

# BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

## OCTOBER 2021

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### **THURSDAY NOVEMBER 11**

#### **Mt Fairy & Lake Bathurst Gardens**

##### **Arrangements:**

**Where to meet:** Meet in Ryrie Park at 8.45am to Carpool. Directions will be given out.

**What to bring:** Chair, your own morning tea, lunch, and cup (tea and coffee making facilities provided) and your name tag.

**Booking:** Please book by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November by emailing [braidwoodgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:braidwoodgardenclub@gmail.com) or phone John Tuckwell on 0408 625 156

According to updated Covid Rules on November 1<sup>st</sup>, up to 50 fully vaccinated members will be able to join the visit to the 3 chosen gardens located in Mt Fairy and Lake Bathurst. As we are limited to 50, please email by Friday November 5 to reserve your spot and for those who have not stated their vaccination status, could you please let us know. Only Fully Vaccinated members can attend.

Garden 1. Tim De Mestre's property "Merigan" has an old garden that was developed by his mother about 30 years ago. It is dominated by huge oak trees and the almost 3 km driveway is lined with oaks from acorns of the old oak that is the centre of the home lawn. This historic farm runs 14,000 sheep and in the Currandooley fire in 2017, was 90% burnt out however recent rains have rejuvenated the land, though stands of trees have gone. The home garden has sweeping lawns, old roses, a boules court & wisteria arches with a tennis court for family use. Now a true oasis of delight.

Garden 2. The very private "Bongalabi", owned by Andrew Stewart in Lake Bathurst, is another historic property with a garden that is being rejuvenated after a few years of neglect. The gardening team have uncovered rock walls & signs of previously cared for sloping garden beds but with much work ahead.

Garden 3. Just out of Lake Bathurst, "Marlow" is the owner Lyn Marcusson's pride and joy for the last 13 years. Lyn describes her garden as a relaxed, cottage, country garden with lawns & trees and a huge Golden Elm to lunch under. The lawns slope down to a small lake with wonderful views of Lake Bathurst to the south.

For those so inclined, a visit to Nirvalley Homestead Nursery at 629 Cullulla Rd, Tarago might be a stopover on the way home. Nirvalley has hardy plants for our climate, a large variety of exotic & native shrubs, grasses, farm trees, tube stock and advanced specimen trees.

### **Welcome To New Members**

Peter & Judy Van Wijswijk, Julie Blumer, June Jones & Will Sanders



## Report on Local Garden Visits - Thursday October 21 by Rose De Martin

We met, (yes, those two words together!) at Ryrie Park, all 50 of us - on a rather gloomy day – for morning tea and huge catch-up before going to our first garden, all of us eager to be out and about and fully vaccinated.



The Doncaster

A walk across the road, on a corner block, to the landmark historic Doncaster, which was originally Braidwood's first hotel, then a nunnery then privately owned. The garden has evolved through these rebirths and the present owner has massively planted formal gardens at the front, substantially adding to its grandeur. An avenue of crabapples ( *Malus Tschonoskii*), sentinels of upright ornamental pears, *Pyrus 'Capital'*. Hedges of *Buxus* guarding grassed areas, plantings of roses, camellias, and large established trees, all underplanted with bulbs and irises, violets and more. There is a portico with water fountain and ponds, sculptures and pots and urns filled with plants, as well as magnificent local granite stone paving, walls and steps. This is a work in progress and covers all seasons with spring colour and fragrance, summer survivors, autumn blaze and winter architectural structure. All sheltered from the locally notorious winds by a tall *Photinia* hedge, with *Wisteria* snaking through, along the street frontage, so that you only get glimpses along the way of what is beyond. The garden is still in its foundation stage and will be watched for continuing developments with anticipation.



Meeting In The Park

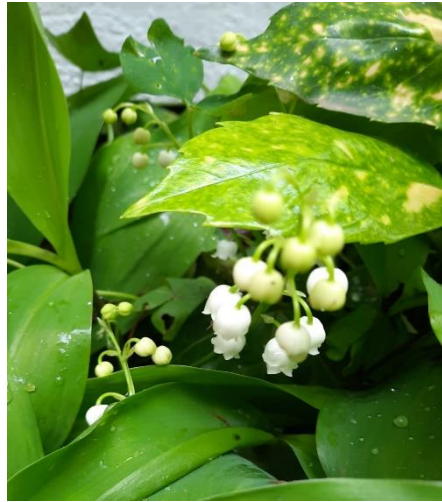


Tucked away behind the Rec. ground, on another corner block, was the second garden. This was massively overgrown when the owners took it over, there are a few huge trees that dominate and shade the garden, but the rest has simply and beautifully evolved the way most gardens do. (All gardens seem to take on the personality of their custodians to a certain extent, whether it be formal or natural, native or cottagey, sparse or multiple levelled...)

