

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

March 2022



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APRIL 14 – REIDSDALE & MAJORS CREEK GARDENS VISIT

WHERE: Visiting 3 gardens in Reidsdale & Majors Creek

WHEN: Meet at Ryrie Park at 9.45 to car pool, for a 10am departure.

BRING: BYO Lunch, Chair & Mug. Members last names L-Z please bring morning tea to share.

WEAR: Name Tag. Good Walking Shoes

- **Garden 1**

Gavin and Larissa Behn - "Reidsdale Park"

The club have visited this garden some years ago when it was owned by Robyn Simms. Gavin and Larissa have put their own mark on the garden & it has some wonderful "borrowed landscapes" over surrounding farmland. They have made use of large rock outcrops with clever plantings & there are wonderful old gum trees that frame the garden. Larissa has a large enclosed berry bed with assorted berries and there is a well-established orchard. The garden has a very welcoming feel about it.

- **Garden 2**

Carol Javes and Robert Smith Roberts - "Stewarts Well"

This garden was first established during the dry years & Carol and Robert have achieved a lot given the lack of water in the early days of the garden. While not a large garden it is very interesting with some nice well placed garden art. The garden has been well planned with a nice lily pond & a yurt style outdoor seating area adding a nice touch. The adjacent bush protects the garden from strong winds and adds a frame to it. The garden has great assortment of trees and annuals and perennials.

- **Garden 3**

Millie Di Miao - "Linden"

This garden was first established with a park like theme in mind & successive owners have put their own mark on the garden. There is a good selection of deciduous trees, cottage style garden beds and extensive lawn areas. A creek runs through the garden with a bridge to access more plantings on the other side. The foundations for the Jembaicumbene School still exist and have been incorporated into a cottage garden. The pine trees at the front of the property are thought to date from 1830 when the school was built. There is a nice mixed garden screening the solar panels.

Welcome Back Sue Patrick

Report of the Canberra Bus Trip March 10 by Amanda Scott

On the 10th of March, 28 garden club enthusiasts left the gloomy, wet skies of Braidwood bound for a tour of three iconic gardens in our sunny, nation's capital.

Our first stop was the Old Parliament House Gardens, Canberra's most significant public garden. Here we were greeted by our Guide, Ros, sunny skies and a perfect setting for morning tea. We gathered at the old Clubhouse on the edge of the bowling green and enjoyed a cuppa, various delicacies provided by our members and an introduction to the garden and its history.

The Old Parliament House Gardens are located in the heart of the National Triangle on either side of Old Parliament House. The Gardens have been



restored to their former glory, enhanced with the introduction of features such as seating pavilions, pergolas, rose arbours, pathways, gateways and the refurbishment of the tennis courts and bowling green.

Our tour began with the Senate Gardens. The Gardens are based on a simple quadrant design, divided into the Rex Hazelwood Garden, Broinowski Rose Garden, a large grassed area once used as a cricket pitch and tennis courts.

The Rex Hazelwood Rose Garden

This rose garden is the largest of the Old Parliament House Rose Gardens and the first to be planted in 1931. The western half includes early European rose varieties and hybrids of rose species native to southern Europe and the eastern Mediterranean. These include the Gallica, Damask and Alba roses grown since ancient times, the sixteenth century Centifolia roses and the later Moss and Portland roses.

The early Asiatic roses are located in the eastern half of the Garden and include the China roses bred in China before their arrival in Europe during the eighteenth century. Those roses derived from rose species native to China represented in the collection include the Tea, Noisette, Bourbon and Rugosa roses (from northern Japan and Siberia), Hybrid musk and Polyantha roses.

East meets West at the central beds of the Garden, with the culmination of cross-breeding resulting in the Hybrid Tea and Floribunda roses. Those roses grown by internationally renowned Australian rose breeder, Alister Clark, are planted at the centre of the Garden and were bred for Australian conditions.

The Robert Broinowski Garden

The Broinowski Rose Garden has undergone many changes since it was first conceived by Robert Broinowski in the early 1930s. The Garden exhibits shrub roses including those roses bred by the English rose breeder, David Austin. The English shrub rose, a cross between Old Roses and either modern Hybrid Teas or Floribundas, is a comparatively new rose which first gained prominence in the 1970s. This rose combines the form and fragrance of older roses with the colour and repeat flowering of the new.

