

# BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

## NEWSLETTER APRIL 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://braidwoodgardclub.org>

### **LOCAL BOMBAY GARDENS VISIT on THURSDAY May 13**

**MEET: 9.30am at Ryrie Park to carpool & receive directions**

**Morning Tea at the 1<sup>st</sup> Garden. Members with surnames M-Z please bring a plate to share**

**What to bring: Cup/Mug, Chair, Lunch & Name Tag.**

**We will first visit LUCILLE FARM, the home of Carmen Byrne & Sarah Heine.**

It is a new garden and their 10 year master plan is just at the beginning. The Bombay fires derailed their plans somewhat but with much energy and experimentation they are forging ahead.

**The next garden is at LISDALEEN, the home of Helen Geier & Jeremy Campbell-Davys.**

This property was first settled in the 1860's by the Kennedy family from Tipperary where their family home bore the same name. There are old stone & slab outbuildings with the main house dating from 1937 and the garden is a constant source of inspiration to Helen, an artist and unites pre-existing elements with modern plantings.

**Our last garden 'Ridgewood' is the home of Bronwyn Johnson.** The original garden dates from the early 1990's, starting off with several fruit trees, exotics and a few native plants. Since Bronwyn arrived 20 years ago, a number of older plants have been removed and the garden expanded by the addition of many more Australian native species, particularly bird-attracting plants. The November/December 2019 bush fires came very close but fortunately missed the house & garden though heavy rains worsened paddock erosion but spurred other plants to much lush growth.

### **Report on the April 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting by Fran Woods**

Over 40 garden club members gathered for a beautiful autumn day of visiting 3 different gardens within Braidwood. And we were pleased to welcome some special guests to share this lovely day, Denham Williams (President) and Lainie Lawson from the Nimmitabel & District Garden Club, and Stuart Read (Co-Chair) of the Australian Garden History Society.

#### **Wynlen House**

The day began with a visit to 'Wynlen House' Artisan Village Farm & Learning Centre run by Bronwyn Richards & Helen Lynch. (For the observant 'Wynlen' comes from the end of their first names). We were made most welcome, provided with a lovely morning tea and given a short talk with an open discussion with members. We were then guided around their farm which includes market gardens, poultry grazing areas, ornamental plantings & a hot house, all on a micro urban farm scale.

The farm is run as a permaculture or poly-culture mixed farm with mixed cropping, practiced with organic, regenerative and sustainable food production. As a commercial enterprise, they need to have produce available 52 weeks a year for their customers which takes a great deal of planning and good luck.

They have decided to focus on the growing of vegetables and buy in seedlings, except for root crops.

They shared their experiences as a cool climate garden and the trials of very different seasons: 2019-20 was hot and dry, while 2020-21 has been cool and wet, both bringing their own challenges.



Without the heat this year, their eggplant crop was a failure and it was a poor year for tomatoes. But other vegetables thrived.



Growing garlic was discussed at some length. They do not grow the Monaro Purple variety which is an early garlic crop (planted usually in April) as this is what most growers produce. Instead, they grow mid-season (planted in May) and late season varieties like Silver Skin which has particularly fine spicy, complex

flavours (planted in June). They cautioned about planting too early as this leads to too much green growth at the expense of bulb growth. (Notes from John Tuckwell.)



### Old Rectory



The second garden visited was the well-ordered garden at the 'Old Rectory' in Wilson St. Tony Gilbert's delightful foliage garden has a lot of new plantings of ferns, bromeliads and other cool climate plants that give a lush sub-tropical feel. Also, a good selection of cacti along the entrance drive into the garden. The garden was well mulched with nary a weed in sight. (I was and am quite envious).



A gazebo provided a welcome place to sit. And behind it, a small pond with fish and a variety of understory plantings beneath a London Plane tree (*Platanus x acerifolia*) were a peaceful interlude to the day. Tony also runs a nursery so there were many plants which were very tempting, except, sadly, not for sale on the day. However, you can purchase plants from Tony by making an appointment by calling him on 0409 654 150.

