



# **BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER AUGUST 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 SEPTEMBER 10<sup>th</sup> 2020 - BUS TRIP MERRIBEE (NUMBAA) AND SHOALHAVEN HEADS NATIVE BOTANIC GARDEN**

Bookings are open for our bus trip to the Shoalhaven, visiting 2 beautiful and very different gardens. We will meet at Ryrie Park at **8.15am**.

The cost for the bus and entry into the gardens is \$40.00 and payable by direct deposit (BSB: 633-108 Acct:1183-46444 - please include your name and "Merribee" in the detail) or at Bendigo Bank by **Friday 4th September**. Please note that bus numbers are limited to 25 so seats will be allocated to the first 25 to pay.

Those wishing to self-drive/car pool are welcome to join us and the cost of \$12.00 can be paid directly to Merribee on the day. There is no cost for the Botanic Garden.

We shall travel to Numbaa (Nowra) via Nerriga (bus pick up point and toilet stop) and arrive at Merribee at approximately 10.30am. We will be provided with morning tea and treated to a talk and garden tour by the Head Gardner with time to view the garden at leisure. We will then progress to Shoalhaven Heads Botanic Garden (approximately 12.30) where we will enjoy a BYO picnic lunch and view this amazing endeavour created entirely by volunteers. Departing approx. 3.30 pm to arrive back to Braidwood by 5.30pm.

### **MERRIBEE- 660 Comerong Island Rd, Numbaa 2540**

Merribee's garden spans seven acres of sensory splendour. Since purchasing the property in 2000, it's been an evolving masterpiece for Lucy and Richard Marshall. Plant life flourishes in this coastal land, which was first settled in the mid-1800s as part of Alexander's Berry's 100-square mile estate. With the assistance of horticulturist James Thompson, the Marshall's have slowly fashioned this plot into a licorice-all sorts of a garden with diverse plantings of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants.

Wander through the formal garden rooms, including the Rose Garden, the hedged Potager Garden, the walled Snow Pear Garden, the Cottage Garden, Crepe Myrtle Walk, the Herb Garden, the Lavender Paddock, the Bunya Bunya Copse and finish up at the adjoining hedging, topiary and rose nursery.

### **SHOALHAVEN HEADS BOTANIC GARDENS - Celia Pde, Shoalhaven Heads 2535**

A collection of over 200 native plants and trees from all over Australia including Far North Queensland and Western Australia including many bush-tucker plants. All plants are identified and a free Plant Guide Brochure is available. The eastern section of the garden contains a wide selection of plants from Western Australia. Open from sunrise to sunset daily - free of charge. Picnic area and toilets on site. The gardens are maintained by volunteers from the local community and financially supported by Shoalhaven Heads Native Botanic Garden Incorporated.

### **Report of the AGM and 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party at Mona Farm**

On August 13 some 50 members and guests enjoyed a lovely occasion at the Mona Farm Woolshed, which has been refurbished since we were last there, and were suitably space for the current times.

The formal proceedings commenced at 11.30 with John Tuckwell reading his President's report (see below) and Fran Wood's stepping in at the last minute to present the Treasurer's report (see below) as Amanda Scott was still isolated following the recent floods.

For the election of the new committee, Phillip Owen kindly took the chair. With every member of the committee agreeing to stand again for 2020-21 and with no other nominations, the committee was duly re-elected, with the members being:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>
President	John Tuckwell
Vice President	Rosemary De Martin
Secretary	Jane Moore
Treasurer	Amanda Scott
Assistant Treasurer	Fran Woods
Newsletter Editor	Margy Gardner
Catering	Charmian Thomas
Raffle Coordinator	Leonie Jolley
Publicity	Jennie Marston
General Members	Bronwyn Johnson Chris James

Following the AGM we enjoyed a delicious three-course lunch catered for by Mona's new chef, Josh Tyler.

For the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we had four special guests, namely Cheryl Adams (inaugural president), Erika Mordek (secretary in the early 1990's), Dot Wilcoxson (president in the early 2000's, and Kate Chinnick (president in the early 2010's). Each one of them shared their experiences and recollections, with Erika providing examples of what Braidwood gardens looked like during the 1990 which were taken from a website she developed at that time. As with now, most of the activities include visiting local gardens and those further away and having speakers on various topics, as well as donating and planting various plants around Braidwood. Interestingly, most had joined the garden club as a means to make new friends and also to learn more about gardening. We hope to bring more about what our speakers said in coming editions of the newsletter. Sue Murray and Margaret Royds also shared some of their experiences from the floor.