We progressed to the House of Representatives Garden, situated to the east. This garden has The Ladies Rose Garden, Macarthur Rose Garden, Bowling Green and three more tennis courts.

The Ladies Rose Garden

In the spirit of the 1930s plantings, the Ladies Rose Garden exhibits Hybrid Tea roses and their smaller cousins, the Floribundas. The roses are arranged by colour in quadrants of white, yellow, red and pink shades. To provide a unifying effect, companion planting of perennial plants in blue shades have been placed amongst the roses. Hybrid Tea roses emerged in the mid-nineteenth century as crosses between Tea roses, derived from early Chinese breeding, and Hybrid Perpetual roses, derived from the early cross-breeding of Portland, China, Bourbon and Gallica roses. Hybrid Tea roses have large flowers and, typically, pointed buds with large leaves and strong stems. Originally called 'Poulsen Roses' after the breeder, Floribunda roses were derived by crossing Polyantha with Hybrid Tea roses in 1924. These roses are repeat blooming with flowers grouped in clusters, and they provide a mass of colour over a long season.

The Macarthur Rose Garden

A formal grouping of trees in the Macarthur Rose Garden was undertaken in 1933, with pairs of four different species planted: Southern Nettle (*Celtis australis*), Desert Ash (*Fraxinus oxycarpa*), Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) and Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*). The Silver Maples, all surviving today, were a gift from the Canadian Government to the people of Australia.

In 1938, fifty 'Shot Silk' roses were donated by Miss Macarthur-Onslow. These were planted in the Ladies Rose Garden, in recognition of Elizabeth Macarthur and her pivotal role in the growth of the Australian wool industry.

The Macarthur Rose Garden exhibits the Tea, China and Noisette roses, first hybridised during the early nineteenth century – about the same time that John and Elizabeth Macarthur established their garden at Elizabeth Farm, Parramatta.

A mass planting of red 'Étoile de Hollande' roses (the roses originally donated by the Macarthur-Onslow family) has been reinstated at the centre of the Macarthur Rose Garden.



These gardens have substantial plantings and significant history and are worthy of a much longer visit. No doubt many of us shall return. Comprehensive information is available on line at www.nca.gov.au

Our next bus stop was The Australian National Botanic Gardens. Here we were met by our tour guides and separated into three groups. Our guides had us meander up through the gardens, visiting the Rainforest Garden, Rock Garden, Gondwanan plants, Banksia Garden, Asteraceae Garden and much more. The diversity of plantings was incredible and the fauna it has attracted was equally impressive.

We came across many lizards, water dragons and even a brown snake!

Our tour finished at the Ducrou Pavilion where we enjoyed a rest, refreshments and some lunch.

The Garden was officially opened in 1970 to give the opportunity to explore approximately one-fifth of Australia's diverse and spectacular flora in a bushland setting. With over 4300 species set within 35 hectares, the garden is the only place in the world where you will see this diversity of Australian native plants in one location.

Another garden worthy of a full days visit with so much to see.

www.anbg.gov.au



Our last garden was the National Arboretum with the first visit was the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia. This is a world-class collection of miniature trees, forests and landscapes, created by leading Australian bonsai and Penjing artists.

Bonsai is the art of growing miniature trees in pots. In Japan, bonsai has an ancient history borne of nature and can be traced back to the 6th century AD. The art of Bonsai is to create the illusion of a full-sized tree, in miniature.

Penjing means "pot scenery" in Chinese and can be traced back to the Qin Dynasty of Imperial China. Penjing may have a story, name or piece of poetry attached to it and can include rocks, different trees and ground covers, and perhaps small figurines or objects.

About 80 bonsai and Penjing are usually on display in the collection, including a variety of traditional and modern styles, and both Australian native and exotic trees. Australian natives make up about 20 percent of the collection and include Eucalypts, Angophoras, Callistemons, Casuarinas, Acacias, Melaleucas and Leptospermums. The oldest tree in the collection dates back to 1880.

