

# BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

## August 2022



**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 **Website:** <https://braidwoodgardenclub.org>

### VISIT TO FOUR ARALUEN GARDENS - 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022

- **Meet at Ryrie Park at 8:45am to car pool**
- **Bring a Chair, a mug, name badge and your lunch**
- **Members A – L please bring morning tea to share**
- **Directions will be handed out at the park**

1. Our first garden is owned by Margaret and Greg Stone who describe their garden for us.

*Greg and I moved onto the block in February 2019, during a drought, and there was only one tree on the property. The priorities were vegetables (first garden established 2019) and fruit trees (planting through 2020/21). Garden beds of native species are being established around the house (2019-22) for screening and bird habitat. Planting for screening and shelter include larger trees Araluen Gum Eucalyptus kartzoffiana, Narrow-leaf Peppermint E. radiata and Cabbage Gum E. radiata (2019) and native shrubs (2019-20).*

*We have also planted various large deciduous trees in strategic places for shade in summer. Flower and herb beds are being established and the bird life is increasing each year. Our friend Pip has one of his bee hives amongst the trees. We fenced the veggie patch and the 'Food Forest' due to rabbits and kangaroos. The Food Forest will continue to develop as we plant more understorey herbs, flowers and ground covers.*

*We are conscious of creating a garden we can manage for many years to come. The entire site is still under construction and paths, landscaping around the house and Studio, and lots of 'bits and pieces' are still to be done.*

2. We then move on to Sally Matthew's garden where we will have morning tea.

*The Old Post Office garden is more than 100 years old when I began looking after it 11 years ago. As a passionate gardener, I continue to learn and enjoy and re-think and re-design as I observe what works and what struggles in this traditional country garden.*

*After the prolonged drought and bushfires of 2019-2020, I decided to re-plant much of the garden to prepare for the predicted hotter and drier future, using a pallet of largely Mediterranean perennials and ornamental grasses. I planted with lots of organic water crystals and mulch, only to contend with the "big wet" that brought the water table to the surface for most of the last 2 years! Many of the new plants slowly drowned or were smothered with the luxuriant weeds that seemed to be on steroids. Not sure what to do next to prepare for climate change, as unpredictability seems to be the "order" of the day.*

*The continued soil saturation, along with extreme winds also resulted in the loss of several large trees. However, the River Gum sapling planted by my family in honour of our father (who loved nothing better than sitting next to a western river, under a river gum, with a fishing line in hand), has thrived in about 15 cm of water ever since it was planted.*

*Despite challenges, this garden is a source of intense pleasure. The converting of the pool into a pond has been really successful. The "poolabong" attracts a large number of birds, and the sound of its aerating fountain is soothing on hot summer days. The roses are a delight, as are the changing of the seasons. I'm hoping that this coming summer will be hot and dry enough to provide a bumper crop of tomatoes and basil.*

3. We then move onto Tracey Armstrong and Peter Sweedman.

- *2 acres on a gently sloping block*
- *Mainly exotic trees including several different oaks, maples, and ornamental pears emphasising autumn colour, a number of exotic conifers, with spring bulbs and spring blossoms just starting to emerge. There are quite a few bottlebrushes and it will be interesting to see what colour they flower in late spring.*
- *Many wooden pergolas with mystery roses, again it will be interesting to see them flower.*
- *Original owner planted about 20 years ago, we bought the property and moved to Araluen in April 2022.*
- *We've an interest in Australian flora and have just planted some native plants close to the house and we're looking forward to planting more natives.*

- *The garden has 3 sets of powerlines going across it and some trees have grown too large, we'll probably have to remove some and replant with something smaller. There are also some trees which have died in the drought which will also have to be removed. We'll probably replace these with native trees.*
- *We have lots of pasture weeds: thistles of various persuasions, cudweed, fleabane, plantain, verbena, cat's ears and more flickweed than I've ever seen.*

