

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER JULY 2021



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THURSDAY AUGUST 12

AGM LUNCH & SPEAKER AT MONA FARM

Assuming there are no changes to the Covid-19 restrictions, our AGM meeting can currently go ahead with a limit of 65 individuals (due to the 4 square metre rule). Obviously, if the restrictions change, we will need to comply with them.

Our AGM is always a highlight of the year, and we hope you are able to come enjoy lunch at Mona Farm and listen to our special guest speaker Trisha Dixon Burkitt.

We are meeting in the dining room at Mona Farm Woolshed and will be appropriately socially distanced - with 1.5m distancing table setting and everyone remaining seated for the event duration (ie no mingling).

At the beginning of the day there will be the opportunity to walk through Mona's lovely landscaped gardens from 11.00am.

For others, please arrive at 11.30 for tea and coffee (charge \$4.50 a cup) on the homestead lawn with the AGM to start at 11.45 and will include the normal reports and election of the 2021-22 committee.

Following the AGM there will be a delicious sit-down lunch catered for by Mona's new chef, Tristan Rebbettes.

Menu:

To start- *Pumpkin soup with salsa verde, Dojo bread rolls*

Main- *Slow braised rump of lamb with celeriac and eschallots, Sides- Roasted Jerusalem artichokes and Brussels sprouts*

To finish- *Rhubarb Choux au craquelin served with coffee or tea*

Vegan option:

To start- *Pumpkin soup with salsa verde, Dojo bread rolls*

Main- *Salt baked sugar loaf cabbage, braised shallots & fennel and verjus dressing.*

Dessert- *Rhubarb Frangipane served with coffee or tea*

If you wish to take up the vegan option or have other special dietary requirements, please email braidwoodgardenclub@gmail.com and we will see if they can be accommodated.

Juice, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages can be purchased on a consumption basis from the bar, purchased by card only.

There will also be a special AGM cash raffle.

Guest Speaker

After lunch we are extremely delighted to welcome our special guest speaker Trisha Dixon Burkitt.

Trisha lives the sort of life many of us in the Garden Club might aspire to... she is a writer and photographer, her special passions being gardens and landscapes, art and architecture and the history of these, both here and overseas. She leads private tours focusing on these elements, house and garden design in the landscape with always the cultural, historic and artistic nod to 'place'. Trisha is almost a local, residing - when she is not away - on an historic property 'Bobundara', south of Cooma. She has a number of books to her name, and some of these and others she has been involved with will be available for us to purchase at our AGM for cash or by cheque.

She has worked variously as a television presenter, a landscape consultant, a heritage adviser and lecturer, as well as, of course, still leading tours, taking photographs, writing books and articles for various journals and publications. A very full life indeed.

Bookings

Bookings for the AGM and lunch are now open at Bendigo Bank although online payment to the bank is preferred to avoid money handling (BSB: 633 000 Account number 118 346 444 and add 'AGM' in the reference). The cost is \$30 for members (at a Garden Club subsidised cost) and \$45 for non-member guests.

The **final day for bookings is Thursday 5 August** as catering numbers are required. Should our numbers reach 65 persons any subsequent bookings will be put on a wait list and will be reimbursed if they are unable to attend..

Directions

Entry to Mona Farm is via 140 Little River Road (see map attached). There is currently no signage but as you approach you will see the pink Coach House building. Please note, there are two gates and the main entrance is via the first.

There is an intercom at the gate which you can press on your arrival and the Mona Farm team will let you in.

Please drive through the property and before you reach the small bridge on the lake you will find a car park. For those who have difficulties walking, please drive over the bridge and park by the end of the Woolshed where there is a ramp.

Those wanting to walk through the gardens please meet at 11.00am at the Croquet Lawn, others please go to the Woolshed for 11.30.

Membership renewal

As usual, the annual membership is due. This remains unchanged at \$20 per person with an extra \$13 if postage of the newsletter is required. Again, online payment is preferred (BSB: 633 000 Account number 118 346 444 and add 'Membership' in the reference or 'AGM and Membership' if both the AGM and membership are paid together), otherwise at Bendigo Bank or at the AGM in cash. There is no need to complete a new application form unless your contact details have changed.



