

**BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB
NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2021**



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.org>

THURSDAY March 11

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE AND NO-DIG GARDENING AND COMPOST MAKING

On this Garden Club outing we will be first learning about the work of the Mulloon Institute. Peter Hazell, Coordinator of the Mulloon Rehydration Initiative (MRI), has organized with Sue and Ulli Tuisk to visit their property, Palerang, to hear from Peter about regenerative agriculture and see it in action. After this interesting experience, we unfortunately will no longer be visiting Landstasia Composting as they are now unable to receive us on this day. Instead, we will return to Braidwood to visit the Tuckwell's evolving garden. After lunch John will talk about no-dig gardening and his experiences with compost making.

Arrangements:

Timing: Meet at Ryrie Park at 10.00am to carpool and be given directions to Palerang. We will finish around 2.00-2.30pm in Braidwood.

Morning tea: Members with surnames from A-L

What to bring: Please bring a chair or rug (none available at Palerang as we will be out in the paddock), cup, your own hot water/cool drink, and lunch. Tea, coffee, milk and sugar will be provided at Palerang. Full tea and coffee facilities will be provided at lunch.

Ulli Tuisk will mow paths to the site of our talk and a shady picnic area. Members need to bring gumboots for the walk through and along the creek to view the work Mulloon has been doing there. Those not walking along the creek can stay at the picnic area and enjoy the view.

The Mulloon Institute is a not-for-profit research, education and advocacy organisation with a focus on applying, testing and sharing methods in regenerative agriculture. Mulloon Creek Natural Farms is the living laboratory of the institute. Its founder, the late Tony Coote, bequeathed the farms to the institute so that they could not be sold and so that the work of the institute could continue in perpetuity.

The flagship project of the institute is the Mulloon Rehydration Initiative, a fully benchmarked catchment scale landscape regeneration project spanning over 20 properties and an area of 23,000 hectares. Peter Hazell is working with the landholders to implement creek interventions that address the erosion of the creek and improve the function of the floodplain. So far, over 50 structures (colloquially known as leaky weirs) have been built into the creek across six properties and about 15km of creek, raising the water level of Mulloon Creek by an average of about 1m. This has also significantly recharged the aquifer underlying the lower Mulloon floodplain. The MRI has caught the imagination of catchment communities throughout Australia, taking the work of the institute as far away as North Queensland and Western Australia.

Welcome To New Members

Helen Airns, Margaret Barnes, Jill Collier, Elizabeth Ganter, Karen & Frank Hansby,
Jill Kuchel, Sarah Leheny, Janine Power,

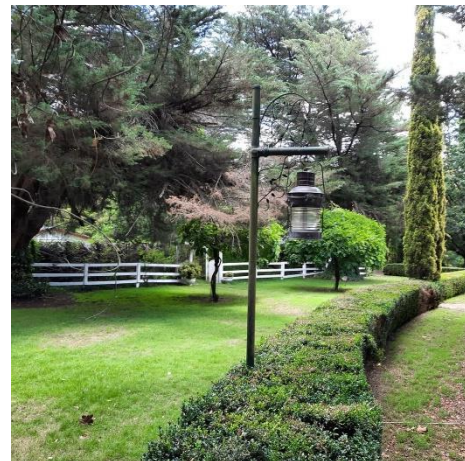
Report on the February 11th Meeting by Rose DeMartin

Our first Garden Club meeting of the year, Thursday 11th Feb, was held in two parts. The first was a talk and demonstration of 2WP Garden and Home tools by Catherine Watson. This company was established in Australia in 1977 and is still owned and run independently despite fierce competition. They introduced the first ratchet secateurs, which reduces the effort of pruning and increases the cutting ability. This was ably demonstrated by members of our club who have difficulties with hands no longer as strong as they'd like! Catherine brought along a huge range of products, from ratchet secateurs to telescopic loppers, gloves and guards, high reach tools and attachments, brushes, rakes and much much more. We were also able on the day to purchase any of these products - and we did! This was truly a demonstration of tools that work for you. Thankyou Catherine.

(For more on this range of products, warranty etc go to www.2wp.com.au or <https://www.winlandhomeandgarden.com.au>)



For the remainder of our meeting and a lunchtime treat, most of us travelled a little way out of town to a beautiful 7 acre parklike garden we felt very lucky to see as the property has recently sold. A magnificent entryway with colonnades of trees, hedging and gravel paths leading to the house. Understated in its charms, the formal gardens being relatively small and close to the house, an orchard of fruit trees, particularly apples, and some citrus. The remainder is a delightful mix of well-established trees and shrubs, some old pines perhaps 100 years old. Within this lovely meandering garden a beautiful large duck pond, water features, garden statuary, chook sheds, vegetable plots and much more. Specimen trees of crabapples, prunus, maples, magnolias, natives, firs, pines, roses, wisteria 'trees', the list goes on. a wonderfully cooling canopy in summer. This garden celebrates all seasons and would be extraordinary to see in spring and autumn too. Thank you so much Margaret, you will miss it!



