

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024



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Thursday, APRIL 11 2024

PLANT SWAP & SALE- Servicemen's Club 10am - 12.30pm

Members with surnames A - K Please bring a plate to share for morning tea.

All Garden Club members are invited to come along and bring potted plants to **swap/sell** - as well as unpotted succulents, bulbs, corms and tubers - ideally, labelled with basic horticultural notes for the species. Other items could include home produce (jams and pickles?), saved seeds, non-plastic pots, tools, books and other gardening-related items.

This is your opportunity to **swap /sell** your surplus plants, perhaps buy a different species, sell any unwanted tools and gardening books, or simply give them away to a good home.

REMEMBER: The success of this event depends on you (our members) contributing as many attractive, saleable items as possible. If insufficient or poor quality stock is on sale, we'll have very disappointed customers!!

\$2 at door entry for BGC members (if you wish to bring a friend, **non-members** as usual must pay a further **\$5 to cover insurance**).

Have a look around while waiting for others to arrive..... but no selling/swapping before everyone has had a chance to look .

Sellers please label plant species clearly!

We suggest that sellers charge a fair/reasonable price, not necessarily a "commercial" rate and all care, no responsibility.

10 am to 12.30pm

Morning tea on arrival - Members with surnames A - K Please bring a plate to share. The sell/buy/swap will happen at 10.30, after morning tea.

Raffle as per usual (Leonie)

**** Both sellers and buyers please bring cash in small denominations – we aren't a bank!**

NOTE: SELLERS MUST TAKE THEIR UNSOLD ITEMS BACK HOME WITH THEM!

2024 Garden Club Plans

11 April 2024 – Plant Swap/Sell/

9 May 2024 - Local Gardens Visit

13 June 2024 – Speaker at the Servicemen's Club

July 2024--- No Meeting

8 August ---- 2024 AGM

Report on the Tour of the Government House Garden

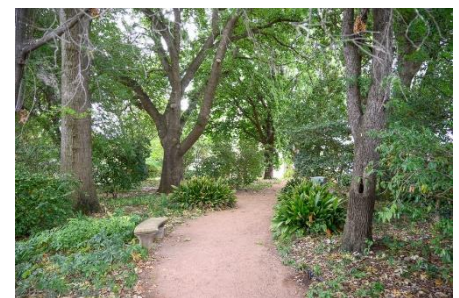
by Jane Moore, with Pictures from Fran Woods



On a warm but cloudy Thursday, March 14, several of us met at Ryrie Park to car pool to the Yacht Club in Canberra and met up with others who made their own way but eventually 31 of us congregated at Snapper and Co Café, underneath the Canberra Yacht Club on Lake Burley Griffin. Some brought their own lunch, others purchased lunch from the Cafe where we sat until it was time to board the MV Southern Cross.

The wind had become much stronger while we were eating lunch, so the table umbrellas had to be lowered and the water on the lake became quite choppy. Our group were asked to stay together on the lower deck when we boarded the boat, then, after the obligatory safety talk, we set out across the lake. The journey was quite smooth despite the choppy waters, and the views of Canberra from the boat were beautiful.

After a half hour journey, we tied up at the Governor General's jetty and three volunteer guides boarded the boat for an introductory talk before we disembarked for our guided tour. Set in the centre of the wall as you step off the jetty was a statue of a naiad and the path led to a walled area fringed with *juniper conferta* either side of the wall. Our main guide Helen told us that there are 8 gardeners to look after 12 hectares of cultivated gardens, 8 hectares of irrigated lawns to mow and a total of 54 hectares (133 acres) of land. The building and grounds have been transformed since a farmhouse was built in the 1830s and Government House is now the official residence of the Governor-General.



Different governor generals (and sometimes their wives) have added different themes and sculptures to the gardens. A sculpture of the Australian coat of arms, and the Heroes Garden are just two examples. Marilyn Carle, one of our club members who was a floral artist at the mansion, told me that they sourced most of their materials for the floral art from the large gardens. After a delightful hour walking around the gardens, we made our way back to the jetty and boarded our boat back to the Yacht Club. Everyone agreed it had been a lovely day out, and the rain held off until we got home.