We then met our Guide, Yvonne, who led us on a very informative bus tour of the Arboretum. The National Arboretum Canberra is one of the world's largest living collections of rare, endangered and significant trees. More than 44,000 trees from over 100 countries are growing in 94 forests (two of which are over 100 years old) across the 250-hectare site. The bus took us past forests of Crepe Myrtle, White Gum, Cedar of Lebanon, Moroccan and Saharan Cypress, Smokebush, Aleppo and Monterey Pine, Silky Oak, Chinese Rubber Tree, Wollemi Pine, Silver and Spanish birch, Ginkgo Biloba, Parana Pine, Burr Oak, Grass Tree, Sugar Maple, Himalayan Cedar and much, much more. We had a stop and short walk to the look out on Dairy Farmers Hill with panoramic views over Canberra, artworks and the iconic Nest III sculpture.

A very active day and a lovely sampler of three iconic gardens that I am sure will have us planning return trips.

www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au

Report of the Goulburn Garden Club Friendship Day by Rose De Martin

On Tuesday 8th March eight members from our Garden Club attended this yearly event, and we always look forward to it and enjoy ourselves.

This year however things didn't quite go to plan. We travelled in rain (yes, again) nearly all the way to Goulburn before the sun decided to shine. Various garden clubs were invited and all met at the Workers Club where a wonderful Morning Tea spread was waiting for us. Delicious. Apart from catching up with others, there was lots to look at with art

and craft and cards made by the Goulburn members, also lots and lots of plants and gardenalia to buy, raffles and lucky door prizes.

The meeting commenced and the Guest Speaker was introduced, popping up on a large screen, this was Mary Moody who is a journalist and author, a long time past presenter on Gardening Australia. (She was not able to attend in person due to the floods and specifically landslips blocking roads as she lives in the Blue Mountains). Mary has written over 40 gardening books and five memoirs, she is also a garden, botanical, gourmet and cultural tour guide of note. However this was all we were to know as technology let us down and refused to let us see or hear her properly. Very disappointing. All was not lost though as plan B was a wonderful last minute photo show by one of the GGC members of gardens they had visited over the past year, which meant we did too!

Thanks must once again go to our hosts for such a well organised morning, even if it did not go quite to plan.

Volunteers Wanted

The Braidwood Servicemens Club is looking for some volunteers to help weed the club's gardens, as the current volunteer is struggling to keep up. If you are interested, please contact Michele on (02) 4842 2108.

Braidwood's Horticultural Heritage – An autumnal amble through the town's tree-lined streets

As part of Canberra Tree Week, this walk will be led by Mary Appleby, a local expert on Braidwood's fauna and flora.

When: Friday 6 May from 9-11am

Where: Starting at the Ryrie Park rotunda, corner of Wallace and Wilson Streets, Braidwood

Cost: None for BGC members, \$5 for non-members

COMING EVENTS

May 12- South Coast Gardens

June 9- Speaker-Tracey Bool,
Garden Writer

July 14- Truffle Farm Visit

August 11- AGM, Mona Farm

September 8- Araluen & Majors Creek Garden Visit

October 13- Cooma Rd Gardens

November 10- Southern

Highlands Garden Visit

December 8- Christmas Party Lunch

WHAT'S ON

APRIL 30- MAY 8 CANBERRA TREE WEEK Canberra Tree Week will be held to showcase the beautiful autumn colours of Canberra's trees and hopefully enjoy some warmer weather. On May 6 the Braidwood Tree Walk will start at Ryrie Park rotunda, corner of Wallace and Wilson Streets at 9am finishing at 11am. Join us for a stroll around the streets of Braidwood to discover the many fine trees that contribute to the town's heritage status.

The walk will be led by Mary Appleby, a local expert on Braidwood's fauna and flora.

Booking is essential to manage numbers to Covid-19 limits at the time.

RSVP braidwoodgardenclub@gmail.com

APRIL 30, Saturday - MAY 1, Sunday **ROSES BY THE SEA**

The Rose Society of NSW invites your garden club to attend the Roses by the Seaside Australian National Rose Championships (2020-2021) & Conference, social activities, and lectures series to be held in the Kiama Pavilion.

