



BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023

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>

MAY MEETING - Thursday 11th May 2023 - BRAIDWOOD GARDEN VISITS

MEET: At Ryrie Park at 10.15 am to carpool, for 10.25 departure

BYO: Lunch, chair, name tag and mug

Last Names A to L to bring morning tea to share. Directions will be handed out at the Park.

The first garden is the historic property 'Garan Vale', the home of John Maddrell. The house was completed in 1919. The garden was once the home paddock of a very large property. Huge old trees dictate the size, which is now 'enough' (almost too much) for its venerable owner/guardian. John's late wife Moira was the gardener. This is a wild old garden, changed substantially over the years, yet retaining the formal simplicity of a welcome green refuge.

We will be having morning tea here.

The second garden is the home of Samara Zeitsch and Patrick Bourgault. Another large old garden on three acres surrounding the house built in 1925. The garden is being renovated slowly and thoughtfully, to allow more light into the house and to emphasise the structure and lines of the property as a whole. Grand visions, artfully realised with lots of energy. Chooks galore. A working Air BnB "The Stables".

We will be having lunch here.

The third garden is the home of Inge and Laurie Camilleri. Located in a picturesque setting on the edge of Monkittee Creek with an impressive view of Mount Gillamatong. A huge vegetable garden is the focus - Laurie is a passionate vegetable grower, composter and seed saver. (If only we all had the energy!). A most productive garden which, though close to town, seems many miles away.

REPORT OF THE BUS TRIP TO TILBA by Amanda Scott

The day started with beautiful sunny skies in Braidwood and despite some dire weather forecasts for the south coast, 25 optimistic garden lovers headed for Tilba. There was much discussion about the weather and we had our fingers crossed that John's Norwegian weather app was accurate with its 0.2ml of expected rainfall for the day. Unfortunately for us it was the BOM which proved most accurate (highly unusual!). The skies grew heavier as we drew closer to Tilba and by the time we disembarked from the bus at Foxglove and Co. torrential rain was imminent.

Fortunately, we gardeners are a hardy lot! We donned wet weather garb and soldiered on.

Lyn, who owns the garden along with her husband Robert, met us at the entrance and ushered us into The Willow house. The Willow House is currently undergoing some renovations but was warm and dry and overlooked the beautiful dam with its 'old ruin' folly.





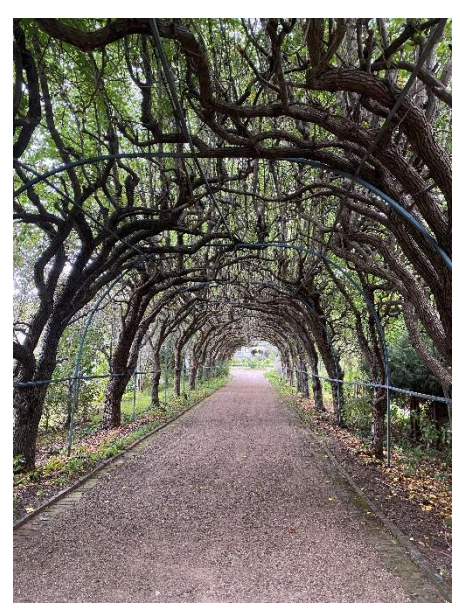
We enjoyed a hot cuppa and morning tea whilst Lyn gave us a brief history and introduction to the garden.

Lyn and her husband took over the garden 10 years ago after it had languished on the real estate market for six years. The garden was originally planted out by Sue and Peter Southam between 1984 and 2007 and is the subject of a book called Velvet Pears. I have this book and it is lovely – I highly recommend it to see the original garden. Sue and Peter Southam transformed three acres of paddocks into a woodland garden with walks, archways, hedges and masses of flowers. The garden was once described as a 'feminine' style where nature had been given a free reign with plants encouraged to ramble and self-seed, creating an atmosphere of 'romantic abandonment'.