GRAPE PICKING

Local winery, Corang Estate is seeking expressions of interest to join them in harvesting the first ever crop off their home vineyard in Nerriga. With ongoing challenges of agricultural labour shortages due to Covid19, they're seeking a few extra pairs of hands to help pick their grapes this year! You will of course receive a bottle once the wine is made to enjoy the fruits of your labour. Imagine enjoying a bottle of wine that you helped pick!

Having now tested sugar levels in the grapes, they've decided to pick the first of their two varieties, Tempranillo, on Saturday 6th March. The Shiraz still requires a little more ripening and will most likely be picked the following week, the exact date will be

determined closer to the time. The vineyard is small and each variety should be picked within half a day. Corang Estate will also put on a barbecue lunch and drinks at the end of the day to celebrate the harvest!

If you'd like to get involved, please email your details to: sales@corangestate.com.au and they can send full details directly to you. They've got some people interested already and ideally are looking for around 10 people each day, so get in quick if you'd like to help out! You are welcome to join them for either or both days.



CHRISTMAS QUIZ 2020

For those members who were curious about the mind bending horticultural quiz from the Christmas Party, here are the questions and answers, with huge thanks to Bronwyn Johnson and Rose De Martin.

PART 1 – TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE – 20 QUESTIONS **Total marks = 73**

1. GARDENING SCRAMBLES (10 points)

Can you unscramble these plant names?

SKANBIA	Banksia
TATLEW	Wattle
PLUIT	Tulip
SPORMIER	Primrose
THARAWA	Waratah
FLADFOLD	Daffodil
REVALEND	Lavender
SPINRAP	Parsnip
SPAUGNATHA	Agapanthus
TARCOR	Carrot

2. ROSES WITH ROYAL CONNECTIONS (3 points)

Can you suggest three roses named for royalty? For example:

- *Princesse de Monaco*
- *Queen Elizabeth*
- *Royal Highness*
- *Queen of Denmark*
- *Princess of Wales*
- *Princess Anne*
- *William & Catherine*
- *Queen of Sweden*
- *Crown Princess Margareta*
- *Princess Alexandra of Kent*

3. PLANTS NAMED AFTER ANIMALS/BIRDS ETC

Can you suggest seven plants named after animals/birds/insects **(7 points)**

Catnip

Dogwood

Wallaby grass

Kangaroo grass

Buffalo grass

Bearberry

Cowslip

Elephant ears

Dragonfruit

Lambs' ears

Bird of Paradise

Spider plant

Ponytail palm

Duckweed

Zebra plant

Birds' nest fern

Donkey orchid

Tiger orchid

Kangaroo paw

Shrimp plant

Butterfly iris

4. Four quick-fire questions

(4 points)

- A) Which fruit has the following varieties? Cocktail, Grape, Black Russian, San Marzano, Yellow Pear, Apollo, Oxheart, Rouge de Marmande. [Tomatoes]
- B) Term for fear of plants [Botanophobia]
- C) What does epicormic mean? [New growth on outside of tree trunks; e.g. eucalypts after fire]

D) If a species is termed 'dioecious', what does this mean? [Male and female reproductive organs are on separate trees]

5. True or false? Apart from their names, the main difference between Japanese floribunda wisteria and Chinese wisteria is the direction in which they twine – i.e. clockwise or anticlockwise. **(1 point)**

[True: Japanese wisteria twines clockwise and Chinese twines anticlockwise]

6. Can you suggest five plant or flower names for girls or boys (not using any names in this room)? **(5 points)**
Violet, Sorrel, Hebe, Holly Daisy. Basil, Billy (Buttons), (Sweet) William, Herb, Johnny (Jump-up)

7. Can you name five nursery songs or rhymes with flowers/plants/garden in the words? **(5 points)**
Ring a ring a Rosie; Oranges & lemons; Lavender's Blue; Little Boy Blue (Cow's in the corn); Mary Mary Quite Contrary (how does your garden grow?)

8. Name five varieties of grape used in winemaking (be daring): **(5 points)**
Chardonnay, chablis, merlot, malbec, durif (aka petite sirah), pinot noir, pinot gris, sauvignon blanc, cabernet sauvignon. petit verdot, colorino, shiraz, gamay, grenache, nebbiolo, tannat, lagrein, refosco, saperavi.

9. What gives red wine its colour? **(1 point)**
Anthocyanins – (also found in berries, leaves and flowers) – powerful anti-oxidants.

