

# BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER JULY 2020

President: John Tuckwell 0408 625 156  
Vice President: Rosemary De Martin 0439 412 134  
Secretary: Jane Moore 4842 1494  
Treasurer: Amanda Scott 0419 111 709  
Newsletter Editor: Margy Gardner 0412 616 352  
<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>  
Instagram: braidwoodgardenclub



## AGM and 40th Anniversary Celebrations at Mona

### THURSDAY AUGUST 13

Our AGM is always a highlight of the year, and we hope you are able to come. This year will be even more special as we celebrate 40 years since the club was formed on September 1980. We are meeting in the dining room at Mona Farm Woolshed and will be appropriately socially distanced. - with 1.5m distancing table setting and everyone remaining seated for the event duration (ie no mingling).

The meeting can go ahead as a corporate event under the current NSW Covid-19 restrictions (max of 150), but with a limit of 65 individuals (due to the 4 square metre rule). Obviously, if the restrictions change we will need to comply with them.

The AGM will start at 11.30 and will include the normal reports and election of the 2020-21 committee. Due to Covid19, we regret that it was considered too difficult to satisfactorily manage a visit to Mona's gardens.

Following the AGM there will be a sit down lunch catered for by Mona's new chef, Josh Tyler, with the following menu:

To start: Cauliflower velouté, black pepper, parmesan

Main: Braised beef cheek, Paris mash, butter green beans and Dojo bread roll

To finish: Lemon madeleinettes with coffee or tea.

Special dietary requirements can be accommodated with prior notification (please email [braidwoodgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:braidwoodgardenclub@gmail.com) if you have any).

Juice, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages can be purchased on a consumption basis from the bar, purchased by card only.

Lunch will then be followed by four speakers who provided leadership of the garden club over the decades. As part of our 40th Anniversary Celebrations they will all give their recollections of the time when they were on the committee. They include:

- Cheryl Adams (was Jackson then and nee D'Arcy) who was the founder President from 1980-82, Vice President from 1982-84, and Secretary from 1982-83
- Erika Mordek who was Secretary from 1989-92
- Dot Willcoxson who was President from 1999-2004
- Kate Chinnick who was President 2010-13

Other garden club members will then be invited to share their recollections and any amusing stories or anecdotes that occurred during their time with the club.

**Bookings for the AGM and lunch are now open at Bendigo Bank and payment to the bank is preferred to avoid money handling. - BSB: 633 000 account number 118 346 444 and add AGM in the reference.**

**The cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for non-member guests (at a Garden Club subsidised cost). As usual, the annual membership of \$20 is due with an extra \$11 if postage of the newsletter is required.**

The **final day** for bookings is **Thursday 6th August** as catering numbers are required.

*The Mona Farm address is Mona Farm, Kings Hwy - as you leave town towards the coast you will exit a 50km zone into an 80km zone. The Mona Farm entrance is on the left shortly after the 80km zone begins. There is currently no signage but you will see the stone wall and gate.*

*There is an intercom at the gate which you can press and will then be let in. Drive through the property towards the Marquee and woolshed where you will be directed to parking.*



**Braidwood Garden Club**  
**Annual General Meeting Notice**

**When:** 11.30 on Thursday 13 August 2020

**Where:** Mona Farm Woolshed, entering through the gates on the Kings Hwy and park at the Woolshed.

**Agenda:**

- 1) to confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting
- 2) to receive the President's report on the activities of the club during 2019-20
- 3) to receive and consider the financial statement for 2019-20.
- 4) to elect office-bearers of the club and ordinary committee members

There is no other business proposed to be transacted at the AGM.

**2020-21 Committee**

In accordance with the Braidwood Garden Club's constitution, any financial member who wants to serve on the 2020-21 Committee are invited to complete the attached nomination form, get it signed by 2 members of the club, and submit it by Thursday 6 August at the latest.

Please note that every member of the 2019-20 committee has indicated their willingness to stand again in the same roles and there is no scope to increase the size of the committee as there are already 11 members. Therefore any other nominations will result in an election.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Report on the Bee Hotel Workshop by Chris James**

For the first garden club meeting after Covid19 restrictions eased it was a light hearted meeting.

The hall at the club had plenty of space to socially separate and still be able to advise or assist each other.

We had hardwood kits, all pre drilled so they were easy to assemble, and a large quantity of bamboo cut to size which actually all got used! And with pre-cut wire for the backing. The group got busy screwing the Hotels together and attaching the wire on the back with the tools getting quite a work out. Then there were lots of giggles whilst trying to fill the hotels with the cut bamboo. There were different thicknesses of bamboo so the Hotels could be packed tightly to hold the bamboo strips in place. Fran won the "most tightly packed", hammering home those last bits to make sure the bamboo was nice and tight.