Cheryl Adams was then presented with Life Membership to the club, in what is becoming an annual award, and our other guest speakers were given membership of the club for the next year.

Everyone who attended had a lovely time, enjoyed the ambience of the venue and we were truly spoilt by the staff at Mona Farm. We are also very grateful to Mona Farm for some spontaneous prizes which made our traditional raffle even better.

#### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE**

**Please pay at the Bendigo Bank - BSB 633 000 - Account Number 118 346 444 & add 'Membership' in the reference. \$20 year plus \$11 if you require a mailed Newsletter.**

#### **DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2020-21**

10 September	Bus Trip to Nowra (Merribee and Shoalhaven Heads Native Botanic Garden)
8 October	Visit to local gardens in Majors Creek
12 November	Visit to Local gardens in Mongarlowe
10 December	Christmas Party at Palerang Homestead
11 February	Presentation by Catherine Watson (2WP) on picking the right garden tool and caring for it
11 March	Visit Landtasia and Malloon Institute (tbc)
8 April	Visit to Local gardens in Braidwood (tbc)
13 May	Visit to Local gardens in Bombay (tbc)
10 June	Speaker at the Servicemen's Club
8 July	Speaker at the Servicemen's Club
12 August	AGM and speaker at Mona

## **Braidwood Garden Club**

### **President's Report 2019-20**

2019-20 was no normal year and 2020 is already the most memorable year any of us have lived through. The year started with us in severe drought, then from November there were the unprecedented bushfires and road closures. Thankfully 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 and suspension of our activities for 3 months. One up side is that all our gardens are looking more cared for than they have before! With the two recent rain events we are hopefully now set up for a good spring - that is if our plants were not drowned!

#### **Programme of Meetings**

We continued to follow the tried and tested mix of local garden visits with car-pooling, bus trips to gardens further afield and talks or workshops.

We began the year with an extra event in August when a hardy bunch of Garden Club members visited 'Willinga Park' at Bawley Point on a bus trip. 'Willinga Park' was specifically open for 'Sculpture for Clyde', an annual celebration of local, national and overseas sculptures which worked so well with the extensive gardens and vistas. The day included lunch and shopping in the lovely little town of Milton.

Our first regular meeting of the year in September was a most enjoyable visit to gardens in Bungendore and Warri on a cool overcast early spring day. We started at the delightful and newly restored 1887 house and garden "Thornleigh" belonging to Anthea Thomson, with the garden lovingly redeveloped by her good friend and lodger Kevin Jones. The second garden visited was Marcia and Brian Voce's garden 'Piccolo' with a one acre woodland themed garden which has been progressively planted and extended since they moved there in 1999. The third garden was Lesa and Laszlo Schuster's garden. 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 and have a productive veggie patch, fruit trees and soft fruit.

For our October meeting we had a bus trip to Berry to visit four stunning and contrasting private gardens as part of the annual Berry Gardens Festival. These were Oke's Camellia Garden, a beautiful green and lush four-acre garden featuring majestic trees and mature camellias; Bel Air, located in town, which has an eclectic garden with a large fig tree dominating the side garden with plantings creating a sub-tropical feel; Mananga Homestead, built in 1894, with both the home and garden recently renovated with five acres of stunning and manicured garden; and finally another town garden with new cottage style garden beds supported by some beautiful established trees. A long but most enjoyable day out for all those involved.

In November, we visited some local gardens starting with Kate and Owen Gwinn garden at Exeter Farm. The 'borrowed' views from the veranda of this beautiful old homestead were delightful with the picturesque garden developed after the drought in the 1980's including some delightful garden rooms around the house, and paths where you can wander through the old trees. Our second garden was Christine Dimmer's which is a wonderful example of how much can be achieved in just 5 years with a small town garden. The final garden belongs to Jane and John Moore which is again a lovely new garden where there is a clear demarcation of responsibilities – Jane the flowers and John the veggie patch (can anyone else relate to that?).

December was the middle of that awful time with the bushfires, but after a lot of thought we decided to go ahead with our Christmas Party, which was held in the Braidwood Servicemens' Club hall with members and guests enjoying the occasion and the wonderful food from Vanilla Catering. We also enjoyed a dizzyingly array of different quizzes thanks to Rosemary De Martin and Bronwyn Johnson, including: a Mastermind Garden Quiz; 'What weed is that?' picture quiz; Garden Crossword; and Haiku poem. There were a couple of innovations with a flowering pot plant competition judged by a popular vote and a "Thing from my garden" table where members brought something of interest or something which needed identifying from their garden, as well as the ever popular plant swap table, lucky door prize and a 'super raffle'.