4. Our final garden is at Lin and Trevor Irving's property.

*We have been here 3 years and in fact we moved in on 15th August so it has just rolled around. Our block is on a hill and we fenced the place off into 4 paddocks, including the house paddock. In the house paddock we put a curved archway in with wisteria (still new) to compliment the archway and fountain that was here. Apart from that there were a few straggly shrubs, agapanthus and a flagpole. All removed. We wanted a clear lawn to enjoy the special view. We were very excited to become the custodians of some beautiful established photinia hedges and gorgeous trees up the driveway. We have since added both new deciduous trees and a new hedge of small but surviving slim bottlebrushes. We built a patio with clematis on it's way around and the clay soil was excavated out to build the house. We are working to improve this. The land slopes down from the old verandah and was quite worrying to mow on the ride on so we put in a garden either side of new patio. We laid down of lots cardboard and paper etc and then the bark chips. The driveway side has white gaura for the fluttering and height, then lavender, salvia, hebes etc plus other native and more traditional plants. However the prolonged wet has not been enjoyed by lots of plants, especially lavenders, so this spring we will need to remove plants that have curled up their toes and think about what to replace them with...will most likely get dry again 😊. The other side is very informal and overgrown salvias pentstemons etc are badly in need of cutting back. A few other smallish areas and a wall and windows into new small garden behind the house are also new. The veggie garden is being rejigged as it gets waterlogged in places. Wind and water are an issue but hey, gardeners love a challenge. I love my new garden very much and like all gardeners it's always changing and hopefully improving. Ours is a very small garden evolving into the future with new additions and structures.*

We will then go to the camp ground for lunch. The campground has some new tables and a new solar BBQ if anyone fancies a BBQ lunch.

## **Report of the AGM**

On August 11, we again conducted the AGM at Mona Farm and 47 members enjoyed a lamb spit roast with a choice of salads, dessert, tea and coffee. Our Vice President, Rose De Martin, presented John Tuckwell's report as John was away enjoying a long holiday with Margaret in the UK, and Fran Woods orchestrated the slideshow of a summary of the year's pictures of our events. Such a trip down the year's memory lane. The Treasurers Report was then presented by Amanda Scott.

The election of office bearers was conducted by Sue Tuisk, with every member of the committee agreeing to stand again for 2022-2023 and so with no other nominations, the committee was duly re-elected.

President	John Tuckwell	Webmaster/Photographer	Fran Woods
Vice President	Rosemary De Martin	Catering	Charmian Thomas
Secretary	Jane Moore	Raffle Coordinator	Leonie Jolley
Treasurer	Amanda Scott	Publicity	Chris James
Newsletter Editor	Margy Gardner	General Member	Bronwyn Johnson

Following lunch the new Head Gardener of Mona, Gavin Hardy, gave a tour of the gardens with a colourful description of the plants and his plans and despite the cold, it was an interesting insight into the garden.





## **PRESIDENT AGM REPORT 2021-2022**

We have had three abnormal years in a row. Will next garden year be back normality or will it be another wet one? At least we can meet up in person now, even if I must give my apologies for not being at the AGM. I sense there may be some reports for the newsletter of some lovely gardens we have visited in Europe though. We are now nearing the end of our trip away and will be starting a six-day walk over 7 days from Oxford to Windsor tomorrow.

### **Garden Clubs of Australia Eleanor McLeod Award 2021**

We are very proud, surprised and humbled to have received a special award from the Garden Clubs of Australia in the form of the Eleanor McLeod award 2021 for "Outstanding Service by an Affiliated Club to their local Community" at the GCA's AGM held on 21 September 2021. For a small town like Braidwood and district this is a huge achievement, so well done to us all.

This is in recognition of what we have done over a number of years. This includes: trying to save roses from the old Braidwood Hospital by taking cuttings, including engaging students from Braidwood Central School in repotting the cuttings; providing tulips and other plants dug up from Floriade to the Hospital Auxiliary Fete; working with

Braidwood Urban Landcare Group to improve Braidwood Common, including planting Braidwood Brilliant Waratahs to mark our 40th anniversary; donating plants and cuttings to individuals in various locations affected by the bushfires; establishing and maintaining a sensory garden in Ryrie Park north; and participating in Canberra Tree Week, with a tree walk in Braidwood. None of these activities are much in themselves, but they all add up. Hopefully, we will continue to support our wonderful local community into the future.

### **Programme of Meetings**

When we can, we continue to follow our tried and tested mix of local garden visits with car-pooling, bus trips to gardens further afield and talks or workshops. But it has not been easy this year.

