



BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2020

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MONGARLOWE GARDEN VISITS Thursday November 12

To comply with COVID requirements, we will be dividing into 2 groups and will leave at staggered times.

Group 1 will leave Ryrie Park at 9.30am and Group 2 will have morning tea, close by at Charmian and John's garden, leaving there at 10.30.

The 1st garden we visit will be that of Tim Wimbourne and Meraiah Foley's Mount Pepper Orchard (<https://www.mountain-pepper.com>) .

Mountain pepper is a food and medicine with a history 1000's of years old. Its rich antioxidant levels and outstanding bacterial properties make it one of Australia's most sought after native foods. The property has suffered the worst drought in history, 6 weeks of bushfires and the heaviest rain in 40 years. We will learn what is next for their Mount Pepper Orchard and see how it is rejuvenating.

The 2nd garden is 'Hollow Wood', the garden of Karen & Frank Hansby. They began establishing their garden in 2012 from a blank canvas. The garden is a beautiful parkland area with gardens around the house and a vegetable area. We will see how this garden has progressed over the past 8 years. Group 1 will have lunch here.

The 3rd garden belongs to Donna Ricketts and is 20 minutes from the Mongarlowe intersection along Charleys Forest Rd. A very picturesque drive.

Group 1 will enjoy lunch there. Please come and enjoy a lovely day with us.

Directions and map will be given at Ryrie Park where we will meet at 9.30am.

Bring: Your lunch and morning tea, a mug (tea & coffee provided), a chair, and your name tag.

Welcome to New Members

Janet & Malcolm Bishton, Heather Peterson, Patricia Keane

Report on the Visit to 3 Majors Creek Gardens, Thursday October 8 by Rose De Martin

On a rather unpromising morning we set off for Majors Creek in two groups of about fifteen people, as per Covid protocol

Group 2 went to the James' property first, a little twisty way out of town, and as we arrived the heavens opened, fortunately only briefly.

This garden was 'shown' to the Garden Club about four years ago and members who had seen it then were astounded at how much work and growth had gone on! Now a well-developed and largish garden of 'survivor' and favourite plants, and much more.

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

The big show-off was a beautiful Paulownia (Powton) tree, with its enormous dreamy mauve flowers.



Paulownia Flowers



Other plant gems in flower were a creamy white Loropetalum, a Pieris cascading over a stone wall at the back of the house and a double cadmium yellow Kerria at one side and lots of natives, too many to mention. It's a lovely meandering garden on a slope with rock-faced terraces, paths leading to various 'rooms', cooling water features in bowls and many garden art treasures, including a magnificent grass tree made of recycled wire and steel made by Chris's husband Brian. Further down the slope is a huge area set aside for the vegetable garden, orchard and of course chookies!

Like most Australian gardens it has required lots of attention to improve the soil and has suffered other adverse problems such as the usual drought, close fires and marauding wildlife. This garden shows how well the hard work has paid off and will no doubt continue to be an abundant little oasis in this wetter season. A delight.

Fran's was the second garden where the sun came out, and so did the wind. (Fran's constant companion!)



This is a gently sloping, north-facing, 2 acre block just on the edge of town, with a fabulous 'borrowed' landscape outlook with the house sitting high on the block. Fran says the garden has developed like Topsy, the original plan thrown out with the plants that died! What remains is a garden emanating from the house, grown in stages, of gifted plants, natives, fruit trees and shade trees including a small Birch grove and Banksia planting to the west of the house for summer protection. The stand-out plant however was a most impressive, though yet small, waratah in flower, screaming for our attention. Magnificent! The major part of the acreage is given over to well-looked-after lawns, which tells us how much mowing there is to be done, especially now after such a drought-breaking rain event and warmer weather. On your mower, Fran!

The front deck of the house is where Fran nurtures more sensitive plants and does a lot of propagating. It is a <https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

garden developing (all donations gratefully accepted, as gardens often speak of friendships in their cultivation). The last of the three gardens was on a large private property well out of town. A magnificent entrance driveway of towering mature pine trees with vistas off to the right of swathes of park-like grassed areas and a chain of man-made lakes (too big to be dams!) rising up the hill before arriving at the house. Once there, turning around, there is an extraordinary long view all the way to the escarpment, which eventually leads to the coast.