In February we had a wonderful talk by Andrew Forster who is Head Gardener for Floriade and 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! Andrew enlightened us about all the planning involved, planting patterns and the care needed for over a million bulb and annuals.

Another additional activity this year, which a number of members attended, was the Goulburn Garden Club's 'friendship morning' on 10 March. All the surrounding garden clubs were invited with over 200 people attending and included a lovely morning tea and a very interesting talk about garden designs by Trisha Dixon.

Our final outing this year was a bus trip to gardens in Yass in March when members enjoyed a lovely day out on a perfect early autumn day hosted by the Yass and District Garden Club who truly spoil us and made it a special day out. Not only did they organise the programme, but they provided lunch, gave members present gifts of plants which they had potted up to replenish our gardens after the fires and drought and many of their members participated in the day's activities. In short, they were the perfect hosts. We started with Margaret and Ken Reidy's garden in the centre of Yass with lovely garden rooms, leading to more surprises and quirky ornaments plus their veteran cars on display. We then had a brief visit to Turners Wholesale Nursery where some real bargains were had. Our next destination was Bimbi and Kim Turner's stunning country garden on a working sheep property at Bowning with a ha-ha wall providing great vistas of the surrounding landscape. Bimbi is a rose collector and had a number of areas devoted to different types of roses, also fruit trees, perennial beds and a crepe myrtle grove. Finally, we returned to Yass for a brief visit to the oldest house there, which dates back to 1837 and has a spacious 1.4 acres garden and is home to Edwina and Jim Hagan.

Meetings were then suspended for three months due to COVID-19. During this time the committee continued to meet remotely and wrote special articles for the monthly Newsletter to entertain and inspire members.

In July, we were tentatively back with an 'Insect Hotel' workshop held at the Servicemens club's hall with plenty of space to socially distance and still be able to advise or assist each other. For the select few who attended we had a fun workshop building our 'Insect Hotels' and our thanks go to Brian and Chris James who immaculately prepared the hardwood kits to assemble.

### **Other activities**

We have also been active in other areas to assist improving gardens in the Braidwood area. This has included digging up bulbs from Floriade and donating some of them to the Hospital Auxiliary Fete. Others were planted at the Flood Creek Community Recreation area near the start of Bombay Road at a joint working-bee held with the Braidwood Urban Landcare Group (BULG) on 22 March. Ten 'Braidwood Brilliant' Waratahs were donated Garden Club as part of marking our 40th anniversary year were also planted.

We looked into how we could help those recovering from the fires and the drought. It is not easy to identify who lost their gardens and everyone was affected by the drought, so we decided to just donate plants to everyone in the worse affected areas. After inviting members to take cuttings and split perennials we have donated a ute load of plants, included donations from the Yass Garden Club, to the good people of Nerriga and surrounds who were so badly affected by the fires.

We have taken more cuttings from the roses which were expected to be destroyed by the redevelopment of Braidwood Multi-Purpose Service, since unfortunately most of the cuttings taken during the previous year and potted up by students at Braidwood Central School did not survive during the drought and stage 4 water restrictions. In the end, perhaps because of our interest, many of the roses have been replanted at the entrance of the new MPS.

The Garden Club was consulted by QPRC in December about the improvements to Lascelles Street and a proposed avenue of shade trees. This led to a survey of members on what species to plant. Some 37% of the members responded, with Golden Ash (64%), Chinese Pistachio (50%) and White Cedar (31%) being the most popular, with a small majority (59%) preferring two rather than one species.

In my role as President, I am on the steering group of a QPRC project called "*Keeping it Cool - Vegetation and Heat Adaptation Strategy*" which should lead to the development of a QPRC Urban Forest Strategy. I also provided QPRC with the first draft of a brochure which they published on dealing with Elm Leaf Beetle and a list of possible contractors to treat for the beetle in extreme cases – thankfully it was not needed last year, but who knows for this coming year.

Braidwood Rural continued to kindly offer Garden Club members a 10% discount on their garden lines during 2019-20.

### **Membership**

Membership continues to be very strong and we believe is now at a new record level of 103 members. The committee resolved to keep the membership rates unchanged at \$20.

