

# BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER JUNE 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



## **THURSDAY July 9<sup>th</sup> 2020**

### **Workshop on Building Insect Hotels**

We Are Back! For our first meeting together for 3 months we are holding a workshop at The Servicemen's Club in the Main Hall so we can social distance. As catering is not provided this time would you **Bring Your Own Lunch** please.



Do you want to provide an environment that encourages more native insects and pollinators into your garden? If so, come to our workshop and to learn all about building insect hotels, how to make them as effective as possible and assemble one to take home for your garden.

What is an Insect hotel? It is a structure containing a collection of small hollows that can be used by native bees or other insects looking for a place to rest and lay eggs.

**When:** Thursday 9 July starting at 10.30am

**Where:** Main Hall, Braidwood Servicemen's Club, Corner Coronation Ave and Victory St (so plenty of room to social distance).

**Bring:** Gloves, Secateurs, BYO Lunch

**Cost for kit to make insect hotel:** \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members.

**Bookings:** Open at the Bendigo Bank on 26th June, or you can pay via direct transfer –

BSB: 633 000 account number 118346444 (please put 'Insect Hotel' in the reference section). Bookings close at 5pm Monday 6 July. Numbers for kits are limited to first 25 registrations.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEES**      **by Rose DeMartin**

It has been estimated that during the 2019-2020 bushfire season across South Eastern Australia nearly 20,000 beehives were destroyed, and at least 90,000 hives made unproductive. On top of that, prolonged drought has badly affected the honey industry.

NSW is the largest honey producing state and the expected production of honey will be lowered by 30-50% for at least ten years, due to loss of bees. This of course means that honey will be more expensive to buy.

Having bees in an area play a vital role in regeneration after bushfires, they help pollinate plants to produce seeds, crucial to bushland recovery. In Victoria and Tasmania, beekeepers have easier access to National Parks – those States recognising the importance of bees to pollination. NSW imposes restrictions on new bee sites, while in Queensland, there are plans to remove all bee sites in these areas by 2024. (Peter MacDonald, Chairman of Australian Honey Bee Industry Council).

Commercial beekeepers move their hives around to where the nectar is, (flowering native and fruit trees, large cropping areas e.g. canola, other plants including weeds like Pattersons Curse,) often having to carefully check where controlled hazard reduction burns are happening to avoid loss of hives and/or spoiled honey.

The Almond industry in Australia is worth an estimated 1 billion dollars, and is now the largest horticultural export, last year producing 104,000 tonnes. Next month over 200,000 hives will be required for the 6 week Almond tree pollination, of which they are entirely dependent on bees to do the cross-pollination. Growers pay an average \$135 per hive for the duration.

Kangaroo Island S.A. too suffered huge losses of hives. It has the world's purist strain of Ligurian honey bees which originally came from Italy and no new hives can be brought to the Island due to quarantine restrictions. This honey has a unique taste due to the bees having a diet of mostly native flowers.

However, we can help in bee recovery, even if only in small ways. The home gardener can assist by making sure there is always a source of water available for bees, a shallow dish with pebbles in it to create safe landing sites so the bees don't drown. NEVER put honey out for bees to feed on, this not only could spread disease but is illegal. Try to never use systemic pesticides that remain inside plants, other milder pesticides and fungicides can also affect bees. Always check labels for toxicity. Try to use organic products and spray only when bees aren't around. Plant bee attracting flowers, especially blue, purple, white and yellow ones with open petals for easy access to the pollen. Landholders interested in hosting beekeeping hives can contact State Beekeepers Association or local sources. Make a bee Hotel. Always buy Australian honey. There are lots of websites for information on bees.... always remember that they are essential to our food security!

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<p>Welcome to New Members Barbara Gilby Alison Stutchbury And Welcome back Shauna Moses</p>
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## GARDENING ON THE WEST COAST OF SCOTLAND

Jane Moore



In these days of staying close to home I thought our members might enjoy travelling, on paper, to the west coast of Scotland. My sister Fran and her friend Chris live in a small village there, with views over the Minch to Skye, Lewis and the Outer Hebrides.