The line-up of completed Bee Hotels at the end of the day was very impressive and hopefully the Hotels have found a nice secluded spot in the garden, ready for spring when our native bees are looking for somewhere to call home.

The workshop finished with the usual raffle and a 'bring your own' lunch.



**With many thanks to Chris and her husband Brian for making up the kits.**



## **Are you making the best use of your wood ash?**

by John Tuckwell



For those of us relying on wood fires for heating we have a ready supply of wood ash. But are we making the best of it?

Wood ash is a useful addition to the garden but has to be used carefully. It is alkaline and can be used as a liming agent, containing anywhere from 10-25% calcium, 1-4% magnesium, 5-15% potassium and 1-3% phosphorus among a dozen or more important nutrients.

Wood ash fertilizer is best used sparingly in gardens, spread thinly over lawns or stirred thoroughly into compost piles. This is because wood ash will produce lye and salts if it gets wet. In small quantities, the lye and salt will not cause problems, but in larger amounts, the lye and salt may burn your plants.

What is sparingly? On slightly acid soil (pH of about 6-6.5) apply the wood ash at a rate of a double handful per m<sup>2</sup>, but in the vegie garden, halve the rate to one handful per m<sup>2</sup>. But do not use wood ash if the soil pH is 7.0 or higher, as the addition of wood ash further increases the soil pH - always

best to test soil pH before applying (see article on Bargain Soil Testers in the May Newsletter).

Some say do not put it in compost heaps though, as a chemical reaction may take place where the nitrogenous constituents and ammonia can be released, losing nitrogen from the heap; and also, some of the nutrients in the ash, mainly the potassium, are very readily soluble and are washed out of a compost heap. Others say use it, but with some caution and only add wood ash to the compost heap occasionally (every 15cm/6in of material) to avoid a build-up of lye and salt.

Plants that thrive with a dressing of wood ash include garlic, chives, leeks, lettuces, asparagus, and some stone-fruit trees. Where your soil is acidic and the plants like potassium then they also benefit from wood ash. These include roses, tomatoes and pome-fruit trees.

For tomatoes apply a handful of wood ash just as the plant starts to flower - the potash helps produce lots of flowers and enhances the flavour of the fruit, while the calcium helps to prevent blossom end rot.

Do not spread ashes around acid-loving plants like blueberries, strawberries, azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias, holly, pierises, ericas, potatoes or parsley or most Australian native plants.

Some people store the ash they remove from their fires / stoves in winter for applications throughout the year, although potassium levels decline as the ash ages.

Wood ash is also useful for pest control. The salt in the wood ash will kill pests like snails, slugs and some kinds of soft bodied invertebrates. To use wood ash for pest control, simply sprinkle it around the base of plants being attacked by soft bodied pests. If the ash gets wet, you'll need to refresh the wood ashes as the water will leach away the salt that makes wood ashes an effective pest control.

Some use it to control Pear and Cherry Slug (larvae of a Sawfly) by dusting the leaves of the infested tree. This will need to be repeated a couple of times over the season.

Wood ash may also be useful to apply in vegetable gardens where club root of brassicas is a problem.

Note: the information above was taken from various on-line articles on using wood ash.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **The MARSHMALLOW Weed by Margy Gardner**

Marshmallow weed has proliferated in my vegetable garden & its removal has been difficult. Mallow weeds have an extremely deep tap root which spread close to the surface of the ground & one plant can reach as far out as two feet (0.5 m.). As it matures it becomes more erect, semi upright, having wrinkled leaves with prominent veins, each consisting of five to seven toothed lobes. The plant stems are covered in stiff hairs, and produce pale pink or white flowers with five petals each, growing in small clusters in leaf forks or on the stalks which are woody at the base.



Marshmallow is a strong competitor for nutrients in the soil, especially around crops or pasture, and has been reported as a potential cause of stock death in some cases where there were extensive infestations.

[2https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com](https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com)

Marshmallow tends to grow around water troughs, animal yards and where animals shelter during the day. Young marshmallow is more susceptible to physical control methods like cultivation or manually removing the plant.

*Scientific Name: Malva parviflora L.*

Common Names: small-flowered mallow, cheeseweed mallow, little mallow, marshmallow

1. **Treating small patches or limited infestations**

Marshmallow can be physically removed in smaller patches, especially while the plant is young, as it has a shallow root system at that stage and dries out relatively quickly in warm weather. More established infestations will require the use of chemical herbicide applications.