### **Thanks**

A few thanks are in order. To the Bendigo Bank staff, who do our banking and take our bookings. To Braidwood Buses and Rhonda in particular, we thank you for getting us to and from our destinations safely. To the Braidwood Servicemen's Club and Michelle Griggs for always having the meeting room ready for our events for which we are very appreciative. The Club provides a venue for our Committee meetings as well as our talks and we always feel very welcome there.

Thanks also to Kate Chinnick for her contributions to our monthly newsletter, with her columns on Plant of the Month and "What to do" each month, and making our name badges.

The Garden Club is extremely lucky to have such a great committee of able and dedicated people who have continued to work as a true team and delivered the excellent programme I have just outlined, with every member contributing to the successful outcome. I would like to thank each and every one on the committee – please would the committee member stand and be acknowledged — namely: Rosemary De Martin (Vice-President and Instagram Queen), Margy Gardner (our outstanding Newsletter Editor, who has been in this role now for 6 years), Chris James (our new member who has been very active and made quite an impact) Bronwyn Johnson (awesome event organiser), Leonie Jolley (brilliant Raffle Organiser), Jennie Marston (great Publicity Officer), Jane Moore (our amazing Secretary), Amanda Scott (our new Treasurer), Charmian Thomas (Catering Officer extraordinaire) and Fran Woods (Assistant Treasurer / Web Manager / Photographer – the list goes on). Thank you all.

Finally, thanks to all our members for their continued support of our club, because without you there would be no Braidwood Garden Club and also no yummy cakes and slices at morning teas.

In conclusion, we already have exciting plans for 2020-21, assuming we are re-elected, I look forward to working with the Committee members and the broader garden club membership in the coming year to make our wonderful club even better.

Happy Gardening.

John Tuckwell, August 2020

**BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD 1 AUGUST 2019 TO 31 JULY 2020  
AS PRESENTED TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 13TH AUGUST 2020**

	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18
<b>STATEMENT BALANCE 01/08</b>	<b>\$4,345.99</b>	<b>\$3,717.88</b>	<b>\$2,374.45</b>
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>			
MEMBERSHIPS	\$1,960.00	\$1,965.00	\$1,783.00
OUTINGS AND PRESENTATIONS	\$5,220.00	\$3,396.00	\$4,790.00
AGM	\$720.00	\$580.00	\$330.00
RAFFLES	\$718.10	\$844.00	\$940.00
SALES - CALENDARS	\$340.00	\$70.00	\$80.00
SALES - MAGAZINES	\$30.00	\$77.00	\$79.00
SALES - PLANTS	\$13.00	\$38.90	\$35.25
POSTAGE (NEWSLETTER)	\$121.00	\$143.00	\$111.00
DONATIONS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$71.55
OTHER	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$9,122.10</b>	<b>\$7,113.90</b>	<b>\$8,219.80</b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>			
BUS HIRE	\$2,695.00	\$1,870.00	\$2,310.00
OUTINGS AND PRESENTATIONS	\$2,958.00	\$1,931.81	\$2,405.90
AGM	\$888.43	\$775.64	\$300.00
ROOM HIRE	\$225.00	\$700.00	\$520.00
HOST/SPEAKER GIFTS	\$328.92	\$192.85	\$193.33
RAFFLES	\$230.70	\$199.95	\$166.29
MORNING TEAS	\$77.37	\$207.90	\$204.16
NEWSLETTER/PRINTING AND ADMIN	\$299.09	\$126.50	\$115.55
GCA AFFILIATION	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
GCA INSURANCE	\$177.20	\$218.14	\$293.14
DONATIONS/SPONSORSHIP	\$225.00	\$110.00	\$110.00
ADVERTISING	\$0.00	\$32.00	\$138.00
PURCHASE FOR RESALE	\$471.48		
DEPT OF FAIR TRADING		\$46.00	\$45.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$8,651.19</b>	<b>\$6,485.79</b>	<b>\$6,876.37</b>
<b>TOTAL <i>SURPLUS</i>/LOSS</b>	<b>\$470.91</b>	<b>\$628.11</b>	<b>\$1,343.43</b>
<b>STATEMENT BALANCE 31/07</b>	<b>\$4,816.90</b>	<b>\$4,345.99</b>	<b>\$3,717.88</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP @ 31/7/2020</b>	103	Total includes 18 New Members 2 Life Members, 6 Honorary Members	
<b>INCOME NOTES:</b>	Outings and Presentations include, Wallinga, Berry, Yass, Bee Hotels & Christmas Party		
<b>EXPENDITURE NOTES:</b>	Outings and Presentations represent Refunds non-attendance, Garden Entrance fees, catering and material costs AGM - Catering and Venue hire Admin - sign in and receipt books. General record keeping Donation - Purchase of Waratahs for donation Purchase for re-sale - Calendars - GCA and Braidwood		



## **Braidwood Rural**

Braidwood Rural will kindly continue to offer Garden Club members a 10% discount on their garden lines during 2020-21.

