to the public in 2000 as a vibrant global garden, full of plants, sculptures and play equipment. It is an educational charity with money raised supporting projects and learning programmes.

It is best known for its two massive, amazing and futuristic Biomes. The Rainforest Biome is the largest indoor rainforest in the world with over 1,000 varieties of plant from four of the world's rainforest environments: Tropical Islands, Southeast Asia, West Africa and Tropical South America. It includes a [canopy walkway](#), where you can take a walk among the treetops along a rope bridge, waterfall, [Orchid Pergola](#) (with over 500 specimens), [Malaysian house](#) among other attractions. The Mediterranean Biome is another huge indoor garden with Mediterranean climate again with over 1,000 varieties of plant from Europe, South Africa and Australia.



But the Eden Project is much more. It has glorious outdoor gardens which you enjoy as you descend or ascend on spiral beds. I particularly enjoyed the instructive sections on productive plants – global allotments; plants which give us fuel; hops and barley; and hemp. The artworks are also spectacular.



The Lost Gardens of Heligan

The Lost Gardens of Heligan at Pentewan, just south of St Austell, is one of the most mysterious estates in England. Lost to the brambles of time since the outbreak of WW1 (start of the estate's demise as its workforce went off to fight in the trenches; many sadly never to return), this Sleeping Beauty was re-awakened in 1990 to become Europe's largest garden restoration project. In stark contrast to the Eden Project, Heligan provides an opportunity to travel back in time. Its 200 acres are a paradise for the explorer, wildlife, plant lover and garden romantic and consists of [Victorian pleasure grounds and productive gardens](#), a jungle and the larger estate.

First laid out over 200 years ago, the pleasure grounds reveal an unusual range of romantic structures and unexpected features, linked by a network of historic pathways and lined by a magnificent collection of historic plantings. These include their National Collection of Camellias and Rhododendrons introduced to Heligan pre-1920. The walled flower garden features some stunning perennial borders full of heritage flowers (the 1896 edition of *The Gardener's Chronicle*, considered that Heligan had 'the finest herbaceous border in Britain').

The kitchen garden follows the horticultural practices of the Victorian era and features over 300 different fruit trees (many espaliered) and vegetables varieties. There are also restored greenhouses providing a Melon Yard.

The Jungle sits in a steep-sided valley, creating a microclimate at least five degrees warmer than the Northern Gardens and takes you on a sub-tropical journey through bamboo tunnels and under majestic tree ferns, giant rhubarb and bananas.

The larger Heligan Estate is managed using both historic and sustainable techniques, keeping traditional breeds of animal and bringing age-old rural crafts back to life, including charcoal production. The farm has Rare Breed Farm Park status with examples of North Devons, White Park and Highland cattle, Kerry Hill, Devon and Cornwall Longwool sheep and Tamworth and Lop pigs.

Notes:



Further information on the Eden Project at: <https://www.edenproject.com/> and The Lost Gardens of Heligan at: <https://www.heligan.com/>

You can easily spend a full day at each garden (as we did), but if time is against you they are 10 miles or just over 20 mins apart. Best to buy an advanced ticket for the Eden Project (saving 10%) at £26.00 each for adults and £24.00 each for seniors; while tickets for The Lost Gardens of Heligan are £15.00 each. Tickets to both cost £39.50 each for adults and £37.50 each for seniors. The Lost Gardens of Heligan is also member of [The Great Gardens of Cornwall](#), a group of 12 of the finest Cornwall gardens which provides discounted entry offers if you visit more than one.

A very good book to read before visiting is the *Lost Gardens of Heligan* by Tim Smit. I have a copy if anyone wants to borrow it.

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>

FEBRUARY 28th – MARCH 1st 2020 Canberra Show

MARCH Saturday 7th 2020 Braidwood Show - **Cancelled**

MARCH Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th 2020 Goulburn Show

MARCH Sunday 8th 2020 Tarago Show - **Cancelled**

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

MARCH Tuesday 10th The President, Committee & Members of the Goulburn Garden Club Inc. warmly invite our BGC Members to join them for a **FRIENDSHIP MORNING** at the Goulburn Workers Club Auditorium, McKell Place, Goulburn at 10am for 10.30am. Cost \$10. The Guest Speaker is Trisha Dixon, author, photographer, tour leader & gardener.

RSVP: 4th February, 2020 Maggie Snape, ph 4821 6605 margaret2@ipstarmail.com

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS
Elizabeth Ganter & Gai Morgan

THE PLANT OF THE MONTH By Kate Chinnick



**Coreopsis
grandifolia**
(tickseed)

- Native to south eastern and central America
- Hardy perennials and annuals. Growing up to 60cm tall
- Flowering in spring and summer
- Golden yellow flowers, some with red centres
- Prefers sun in well drained enriched soil
- Useful plants for borders and meadow gardens
- Propagate from seed in spring or autumn
- Good cultivars – “Badengold”, “Sunray” and “Early Sunrise”
- Successful cut flowers
- Attracts bees

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