We ended last year with a wonderful and delicious lunch and AGM at Mona Farm, which was followed by a fascinating presentation by our special guest and well-known speaker, author and international garden tour guide Tisha Dixon Burkitt, who spoke around the themes of landscapes and garden designs.

In September, we were to have a Flower Arranging Workshop led by Marilyn Carle, but this had to be cancelled due to the reintroduced Covid-19 restrictions. Another time please Marilyn?

For our October meeting, we could meet again in person, and we were obviously keen to do so with 50 members turning up! We visited three local Braidwood Gardens – firstly, the elegant gardens at Gabriele Borszcz's home at 'The Doncaster'; secondly, Murray Harrex's immaculate, colourful and quirky garden (his daughter was about to get married there); and finally, David & Jennie Sutherland's 'surprise' garden, which kept on giving and giving. Three very different, but all delightful gardens, and all on our doorstep.

In November, we went to Mount Fairy and Lake Bathurst Gardens. First up, was the magnificent property 'Merigan' at Mount Fairy owned by Tim De Mestre. While the garden was delightful, it was the robot mower which stole the show for some of us. Next up was the private and historic homestead 'Bongalabi', owned by Andrew & Diane Stewart in Lake Bathurst. They are in the process of rejuvenating this 1882 property and garden, after being overgrown, with some lovely surprises being uncovered. Unfortunately, due to heavy rain damage, we were unable to visit 'Marlow', but several members ventured to Nirvalley Nursery at Tarago with some purchases made. A special day in the hiatus of rainy weather.

Our Christmas party was held at the Braidwood Servicemens Club, with a delicious lunch provided by Vanilla Catering. There were lots to occupy us, with a Christmas decoration competition with lots of excellent entries, plant swap table, extra special Christmas raffle, and of course the now world-famous garden quiz composed by Rosemary De Martin and Bronwyn Johnson who excelled themselves with some really great questions designed to make us think more about how we garden.

In February, Stuart Read, Co-chair of the Australian Garden History Society, amazed us with his vast and informative presentation on '*A history of garden design using Australian native plants (1788-now)*' This was essentially a canter through the history of Australian gardening from the first white settlers up until the current day and the different fashions in gardening.

For March, we had a bus trip to Canberra to visit the public gardens there. Firstly, we visited the Old Parliament House delightful Rose Gardens, with a great guided tour provided by our guide Ros. After morning tea, we went on to the Australian National Botanic Gardens for another guided tour and lunch on the lawns. The final destination was the National Arboretum with a visit to the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia and a guided bus tour of the Arboretum. A very big and very enjoyable day.

In April, we visited local gardens in Reidsdale and Majors Creek. We started with Gavin and Larissa Behn's garden at 'Reidsdale Park', which is very tranquil with a wonderful variety of flowering shrubs, both native and exotic, and rocks to die for. Next was Carol Javes and Robert Smith Roberts newly established garden at 'Stewarts Well' in Majors Creek. It is looking wonderful now and will be well worth a visit in the years to come. Unfortunately, it was too wet to get access to Millie Di Miao's property 'Linden', also in Majors Creek. Hopefully, another time.

For May, we tried again to visit Budawang Elder of the Yuin Nation, Uncle Noel and his wife Trish Butler, at their home in the middle of Meroo National Park, to learn about eating and growing native foods and then to visit and Barry and Christine Matthews' native garden at Woodstock. The latter had to pull out a few weeks before our visit because they were saturated, while Uncle Noel has no shelter (they were burnt out in the fires) and with forecast heavy rain we had no choice but to postpone the visit yet again.

In June, we were safely back inside with a most informative and practical talk by Tracey Bool, a Canberra based garden writer and horticulturist. Her subject covered the vital issue of '*Revitalising your garden, drought proofing and living with climate change*'.

For July, we braved the cold for a special treat to visit our members Dick and Virginia Groot-Obbink Truffle Farm at Durran Durra to learn all about growing truffles and seeing them being harvested. As a special bonus, Dennis Dempsey provided a very informative fruit tree pruning and secateurs sharpening demonstration.

### **Other Activities**

In my role as President, I continued to be on the steering group of a QPRC project called *Keeping it Cool - Vegetation and Heat Adaptation Strategy*. This led to the recent adoption of a QPRC [Urban Forest Cooling Strategy](#) and the publication of an [Urban Trees Climate Change Vulnerability Booklet](#). There should be follow-up activities in the future, such as community tree plantings.