The way this will operate in the future, is that the garden club will provide a list of all members to Braidwood Rural without any contact details. When you go to Braidwood Rural you will need to ask for the discount and if you have an account they will link this to your account for future reference. If you do not have an account, they will set up what is called a 'cash account' and you will need to give them your address and telephone number to establish the cash account. It is also understood that in the near future there will be new 2.2m shelving at Braidwood Rural which will significantly increase the number of garden lines they will carry.

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## **PLANT DONATIONS**

Members are again invited to donate cuttings and divided perennials to help those still recovering from the fires and the drought. We have already donated a ute load of plants to the good people of Nerriga and surrounds who were so badly affected by the fires. We will now donate more plants to Araluen and the other villages. If you have any plants to donate we will be collecting them in early October and distributing them after our 8 October meeting. We will give details in our next newsletter on where to take them.

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**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.rasnw.com.au/sydneyspringgarden](http://www.rasnw.com.au/sydneyspringgarden).

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## **TROTT'S GARDEN, ASHBURTON, NEW ZEALAND SOUTH ISLAND by Chris James**

I had only heard about this garden by chance & we were lucky to see it as it was to be closed for the rest of the week in preparation for a very large wedding.

The Trott family purchased 4 hectares of bare paddock in December 1978. There was an old house, horse stables and very little garden on the land. The bones of the garden began in 1984, when the Trotts, along with their 3 young sons, planted the start of the 650 Rhododendrons in what is now known as the woodland area.

In 1985 Alan Trott drew up a full plan for the whole site and spent the ensuing years developing the gardens to the high standard you see today. In 1990 Alan persuaded his wife more gardens were required and with the help of fellow gardeners, the formal herbaceous border and knot gardens were developed.

One of the newer areas in the garden is the red garden. This is a must see part of the garden & Alan began the planning by writing down as many names of as many red leaved plants he could find. A small hedge of *Berberis thunbergii* atropurpurea lends the garden formal structure & plants within the garden are planted en masse with many of the dahlias in it being trialled for a renowned NZ dahlia breeder.

The New Zealand Gardens Trust awarded the Trotts's garden 6 stars (the highest category) and designated it as a Garden of International significance. Alan Trott was awarded a Queens Service Medal in 2017 for his services to Horticulture.

A charitable trust took over the garden in 2017 and the garden is now run by volunteers. There is one paid gardener and I was told almost 100 volunteers gardeners on a roster!

This is a wonderful garden with many "garden rooms" and surprises around each corner in the form of statues, garden art and ponds. You could spend the best part of a day here enjoying the different areas, the formal knot garden, the woodland area, formal herbaceous border, and the wonderful established deciduous trees. There are large lawn areas which open out into more surprises. With the good rainfall in this district everything grows much faster than at home.

<https://www.trotts.co.nz>



## THE PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Kate Chinnick



**Leucojum**

**aestivum**

- Native to Europe & Western Asia
- Hardy bulbs that naturalise freely
- Blue green leaves are long and slender
- White flowers tipped with green in clusters atop stems
- Flowers in spring
- Best planted under deciduous trees
- Leaves are poisonous to stock
- Prefers shade or sun
- Plant bulbs in late summer or early autumn

### What to do in the garden for September

- Tie Sweet Peas to supports
- Dahlia clumps left in the ground can be divided now
- Plant new perennials & pot on any cuttings
- Winter flowering Sasanqua Camellias can be pruned after flowering
- Feed Camelias, Rhodo's, Azaleas, Daphne, Pieris and Ericas with old animal manure
- Plant and repair lawns
- Still plant onion seedlings
- Tomato seedlings should not be planted yet (late frosts!!)
- Weeds are thriving, keep them clear
- Spray Peaches and nectarines for leaf curl at pink bud swell
- Prepare vegetable beds for spring planting
- Enjoy the spring bulbs