2. **Treating more extensive infestations**

Where there are well established or extensive infestations, StaraneAdvanced at a mix rate of 300 mL per 100 L of water (3 mL per 1 L) or Hotshot at a mix rate of 700 mL per 100 L of water (7 mL per 1 L) can be used as a foliar spray with a knapsack. Ensure you spray the entire leaf area of the plant, with thorough coverage of the crown (where the stems meet) all the way to the tips. For best results, ensure the plant is treated when it is actively growing.

3. **Herbicides for control of marshmallow.**

Starane® Advanced Herbicide or Hotshot® Herbicide

4. **Treating using mechanical control**

Cultivation, the process of turning over the soil to expose the plants root system, is an effective control method for small to medium sized infestations. This process is less economic for larger or more well established infestations.

Although mallow weeds may be obnoxious to gardeners, the leaves are edible and can be added to salads. It has a mild, almost nonexistent flavor, and that probably works to its advantage. Like tofu, it just takes on the flavour of everything else in the bowl. The plant is exceptionally rich in vitamins A, B, and C, along with calcium, magnesium, and potassium and the tender young leaves actually have one of the highest amounts of vitamin A in any vegetable.

Marshmallow, the confection eaten today was originally made from the sap of the roots of mallow grown in marshes, hence the name. Though sweet makers now use gelatin in place of the sap, the name has stuck since the early 1800s when it was introduced to France.)

Mallow has a long history in holistic medicine, owing to the fact that the plant — in particular, its roots — has a substantial amount of mucilage (a sticky, jelly-like substance rich in protein and carbohydrates). Mucilage is what gives mallow its anti-inflammatory properties. Historically, the herb has been used to heal digestive and urinary tract irritations, and even control coughs caused by inflammation.

In his book Natural History, Pliny the Elder asserted that mallow was an aphrodisiac, and when the seeds were sprinkled “for the treatment of women,” they stimulated sexual desire to “an infinite degree.”

An interesting plant!

References

<https://www.gardenbetty.com/mallow-the-everywhere-edible-weed/>

[https://www.iewf.org/weedid/Malva\\_parviflora.htm](https://www.iewf.org/weedid/Malva_parviflora.htm)

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/common-mallow/controlling-mallow-weeds.htm>

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/common-mallow/controlling-mallow-weeds.htm>

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Australian Garden History Society** is planning their 2020 Annual Conference in Sydney on 23–25 October this year and anyone interested in gardens is invited to attend. Read the attached brochure - it sounds wonderful - and for more information visit the website [www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au](http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au)

**The 2020 Sydney Spring Garden Competition** will go ahead. Despite the current climate, the organisers can safely administer this competition, giving Sydney gardeners something to get excited about! The competition will be free to enter this year.

[www.rasnsw.com.au/sydneyspringgarden](http://www.rasnsw.com.au/sydneyspringgarden).

**BUNDANOON GARDEN RAMBLE** Regretfully we advise of the cancellation of the Bundanoon Garden Ramble for 2020. This decision was made after much consideration. The health and safety of participants in the Ramble are the priority of the committee and Bundanoon Community Association.

We will back in 2021 to celebrate 25 years of the Bundanoon Garden Ramble. It's going to be an extra special Ramble in so many ways, with a larger number of gardens and new features. Since everyone has been doing extra time in their gardens this year next year will be spectacular.

The dates for Bundanoon Garden Ramble 2021 are 30 -31<sup>st</sup>October. We look forward to seeing you all next year.

[2https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com](https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com)

## THE PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Kate Chinnick



### **Buddleja salvifolia (winter buddleja)**

- Native to Southern Africa
- Dense semi evergreen shrub 3m x3m
- Blooms at autumn and winter
- Has 15cm long grey green serrated leaves
- Terminal clusters of sweet smelling lilac flowers
- Upright square stems rise from the base
- Frost hardy
- Prune out old stems
- Propagate from half hardened cuttings in summer
- Prefers full sun in fertile soil

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

- Prune and spray Roses later this month
- Plant new bare rooted Roses (soak in seaweed solution before planting)
- Plant summer and autumn flowering bulbs
- Winter flowering shrubs can be pruned now
- Prune and feed Daphne after flowering
- Prune Crepe Myrtle, which flowers on new wood
- Cut ornamental grass clumps to the ground
- Perennials may be divided as the weather warms up
- Prune Jasmines and summer flowering Clematis
- Prune Hydrangeas to two strong buds
- Spray Peaches and nectarines for leaf curl
- Plant Onion seedlings, Asparagus crowns & Spinach seedlings
- Check herbs for dividing and replanting
- Prepare vegetable beds for spring planting