

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

May 2022



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Thursday June 9 SPEAKER - TRACEY BOOL

The next Braidwood Garden Club meeting is at the Servicemen's Club Braidwood. We will be having a guest speaker from Canberra, Tracey Bool, a garden writer and horticulturist. Her subject is to be 'Revitalising your garden, drought proofing and living with climate change.' And we all know that after years of drought, fires, then prolonged rains and floods, that this will be a very important and informative talk, our gardens are telling us that! Bring your questions, take notes, and enjoy.

WHEN: 10.30 for Morning Tea, 11am talk, Lunch 12.30. Those with surnames **A-L** please bring a plate to share

WHERE: Braidwood Servicemen's Club

WEAR: Your Name Tag

About Tracey

Tracey was born in Goulburn NSW and grew up on a small farm with her parents and two younger sisters. She has always had a strong connection with the land, particularly through the home garden and the growing of vegetables and fruit.

Tracey completed her horticulture studies in the late nineties and began her career in the retail nursery industry to further develop her knowledge and experience. She continued to expand her knowledge of everything plant related, developing an excellent understanding of organic gardening and permaculture techniques and principles. She has also cultivated a great love for and expertise in growing native plants.

With many years' experience in horticulture and an ongoing passion for sustainable food growing and gardening, Tracey has established a reputation as one of Canberra's leading horticulturalists. She wrote the Canberra Weekly gardening column for many years, guest presents on 2CC's Garden Gurus program and regularly delivers talks to community and open gardening groups.

CANCELLED SOUTH COAST TRIP - May 12

Unfortunately the weather defeated us yet again resulting in the trip to the South Coast being cancelled for the second time, but thank you to those who booked. Access to the Butler's home is difficult after heavy rain and there was no provision for shelter if it was wet and they are still waiting for their house to be rebuilt after being burnt out in the fires. The intention is to have a special trip once it has dried up enough, perhaps in the spring.

REPORT on Braidwood's Horticultural Heritage – An autumnal amble through the town's tree-lined streets by John Tuckwell

As part of Canberra Tree Week, the Garden Club organised this tree walk on May 6 led by Mary Appleby, a club member and local expert on Braidwood's fauna and flora. Twenty-four tree enthusiasts took part in the walk, including four guests, one of which made the trip from Canberra.

We started at the Rotunda in Ryrie Park. The park was established by the town's founder, Dr Thomas Braidwood Wilson, and overseen by superintendant Joseph Taylor. Trees in the park were donated by early European settlers and reflect nostalgia for the home country— fine English Oaks, Elm and Ash trees, as well as Himalayan, Chinese and Arizonan Cypresses, Lindens, Canary Pines and Chinese Hawthorn. These trees are literally a million-dollar asset as valued by a well-regarded arboricultural company. Unfortunately, as Mary pointed out, many of the trees are in poor condition and there is an urgent need for succession planting.



Group mesmerised by Mary's knowledge



One of the oaks in Ryrie Park-having concrete over the roots does not help the tree's health

We then trekked down Wallace Street to admire the Court House trees, the magnificent Cork Oak and superb English Oak recently added to a nationwide big tree register. Before heading down to the native garden at Braidwood Central School entrance to school, designed by local artists in the 1970s to fill a gap after two houses in the Ned Kelly film were demolished.



The magnificent Cork Oak



Garden planted at the entrance to Braidwood Central School

Further on we enjoyed the avenue of Pin Oaks planted by the garden club along Glenmore Road, the heritage listed Poplar Avenue on Kings Highway, unlisted pines marking Braidwood Wilson's grave, and the last remains of a couple of hedgerows on the town's outskirts – standard rural fencing before barbed wire became popular after WW1.



Pin Oaks avenue up Glenmore Road



Poplar Avenue up the Kings Highway

We finished with a look at Bicentennial Park, showcasing Braidwood Urban Landcare Group's restoration of native vegetation in the formerly bare Police Paddock along Monkitee Creek.

After this very informative walk, some ended up at Troopers Rest for a well-earned coffee to continue the discussion. Many thanks to Mary for her time and sharing her expertise. More photographs of the walk can be found on the Garden Club's website at: <https://braidwoodgardenclub.org/pixt/bgc68/index.html>

Braidwood Rural Discounts for Braidwood Garden Club Members

Braidwood Rural kindly provides members a 10% discount on purchases of most garden lines. Exceptions are products already at a 'best price' and no further discounts can apply.

To obtain the discount you need to inform the staff you are a member, and they will check the list of names we have provided. If you have an account this will be added to your account, or they can set up what they call a 'cash account' which will register your status as a member on their system.

Our thanks to Braidwood Rural for this support of members.

GARDEN CLUB COMING EVENTS

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

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

From 'ABOUT THE GARDEN' MAGAZINE

Have fast growing veggies for harvesting within several weeks. Here is a list of veggies to start your productive crop.

Herbs – most herbs can be picked straight away after planting seedlings. For Winter growing herbs, plant chives, dill, parsley and chervil in all climatic zones. Rosemary, thyme and mint will also survive the Winter.

Lettuce – harvest within weeks. Harvest younger leaves for better taste and encourage more leafy growth. Grow anytime of the year for all zones except the middle of Winter in cold zones.

Spinach – easy to grow cool season crop, water regularly and in about 4-6 weeks, you'll have fresh spinach.

Radishes are one of the fastest and simplest plants you can grow. They are ready to harvest in about four weeks from sowing. Can be grown all year round in most climatic zones. For tropical areas grow in the cooler months of the year.

Bok Choy is a great super-grower because it can produce a mature harvest in around 30 days. Plant now in all climatic zones.

Kale – You can pick baby greens from kale or mustard greens in only 25 days or wait for mature leaves in about 50-65 days. Suitable to be planted now in all climatic zones.

Snow Peas / Peas – Peas are best grown in cooler seasons. Being a climber, support their growth by installing a trellis before planting. Liquid feed with Potash to boost flower and pod production. Harvest in 9-11 weeks. Pick the pods every day to increase production.

<https://www.aboutthegarden.com.au/quick-growing-vegetables-to-grow-in-winter>

THE PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Kate Chinnick



**Miscanthus
sinensis
(Eulalia)**

- Native to eastern Asia
- Most beautiful & least invasive of ornamental grasses
- Reaches a height of 4m though usually less
- Flower heads are soft grey tinted purple brown
- Leaves can be slender with stripes of white or gold
- Has attractive autumn colours
- Prefers full sun with moist soil
- Cut down to ground level in late winter
- Propagate from division in late winter
- "Zebrinus", "Silberfeder", "Gracillimus" are all good varieties

What to do in the garden for June

- Camelias are blooming so buy new plants now
- Older Hydrangeas may be pruned now - remove older grey wood and reduce younger canes to a good pair of buds
- Plant new deciduous trees, shrubs, roses and vines
- Lift Dahlia tubers, divide and store in sawdust in dark dry area
- Houseplants should be moved away from heaters
- Do not allow vegetable plants to dry out
- Prune Pome fruits (Apple, Pear, Quinces etc.)
- A winter spray of pest oil or copper spray will clean up fruit trees
- Shred prunings and add to compost or mulch
- Remove any broken or crossed branches from trees or shrubs
- Rake fallen leaves onto beds or compost - don't burn