The weather smiled on us as the rain cleared and the wind was behind a sheltering hill. Here we were greeted and regaled by the caretaker Phil, and two gorgeous Maremma dogs (who were very interested in us as we enjoyed our lunch outside in the now sparkling day). After lunch we



strolled through the acres of park-like gardens, (over 40 acres mown), a long rose-covered arbour, grassy swards with sculptures, sculptures lurking in the azaleas, dotted through the landscape, peering over the fence, sitting near the tennis court.

The house, sited high on the upper third of the hill and nestled into it, seems to be the leaping off point to the spectacular long

view ahead. Around this are gardens of a more intimate kind, fragrant plantings, citrus in huge pots, a protected vegetable and herb garden and areas just for sitting in and looking out. An astonishing and very refined and Arcadian garden surrounded by the great Australian Bush.

Thank you to all for allowing us to view your gardens – very personal spaces – and for all the hard work that goes into them. Without them, far fewer Garden Club outings and enjoyments.

Sensory Garden in North Ryrie Park Playground by John Tuckwell

Establishing a Sensory Garden in North Ryrie Park Playground has been on the Garden Club's agenda ever since the new playground was first considered. We approached QPRC in late 2018 about this and on 24 April 2019 a motion was passed by the Council to work with the community to identify options for a sensory garden in Braidwood.

The drought, then the fires and finally Covid-19 delayed the project, with it becoming one of the Garden Club's projects to celebrate its 40th Anniversary (the other being to plant Braidwood Brilliance Waratahs in the Flood Creek Community Recreation area near the start of Bombay Road), with it completed on 26 October with six members of the committee planting up two raised beds provided by QPRC.

The project was driven by an ad-hoc working group comprising Rose De Martin, Amanda Scott and John Tuckwell who designed the garden, grew or bought the plants.

The idea of a sensory garden is to provide interest to all five senses of sight, taste, smell, sound and touch. The beds have been designed so one has hot colours to stimulate the children as they enter the playground, while the other has cool colours to calm them as they leave.

The circle of candle pines in the north bed is intended to provide structure and give a feeling of enclosure when they grow up and may perhaps be tied together to form a tepee. Initially a tepee of sticks with climbing beans growing up them was suggested, but this was rejected as the sticks could end up being used as weapons by some of the older children! The golf ball Pittosporum and the blue germander, to be pruned into a ball, also provide structure. Three logs in the south bed are intended as seats for young children.

There is a good selection of edible plants (eg Swiss chard, nasturtium, garlic chives, oregano, rosemary) for the children to try. The lamb's ears, soft grass, candle pines, blue fescue all give an opportunity for touch. While the curry plant, rosemary, lavender, oregano will stimulate the sense of smell. Gravel paths were added to provide access and add to the sounds to the garden.



Before – note the funky shapes of the beds



Finished beds



Happy helpers (L-R): Bronwyn, Jennie, Amanda, Jane and Rose

How the gardens fair in the playground environment only time will tell, with the garden club and Council staff to jointly care for the gardens in the future.

The plantings were as follows:

Bed South

Beta vulgaris (Swiss chard bright lights)
Callistemon Lady 'O' (red flowers)
Eschscholzia californica (California poppies)
Helianthus (sunflowers)
Helichrysum italicum (Curry plant)
Heuchera spellbound, Heuchera berry smootie and Heuchera 'Obsidian'
Pittosporum tenuifolium (golf ball Pittosporum)
Santolina (cotton lavender – grey foliage and yellow flowers)
Tropaeolum (nasturtium – red and yellow)

Bed North

Allium tuberosum (garlic chives)
Cupressus sempervirens Stricta (Candle Pine)
Festuca glauca (blue fescue)
Lavendula stoechas (Lavender Avonview)
Origanum vulgare (oregano)
Physostegia Virginiana (Obedient plant)
Salvia rosmarinus (rosemary)
Stachys Lanta (lamb's ears)
Stripped Eulalia 'Variegatus' grass (soft grass)
Teucrium fruticans (blue germander)

PLANT DONATIONS FOR THOSE FIRE AND DROUGHT AFFECTED

Plant donations to Araluen by John Tuckwell



A big thankyou to everyone who responded to our request for plants to be donated to those gardeners who were badly affected by the fires and drought.

