

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024

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THURSDAY, JUNE 13 MEETING

Braidwood Servicemen's Club Meeting Room at 10am

A Talk by John Tuckwell

'A MEANDER THROUGH SOME GARDENS IN BRITAIN'

Would those members with last names A-K please bring some Morning Tea to share

Join us for morning tea at 10am, followed by an illustrated meander through some British gardens with John. They will include The Eden Project and the Lost Gardens of Heligan, RHS Gardens Wisley, William Morris's Garden at Kelmscott Manor, RHS Harlow Carr Garden and more. Feel free to add any memories you have of gardens you have visited in Britain. John will also include tips on planning visits to British gardens.

Report on the visit to '3 Gardens In a Row', Nerriga Rd, Durran Durra Visit.

Thursday, May 9

by Rose De Martin, Pictures by Fran Woods

The weather decided to remain a mizzly ho hum, but that did not stop the 20 plus stalwarts from turning up and being part of what was a really lovely day.



The great thing about rural 'country' gardens, is that usually you can't actually see them from the road, and it comes as a wonderful surprise to see these islands of trees and colour and personality... you have no idea what it will be like until you arrive.

The first garden was up on a hill with big views. Kathy and Alan welcomed us with a huge blazing camp fire to take the chill off the morning. Here we had morning tea, and Alan, a wonderful raconteur, gave us a quick account of the property, which they have lived on for 50 years, and told us how hard he has worked in the garden! Of course he meant Kathy, and it really is a credit to her. It has a lovely balance of large trees and shrubs, lawn, formal plantings and

garden edges along the driveway around the house - resplendent with pink nerines now and agapanthus in summer, between conical shaped box plants.



There are little nooks and crannies, and a fabulous walled garden entertaining area to the west of the house blocking the harsh western sun and winds, and at the front, north-facing, an immense deck and views.



They have a splendid partially protected vegetable garden area of raised beds, still producing tomatoes, strawberries, pumpkins, capsicums and more. There is also large potted and prolific fruiting citrus trees, a truly vibrant cerise cyclamen and orchids in pots, with roses, camellias and salvias as points of colour. This is a big wandering garden with a warning from Kathy about photinias - they can be hard work and tricky to be kept as a hedge and some of hers have galloped away to be really substantial trees. Not a problem really, as they are a lovely shape and shade in summer... as always, there is that huge 'borrowed landscape' to look out on.

The second garden, the next property along, and on the edge of the Durran Durra Creek flats was shown to us by its new(ish) owners, Michael and Suzanne. This garden was viewed in its infancy in November 2018, by the BGC, and the growth since then is phenomenal. The last few years of decent rain events has certainly made a difference to all the gardens and the tree growth is especially obvious. This garden is largely set to lawn interspersed with trees and smaller garden plots, a new addition of a camellia hedge garden with a 'contemplative' bench seat. The garden area around the house is relatively level, with the house set off centre to the south. Exposure to the westerly winds is an issue, and a photinia hedge is being established.



Autumn colour from various maples created high points of interest but the grape vine on the west and south facing pergolas had already shed their clothes. The rosemary hedge on both the south and part of the north side of the house was wonderfully fragrant having been clipped that morning. Against the house on the south side are plantings of hydrangea and a huge vine-covered pergola over the bbq and seating area. There is a prolific vegetable garden, fenced from marauders, which has been a dedicated area of work by their son, James. Next to this a potting shed containing 3 miniature dachshunds, which were delighted to be let out to



wrangle us into an adoring crowd. Michael is very keen on propagating plants and has a mini nursery of his efforts. The orchard of course is in recess season-wise, but there was evidence of wombats having been in to view possibilities.... naughty wombats.

The shed near the house has an old gate affixed to it with a grape vine climbing over it, very whimsical. Both garden 1 and 2 border on the Durran Durra Creek, a permanent clean water supply.



The 3rd garden in a row where we had lunch, (despite a power cut,) was my place, still is, and still waiting for my big annual winter clean up of all the non-weeded parts... and this is the thing about larger gardens, there is always, always, something to do in them, something screaming to be done. The BGC had visited this garden at the same time as garden 2, (then belonging to Michael and Jennie). Like their garden, the growth is obvious, except here it amounts to needing a good chop back or chop down in some cases. The gardens at the front of the house had been moved entirely to leave an open grassed

area, the plants were moved to the NE corner, more open and sunny, under power lines which dictate a limit on height. The orchard has received some TLC but needs a lot more, some trees have been lost to drought or excess water, and replants not having done so well except for a white mulberry. (Don't tell the cookies or bower birds!) This south section is bordered by pine windbreak trees, and the garden moves on into the woodland or 'wilding' bit (thankyou Sunita), this needs some serious dead black wattle removal - great firewood - before more thought goes into what to replace plant. I do not want to have to mow this part. From there the garden moves to the SW quarter where is a dedicated native plant area backed by huge 40 year old pine trees and set amongst big granite rocks.