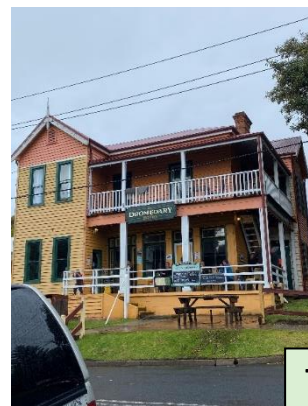
I first visited this garden around 2003 and it was as described above, awash with flowers, perennials, and many beautiful garden structures. The current owners have done much editing and whilst the bones of the garden are still there, it is much less floriferous. No doubt 20 years of growth have created a much shadier

garden and in turn necessitated a change to understory plantings. The colour palette has been refined with perennials removed and shrubs moved to similar colour groupings. The garden has been simplified and given that the current owners maintain the garden on their own, would be far more manageable. The dam has been deepened and enlarged. The 'ruin' now sits in the water and creates a very romantic and ethereal vista.

Entry to the garden is via the spectacular Manchurian Pear arbour. The arbour is 55 meters long and 5.5 meters wide and thickly covered with the mature pears, underplanted with wind flowers and hellebores – it makes for a very impressive entrance. Once through the arbour, we wended our way past the house and along the top of the more formal walled garden and up to where there was once a productive garden. There are many beautiful and mature trees – Apples, Hazelnuts, Figs, Poplar, Tulip, Crab Apple, Oak and a very impressive Coneybearii conifer with its golden, weeping habit. It was about this time that the rain really came down in earnest and had us scrambling for cover. We made our way back toward the dam at the front of the garden via various hedged and ornamental plantings and sought the dry sanctuary of the bus.

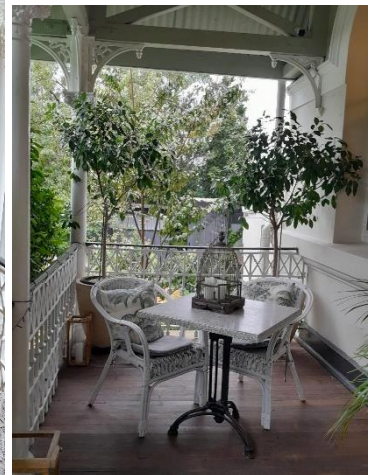


We then headed to Central Tilba for lunch and to explore the shops. We had to miss the local Nursery as the rain was too heavy but fortunately the weather improved and made for a pleasant time wandering through the town. A few of us enjoyed a pub lunch while others went to a café. There was much to see with an interesting variety of shops and old buildings. The Cheese factory had lots of lovely local produce and the Lolly shop was a big hit.

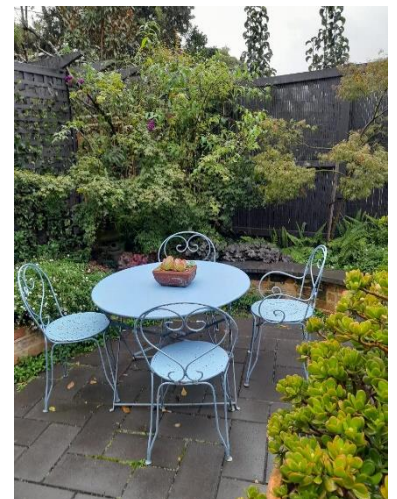


TILBA

Heading back to Braidwood, we were invited to stop at the Post and Telegraph Boutique B&B in Moruya to see the newly refurbished garden and building. The building is one of Moruya's heritage landmarks. Built in 1887 the building was extended in the 1920's to meet the growing population. As well as housing the post office, the building was also the residence of the Post Master and his family until the 1980s when it was privately purchased and converted to a home and B&B. The current owners, Mick and Sue, took over in August 2020 and have undertaken extensive renovations of the building. More recently the garden has undergone a total renovation with new hard landscaping and planting to complement the late Victorian building. A mix of native and exotics have been planted to cope with the temperate conditions that have included significant rain in recent years.



