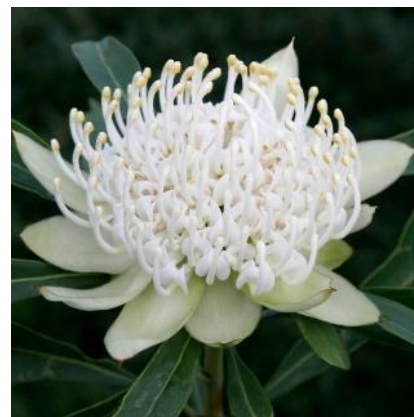


BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

JUNE 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](https://braidwoodgardenclub.org)



JULY MEETING – Thursday 13 **ATTRACTING BIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN** **GEORGEANNA STORY**

Where: Meeting Room, Braidwood Serviceman's Club

When: 13 July 2023 at 10:30am for morning tea.

Members with surnames A – I please bring a plate of lunch to share.

Please wear your name tag.

Georgeanna Story has lived in the Braidwood region for 25 years. She is an ecologist with a background in pest research and wildlife management. She runs her own business 'ScatsAbout' working predominantly in wildlife surveys and dietary studies. She is also at the tail end of her PhD in Wombat Ecology. From the bird perspective, she works for Landcare and LLS on woodland bird revegetation projects locally and across the Monaro. <http://www.scatsabout.com.au>

Report on the Propagation Talk by Tracey Bool - June 8

by Rose de Martin

Lots of apologies and rather miserable cold damp weather - but insufficient rain - meant that it was a very intimate group of twelve or so members who attended the very informative talk on Propagation by Tracey Bool at the Serviceman's Club.

Tracey spoke to us in June last year, and was welcomed back this year to give us the gen on her extensive knowledge of this subject. Indeed, she works as a Propagation officer at Yarralumla nursery, so her knowledge is well-founded and utilised.

The most common methods of plant propagation are, seed saving, division and cuttings and layering. It saves time and money and is better for the environment - home grown uses less fertiliser and reuses plastic pots and containers etc. - it also allows more choice as plant fads come and go, new from old in multiples makes good sense.

Seed saving is especially important with vegetable and ornamental flowers, allowing the grower to choose the healthiest and most vigorous or prolific, the best colour and habit and size plant whatever their preference, for their particular garden or climate. (Caution is advised though with cucurbits, ie cucumbers, pumpkins, zucchini etc as they tend to cross-pollinate and can result in strange or poor crops). Seed saving allows diversity of seed, one can choose more specifically plants that are more pest or cold resistant or are a 'happy' variation on parent type.

Some hard seeds require scarification, abrasion or nicking of the seeds surface, to start or hasten germination. Some require fire or heat to open seed pods or cones to release seeds and start growth eg pines and eucalyptus. Some plants require stratification to replicate a cold winter - lots of bulbs - to bring ahead growth by placing them in refrigeration for several weeks. Not so much in our climate!

Seeds are best raised in small containers in trays of special seed raising mix. Sprinkle or tap seeds onto the mix then top dress with more soil and tamp down gently to stabilise the seed. Water in sparingly with a gentle soft spray. You can also use seed blocks, which Tracey brought along to show us, these allow you to individually plant into the ground with little root disturbance. (Block making machines can be bought online.)

Tracey warned us to always properly label and date saved seeds and to use a record book (as if...!) This will help in the future for when you may have completely forgotten what is what and from where and when... When storing, remember that smaller seeds last longer than bigger seeds.

Another great propagation method is stem-cutting which will produce a clone of the parent plant. These can be softwood, semi-hardwood and hardwood cuttings, usually of deciduous and herbaceous plants. The very best tip Tracey gave us at this point was to start small for less disappointment, until you are more confident and competent. For cuttings you will need a good soil mix with sharp sand or vermiculite and not too much fertiliser. Hormone to aid germination and growth (Clonex or honey) and sharp clean snips or secateurs.

The cutting is taken 5mm below a leaf node and about 10-15cm long. Remove lower leaves, dip it into hormone gel and place 1/3 depth of cutting into the soil. Water in but not too wet. They will have produced roots in about 6 weeks on average. For semi-hardwood cuttings, check for roots at the bottom of the pot or do a tug test. Cuttings need humidity and bottom heat (a heat pad or styrofoam), no direct sun and a temperature between 15-20° C. Similar for hardwood cuttings, an angled upper cut and straight cut into the soil or ground by 1/3. These take 6-12 months to root out well.



Abelia cuttings



Hydrangia Cutting



Helleborus Division



Buddleia cutting



Clematis Vine Layering



Geranium Cutting

One of the easiest methods of propagation is by division. Bulbs, corms, rhizomes and runners - narcissus, gladioli, iris, strawberries etc. Best taken when dormant, as they are more stable and can rest into position, ready for spring.