Braidwood Garden Club Annual General Meeting Notice

When: 11.45 on Thursday 12 August 2021

Where: Mona Farm Woolshed, entering through the gates at 140 Little River Road.

Agenda:

- 1) to confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting
- 2) to receive the President's report on the activities of the club during 2020-21
- 3) to receive and consider the financial statement for 2020-21.
- 4) to elect office-bearers of the club and ordinary committee members

There is no other business proposed to be transacted at the AGM.

In accordance with the Braidwood Garden Club's constitution, any financial member who wants to serve on the 2021-22 Committee are invited to complete **the attached nomination form**, get it signed by 2 members of the club, and submit it by Thursday 5 August at the latest.

Please note that every remaining member of the 2020-21 committee has indicated their willingness to stand again in the same roles and the committee resolved to reduce the size of the committee to 10 members as it is already a large committee. Therefore, any other nominations will result in an election.

Report on the Rose Workshop held on Thursday July 8 by John Tuckwell

An enthusiastic group of 30 garden club members thoroughly enjoyed a Covid safe rose workshop led by our esteemed life member Kate Chinnick in the Auditorium at Braidwood Servicemens Club.



Kate began by talking about how to select the right rose for your garden. The first consideration is how much space you have: small gardens have small roses, while large gardens can have everything from small to large roses. Kate would recommend floribunda roses which have good flowers, good colours and multiple flowerings (Grüss an Aachen is a good example). Shrub roses are also very good, particularly David Austin roses (she particularly likes the red flowered Darcey Bussell). Rugosa roses are also worth growing with repeat flowering and great rose hips. Finally, she loves species roses which have beautiful small flowers and then hips. Birds do spread their seeds, so can become a weed or just a source of new plants.

She is not a fan of hybrid tea roses because they are not strong growers (need to be grafted) and only have one flower per stem.

When Kate started growing roses, she was not successful, losing most to the frost. She then started the graft, which is not recommended by most growers, but has not lost a plant since.

When establishing roses, Kate says you need to prepare the soil by digging a deep hole, but not feeding at this stage. Importantly, they need to be planted in a spot which receives good sunlight (at least 6 hours per day). Roses like rich soil, including clay soil, although not solid clay & they do not like sandy soil. Roses should be spaced about 1 metre apart except carpet roses which are planted closer. Kate suggests we try planting two roses of different colours in the same hole and see the interesting effect of the colour combination.

Roses can be grown in pots, which need to match the size of the rose, but they need more care in terms of keeping the water and feed up to the roses.

Kate uses horse poo and wood ash (potash) on her roses as she has a ready supply of both & recommends a Spring feed and again after dead heading. Her approach is to mulch with horse poo. Otherwise, you can use a chicken manure (our soils are so acidic we do not need to worry about it being alkaline), cow or sheep manure, although with the latter two there is always a weed issue. The only time she uses a propriety fertiliser is when transplanting when she uses a seaweed based liquid fertiliser (eg Seasol).

Regarding diseases Kate takes very little action and her approach is to keep the roses healthy. For aphids her vibrant wild bird population cleans them off, but you can spray with diluted washing up liquid and other similar smothering sprays. For blackspot, yellow flowing roses are most susceptible. Kate says you can spray for it, but it will not fix the problem.

Pruning is important and the best time to prune is mid to late August after the worst of the frosts. The key to pruning is to remove the four Ds: dead, diseased, damaged and diagonals (ie cross-over) stems. How much you cut back then depends on the type of rose. Kate together with Margaret Tuckwell then gave a demonstration of how to prune on the Servicemens club's roses with a number of members having a go too.

Kate advises that striking cuttings is best done in mid-summer using healthy firm new growth which is thicker than a pencil. She removes the thorns and uses fresh rooting powder (can use honey or potatoes) and puts 3-4 cuttings in a pot with a coarse river sand and potting compost mix. This is then covered by a plastic bag and kept out of the sun to keep moist. Kate is often taking cuttings and some from unusual sources like a lovely rose she got from Braidwood cemetery from the grave of a lady called Maude. Kate calls it the 'Maude Beyond' rose!



Other tips Kate gave included:

- Never plant another rose in the same spot where you lost a rose unless you replace the soil first (1x1m). Otherwise, the replacement rose will never do well.
- If you have the root stock growing, rip off the shoots. Otherwise, if you cut them off, they just come back stronger.
- Keep a garden plan of where the roses are and a list of all their names. Otherwise, it is easy to forget what you have and where, especially when you have, like Kate, over 200 roses.