<https://www.gg.gov.au/search?keys=gardens>





LE JARDIN SECRET, MARRAKECH

From Jane Moore

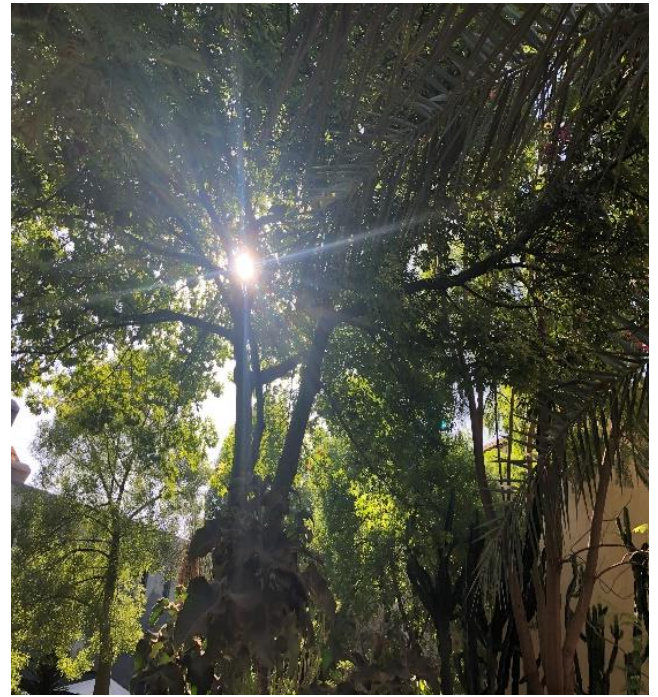
At the beginning of September, my husband John and I joined 18 others, plus Leon our guide, to travel from Manchester to Marrakech, mainly by rail (catching a ferry between Spain and Morocco). We visited Manchester, Caernafon, Portmeirion, London, Clermont-Ferrand, Nimes, Perpignan, Zaragoza, Valencia, Cordoba, Algeciras, Gibraltar, Tangier, Fez and Marrakech. We were very lucky to go to Marrakech as an earthquake had struck there less than 4 weeks before. We saw so many wonderful things on the journey, but as we are a garden club, I thought I would tell you about a special garden in Marrakech.



From the hustle and bustle and the earthquake damage of the medina in Marrakech, we walked through a door into a haven of peace and quiet.

We had walked into the courtyard of a riad (a traditional manor house) and the centre of the riad is always a garden with high windowless walls to keep out the noise of the medina.



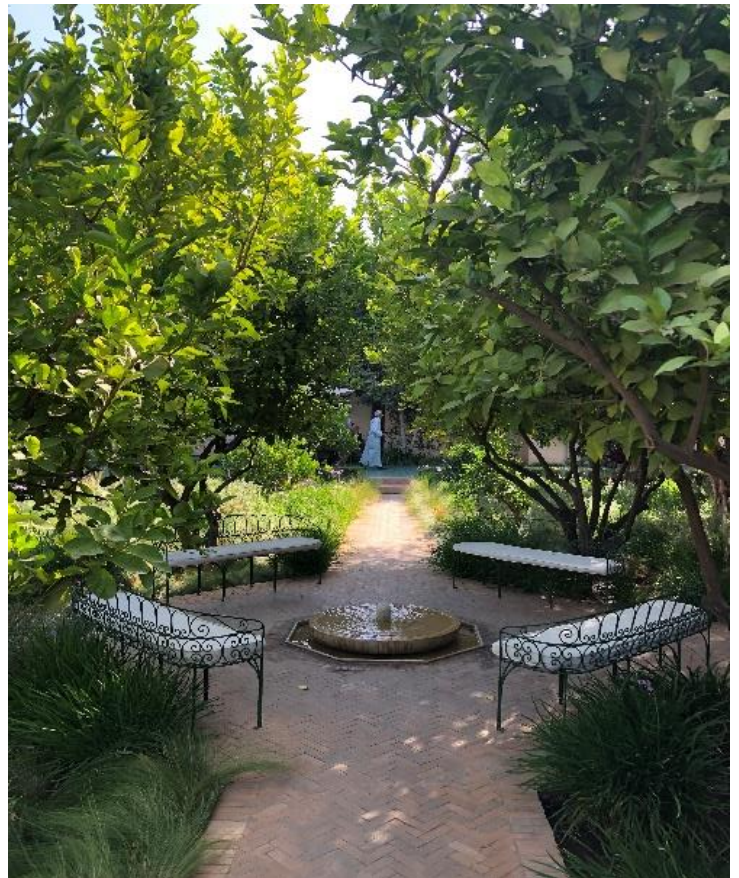
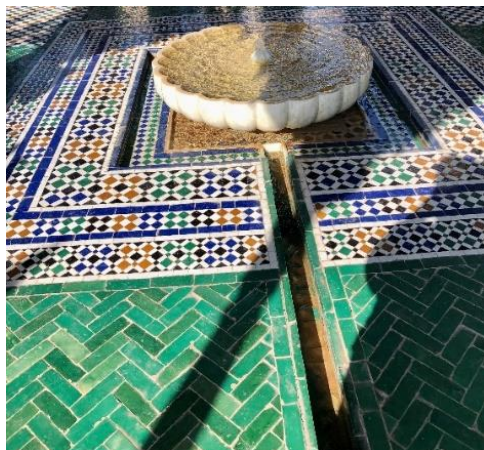


The entrance to this garden was planted with plants not known in Morocco to astound guests as they arrived.