There's gabion rock seating and a low stone spiral of rocks in which a moveable fire pit is set, (there was a fire here too) and from the top of one of the rocks, a skywalk. This 'native' area is fairly new, with a mixed planting of correas, grevilleas, banksia, philotheca, eremophila and as yet small kurrajongs.

Behind the house was a huge old white banksia rose infested with blackberry. This has been removed and opened up a 30sqm space with random plantings, and improved the open feel to the back of the yard which has big windbreak trees of cypresses and pine. To the north, past the hothouse, there is the sunny (windy) area of low vegetable gardens...this is thoroughly enjoyed by the local, well-seasoned with herbs, rabbits! From here we move back towards the front of the house with a huge nicholii gum at the gate and prolific orange tree against the north wall of the house and a white flowering ornamental cherry.





Each section of the garden has views over and through the paddocks beyond.

Thank you to all the garden owners for their welcome and stories. And thank you too to the Garden Club members L-Z for the sumptuous morning tea offerings.

My Year at the Braidwood Garden Club by Sunita Kotnala

On moving to Braidwood eighteen months ago, I was delighted to find the Braidwood Gardening Club as a keen gardener. Managing and maintaining a garden has been a steep learning curve and the club network has helped in understanding the vagaries of cool climate planting and harvesting. Having lived in large metropolitan cities all my life, moving to the country has been a challenge in some ways. It was a culture shock to realise that we could not buy milk after 8pm. Dealing with the Braidwood cold is another thing having come from the tropics! We love it here now and are still learning to survive and thrive in a country town as newbies with no prior connections to the town or community.



I became a member of the Gardening Club last year and dived right in by putting up my hand to become an ordinary committee member. Since then, I have experienced the many wonderful gardens in Braidwood hidden behind nondescript fences. They are like secret little heavens of flora and fauna with each member experimenting with some new plants, forms of composting, growing and landscaping. I've been to places in my short time here that I would not have otherwise gone to on my own. I was amazed to see Mona Farm where the 2023 AGM was held, the private gardens were an eye opener and the lovely Christmas lunch in the refurbished Church Hall was a real clincher for me in terms of community connections. I had good food and wine with people I usually saw on the street and got to know them a little better over the games and activities during the day. The visit to the Governor General's (GG's) residence in Canberra this year was a cherry on the cake. An enormous amount of work goes into organising these by the Garden Club Committee.

The plant swap, gardening talks and the range of events organised by the committee have been informative, entertaining and networking opportunities. What we see on the website, the photos by our inhouse photographer, door knocking by members to get access to private gardens for viewings and the negotiations with officialdom for places like the GG's takes time and commitment. The longstanding and highly experienced members of the committee very diligently organise a garden event every month in addition to publishing a newsletter and holding monthly meetings followed by a long leisurely lunch. While it's lovely to meet face to face regularly and enjoy a meal together, my other commitments have meant I haven't been able to get along as much as I would have liked.

The garden club has been a good place to gain an understanding of the complexities of living in a small country town and managing relationships in close knit groups and communities. Some of our long-term committee members are moving on this year after years of service. We are looking to welcome new members. Devoting four hours for a meeting might seem like a long time, especially for the 'sandwich' generation like ours who have ageing parents and young adults requiring attention at short notice; however, there are always new conversations to be had as we move on to new office bearers. We need to continue the legacy of the Braidwood Gardening Club by moving forward with the change. Come join us!

2024 Garden Club Plans

- 13 June 2024 – Speaker at the Servicemen’s Club
- July 2024--- No Meeting
- 8 August ---- 2024 AGM
- 12 September --- Narranghi Olive Grove
- 10 October --- Local Garden Visit
- 14 November --- Nimmitabel Visit
- 12 December --- Christmas Party Lunch

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.

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

OCTOBER Saturday 5-Sunday 6
Braidwood Open Gardens

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

‘PEAS’ - From the Yates Australia Website

<https://www.yates.com.au/how-to-grow/peas/>

The flavour of freshly-picked garden Peas is something everyone should experience, especially when they're so easy to grow at home. There are lots of different types of Peas to choose from. There are crisp and crunchy Snow Peas, and shelling Peas grown for their deliciously sweet and tender baby Peas inside. Plus, versatile Sugarsnap Peas that can be enjoyed either shelled or eaten pod and all. There are also climbing and dwarf varieties of Peas, so there's a Pea for every taste and space!

Climbing Peas

Climbing Peas—such as Snow Peas, Sugarsnap Peas, and Telephone pole Peas—will need a trellis or support up to 2 m tall to climb up. A trellis running north to south helps maximise the sunlight the plants receive.

Dwarf Peas

Dwarf Peas, such as Greenfeast and Earlicrop Massey, do not require a trellis to climb on but may benefit from low support up to 1 m tall. This helps keep the plants up off the ground and minimise diseases.

