

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER MAY 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>

BUS TRIP TO SOUTH COAST – Thursday June 10

MEET: 8.30am at Ryrie Park

WHAT TO BRING: Cup/Mug, Chair, Lunch, Sturdy shoes, Walking aids if needed and Name badge.

COST: \$40 per person – **payable by direct deposit (BSB: 633-108 Acct: 118 346 444 - please include your name and “Bus Trip” in the detail) or pay at Bendigo Bank by 5pm Monday 7 June latest.**

This bus trip to the South Coast will have some real treats for members.

We start by visiting Noel and Trish Butler at their home in the middle of Meroo National Park. Uncle Noel is a Budawang Elder of the Yuin Nation.

They will provide a bush morning tea with light bush tucker produce and bush essence tea. Uncle Noel will give a welcome to country and a conversational presentation of the local history, food, native plants and edible plants, including how to grow them, and the environment.

We will then visit Barry and Christine Matthews who have a 10,000 sq metres garden and have made extensive changes to it since buying the old dairy land property seven years ago. When they purchased it there was a house but not much else. It had full blasting north sun and the soil profile is Monzonite, a volcanic clay loam ideal for growing grass, which is why it became a dairy growing area with an average rainfall of 1200mm.

Over their time they have slowly started to landscape the gardens with the view to showing people that you can have a lovely flowering garden derived from native plants. The other objective was to attract native birds, especially the small nectar loving birds. Success. A couple of years ago Barry was given a South African Protea and they now have more than seventy plants with more to come. They are also expanding their range of native Proteas including the NSW Waratah.

Barry has been growing native plants ever since they bought a house in Sydney in 1980 and is a keen propagator of natives, driven by a desire to reduce costs. He has kindly agreed to share with us some of his experiences with propagating natives from seed, including propagating kangaroo paws, and hopes our visit will inspire us to try growing more natives in our own gardens.

There will not be a raffle on this trip, but we will have a lucky seat prize. Come and take a seat!

We are aiming to return to Ryrie Park around 4.30pm

Report on Thursday May 13 Visit to 3 Bombay Gardens by Bronwyn Johnson

On an ideal autumn day – blue skies, sunny and warm - a group of more than thirty members headed west across the Shoalhaven to visit three contrasting Bombay gardens.



Our first stop along Farrington Road was ‘Lucille Farm’, the home of our hosts Carmen and Sarah, who arrived about three years ago to follow their dream of living a more adventurous outdoor lifestyle. Although new to living on the



land, they've obviously planned and worked at full speed to set up the property based on sound environmental principles and expert advice.



An audio-visual presentation demonstrated their year-by-year progress, as evidenced by the thoughtfully planned gardens and landscaping. The house is surrounded by hardy low-growing native shrubs, groundcovers and clumping grasses. High on their priorities are ways to enhance the surroundings to provide more habitat for native birds and insects, with hundreds of trees and shrubs already (or about to be) planted.

After morning tea in the sunshine, members were free to wander the surroundings. Domestic provisions are well served by a large enclosed "potager" garden (a French style kitchen garden incorporating herbs, fruits and vegetables,

and flowers) and a particularly striking henhouse, "Palais Cluckingham". All these initiatives are part of a 10-year master plan, so Garden Club members can look forward to hearing further about Lucille Farm's progress.

Back to Bombay Road, our next stop back was 'Lisdaleen', Jeremy and Helen's historic property. It was originally settled in the 1860s by the Kennedy family from Tipperary, who established a dairy farm beside Bombay Creek. The original old cottage and stone/slab outbuildings remain in the garden and provided a central focus for members to enjoy lunch under the trees.





The extensive plantings of pines, dating from the 1930s, provide a windbreak on a grand scale to the buildings and other plantings. The mixed varieties of both European and native trees and shrubs make this large garden a delight to wander, as do the contemporary sculptures which draw the eye to more intimate spaces and contrasting plant groupings. Large clumps of grasses and flaxes provided softer textures among creamy-barked eucalypts, with the occasional vibrant colour of autumn leaves. This was a garden that one could come back to again, yet still find something interesting at every turn.