Kate recommends the Yates Roses book by Roger Mann as a practical guide to growing roses. She has also provided some reference material which has been uploaded to the Braidwood Garden Club Website. These are '[Species Roses – An Introduction](#)', '[Pruning Heritage Roses](#)' and the [Illawarra/Southern Highlands Region of Heritage Roses in Australia Newsletter for May 2021](#)

Thank you Kate for a wonderful morning.

FROM THE GCA JUNE BULLETIN

The GCA 2023 "Beautiful Gardens of Australia" Calendar photograph submissions

The photographic quality of the Calendar always relies on members and magazine subscribers submitting lovely digital images of Australian gardens.

Submit your entries to: photocomp@gardenclubs.org.au. The closing date is the 15th February 2022 - with no entry fee.

The simple conditions for entry are on the GCA website www.gardenclubs.org.au or email Paul Lucas photocomp@gardenclubs.org.au / ph. 0401 033 116.

There is no limit on the number of images you can submit, or when they were taken.

The total prize pool is \$1,300 with members whose images are chosen for the 13 main pages receiving \$100 each.

The smaller "filler" images chosen don't attract a fee, but members get the satisfaction of having their image published in the Calendar along with their name.

The 2021 Annual Photographic Competition

The closing date for digital or post card entries is the 1st October 2021 - with no entry fee.

The total prize pool is valued at around \$1,300.

Remember there is no time limit on when the photographs were taken or their location.

Entry details are on the GCA website www.gardenclubs.org.au

Consider entering your children/grandchildren and even great grandchildren (as one member has done!!) up to 16 years old in the Junior Section.

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WHAT'S ON

OCTOBER Saturday 30 & Sunday 31 BUNDANOON GARDEN RAMBLE-CANCELLED

<https://www.bundanoongardenramble.org.au>

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, Gardens are open on the first weekend of each month.

1325 Old South Road, Bowral, NSW, 2576

The Retford Park gardens feature an abundance of natural delights in every season: in Autumn, the Persian Carpet perennial border is peaking, trees are turning and fungi beginning to fruit; in Winter our Winter Walk comes to life with daphne, snowdrops, witch hazel, bergenia and honeysuckle; 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.

Entry fee: \$15, Adults \$15, Concession \$10, National Trust Members – free, Families \$35

Please note access to the house is by guided tour only and has a strictly limited capacity. Dogs on a leash are permitted in the grounds.

Harpers Mansion National Trust

The two-acre garden at Harper's Mansion complements the National Trust-owned heritage building. Wide grass paths and plenty of seating encourage you to linger. It is spectacular in Oct/Nov when a hundred heritage roses bloom but a woodland walk, a pond framed with giant gunnera, a herb and a produce garden provide interest throughout the year. Add the hedge maze and it becomes a garden for both you and your children to enjoy! The house, garden and maze will be open on the first and third weekends (Saturday and Sunday) of each month from 11.00am to 3.00pm.

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



**Osmanthus
fragrans**

(Sweet Olive)

- Native to China and Japan
- Evergreen slow growing shrub to 3m
- Prefers a fertile moist soil in full sun
- Leaves are 10 – 12cm long, shiny and dark green
- Frost hardy
- Tubular flowers are pure white and fragrant
- Propagate from half hardened cuttings in summer or winter
- Chinese use flowers for scented tea & decoration in winter

What to do in the garden for August

- Prune and spray Roses later this month
- Plant new bare rooted Roses (soak in seaweed solution before planting)
- Plant summer and autumn flowering bulbs
- Winter flowering shrubs can be pruned now
- Prune and feed Daphne after flowering
- Prune Crepe Myrtle, which flowers on new wood
- Cut ornamental grass clumps to the ground
- Perennials may be divided as the weather warms up
- Prune Jasmines and summer flowering Clematis
- Prune Hydrangeas to two strong buds
- Spray Peaches and nectarines for leaf curl
- Plant Onion seedlings, Asparagus crowns & Spinach seedlings
- Check herbs for dividing and replanting
- Prepare vegetable beds for spring planting