The garden is beautifully planted and incorporates outdoor rooms which provide guests with secluded spaces to truly relax in. The veranda area has lovely potted plants and comfortable seating inviting one to unwind and look out over the garden.



Our hosts were extremely generous in inviting us into the building to thaw out in front of a most welcome fire. We were provided with Tea, Coffee and homemade fruit cake and given a tour of the very beautifully decorated living areas. Mick and Sue were the most gracious of hosts and are clearly very proud of the beautiful space they have created. Anyone looking for a relaxing getaway on the South Coast would not be disappointed with a stay here. We finally dragged ourselves away from the warm cosiness of the Post and Telegraph and headed home to Braidwood.



Nimmitabel & District Garden Club Visits Braidwood

On 5 April the Braidwood Garden Club hosted a visit by over 20 members of the Nimmitabel & District Garden Club on a perfect autumnal day.

On their way to Braidwood, they first visited Nithsdale at Ballalaba where they enjoyed morning tea and Nithsdale's 'park like' garden, with Tim & Janie Lenehan explaining some of the history of this important historic property.

Then it was on to David and Jennie Sutherland's delightful 'secret' garden in the heart of Braidwood which is full of surprises. Nimmitabel members also enjoyed lunch there provided by the Braidwood Garden Club committee.

Finally, they were treated to a visit to the stunning Bedervale Homestead, where Sonia Horan not only put on a show, but also kindly shared some of her figs and cuttings with the visitors.

We are very grateful to the owners of the Braidwood gardens who so generously welcomed the Nimmitabel gardeners.

Our guests said they had a fabulous time and offered to reciprocate a visit to them at a future date.

Some of the members stayed over to go shopping next day, while others said they would be back having been provided a list of all the shops and a map by the Visitors Information Centre.



Norfolk Island's Gardens by John Tuckwell

Margaret and I were lucky enough to have a week's holiday in idyllic Norfolk Island in late March. This subtropical island (about the same latitude as Coffs Harbour) is a lovely place to visit, particularly if you like plants, birds and history and a quiet relaxing holiday.

It is home to 182 native plants, including more than 40 that are only found there, with 15 species considered critically endangered.

Before European settlement, subtropical rainforest covered almost all of Norfolk Island, but the early penal settlements cleared most of it for agriculture. It's National Park and Botanic Garden (declared in 1986 and making up 14% of the land area of the island) and the 100-acre wood reserve now contain most of the island's remaining natural areas, making them important refuges for the island's native plants and animals. They are must places to visit.

There are two garden tours by different companies ([Pinetree Tours](#) and [Baunti Tours](#)) both on the same day! We were booked with the first company, but they cancelled a day out due to a lack of numbers, so we tried the second company and found ourselves on a tour of 18 persons.

This morning 'Gardeners Delight Tour' included a drive by a newly established Lavender farm; a visit to a market garden complete with flower, fruit orchard and vegetable gardens, a home with beautiful views, orchards and a

boutique sheep farm, a garden called 'Strawberry Fields' with a walk-through Maze and talk with the local owner about the history of his garden. Finally, there was morning tea at the botanical gardens. A very pleasant morning.

The takeaway message to me from all these gardens was the strong focus on fruit - all types of citrus, bananas (free where we stayed), breadfruit, dragon fruit, peaches and some poor looking pomme fruit. This is not a surprise, as one of the struggles of Norfolk Island is getting supplies of fresh fruit and vegetables, with the shops often selling out of these by lunchtime. They largely rely on seasonal produce and at the beginning of a season, produce can cost exorbitant amounts (they joked that someone exchanged a house for the first tray of tomatoes) but a few weeks later they can't be given away.