There they have very different gardening challenges to us. The gale force winds are so strong that they now strap their greenhouse down. The climate is wet and windy, and the winds are salt laden. It rained every day we were there last September, so the photos are not as clear as they could be. On the other hand the North Atlantic Drift (gulf stream) runs past here which moderates the temperatures you would normally expect at this latitude, so they can actually grow things you wouldn't expect. A nearby National Trust garden (Inverewe Gardens) can grow palm trees.

When they first built their house it was very exposed, so the first job was to plant some tough plants on the perimeter to protect the garden.

The dilemma is protection versus view and when we were visiting the protection had grown so tall they had lost a lot of the view so recently they have cut it back a bit.





They have a small croft (Scottish small farm) and grow a lot of vegetables for themselves, selling the excess. They also farm pigs, sheep and chickens for eggs, which they also sell in a small roadside kiosk.



## **President's Editorial**

We are now six months into 2020 and it is already the most memorable year any of us have lived through. The year started with the unprecedented bushfires and road closures, with the fires already burning since November. Then the rains came in February and the fires were out and we had one of the best ever autumn flowering seasons. Just as everything was looking up, along came Covid-19 and the lock-down. One up side is that all our gardens are looking more cared for than they have before.



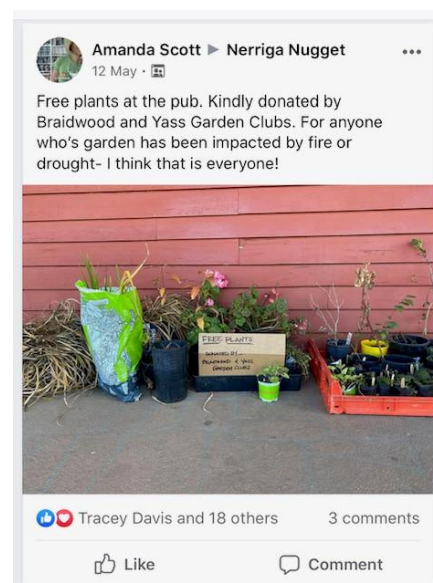
*Your committee meeting in a socially distanced way on 24 June*

We are now moving to the new normal and we will start having meetings of the Garden Club in July, assuming no reversal of the recent relaxations.

Your committee has been quietly busy during the lockdown meeting remotely via Zoom and ensuring you have bumper editions of the newsletter. In June we had our first face-to-face meeting for a while and started planning meetings for the rest of 2020 with more to report on the exciting future programme in coming editions of the newsletter.

## **Plant Donations**

In the March Newsletter members were invited to donate cuttings and divided perennials to help those recovering from the fires and the drought. As a result, the Garden Club has donated a ute load of plants to the good people of Nerriga and surrounds who were so badly affected by the fires. These included donations from the Yass Garden Club and from some of our members. We will now wait until the spring before we donate more plants to Araluen and the other villages. If you have potted up plants and are letting them grow on before donating them there will be a further update in a subsequent newsletter on where to bring them for distribution.



## THE PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Kate Chinnick



# Narcissus Tazetta Daffodils

- Native to Europe, Asia & Nth Africa
- Easy bulbs to grow and naturalise
- Highly scented flowers in many colours
- Some varieties have multiple flowers per stem
- Flowers from late autumn to spring
- Prefers full sun or part shade in warmer areas
- Remove spent flowers and allow to dry out when leaves die
- Clumps multiply freely and do not need dividing for a few years
- Lift and divide when congested in autumn

### What to do in the garden for July

- Remove flower buds from spring annuals for better displays
- Rhododendrons, Azaleas & Camelias will need watering leading to blooming
- Prune Wisterias and deciduous climbers
- Prune later flowering shrubs (not spring flowerers)
- Order summer flowering bulbs - Liliums etc.
- Clean up prunings from fruit trees and mulch
- Sow Globe Artichoke and Asparagus seeds
- Clean and sharpen secateurs, loppers and saws
- Sand and oil (linseed oil) wooden handles on tools
- Turn over vegetable beds for spring plantings
- Watch for pink bud swell on early Peaches & Nectarines & spray for leaf curl with copper or lime sulphur