Our last call of the day was a return visit to Bronwyn's property "Ridgewood". Although containing many exotic species, the primary focus has been to cultivate a wide range of native plants that provide food and refuge for native birds and animals. The higher rainfall over the past year has produced more lush growth than usual, creating a green haven for many species. In this mild autumn weather the correas are flowering profusely, a delight for insects and nectar-seeking birdlife. Particularly striking is the hybrid species *Correa* 'Catie Bec', bearing large pink flowers in profusion.



During recent seasons of good growing conditions, little self-sown plants have appeared around many grevilleas, correas, croweas and a few hakeas in this garden. Bronwyn has potted up a number of these seedlings, which were offered to visiting members free of charge ... an opportunity taken up by many before heading back into town at the end of an enjoyable day.



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A VISIT TO KINGS PARK IN PERTH by Jane Moore

In early April John and I boarded the train in Sydney to travel to Perth. This piece is not an advertisement for the Indian Pacific train, which has nothing to do with gardens, but I do thoroughly recommend it as a way to see some of our amazing country. Of course it's not for everyone, especially the 16 year old we met who was quite challenged by the lack of internet access in remote Australia.

We spent a wonderful week in Perth using their wonderful public transport system to get around the city. Following are some pictures taken in the King's Park botanical gardens. Kings Park is a beautiful park overlooking the Swan River.



The botanical gardens contain species from all over WA, which are well sign posted, but unfortunately I didn't write the names down when I photographed them, so it will be a challenge for you all. While the gardens are beautiful at any time of year I do recommend late winter and early spring for the wildflowers.



The final picture has nothing to do with gardens but very enjoyable, sunset overlooking the Indian Ocean.



HORTICULTURAL HERITAGE WALK

Mary Appleby, a local expert on Braidwood's flora and fauna, will lead you to discover many fine trees that contribute to the town's heritage status. Meet at 9.30am Friday 4 June at the Ryrie Park Rotunda. The walk will wrap up around 11am. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/155900744323>.

This replaces the walk which was cancelled due the flooding in early May and forms part of the events which QPRC is holding to mark World Environment Day.

URBAN FOREST and COOLING STRATEGY COMMUNITY CONSULTATION WORKSHOPS

All persons interested in the Urban Forest and Cooling Strategy currently being developed by QPRC are welcome to register to participate in on-line community consultation workshops, but numbers are limited. The workshops are as follows:

Weekday community workshop: 8 June 10am-11.30am

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/qprc-urban-forest-and-cooling-strategy-community-workshop-weekday-tickets-156199542035>

Weeknight community workshop: 9 June 6pm-7.30pm

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/qprc-urban-forest-and-cooling-strategy-community-workshop-weeknight-tickets-156201600191>

Welcome To New Members

Rebecca Sambrook-Smith & Matt Hinchcliffe

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 12-5 pm & Sunday 16th 9.30-4 & 17th October 2021

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

THE PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Kate Chinnick



**Hebe
“Snowdrift”**

- Native of New Zealand
- Evergreen shrub, growing to 1m x 1m
- Prefers a position in full sun or part shade
- Outstanding dry tolerance
- Great for hedging
- Flower heads of white
- Flowers from late Summer to Autumn
- Give a light trim after flowering
- Propagate from half hardened cuttings in late summer

What to do in the garden for June

- Camellias are blooming so buy new plants now
- Older Hydrangeas may be pruned now - remove older grey wood and reduce younger canes to a good pair of buds
- Plant new deciduous trees, shrubs, roses and vines
- Lift Dahlia tubers, divide and store in sawdust in dark dry area
- Houseplants should be moved away from heaters
- Do not allow vegetable plants to dry out
- Prune Pome fruits (Apple, Pear, Quinces etc.)
- A winter spray of pest oil or copper spray will clean up fruit trees
- Shred prunings and add to compost or mulch
- Remove any broken or crossed branches from trees or shrubs
- Rake fallen leaves onto beds or compost - don't burn