

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

July 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>



THURSDAY AUGUST 11, 2022

Annual General Meeting of the Braidwood Garden Club

WHEN: 11.30 on Thursday August 11, 2022

WHERE: Mona Farm Woolshed, entering through the gates at 140 Little River Road

AGENDA:

1. to confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
 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 proposed to be transacted at the AGM

In accordance with the Braidwood Garden Club's constitution, any financial member who wants to serve on the 2022-23 Committee are invited to complete the nomination form & get it signed by 2 members of the club, and submit it by Thursday 4 August at the latest. The nomination form can be downloaded on the Garden Club Website <https://braidwoodgardenclub.org>

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 11 AUGUST

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 of the gardens at Mona led by Mona Farm's new head gardener, Gavin Hardy.

Proceedings will start at 11.00 for tea and 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.

Booking for lunch closed on 27 July, as Mona needed 2 weeks' notice for firm catering numbers. Members who have not booked for lunch can still attend the AGM, but need to email braidwoodgardenclub@gmail.com by 9 August to indicate you want to attend the AGM part of proceedings so arrangements can be made.

Directions

Entry to Mona Farm is via 140 Little River Road. There is currently no signage but as you approach you will see the pink Coach House building. Please note, there are two gates and the main entrance is via the first.

There is an intercom at the gate which you can press on your arrival and the Mona Farm team will let you in. Please drive through the property and before you reach the small bridge on the lake you will find a car park. For those who have difficulties walking, please drive over the bridge and park by the end of the Woolshed where there is a ramp.

Mona Farm Garden tour

Gavin Hardy will lead a tour of Mona's gardens after lunch at around 2pm.

According to Gavin, his love for horticulture can be traced right back to his first job - working at the garden centre in his hometown of Sheffield, England. This job marked the start of a diverse 20-year career across a number of renowned establishments including The Royal Horticultural Society, National Trust, Tottenham Hotspur FC and of course, Mona Farm.

In search of a cool climate, Gavin joined the Mona Farm team in November 2021. In the midst of Australia's wettest summer in three decades & Mona Farm's busiest season to date meant that Gavin's first few months as Head Gardener centred around damage-control in addition to the routine maintenance required to keep the grounds presentable. Gavin & team have identified two key areas for improvement which are Lawn Health and Tree Management.

Lawn Health

For many people a healthy lawn is the hallmark of a thriving garden. Guided by the advice of Gavin, Mona Farm has invested in the best Lawn Aerator available to manage soil compaction, Robotic Automowers to make cutting more efficient, reduce physical labour, improve the quality of presentation & alleviate the stress put on our gardens by intense periods of foot-traffic.

Tree Management

The health of Mona Farm's historic Elm Trees are paramount both to the beauty of the estate and to the safety of guests. Under Gavin, the gardening team is currently identifying & removing some of the more obvious overhead hazards as a priority, and over the next five years will work on managing the age structure within the Elm woodland itself. When the occasional 100-year-old tree does sadly reach its lifespan, Gavin flips the stump, creating a unique sculptural & natural display and more importantly - securing its home for the next 100 years.

As the seasons begin to change and the weather starts to settle, Gavin is also working on a number of growth-projects including a new wildflower meadow, located behind The New Stables. Low-maintenance & high-impact, Gavin says these are the type of projects that work perfectly for a luxury 124-acre estate such as Mona Farm. Wildflower meadows can survive the Braidwood frosts, respond very well to Mona Farm's highland cow hooves and make for a striking display. Over the five years, it's our hope that our guests will enjoy watching the vibrant annuals such as red poppies and blue cornflowers slowly start to morph into a field of white late season perennials such as Yarrow and Ox-eye daisy.

When asked what his favourite part of the Mona Farm gardens are, Gavin replies that it's 'the mix between the arts & crafts cottage-style gardens and the more contemporary garden spaces lined with corten walls. In other words, the fusion between the old and the new' which, very fittingly, is the root-system of the entire business.

Membership renewal

As usual, the annual membership is due. This remains unchanged at \$20 per person with an extra \$13 if postage of the newsletter is required.

Again, online payment is strongly preferred (BSB: 633 000 Account number 118 346 444 and add 'Membership' in the reference or 'AGM and Membership' if both the AGM and membership are paid together), otherwise at Bendigo Bank or at the AGM in cash. No need to complete a new application form unless your contact details have changed.

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Report on Visit to Durran Durra Truffles – Thursday July 14

By Amanda Scott

On the 14th of July, 25 enthusiastic club members headed north along Nerriga Rd to Durran Durra Truffles, home and enterprise of Dick and Virginia Groot Obbink.

Mother Nature turned on a (rare) beautiful, sunny day for us to enjoy the great outdoors.

After introductions and a welcome, we gathered to share morning tea on the rear deck with spectacular views to the Tallaganda Range. A delicious selection was provided by members along with a decadent sample of truffle served with cheese and bread. We must be the fanciest Garden Club in the country!



We then split into two groups.

The first group enjoyed a truffle hunt among the 400 French and English oak trees with Truffle dog Bella, Dick and Virginia's rescue Kelpie, sniffing her way to several truffles. The truffles were then delicately recovered and had details regarding tree/location meticulously recorded. We all were offered to hold and smell the "black gold".



The second group of members were treated to a very informative session with local horticultural legend, Dennis Dempsey. Dennis had asked us to bring along our secateurs to learn the correct way to sharpen and care for them using a fine file followed by a whet stone to sharpen. A spray with WD40 to moving mechanisms and importantly a spray solution of 50/50 Metho and water to stop the spread of disease between plants. We then moved on to Dick and Virginia's fruit trees for a timely pruning demonstration. Dennis emphasised the four D's for removal –

Dead wood **Diseased wood** **Damaged wood** **Diagonal wood** (branches growing across other branches)

Pruning cuts are now cut flat, not at an angle, to reduce the surface area and made no more than 5ml above a node so that the wound heals faster. Many different fruit trees were demonstrated and details can be found in the attached notes generously provided by Dennis.

The two groups then swapped over before enjoying lunch together in the glorious winter sunshine. A fantastic day enjoyed by all.



A huge thank you to Dick and Virginia Groot-Obbink for generously welcoming us to their home and to Dennis Dempsey for sharing his expertise.

A copy of the pruning notes supplied by Dennis is supplied with the newsletter.

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.

GARDEN CLUB COMING EVENTS

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

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 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://opengardescanberra.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



Helleborus orientalis (Lenten Rose)

- Native to Greece, Turkey and the Caucasus
- Grows to 60cm high and wide
- Prefers part shade in moist fertile soil
- Leaves can be trimmed before flowering
- Frost hardy, flowering in winter and spring
- Large nodding flowers in white, pink, green, purple or rose
- Propagate from seed or division in autumn
- A top dressing of compost or manure after flowering is beneficial

What to do in the garden for August

- Prune and spray Roses later this month
- Plant new bare rooted Roses (soak in seaweed solution before planting)
- Plant summer and autumn flowering bulbs
- Winter flowering shrubs can be pruned now
- Prune and feed Daphne after flowering
- Prune Crepe Myrtle, which flowers on new wood
- Cut ornamental grass clumps to the ground
- Perennials may be divided as the weather warms up
- Prune Jasmines and summer flowering Clematis
- Prune Hydrangeas to two strong buds
- Spray Peaches and nectarines for leaf curl
- Plant Onion seedlings, Asparagus crowns & Spinach seedlings
- Check herbs for dividing and replanting
- Prepare vegetable beds for spring planting