

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

June 2022



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THURSDAY JULY 14, 2022

Visit to Durran Durra Truffles

The next Braidwood Garden Club meeting is at Durran Durra Truffles. We will be hosted by club members Virginia and Dick Groot-Obbink and their truffle wonder-dog Bella.

Virginia and Dick's Truffle farm has the perfect climate for growing the black winter truffle, *Tuber Melanosporum*. Set against a backdrop of the Tallaganda Range and harbouring an abundance of wildlife, the farm offers a unique truffle experience.

We shall enjoy a Truffle hunt demonstration and then a fruit tree pruning class from the very knowledgeable Dennis Dempsey.

When: Meeting at Ryrie Park at 10.00am to Carpool for arrival at approximately 10.30 for Morning Tea. Those with Surnames **M-Z** please bring a plate to share. BYO picnic lunch to enjoy at the conclusion of the demonstrations.

Where: Durran Durra Truffles – 45 Brightside Rd, Durran Durra 2622

What to bring: Name Tag, warm clothing, Morning Tea to share (surname M-Z), lunch, chair.

The ground is uneven so please wear enclosed flat soled shoes.

Biosecurity:

Competing fungi brought into the truffle orchard on shoes can be detrimental to the production of truffles so we ask you to step through a shallow footbath of bleach at the entrance to the orchard.

REPORT OF THE TALK FROM TRACEY BOOL

by Rose De Martin

What a huge subject!

At our last meeting, 25 members met to hear Tracey Bool, horticulturist and garden writer, speak to us on matters related to 'Revitalising your garden, drought proofing and living with climate change'.

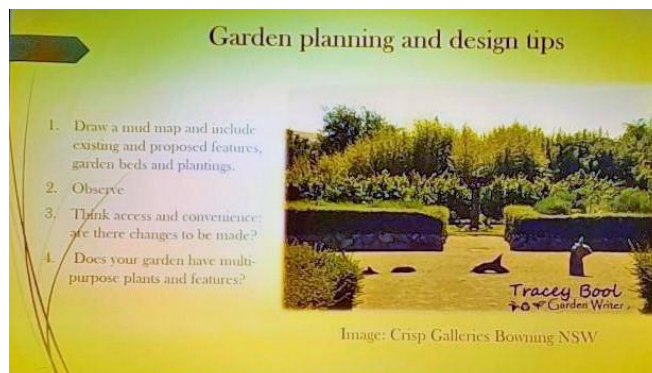
Essentially, Tracey says we must always start at the beginning - know where, in which direction, your garden is situated, where your house is sited in relation to that, as the all-important aspect of light and shade determines often where and what you plant (obsessive plant species collectors aside).

Of course it is a given that you already know the particular area's overall climate (e.g cool temperate). The next thing is knowing the prevailing wind directions so that you can protect from it and/or use to your advantage. For instance, don't wall or hedge off the cooling easterlies that can save your sanity in summer.

Knowing your soil type is vital for the health of your plants. Tracey had a fabulous example to show us of soil structure in water and there are websites with relevant helpful information that you can go to, listed at the end of this report.

Once assessed, remember to maintain and improve your garden soil. reduce heat in summer and frost and wind protection in winter.

When planning your garden, plant for hardiness and protection, for both shade and size, for cooling and warmth (deciduous trees) to help establish a micro-climate, to reduce heat in summer and frost and wind protection in winter.



For those that find themselves with an established garden that doesn't work particularly well, know that it can be changed for the better. Some gardens have been developed at a particular time and reflect a fashion that has been superseded. Observe and wait a while before doing anything drastic and find out first what works well and what doesn't.

An important concern in regard to climate change in your garden is watering. If possible collect and use your own rainwater, and try to establish low water use with clever watering solutions, deep watering rather than more frequent shallow watering (the latter forces roots closer to the surface, meaning less stable and needier plants). The use of ponds, pools and bird baths is also a good idea, not just helping make a micro-climate but also animal-friendly, especially for birds who assist in lowering insect numbers.



Vegetable gardens and fruit trees really require a lot of sun and often more wind protection so ideally situated appropriately. Covered vegetable gardens extend the growing season considerably, though not always practicable. This area of the garden is generally where you would site the all-important compost for easy access.