We organised a tree walk in association with Canberra Tree Week, and our thanks to Mary Appleby for leading this autumnal amble. We also continue to maintain the sensory garden in Ryrie Park.

Our resident photographer, Fran Woods, has again printed Greeting Cards featuring her stunning photos of the gardens we have visited for members to purchase. Fran also continues to manage our redesigned website ([www.braidwoodgardenclub.org](http://www.braidwoodgardenclub.org)). It is worth a visit.

### **Membership**

Membership continues to be very strong and is now at a new record level of 130 members, up by 5 members from the previous record level of 125 for 2020-21. The committee resolved to keep the membership rates unchanged at \$20 and postage of the newsletter at \$13.

### **Thanks**

A few thanks are in order. To Bendigo Bank staff, who do our banking and take our bookings. To Braidwood Buses, we thank you for getting us to and from our destinations safely. To the Braidwood Servicemen's Club and Michelle Griggs and her team for always having the meeting room ready for our events and Committee meetings and making us feel so welcome.

To Braidwood Rural for kindly providing Garden Club members a 10% discount on their garden lines and for agreeing to continue this in 2022-23. In turn they thank us for our custom.

Thanks also to Kate Chinnick for her contributions to our monthly newsletter, with her columns on Plant of the Month and "What to do" each month and for making our name badges.

The Garden Club is extremely lucky to have such a terrific committee of able and dedicated people who have continued to work as a true team and delivered the excellent programme outlined above, with every member contributing to the successful outcome. I would like to thank each and every one on the committee, namely: Rosemary De Martin (Vice-President and Instagram Queen), Margy Gardner (our outstanding Newsletter Editor, who has been in this role now for 8 years), Chris James (our tremendous publicity officer) Bronwyn Johnson (general roustabout, awesome event and quiz organiser), Leonie Jolley (brilliant Raffle Organiser), Jane Moore (our amazing Secretary), Amanda Scott (our ever reliable Treasurer), Charmian Thomas (Catering Officer extraordinaire) and Fran Woods (magical Web Manager and photographer). Thank you all.

Finally, thanks to all our members for your continued support of our club. Because without you there would be no Braidwood Garden Club. Also, there would be no yummy cakes and slices at our meeting morning teas...

In conclusion, we already have exciting plans for 2022-23. Assuming we are re-elected, I look forward to working with our great and dedicated committee team and the broader garden club membership in the coming year to strive to make our wonderful club even better.

Happy Gardening.

John Tuckwell, August 2022

**BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD 1 AUGUST 2021 TO 31 JULY 2022**  
**AS PRESENTED TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 11TH AUGUST 2022**

	2021-2022	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
<b>STATEMENT BALANCE 01/08/20</b>	<b>\$4,673.91</b>	<b>\$4816.90</b>	<b>\$4,345.99</b>	<b>\$3,717.88</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
MEMBERSHIPS	\$3,045.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,960.00	\$1,965.00
OUTINGS AND PRESENTATIONS	\$3,100.00	\$4,320.00	\$5,220.00	\$3,396.00
AGM	\$3,385.00	\$755.00	\$720.00	\$580.00
RAFFLES	\$1,263.60	\$1,147.90	\$718.10	\$844.00
SALES - CARDS	\$275.00	\$310.00	\$340.00	\$70.00
SALES - MAGAZINES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$77.00
SALES - PLANTS	\$55.40	\$45.00	\$13.00	\$38.90
POSTAGE (NEWSLETTER)	\$182.00	\$175.00	\$121.00	\$143.00
DONATIONS	\$30.00	\$66.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
OTHER	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$11,336.00</b>	<b>\$8,818.90</b>	<b>\$9,122.10</b>	<b>\$7,113.90</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
BUS HIRE	\$880.00	\$990.00	\$2,695.00	\$1,870.00
OUTINGS AND PRESENTATIONS	\$3,665.85	\$3,780.51	\$2,958.00	\$1,931.81
AGM	\$3,019.04	\$1,682.19	\$888.43	\$775.64
ROOM HIRE	\$275.00	\$275.00	\$225.00	\$700.00
HOST/SPEAKER GIFTS	\$228.50	\$531.00	\$328.92	\$192.85
RAFFLES	\$171.95	\$216.49	\$230.70	\$199.95
MORNING TEAS	\$98.36	\$31.21	\$77.37	\$207.90
NEWSLETTER/PRINTING/ADMIN/	\$279.59	\$340.07	\$299.09	\$126.50
GCA AFFILIATION	\$80.00	\$40.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
GCA INSURANCE	\$180.74	\$180.74	\$177.20	\$218.14
DONATIONS/SPONSORSHIP	\$0.00	\$455.19	\$225.00	\$110.00
ADVERTISING	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$32.00
PURCHASE FOR RESALE	\$388.99	\$392.49	\$471.48	
DEPT OF FAIR TRADING	\$48.00	\$47.00		\$46.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$9,316.02</b>	<b>\$8,961.89</b>	<b>\$8,651.19</b>	<b>\$6,485.79</b>
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS/LOSS</b>	<b>\$2,019.98</b>	<b>-142.99</b>	<b>\$470.91</b>	<b>\$628.11</b>
<b>STATEMENT BALANCE 31/07/21</b>	<b>\$6,693.89</b>	<b>\$4,673.91</b>	<b>\$4,816.90</b>	<b>\$4,345.99</b>