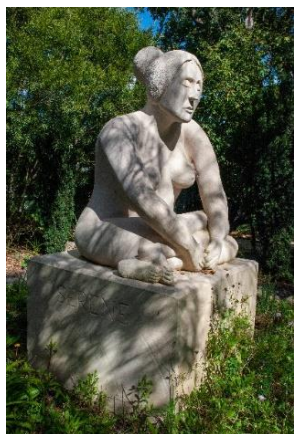
Lunch was next door in the Tuckwell's ever developing garden, with thanks to John & Margaret once again.



### fYREGallery Hidden Garden

The final garden visited was down on Wallace St where Cheryl Hannah's delightful hidden garden is located behind the fYREGallery. The garden was designed to be an extension of the gallery and reflect the print shown by Sonia Delaunay. It is crammed full of interest, designed with beds and swales reflecting the colour pallet of the print, including a gorgeous avenue of crab apple trees and a large statue called JESS. The garden has suffered these past couple of years because of the drought and fires but plans are afoot to bring it back to beauty and productivity by next year (2022). (Collated from notes by John Tuckwell and others.)





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## **A BRAIDWOOD WALK**

On Friday May 7<sup>th</sup> we look forward to “An Autumnal Amble Through the Town’s Tree-Lined Streets” from 9.30 – 11am to learn about the many fine trees that contribute to the town’s heritage status. The walk will be conducted by Mary Appleby, the Biodiversity Project Officer, QPRC, & is in association with ACT Tree Week. We will meet at the rotunda in Ryrie Park a little before 9.30 before Mary takes us on her walk.

Bookings are essential (for insurance purposes) & reservations can be emailed to [braidwoodgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:braidwoodgardenclub@gmail.com). There is a charge of \$5 for non-Braidwood Garden Club Members.

### **Welcome To New Members**

Lesley Chelman, Margaret Stone & June Weatherstone

## **WHAT'S ON**

### **OCTOBER Saturday 30 & Sunday 31**

Bathurst Spring Spectacular Live Music, Market Stalls & Displays

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

### **Roses by the Seaside' 2021 National Rose Championships and Conference.**

<https://gardenclubs.org.au/diary-dates/>

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2021 from 12 pm – 5 pm

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021 from 9.30 am – 4 pm

The Rose Society of NSW invites you to attend the Roses by the Seaside 2021 National Rose Championships, social activities and lectures series to be held in the Kiama Pavilion. Thousands of Roses will be on display by the best exhibitors in NSW and from other States. There will be amazing displays of heritage and modern roses as well as floral art. Rose plants will be on sale during the event. The lecture series will have the theme of an ecologically friendly way of managing your rose gardens and the impact of climate change. See website for further information. This event was postponed from October 2020.

The Program is available on the Rose Society of NSW website

<http://www.nsw.rose.org.au/rose-society-events>

### **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
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## THE PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Kate Chinnick



**Crocus  
Speciosus  
(Autumn Crocus)**

- Native to Crimea, Turkey and Iran
- Hardy bulb
- Has grass like dark green leaves usually with central white stripe
- Flowers in Autumn, cream, mauve and purple shades
- Easily grown in well-drained soil in full sun or part shade
- Good border plant
- Propagate from division when dormant

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

- Evergreen shrubs can still be moved
- Spring flowering Camelias can be disbudded for larger flowers
- Tulips and Dutch Iris can be planted now
- Pinch back spring flowering annuals to strengthen growth
- Tidy Hellebores & apply a complete fertilizer + dolomite lime
- Monitor vegetable crops for pests and weeds
- Seedlings of Asian vegetables can be sown till mid-May
- Prepare beds for Onion seedlings in late winter
- Plant new Strawberry plants
- Tie up sweet Pea plants
- Rake up fallen leaves and compost
- Try not to buy plastic wrapped early Roses as the frosts will burn them