When it comes to structures within the garden, be mindful of your climate. A trellis set out from a western wall covered with a deciduous creeper will not only protect from summer heat but will act as a heat storage wall in winter once the leaves have been shed. Pergolas, hedges, latticework and tree screens are all useful for climate protection. Another important aspect of the garden is space. Space is an attractive element that allows the eye to rest, then to roam, to find a further vista, to follow a path, go through a gate or a gap in a hedge or find shade under a tree. Space is the balance.

Other useful practical elements can come from harder surfaces such as rocks, brick walls and paths, (concrete, bricks, stone etc) not just for visual pleasure but also for reducing water evaporation and mowing time. Plantings around these will soften the look and help lower heat storage in summer.

Tracey also touched upon gardening topics from composts vs worm farms (both excellent), permaculture, green manure crop growing, the importance of pollinators, native species plants, the use of swales to divert excess water and much more. She really gave us a solid grounding in garden knowledge essentials. It was a brilliant reminder of what we do know and how much more there is to know...

You'll find Tracey on Instagram, facebook and her own website [.https://www.traceyboolgardenwriter.com](https://www.traceyboolgardenwriter.com)

Also, some websites that she recommended...

<https://www.maximemyeild.com/definition/3594/soil-drainage-tes>

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MEDIA/nrcs142p2_05042.jpg

<https://www.the-compost-gardener.com/soil-texture-testing.html>

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

When: 11.30 Thursday August 11 2022

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

Agenda:

1. to confirm the minutes of the previous AGM
 2. to receive the President's report on the activities of the club during 2021-22
 3. to receive and consider the financial statement for 2021-22
 4. to elect office-bearers and ordinary committee members of the club
- There is no other business to be transacted at the AGM.

In accordance with the Braidwood Garden Club's constitution, any financial member who wants to serve on the 2022-22 Committee are invited to complete the nomination form [here](#), get it signed by 2 members of the club, and submit it by Thursday 4 August at the latest.

Please note that every member of the 2021-22 committee has indicated their willingness to stand again in the same roles and the committee size of 10 members is already a large committee. Therefore, any other nominations will result in an election.

AGM Lunch and Garden Tour at Mona **THURSDAY AUGUST 11**

Our AGM is always a highlight of the year, and we hope you are able to come & enjoy lunch at Mona Farm and then enjoy a tour at 10am of the gardens at Mona led by Mona Farm's new head gardener, Gavin Hardy.

Proceedings will start at 11.00 for tea or coffee, with the AGM to start at 11.30 and will include the normal reports and election of the 2022-23 committee.

Following the AGM there will be a delicious sit-down lunch prepared by Mona's Executive Chef Tristan Rebbettes, comprising entree, main and petit fours, coffee tea and non-alcoholic beverage

If you have any special dietary requirements, please email braidwoodgardenclub@gmail.com and we will see if they can be accommodated.

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.

BOOKINGS

Bookings for the AGM and lunch are now open at Bendigo Bank, although online payment to the bank is preferred (BSB: 633 000 Account number 118 346 444 and add 'AGM' in the reference). The cost is \$35 for members (at a Garden Club subsidised cost) and \$50 for non-member guests.

The **final day for bookings is Thursday 27 July**, as Mona needs 2 weeks' notice for firm catering numbers. So please book now if you would like to go.

GARDEN CLUB COMING EVENTS

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

Preventing Garden Plants Becoming Weeds

by Bronwyn Johnson

Winter is a good time for us to take stock of any garden problems likely to arise once the weather warms again. Soils are saturated and, according to recent forecasts, are likely to remain so for some time. We can be sure that existing weed species, and any plant with weed potential, will soon be ready to take advantage of such ideal conditions.

In Australia, weeds are among the top threats to our nation's biodiversity. They can displace local native plant species, degrade native animal habitat, harbour pests and disease, increase fire fuel loads, and compete with pasture and native plants for space, water and nutrients.

There are also a considerable number of Australian plants which may be termed "indigenous weeds". The point at which an invasive indigenous plant starts becoming a weed may be difficult to define, often too late. A plant species growing outside its natural habitat/area which prospers elsewhere may become invasive to the point of being destructive to existing local ecosystems.

For example, Cootamundra wattle (*Acacia baileyana*) has spread widely to become a serious threat in a broad range of environments. It competes with other shrubs, small trees and ground flora, impeding their regeneration. Not only is it now a serious threat in many locations, it is reportedly hybridising with other Australian wattles. This threatens the integrity of native wattle populations through genetic pollution.