How to Grow Peas From Seeds in a Garden

Step 1 - Choose a Location

Peas need at least six hours of sunshine a day, so choose a sunny position in an area with well-drained soil.

Step 2 - Improve the Soil

Improving the soil before sowing seed will give the plants a great start. Soil improvement is as simple as mixing two handfuls of Yates Dynamic Lifter Soil Improver & Plant Fertiliser into each square metre of soil. Peas do best in slightly acidic to alkaline soil (pH 6.0–7.5). In acidic soils, the soil pH can be raised by applying Yates Hydrangea Pinking Liquid Lime & Dolomite.

Step 3 - Sowing Pea Seeds

Pea seeds are large and easy to sow. It's best to sow Peas seeds directly into the ground as transplanted seedlings tend to suffer transplant shock. Create a shallow trench approximately 25 mm deep and sow seeds at the space indicated on the pack of your chosen variety. Lightly cover seeds and water in well. Don't water the soil again for another few days — if the soil is too wet the seeds may rot before germinating. Seedlings should emerge in 7-10 days.

In very cold areas, wait until spring to sow Pea seeds, as flowers can be damaged by frost.

Step 4 - Early Pea Care

If the trellis or support does not reach the soil level, you may need to insert twigs or bamboo skewers into the soil, next to the seedlings. This gives them something to climb up until they reach the main support. Keep the soil moist by watering at the base of the plants. To help reduce the incidence of fungal diseases such as Powdery Mildew, avoid watering over the leaves. Applying mulch, like sugarcane or pea straw, around the base of the plants will help keep the soil moist.

Snails and Slugs are one of the biggest problems for young Pea seedlings, particularly during damp weather. Protect seedlings from Snails and Slugs with a light sprinkling of Yates Snail & Slug Bait.

Step 5 - Feeding Peas & Pollination

Well-fed Pea plants will be healthier and produce a bumper crop, so regular feeding is important. Once the seedlings are established (around four weeks after sowing), start feeding the plants every 1-2 weeks with Yates Thrive Flower & Fruit Soluble Fertiliser. Mix 1-2 spoonfuls in a 9 L watering can and apply around the base of the plants.

Peas are legumes so they will produce some of their own nitrogen — the nutrient that promotes green leaf and stem growth. However, Pea plants require other nutrients including potassium, which promotes flowering and pod development. Yates Thrive Flower & Fruit Soluble Fertiliser is rich in Pea-promoting potassium.

Pea flowers will usually pollinate themselves before the flowers open, however, you may see Bees foraging in the flowers for nectar.

Step 6 - Harvest Peas

Depending on the variety, Peas will be ready to start picking from eight weeks after sowing. Snow Peas should be picked when the pods are still flat and tender. Sugarsnap Peas can be picked when the pods are still young and tender. Otherwise, leave pods growing on the vine until well-filled with Peas. Shelling Peas should be picked as soon as the pods are plump.

To promote the best-quality Peas and a longer harvest season, pick Peas every 2-3 days. You can also sow successive crops every 4-5 weeks to extend your harvest window.

How to Grow Peas From Seeds in a Pot

Climbing varieties such as Snow Peas and Sugarsnap Peas are ideal for growing in containers, as are dwarf Peas like Yates 'Earlicrop Massey'. Climbing Peas will require a trellis, pyramid, or tepee, while dwarf 'Earlicrop Massey' can grow without support.

Step 1 - Choose a Pot & Location

Choose a pot or trough at least 40-50 cm wide and 20 cm deep. Position in full sun in a wind-protected spot.

Step 2 - Potting Mix

Fill the pot with quality potting mix, such as Yates Premium Potting Mix with Dynamic Lifter and water well to moisten the mix.

For climbing Peas, place the pot next to a wire trellis attached to a wall or fence. Alternatively, insert a wire pyramid or teepee firmly into the potting mix.

THE PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Kate Chinnick



**Lonicera
Fragrantissima
(Winter
Honeysuckle)**

- Native of China
- Bushy semi-evergreen shrub
- Reaches a height of 1.8 – 2.4m
- Flowers are small, white and very fragrant (of lemons)
- New dark green leaves appear shortly after the flowers
- Dark red berries come after flowering
- Flowers from winter to early spring
- Easily grown in sun or part shade
- Propagate from cuttings in summer or late autumn

What to do in the garden for June

- Camelias are blooming so buy new plants now
- Older Hydrangeas may be pruned now - remove older grey wood and reduce younger canes to a good pair of buds
- Plant new deciduous trees, shrubs, roses and vines
- Lift Dahlia tubers, divide and store in sawdust in dark dry area
- Houseplants should be moved away from heaters
- Do not allow vegetable plants to dry out
- Prune Pome fruits (Apple, Pear, Quinces etc.)
- A winter spray of pest oil or copper spray will clean up fruit trees
- Shred prunings and add to compost or mulch
- Remove any broken or crossed branches from trees or shrubs
- Rake fallen leaves onto beds or compost - don't burn