Thousands of Roses will be on display see the website for further information. The show will be open to the public on Saturday 30th April, 12pm – 5pm & Sunday May 1 9.30am – 4am. Location- The Pavilion Kiama, 2 Bong Bong St, Kiama. \$5 entry. For more information - rsnswsecretary@gmail.com or phone 0422 157 353

<http://nsw.rose.org.au/roses-by-the-seaside>

OCTOBER Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th

Bathurst Spring Spectacular - 10 Open Gardens. 9.30-5pm Live Music, Garden Stalls & Displays. 2 days-\$20

springspec@bathurstgardenclub.org.au For more information phone Chris Bayliss- 0499 049 29

Save our dark skies

(Bronwyn Johnson)

Scientists are increasingly understanding the negative impact that light has on pollination, as well as nocturnal, migratory and reproductive behaviours in birds, mammals, insects and plants.

The introduction of artificial light probably represents the most drastic change that human beings have made to our environment.

For billions of years, life on earth has relied upon the predictable rhythm of day and night - circadian rhythm. It is encoded in the DNA of all plants and animals. Humans have radically disrupted this cycle by lighting up the night environment. Some of these effects are:

- **Turning night into day.** Nocturnal animals sleep during the day and are active at night. Inclusion of light at night changes these predatory behaviours.
- **Amphibians** such as frogs and toads rely on croaking as part of the breeding ritual. Disruption by light interferes with reproduction, resulting in reduced populations.
- **Sea turtles** live in the ocean but hatch at night on the beach. Hatchlings find the sea by detecting the bright horizon over the ocean. Exhausted and unable to find the ocean due to seaside lights, millions of hatchlings die this way every year.
- **Sea birds** wander off course and toward dangerous night-time city landscapes. Every year millions of birds die by colliding with brightly lit buildings and towers. They may also migrate too early or too late and miss the ideal climate conditions for nesting, foraging and other behaviours.
- **Insects** are attracted to light, as “moths to a flame”. The introduction of light into an area not only deters insects from their pollination processes - the result is a reduction in food yields as high as 13 per cent.

You may have already heard of artificial lighting's negative impact on the migratory patterns of Bogong moths and, as a result, on the survival of the Mountain Pygmy Possum?

In spring, Mountain Pygmy Possums wake from hibernation and begin to search for Bogong moths to eat. The moths start on their annual migration - but sadly, they are now getting lost. Lights across New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT are luring them away from their previous natural destinations. Turning off unnecessary lights at night for the Mountain Pygmy Possums will help to keep their future bright!



Most of us have some form of exterior night lighting. At times this is necessary; when walking between the house and vehicles, gates, sheds or stock yards. However, most of us are probably guilty of leaving those lights on all evening, whether for visual effect, a false feeling of security, or just lack of thought. (And those of us living on rural properties will have a significantly larger effect on the surrounding environment).

It's about time we re-examined our habits and turned off as many lights as possible – a simple action, but it could help save our country's biodiversity.

Acknowledgement: website of the Australian Dark Sky Alliance (see website for further information).
<https://www.australasiandarkskyalliance.org/environmental>

Feedback to the editor on this topic is welcome

THE PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Kate Chinnick



**Eupatorium
purpureum**

- Native of Eastern & Central North America
- A robust perennial usually growing near water
- Grows to 1.5 – 2.4m tall and a spread of 1.2m
- Leaves are 30cm long and dark green
- Large heads of tiny purplish flowers in Autumn
- Prefers full sun or part shade
- Quite frost hardy
- Should be pruned lightly in Spring or after flowering
- Propagate in spring from seed or division and cuttings in Autumn
- Loved by bees and butterflies

What to do in the garden for April

- Trim evergreen shrubs so they recover before winter
- Choose trees for autumn colour
- Good time to plant or move Camellias, Rhodo's & Azaleas
- Look for Lilium, Hippeastrum & Sprekelia Bulbs
- Complete planting of spring bulbs
- Tidy leaves of Hellebores, Winter Iris & Aquilegias
- Sow Asian Greens, Broad Beans & Peas
- Plant all Brassicas (cover with fine netting against white butterflies, old lace curtains ideal!)
- Remove all old leaves from Strawberries (put in garbage)
- Remove 3 year old Strawberries & replace with new stock
- Repot herbs and pot plants with new potting mix
- Pick up any fallen fruit & dispose of if diseased