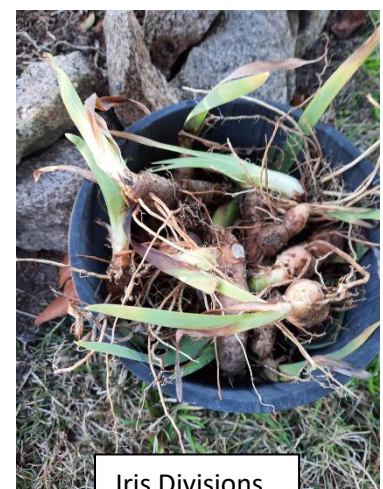
Layering is another clone method, esp. for roses, fruit trees with long canes and vines. To do this, nick a little piece from the outside of the stem to reveal the cambian layer. Place this section onto the ground or into a pot of soil mix, secure well and a few months later (hopefully) roots will have developed. This can then be cut from the parent plant.

Tips and tricks.

- * do your homework
- * record details (plant id, water, soil and position needs)
- * start small
- * store seeds at an even 20° C
- * harvest at correct time
- * use that record book!

Tools.

- * snips and secateurs
- * disposable gloves
- * water sprayer/mister also one with 50/50 mix of water and methylated spirits to spray on tools to keep clean



Iris Divisions

- and sterile
- * paper and plastic bags for seed collection
- * permanent markers and labels
- * hormone gel or honey
- * dibber or chopstick
- * heating mat or Styrofoam
- * seed raising boxes with lids



Braidwood Garden Club Annual General Meeting Notice

When: 11.30 on Thursday 10 August 2023

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 2022-23
 - 3) to receive and consider the financial statement for 2022-23.
 - 4) to elect office-bearers of the club and ordinary committee members
- 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 2023-24 Committee are invited to complete the nomination form [here](#) (copies also available from the [Secretary – call Jane Moore on 0407 150 409](#) to arrange). This needs to be signed by 2 members of the club and submitted by Thursday 3 August.

Please note that the current President and Vice-President are looking to stand down from their roles. All other members of the 2022-23 committee have indicated their willingness to serve again in the same role.

AGM, lunch and speaker at Mona Farm THURSDAY 10 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 talk by Jackie Warburton, a renowned Canberra horticulturist, presenter and speaker, who will enlighten us on that pressing dilemma of '*Adapting your garden in times of extreme weather*'.

There will be an opportunity to walk through Mona Farm's gorgeous gardens from 10.30 and see how they have developed in the past year. Tea or coffee will be available from 11.00. The AGM will start at 11.30 and will include the normal reports and election of the 2023-24 committee.

Following the AGM there will be a delicious sit-down lunch prepared by Mona's Executive Chef Tristan Rebbettes, comprising main meal, sides and petit fours, coffee tea and non-alcoholic beverage (alcoholic beverages can be purchased from the bar).

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

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 \$40 for members (at a Garden Club subsidised cost) and \$60 for non-member guests.

The **final day for bookings is Thursday 3 August**.

So please book now if you would like to go, otherwise you may miss out.

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WANTED

Individual to lead a motivated, experienced, competent and skilled team of volunteers.

Not an onerous role – chair a monthly committee meeting and enjoy lunch afterwards; be the host of the monthly meeting of members, guide, encourage and support the volunteers, and listen to the needs of the membership of a joyful and vibrant club.

Option available for one year's training in the role as Deputy, before coming team leader.

Anyone who is interested and would like further information, please contact John Tuckwell on 0408 625 156.

BINDII

Bindii is the common name for several flat growing plant species producing burrs, in this case Caltrop (*Tribulus terrestris*). Caltrop produces particularly nasty burrs, which can pierce feet, thongs, even bike tyres! It is a low-growing, spreading weed. Fern-like leaves (similar to carrot leaves) are attached to stems which grow from the centre in a rosette form. Plants generally grow 4 cm in diameter and are covered in fine hairs. Flowers are very small (3 mm) and are a greenish-yellow. Seeds are light-brown, flattened and winged seeds with one especially long spine on the end.



Bindii flowers are produced in autumn and winter and mature into seeds in spring and summer. Seeds drop from the plant in mid-summer and are further spread by foot traffic or on the fur of animals.

From the Yates Garden Guide

What Weedkiller is Best for Killing Bindii Weeds in a Lawn?

To selectively kill Bindii weed, and various other broadleaf weeds in most common lawns - including Buffalo, Kikuyu and Couch - spray the entire lawn with Yates Buffalo PRO Weed Killer Concentrate. For the added benefit of feeding the lawn, instead apply Yates BuffaloPRO Weed 'N' Feed Hose-On.

When is the Best Time of Year to Spray & Control Bindii Weeds?

As seeds are produced in spring and summer, the best time for control is late autumn, winter and early spring, well before they have set seed.

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



Miscanthus sinensis (Eulalia)

- An Asian species
- Most beautiful and least invasive of ornamental grasses
- Various cultivars growing to 2.4m
- Prefers full sun in good soil
- Flower heads, soft grey to purple, are produced in late summer
- Many varieties have striped leaves
- Cut back in late winter
- Propagate by division in late winter
- Has lovely autumn colours

What to do in the garden for July

- Remove flower buds from spring annuals for better displays
- Rhododendrons, Azaleas & Camelias 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 prunings from fruit trees and mulch
- 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