MEMBERSHIP @ 31/7/2022

130

Total includes 29 New Members

3 Life Members, 12 Honorary/host Members

7 Guest Members

**INCOME NOTES:**

AGM and Membership figures are up compared to last year due to payments for this AGM and 22/23 memberships being paid in July 22.

Outing and presentation income is down compared to the previous year due to Covid cancellation of the South Coast trip in May and the Floral workshop in Sept.

Raffle income is very health - thanks to Leonie Jolley and everyone for buying tickets.

**EXPENDITURE NOTES**

Largest expenses were for the Canberra trip, Christmas party and AGM.

The AGM increase reflects payment for last years AGM and the deposit for this year along with an increase to the cost per head.

The closing balance does not include the payment for this AGM. If we take off the 2022 AGM payment our final figure

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE

Please pay at the Bendigo Bank - BSB 633 000 - Account Number 118 346 444  
& add 'Membership' in the reference. \$20 /year plus \$13 if you require a  
mailed Newsletter

## GARDEN CLUB COMING EVENTS

**October 13-** Cooma Rd Gardens

**November 10-** Southern Highlands Garden Visit

**December 8-** Christmas Party Luncheon

The Braidwood Hospital Auxilliary Fete is on **Saturday October 15** so we ask you to pot up some cuttings, bake a cake or make some jam and help raise funds to support our local hospital. Many of us are grateful for the help we have been given by our wonderful hospital staff so please give/make something for the Fete.

## WHAT'S ON

SEPTEMBER 17 – OCTOBER 16 – Floriade Canberra

OCTOBER Saturday 15 Braidwood Hospital Auxilliary Fete

OCTOBER Saturday 15- Sunday 16 Braidwood Preschool Open Gardens

OCTOBER Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 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](mailto:springspec@bathurstgardenclub.org.au) For more information phone Chris Bayliss- 0499 049 29

**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>

## 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>

## THE PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Kate Chinnick



**Camelia  
japonica**  
**“Brushfield’s Yellow”**

- Found on the Chinese, Korean, Taiwanese &

Japanese Islands

- Evergreen shrub growing to 3m
- Long lived
- Dark green glossy leaves
- Cream and yellow flowers in late winter to spring
- Shaded to semi shaded positions
- Frost hardy
- Propagate from grafting or cuttings in late summer to winter

### What to do in the garden for September

- Tie Sweet Peas to supports
- Dahlia clumps left in the ground can be divided now
- Plant new perennials & pot on any cuttings
- Winter flowering Sasanqua Camellias can be pruned after flowering
- Feed Camelias, Rhodo's, Azaleas, Daphne, Pieris and Ericas with old animal manure
- Plant and repair lawns
- Still plant onion seedlings
- Tomato seedlings should not be planted yet (late frosts!!)
- Weeds are thriving, keep them clear
- Spray Peaches and nectarines for leaf curl at pink bud swell
- Prepare vegetable beds for spring planting
- Enjoy the spring bulbs