10. Silly sibilants (similar-sounding words) – do you know the common names of these plants? **(4 points)**

Cistus (rock rose)

Cissus (grape ivy or treebine)

Cytisus (scotch broom)

Cercis (forest pansy or 'redbud tree')

11. Aptonyms: We have two well-known members of the Garden Club whose names are 'aptonyms' (a name particularly suited to its owner) – who are they? [Marguerite Gardner; Rosemary De Martin] **(2 points)**

12. What word is used to describe plants that grow in acid soil? [Ericaceous] **(1 point)**

13. Which flowering plant takes its name from the Greek word for rainbow? [Iris] **(1 point)**

14. Which of these is not a brassica? – Cabbage, kale, squash, broccoli [Squash] **(1 point)**

15. What colour is a Speedwell flower? (Veronica perfoliata) [Blue] **(1 point)**

16. What is the difference in plants between an **angiosperm** and a **gymnosperm**? **(1 point)**

17. [An angiosperm produces seed, a gymnosperm does not]

18. What is the difference in plants between **monocotyledons** and **dicotyledons**? **(2 points)**

- a) Monocotyledon - a flowering plant with an embryo that bears a single cotyledon (seed leaf). Monocotyledons constitute the smaller of the two great divisions of flowering plants, and typically have elongated stalkless leaves with parallel veins - e.g. grasses, lilies, palms.
- b) Dicotyledon - a flowering plant with an embryo that bears two cotyledons (seed leaves). Dicotyledons constitute the larger of the two great divisions of flowering plants, and typically have broad stalked leaves with netlike veins (e.g. daisies, hawthorns, oaks).

18. GARDEN STRUCTURES **(12 points)**

Can you briefly define (in a few words) these specialised garden structures?

Gazebo	[summer house]
Pergola	[open framework with top for climbers]
Glasshouse	[for exhibition from warmer climes]
Hothouse	[for wintering plants]
Pavilion	[larger open shelter structure]
Arbour	[over-arched structure for climbers]
Haha	[sunken fence edging park or garden]
Lamia	[outside kitchen]
Lattice	[cross-hatched climbing frame or screen]
Trellis	[open framework for climbers]
Studio	[multi-purpose small building]
Loggia	[covered walkway, not always attached to building]

19. PLANT SHAPING TECHNIQUES **(6 points)**

Can you match the definitions with the correct technique? (Answers are muddled on tables quiz sheet)

Definitions:	Answers:
Pleaching	Entwining, interlacing branches to strengthen hedge
Coppicing	Cutting of trees at ground level for periodical timber harvesting
Hedging	Fence or barrier of bushes, often cut to size/height
Pollarding	Pruning upper branches of tree to create dense head of foliage

Topiary Clipping shrubs to ornamental shapes
Espalier Trees, shrubs, branches trained to a lattice or on a wall

20. SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST...

(1 point)

What is the unique word given to describe the lovely earthy scent produced when rain falls on dry soil?
[petrichor]

Total points = 73

The Sensory Garden, Ryrie Park - progress



In the October 2020 Newsletter, we reported on the establishment of the Sensory Garden in Ryrie park and it has been carefully tended by some of our committee. Here's what it looks like now!

Garden Club Cards

Our resident Photographer Fran Woods has printed a grouping of Cards featuring her stunning photos of the gardens we have visited so if you need gift/thankyou cards, then email the garden club and we will arrange for their collection. They are also to be for sale in the Braidwood Visitors Centre in town. Fran also maintains the Garden Club website at <https://braidwoodgardenclub.org> so you can see her beautiful work there. This site is also a resource for newsletters, and club information.

WHAT'S ON

MARCH Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th Goulburn Show <https://www.goulburnshow.com.au/about-us/>

OCTOBER Saturday 30 & Sunday 31

Bathurst Spring Spectacular Live Music, Market Stalls & Displays

<https://bathurstgardenclub.org.au/bathurst-spring-spectacular/>

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>

THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BOTANICAL GARDENS NURSERY is now open every Tues, Thurs and Sat 9am to 3pm.

As all the plants for sale have been propagated from those growing in local gardens, we know that they will survive in your garden. The stock is an ever-evolving range and each week the volunteers tend to them under the watchful eye of professional horticulturists.

Feel free to browse and there is always a friendly face around to advise on the right kind of plant for that special corner in your garden.

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



Eucomis

comosa

(Pineapple Lily)

- Native to Southern Africa
- Grows from enlarged bulbs
- Bears spikes of small star shaped flowers to 75cm
- Leaves are glossy green or purple
- Prefers full sun in any well drained soil
- Flowers are single, small, pink, cream or green spotted purple
- Flowers from summer to autumn
- Propagate in spring from seed or division
- The Xhosa people use bulbs boiled for rheumatism (a poultice)
- Comes in different colours – purple, green, pink

What to do in the garden for April

- Trim evergreen shrubs so they recover before winter
- Choose trees for autumn colour
- Good time to plant or move Camellias, Rhodo's & Azaleas
- Look for Liliium, Hippeastrum & Sprekelia Bulbs
- Complete planting of spring bulbs
- Tidy leaves of Hellebores, Winter Iris & Aquilegias
- Sow Asian Greens, Broad Beans & Peas
- Plant all Brassicas (cover with fine netting against white butterflies, old lace curtains ideal!)
- Remove all old leaves from Strawberries (put in garbage)
- Remove 3 year old Strawberries & replace with new stock
- Repot herbs and pot plants with new potting mix
- Pick up any fallen fruit & dispose of if diseased