The guest walks through this exotic garden into the familiar Moorish style garden. Water and symmetry are essential for a Moorish Garden and this garden was planted in four quadrants with fountains and sitting areas in the centre. The plantings are familiar to the area with orange trees, jasmine, pomegranates, figs, grape vines and palm trees. Perfume is also an essential element of the garden.

Water for the garden is delivered via a thousand-year-old system of pipes, directing water from the Atlas Mountains into Marrakech.

It was a wonderful experience.



WHAT'S ON

OPEN GARDENS CANBERRA - <https://opengardenscanberra.org.au>

BRAIDWOOD FARMERS MARKET The market is held in the National Theatre in the main street of Braidwood (opposite The Braidwood Bakery) on the first and third Saturday of each month in the morning.

APRIL 6-7 - Rythdale Cottage Picton - 10am-4pm - \$10 Tickets must be purchased on the Rythdale Cottage Website in advance - <https://www.rythdalecottage.com>
'Grand Champion Wollondilly Garden for 2023, Featured in Country Style December 2023'

SEPTEMBER 11 – OCTOBER 13, 2024 Tulip Top Gardens
<https://www.tuliptopgardens.com.au>

OCTOBER Saturday 26 - Sunday 27 2024 Bathurst Gardeners Club Spring Spectacular.
<https://bathurstgardenclub.org.au/bathurst-spring-spectacular/>

OCTOBER Sunday 27, 2024 Bungendore Show
www.agshowsnsw.org.au/shows/all-shows/85-bungendore-show

AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Mayfield Garden's Autumn Festival will take place this year from Saturday 1 April to ANZAC Day 25 April.

The full 65-hectare garden - including the 50-hectare private family estate - will be open for the duration of the festival.

Of course, you will also get to see Australia's largest English Box Hedge Maze, the Mayfield Amphitheatre, Family Chapel, Water Garden, Cascade, Stumpery, and rowing on the Mayfield Lake. You can bring a picnic lunch or book a table at our popular garden café.

<https://mayfieldgarden.com.au>

From the Yates Garden Magazine

<https://www.yates.com.au>

For a glorious display of spring-flowering bulbs, like these fabulous Tulips, autumn is the time to plant. From fragrant Freesias to romantic Ranunculus, there is an amazing array of bulbs to beautify your garden.

Spring-Flowering Bulbs for Under Trees

'Naturalising' is the term used when bulbs are planted under trees or in a lawn and left from one season to the next. Bluebells, Freesias, Daffodils, Jonquils, Sparaxis, Star of Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum umbellatum*) and Ixias are some of the favourites used in this way. Flowers can be trimmed off as soon as they have finished but leaves must be allowed to die down naturally. When grown in a lawn, this means waiting until the leaves have turned brown before mowing. In climates where the lawn grows vigorously in spring it is challenging to have bulbs naturalised in the lawn, so planting them in a separate garden bed or in a mulched area under trees is best.

Popular Spring-Flowering Bulbs

There is a spectacular range of spring-flowering bulbs to choose from, as well as almost countless varieties with different flower types and colours. We're spoilt for choice! Some of the most popular spring flowering bulbs include Ranunculus, Tulips, Daffodils, Narcissus Daffodils (Jonquils), Dutch Iris, Crocus, Freesias, Snowflakes, Hyacinths, Anemones, Ixias, Grape Hyacinths, Bluebells and Sparaxis.

THE PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Kate Chinnick



Mespilus

Germanica

(Medlar)

- Large shrub or small tree to 6m
- Dull green leaves are felty underneath
- Leaves turn red and yellow in Autumn
- White flowers in spring followed by round brown fruit
- Astringent fruit only edible when slightly rotted
- Prefers a good soil sheltered from strong winds
- Good ornamental tree
- Propagate from seed in Autumn or grafting in late summer
- Good cultivars – “Breda Giant”, “Dutch” & “Large Russian”

What to do in the garden for April

- Trim evergreen shrubs so they recover before winter
- Choose trees for autumn colour
- Good time to plant or move Camellias, Rhodo's & Azaleas
- Look for Liliium, Hippeastrum & Sprekelia Bulbs
- Complete planting of spring bulbs
- Tidy leaves of Hellebores, Winter Iris & Aquilegias
- Sow Asian Greens, Broad Beans & Peas
- Plant all Brassicas (cover with fine netting against white butterflies, old lace curtains ideal!)
- Remove all old leaves from Strawberries (put in garbage)
- Remove 3 year old Strawberries & replace with new stock
- Repot herbs and pot plants with new potting mix
- Pick up any fallen fruit & dispose of if diseased