So we need to be alert for any existing problems in our gardens – and in particular, taking care not to add to them when planting or disposing of species with weed potential.

In ACT/southern NSW the following species are listed as among those with weed potential ... this is by no means an exhaustive list, merely a few common examples:

Herbs such as: Yarrow, fennel

Climbers and creepers such as: English ivy, Japanese honeysuckle, Tradescantia (green/purple), Blue periwinkle (*Vinca*)

Trees and shrubs such as: White poplar/cottonwood, Lombardy poplar, Robinia, Cotoneaster, Pyracantha, Black cherry, Privet, Hawthorn

Border/feature plants such as: Seaside daisy (*Erigeron*), Pampas grass

Native plants such as: *Acacia baileyana*; Bluebell creeper (*Sollya heterophylla*).

If any of these species are growing in your garden, consider removing and disposing of them carefully. You could also adopt strategies to help prevent spread, such as:

- Replace environmental weeds with local plants, or non-invasive exotic plants;
- Cut off old flower heads before they form berries or seedpods;
- Contain self-seeding plants (eg coriander, fennel) in a specific area of garden;
- Restrict the root growth of creeping/suckering species with root barriers (metal sheeting dug 30 cm into the ground);
- Grow aggressive creeping species, such as yarrow, in pots lined with two layers of shade mesh or geofabric, so that stolons and roots cannot escape;
- Dispose of garden waste by composting, or in the green waste collection;
- Put persistent weed species, such as kikuyu, in sealed plastic bags in the household garbage;
- Never dump weeds or prunings on vacant land, in the bush or near waterways;
- If you see someone dumping garden waste illegally, report it to your council;
- Do not transport seeds or plant material interstate or overseas, where it may become an environmental weed.



Erigeron



Yarrow



Sollya heterophylla



Tradescanti

WHAT'S ON

MY OPEN GARDEN

These gardens are open regularly, or by appointment. Check the website for opening dates and times.

- Campbell Rhododendron Gardens : Blackheath
- Everglades Historic House & Gardens : Leura
- Gory'u Japanese Gardens : Little Hartley
- Harpers Mansion National Trust (NSW) : Berrima
- Merribee : Numbaa
- Perenniale Plants Nursery : Canowindra
- Secret Garden and Nursery : Richmond
- Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens : Bowral
- Tablelands Trees and Shrubs Garden & Nursery : Cooma
- Wildwood Garden : Bilpin

<https://www.myopengarden.com.au>

OPEN GARDENS CANBERRA is an organisation which has seasonal gardens open for members and for visitors, with an entry fee. The autumn 2022 program was well attended with 4 gardens open to visitors and planning for the spring 2022 program is now underway with the first gardens expected to open in late October. Annual membership is \$30 and contact can be made through the website-

<https://opengardenscanberra.org.au>

OCTOBER Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th - Bundanoon Garden Ramble- 8 Stunning gardens will be open.

Eight stunning private gardens open their gates from 9:30-4:30 on the Garden Ramble weekend.

There are stalls and refreshments in the gardens and you'll find more plants and locally made items on sale in the Community Hall. A Garden Market in the Bundanoon Hall offers plants, gifts and art for sale while scarecrows pop up around the village for the Lions Club competition.

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

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

THE PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Kate Chinnick



Abutilon

Megapotamicum

Chinese Lantern

- Native to Southern Brazil and Uruguay
- A vigorous evergreen shrub to 2.4m tall
- Has arching cane-like branches
- Has smallish pendant bell shaped flowers
- Flowers have a deep red calyx larger than the pale yellow petals
- Prefers a sheltered position in full sun or part shade
- Propagate from cuttings in late summer
- Mine seems to never be without flowers!

What to do in the garden for July

- Remove flower buds from spring annuals for better displays
- Rhododendrons, Azaleas & Camellias will need watering leading to blooming
- Prune Wisterias and deciduous climbers
- Prune later flowering shrubs (not spring flowerers)
- Order summer flowering bulbs - Lilliums etc.
- Clean up and mulch prunings from fruit trees
- Sow Globe Artichoke and Asparagus seeds
- Clean and sharpen secateurs, loppers and saws
- Sand and oil (linseed oil) wooden handles on tools
- Turn over vegetable beds for spring plantings
- Watch for pink bud swell on early Peaches & Nectarines & spray for leaf curl with copper or lime sulphur