

# BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

## NOVEMBER 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 9<sup>th</sup> December – CHRISTMAS PARTY LUNCH

from 11.30am until around 3.00pm (prizes presented from 2.30pm).

at the Braidwood Servicemens Club

***A delicious 'all you can eat' buffet lunch provided by Vanilla @ Altenburg from 12.30pm***

#### Mains

Star Anise Ginger Glazed Ham  
Paprika and Garlic Roasted Chicken  
Condiments to Match  
Honey Mustard and Herbed Potato Salad  
Rocket Poached Pear, Parmesan Salad  
Spiced Rice and Nut Pilaff  
Pumpkin, Sweet Potato Spinach and Feta Salad

#### Desserts

Triple Chocolate Torte  
Pavlova W/ Seasonal Fruits  
Drinks purchased from the bar at own cost

**The ever popular and mind extending garden related quizzes**

**Lucky door prize**

**Extra Special Christmas raffle**

1 night in 'The Lake House' at Mona Farm with a complimentary 3 course meal  
created by Tristan (valid until end 2022)  
plus other prizes

#### ***Christmas decoration competition***

Must be home-made principally from natural materials, otherwise your imagination is the only limitation ...

#### ***Plant swap table***

Good opportunity to share the plants we know do well in our climate.  
please bring a plant (or several plants) for the plant swap.

A gold coin donation is all it takes to select a plant or two to take home on the day.

If you need more information, please email [braidwoodgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:braidwoodgardenclub@gmail.com)

or phone John Tuckwell on 0408 625 156.

**Charge: \$35 per head** (actual cost is \$45, with the lunch subsidised).

The booking sheet is available at Bendigo Bank or you can book via direct transfer  
(BSB: 633 000 account number 118 346 444 - put 'Xmas lunch' in the reference section). **Bookings**

**close Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

Event limited to up to 80 double vaccinated persons, unless Covid-19 regulations change.

### Welcome To New Members

Karen Forsland, Romina Di Frederico, Katherine Hannaford, Jenny Smith

REPORT ON THE GARDEN VISITS - Thursday November 11  
**Mt Fairy & Lake Bathurst Gardens & Nirvalley Nursery**

Due to heavy rain damage at 'Marlow', we were only able to visit the gardens of 'Merigan' & 'Bongalarbi' but what beautiful old gardens they were. And they deserved a longer visit.



With a break in the rainy weather for the day, 32 members arrived at 'Merigan' and Tim De Mestre, the owner, gave us a history of the property which was once 1000's of acres but now about 2000. It is an impressive property with rolling hills & a 1936, French farm style homestead built from bricks made on-site, with espaliered apples & roses climbing the walls. The home garden is nestled in the shelter of the surrounding hills and established pine windbreaks with gardens added over subsequent years, principally by Tim's mother who was a keen and energetic gardener. It now features stands of mature deciduous & evergreen trees with the extensive gardens divided into a number of garden rooms by tall hedges. The dominant tree in the homestead lawn leading to the tennis court is a huge oak whose acorns grew the mature oaks that line the 2.7km entry drive.



A small cottage in the garden is let out as a B&B, which funds the upkeep of the garden.

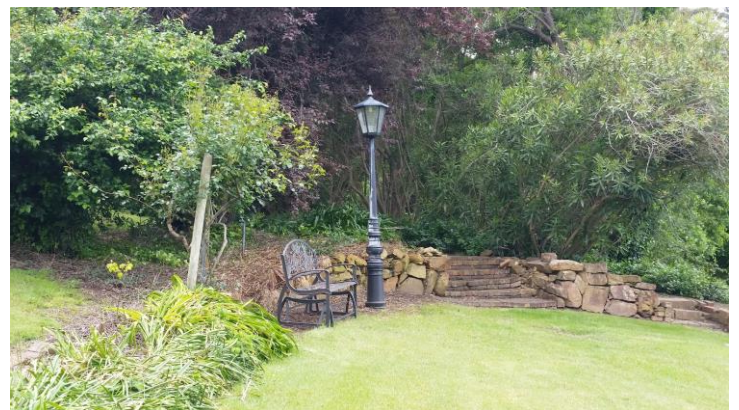


The home garden has sweeping lawns, old roses, a boules court & wisteria arches with a tennis court for family use. Now a true oasis of delight and a real privilege to visit this private garden.





Our second garden was the very private “Bongalabi”, owned by Andrew & Diane Stewart in Lake Bathurst and is another historic property with a garden that is being rejuvenated after a few years of overgrown trees and shrubs. The gardening team have uncovered rock walls & signs of previously cared for sloping garden beds but with much work ahead.





The property was first established in 1882 when the existing old radiata pines were planted on the northwest hill & has many old trees including bunya pine, olives, holly, magnolia, sequoia, oaks, Chinese elms, crab apples and the suckering English elms that have, over time, slowly taken over some of the terraced gardens. Established in the early 1900's, the garden is enjoying a restoration of the wisteria walk and uncovering old roses, peonies, spiraea, bulbs and shrubs with the removal of overgrown ivy, periwinkle and huge privets.

After lunch under huge old trees & a wander round the garden at Bongalarbi, some 12 members ventured to Nirvalley Nursery, Tarago with some purchases made. A special day in the hiatus of rainy weather.

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### **Expressions of Interest Sought for a Possible bus trip to the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show**

The committee is considering whether to organise a 6-day bus trip to Melbourne from Monday 27 March to Saturday 2 April 2022.

The journey to Melbourne would be split over two days with visits to gardens on route, and maybe a winery. The third day would be a full day at the internationally renowned Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show. This would be followed by a day visiting some of the stunning gardens in the Dandenong / Yarra Valley / Mornington Peninsular areas. The trip back to Braidwood would again be over two days with further garden visits on route.

No formal costings or accommodation bookings have been made yet, but an estimated cost of the trip for the bus, accommodation (twin share or couple basis), and entrance to gardens / flower show is in the order of \$1,000 per person, with and food and drinks additional to this amount.

Should we have sufficient interest (need 20 persons for a small bus with a driver), we will firm up the costs and determine which gardens we will visit. Those expressing interest will be able to assist in suggesting their preferred gardens to visit.

If you would like to go on this trip and are available for these dates, please send your expression of interest to [braidwoodgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:braidwoodgardenclub@gmail.com).

### **WHAT'S ON**

**FEBRUARY 25-27, 2022** Canberra Show

**MARCH 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup>, 2022** Goulburn Show

**MARCH 8<sup>th</sup> 2022**, Tuesday

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'.

**MARCH 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Saturday** Braidwood Show

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

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

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



## Deutzia X eglantissima

- Of garden origin – cross of *purpurascens* & *sieboldiana*
- Grows to 1.5m
- Flowers of pink and white in early summer
- Ovate to oblong leaves
- Very frost hardy
- Prefers a protected part shaded position
- Prune and thin after flowering to promote a good shape
- Propagate from seed or half hardened cuttings in summer

### What to do in the garden for December

- Plant summer and autumn annuals
- Remove weeds and top up mulch
- Watch for sucker growth from below the graft on roses and remove
- Dianthus can be layered or cuttings taken
- Finish pruning spring flowering shrubs
- Deadhead annuals and perennials to promote more flowers
- Take cuttings of Daphne, Grevilleas and Buxus
- Remove whippy growth from Wisterias
- Twist off finished Rhododendron flowers & spray for lace bugs
- Divide Bearded Iris if congested, plant new outside growth and discard old rhizomes
- Continue to make sowings of vegetables
- Prune stone fruits and thin fruit if too heavy
- Watch for Pear and Cherry slug - spray with Success or Dipel