Vegetables were fairly sparse, possibly because we may have been there between seasons, and what there was, was under attack from all sorts of pests. Their gardens also made the best of the native vegetation and were all easy care. Their soil is volcanic and so is rich in minerals but because it is so free draining it is often nitrogen deficient so there is a focus on adding nitrogen through manure and green crops.

The magnificent Norfolk Island pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) is of course Norfolk's best-known plant and on their flag. Common across the island, it can grow as tall as 60 metres. The pine is cultivated as an ornamental tree around the world, while its wood is used for construction, wood turning and crafts. Its seeds are favourite food of the endangered endemic green parrot.

There are many more interesting plants, some of the ones which caught our attention were the Norfolk tree fern (*Cyathea brownie*) – tallest in the world; an endemic Cordyline (*Cordyline obtecta*) which grows to 10mt and Hibiscuses abound, including an endemic species (*Hibiscus insularis*).

Tourism is Norfolk Island's main (only?) industry and they do it well. If you are so inclined, you could do 2 tours a day for a week and not do all the tours – we did just three. Hiring a car is almost essential unless your accommodation is in the centre of Burnt Pine, the Island's town. There is more than 120 kilometres of roads with a maximum speed limit of 50 kph (40kph in the town) and most people wave at other cars as you also navigate around cows which are free to roam on the roads. To get there, there are 8 weekly flights to Norfolk Island – 3 from Sydney, 3 from Brisbane and 2 from Auckland.



Norfolk Island Pine, their best known symbol



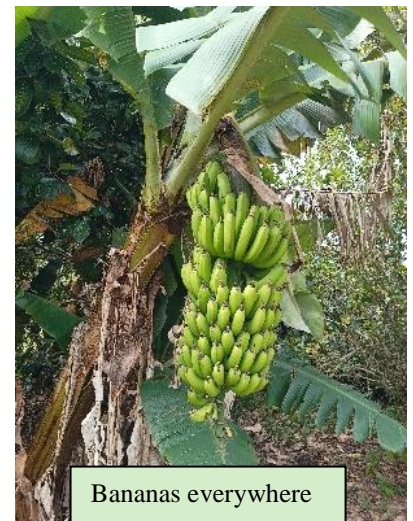
Cycade fruiting in a garden



Endemic Cordyline



Norfolk tree fern



Bananas everywhere



Dragon fruit?



Breadfruit



Hibiscus.



Walking through the National Park



Through the 100 acre wood.



Plenty of lichen - clean air!

WHAT'S ON

OCTOBER Saturday 28th -Sunday 29th

Visit beautiful Bundanoon on Ramble weekend

Wander through eight gorgeous gardens, Browse the plant and gift stalls, Explore all Bundanoon has to offer. <https://www.bundanoongardenramble.org.au>

OCTOBER Saturday 28th -Sunday 29th

Bathurst Gardeners Club Spring Spectacular 9-5pm springspec@bathurstgardenclub.org.au

Contact: Terri Crumpler 0423 709 484

THE PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Kate Chinnick



**Anemone
hupehensis**
(Japanese
Windflower)

- Species from central and western China
- A perennial with fibrous roots
- Can be almost evergreen in milder climates
- Has flower stems to 1.2m tall in Autumn
- Flowers are white, pale pink and deep rose
- Prefers woodland conditions in rich soil
- Propagate from seed in summer or division in winter

What to do in the garden for May

- Evergreen shrubs can still be moved
- Spring flowering Camelias can be disbudded for larger flowers
- Tulips and Dutch Iris can be planted now
- Pinch back spring flowering annuals to strengthen growth
- Tidy Hellebores & apply a complete fertilizer + dolomite lime
- Monitor vegetable crops for pests and weeds
- Seedlings of Asian vegetables can be sown till mid May
- Prepare beds for Onion seedlings in late winter
- Plant new Strawberry plants
- Tie up sweet Pea plants
- Rake up fallen leaves and compost
- Try not to buy plastic wrapped early Roses as the frosts will burn them