A trailer and ute load of plants were delivered to Araluen on 25 October when the local residents were having a community lunch for the launch of *The Summer of 2019-2020* Exhibition at the Araluen Federal Hall.

Sally Matthews and Conrad Kindrachuk receiving the plants from Leonie, Jane and John



Araluen Locals collecting plants

The timing of the delivery could not have been better as the exhibition was all about the drought, the fires and the floods and you could tell by the conversations between the locals they are still to get over the trauma of the fires. The donations were really appreciated with many expressing their thanks for the gesture of kindness and for thinking of them.

Thanks also to BlazeAid who donated a box of gloves not suitable for fencing.

Future plant donations

The committee at its meeting on October 26 considered whether there should be a further plant donations in the future to other drought and fire affected communities. Mindful that some members are still growing on plants which are currently too small to be donated, the committee agreed that there should be another delivery of donated plants made in the autumn to another of the surrounding villages, most probably Mongarlowe.

So please keep on taking cuttings and divided perennials over the summer months, with further announcements in the autumn about when and where to deliver them.

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REMINDER to RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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.

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 understand 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.

OPEN GARDENS CANBERRA November 7 & 8, November 14 & 15

Completing the spring open garden season, Rosy Bower in Narrubundah will open on 7 and 8 November and four gardens in Bungendore will open on 14 and 15 November. **All adult visitors including financial members need to book and present a ticket for entry.** Both paper tickets and tickets on your phone will be accepted. Attendance for financial members is free and for non-members is \$10.00 for Rosy Bower and \$20.00 for all four Bungendore gardens. Accompanying children are free and do not need to book.

You may like to consider joining Open Gardens Canberra. Membership which gives free entry to these November open gardens and all of the autumn 2021 season is currently \$25. For information about becoming a member of Open Gardens Canberra go to the member's page on our website. <https://opengardenscanberra.org.au>

FEBRUARY 2021 Friday 19 & Saturday 20

Floral Design Competition and Demonstrations at Mittagong R.S.L. Club

<https://nswfloralartassociation.org.au>

My Open Gardens

There are many gardens open during the coming months so log on to the website to plan your visits.

<https://www.myopengarden.com.au/openGarden.jsp>

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

Retford Park, Bowral, is open on the first weekend of each month.

In Spring there's a riot of colour with peonies, arum lilies, dogwood, clematis, rhododendrons, flowering cherries and tulips; and in Summer, the vast arboretum is the perfect shady place for a picnic.

Nurseries nearby

- The Potting Shed - Bowral - 0419 154 860
- Mittagong Garden Centre - Mittagong - (02) 4872 3900
- Wariapendi Farm Nursery - Colo Vale - (02) 4889 4327
- Welby Garden Centre - Welby - (02) 4872 1244

THE PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Kate Chinnick



Convallaria

(Lily of the Valley)

- Native of the forests of France to Siberia
- Its rhizomes spreading underground
- Dark green leaves pop up from the rhizomes in late spring, 20-30cm tall
- Slender white flowering stems appear in summer
- Flowers are highly perfumed
- Flowers are followed by red berries which are poisonous
- Prefers fertile, humus rich, moist soil in shade
- Fully hardy
- Propagate from division in Autumn or seed

What to do in the garden for November:

- Deadhead annuals for longer flowering
- Prepare beds for summer and autumn annuals
- Continue to tie and pick Sweet Peas
- Tall Bearded Iris can be divided if congested (after flowering)
- Trim evergreen shrubs and hedges
- Check Roses for insect or fungal problems
- Deadhead Roses regularly
- Seedlings of Beetroot, Cabbage, Cucumber, Melons, Pumpkin, Sweet Corn and Zucchini can be planted
- Tomato seedlings can be planted now (plant deeply for better roots, keep frost covers handy in case!)
- Remove finished winter crops
- Remove weeds before they seed