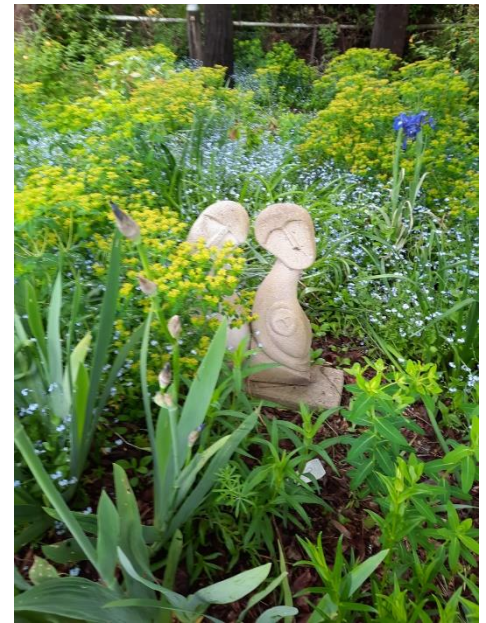




To the neighbour's side hidden from them by different heights of trees and shrubs and shielded from the house by a copse of birches is a fire pit and seating area, surrounded by beds of hedge Kerria, covered in glorious mid-yellow flowers, a



fuschia-coloured Rhododendron, masses of Forget-me-nots, euphorbia, irises, roses, a spot of bright red tulips, Philadelphus and much more. The back yard is grassed and more open with the usual garage and sheds, a huge chook area, vegetable patch and compost all overlooked by an enormous old apple tree. Pots of colour, small sculptures, more formal at the front, with a fountain surrounded by a clipped Box hedge. The side to the street was covered in a Choisya hedge



(Mexican Mock Orange) with the surprise of a Tamarix tree in all its flowering pink glory - which most of us had not seen before – and hidden away in a sheltered damp spot a Lily of the Valley in flower and exquisitely fragrant. A very relaxing, smallish rambling garden, a delight to view.



The Sutherland Garden

The last garden was such a delightful surprise! In through the back gates- via another street entirely – a grassed laneway bordered by small trees and shrubs, all soft greens and whites and greys. Birches, white Lilacs, irises, Snow-in-Summer, white Lavender, Lamb's Ears and more. A little further on to the left, an unexpected garden room, a reiterated theme of plantings, cleverly hiding the neighbouring house. Ahead still though, the garden proper opening up as a T-section, the house seen now off to the left, almost hidden.



Once at the house there is a charming meandering long view to the lower garden, but it's at the top that you get a sense of the owners intent. Built on what was there before, softened by curves, one side planted to darker colours (deep blues and purples) but with spots of light; the other side planted with lighter colours creams and whites, a feast of irises, cream California poppies, and groundcovers, lush, softly verdant, sometimes brightly lime... a thoughtful palette. The house itself is festooned in Ornamental grape vine, providing cooling shade in summer as it is north-facing. As we move down through the garden, replete with sculptures both classic and whimsical, ponds on pedestals, secret seating areas, a huge raised bed of strawberries, (don't tell the Bowerbirds) an old picturesque chook house, a succulent garden, (the garden of the future), new plantings of four Golden Ash, squaring off each other, (which will need to be lopped in 40 -60 years time.





Towards the back and the western side, plantings of natives, Bottlebrush, Grevilleas, small Gums and pots and urns of trailing variegated Vinca, succulents strappy leaved plants, on and on, shade and sun, light and dark. A hidden gem indeed.

With great thanks to our industrious gardeners for allowing us to view all your vision and hard work. You are amazing. Thank you, Gabriele. Murray and Lisa and Jennie and David. The rain held off and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

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## **Favourite plants – Autumn Crocus (*Zephyranthes candida*)**

from Bronwyn Johnson

If you're looking for a useful and hardy small plant for garden borders, for pots or to fill odd spaces, it's hard to go past the "Autumn Crocus", as it's generally known. (The true crocus of the northern hemisphere flowers in early spring). It's also sometimes called "Storm Lily" as it may flower in profusion after rain. Here its bright white flowers are a welcome sight towards late summer/early autumn, when many other species have ceased flowering.



This tough little bulb will grow in most areas in sun or part-shade, though does not like over-exposure to direct sun in very hot weather. It's not fussy about soil and is great for rockeries and pots, as long as regular watering takes the place of rain, to encourage flowering.

Mine are planted in troughs on a shady verandah where they get morning sun in winter. A stray few have spread to open garden positions, where they've proved to be frost hardy – but be warned, the shiny green leaves are palatable to wildlife!

Following flowering, a clutch of black seeds appears at the base of the dead flower. I've mostly multiplied plants by dividing the clumps, rather than grow from seed. However, if gathering seed, be sure to keep a close watch, as once the seed covering dries, they suddenly burst, scattering the seeds widely.

This species of rain lily is native to South America, including Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil. However, as it is so widely cultivated, it has reportedly naturalised in many places.

## **WHAT'S ON**

### **MARCH 8 Tuesday, 2022**

The Goulburn Garden Club Friendship Morning to be held on 8th March 2022.

Guest Speaker Mary Moody, author, gardener, TV presenter, journalist, tour guide. Let us hope that we will all be able to get together and celebrate 'Friendship through Gardens'.

### **Draft Program for 2021-22**

Assuming Covid-19 restrictions do not prevent us from meeting, the draft program for the remaining of the financial year is as follow

9 December – Christmas Party  
10 February 2022 – Stuart Read, Co-Chair, Australian Garden History Society as speaker  
10 March – Bus trip to Canberra public gardens  
14 April – Local gardens visits in Reidsdale (tbc)

12 May – Visit to South Coast and Noel and Trish Butler (tbc)  
9 June – Speaker  
14 July – Visit to Truffle Farm at Durran Durra  
11 August – AGM and speaker

## **THE PLANT OF THE MONTH**

**By Kate Chinnick**



### **Corokia cotoneaster**

**"Wire Netting  
Bush"**

- Native to lowlands area of New Zealand
- Sparsely foliated evergreen shrub
- Grows to 3m when not trimmed
- Has starry yellow flowers followed by red to yellow berries
- Has a silvery sheen when young
- Fully hardy
- Will grow in semi shade or sun
- Light pruning will maintain shape
- Propagate from half hardened cuttings in spring or fresh 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