

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2024



President: Dot Wilkinson
Vice President:
Secretary: Jane Moore 48421494
Treasurer: John and Leonie Jolley
Publicity: Sunita Kotnala
Newsletter Editor: Erika Mordek 0432 687255
Website [https:// braidwoodgardenclub.org](https://braidwoodgardenclub.org)
Instagram: [braidwoodgardenclub](https://www.instagram.com/braidwoodgardenclub)

President's Report: 2024 AGM - CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

This year as Vice President, not wanting to stand as President, but taking on the duties, as written.

Due in part to a much reduced number of Committee members, we have changed the way we do some things. We've decided not to be involved in some aspects of the wider Braidwood community - and yet remain a conduit. That is, letting you the members know of them. Some things have resolved themselves naturally and now no longer require our attention.

As individual members (gardeners), some of us continue to assist at various places around town - at the Multipurpose Centre (the old Hospital) gardens, the Flower Section at the Braidwood Show, the Sensory Garden in Ryrie Park and at the Hospital Auxiliary Fete in September.

Our previous AGM was held at Mona, who have always been most gracious with a raffle/lucky door prize of a night's accommodation in the Mona 'stables'. We also had a guest speaker from Canberra, the illustrious Jackie Warburton - and a changing of the guard, with John Tuckwell standing down as president.

In September our speaker Georgeanna Story shared a most relevant subject "Attracting Birds to your Garden". To care for birds is to care for our landscapes and for ourselves. For example, healthy bird communities remove large numbers of foliage gobbling insects, thereby helping to maintain vital vegetation in gardens and on farms.

In October, Bronwyn organized visits to five domestic gardens in Braidwood. These were extraordinary - firstly three in a row, then two separate locations - and none near alike. It's always fascinating to see a garden defined by area, needs and wants - some purely decorative, some planted for the kitchen, or for birds, inspiration and relaxation.

November was organized by Chris - who although she was no longer a committee member, stoically continued on 'as a job'. Three lovely Mongarlowe gardens - one with a memorable glyphosated" lawn - (which we hope has recovered, Bob!) A lesson in where you keep your chemicals and correct labelling...

December was our Christmas Party, held at the newly refurbished Anglican Sunday school Hall, with Vanilla Catering (excellent as always). This was well attended, great fun as usual and an important end of year event, very social, and the quiz brilliant.

In January we have no event or outing, however during this time our Treasurer (Amanda) left us, moving to Gerringong. We miss her and wish her well. She not only brought another age group and district (Nerriga) demographic, as well as her amazing leonine hair! (we were now down by three committee members...).

In February, Sue Tuisk presented a wonderful workshop on "Gardening as we age'-for example, how to protect ourselves by stretching and warming up before gardening. This was great fun and very informative.

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2024

In March Jane organised a fabulous day in Canberra. Car-pooling we arrived at Canberra Yacht Club in time to order and eat lunch before embarking on the ferry to take us to the Governor General's garden across the lake. We had a lovely stroll, led by our guides before returning on the ferry - another relaxing ride back to the Yacht Club. All who attended thought this had been a most relaxing and enjoyable day.

April - due to an 'almost' organized trip not being able to go ahead, we decided to hold a "Buy-Swap-Sell Plants" day at the Club. Despite early fears of this being a 'tizzer', it was the opposite - especially when so much plant material was given away. This being deemed a success, it is worthy of a repeat performance. (The European Wasps also enjoyed our morning tea....).

May -The weather conspired against this visit being more well-attended at the three-in-a- row rural gardens on the Nerriga Road, Durran Durra. It is amazing being able to see such interesting gardens that, as you drive along the road, you don't even know exist.

June - We had John Tuckwell present a wonderful account of the gardens of Britain which Margaret and he have visited. This was very interactive, with questions to John from the audience as he went along. Very informative, with lots of pictures.

July - We decided on a Winter Recess this year.

AGM - Our Annual General Meeting had been planned, as you are aware, originally at Garan Vale Woolshed. This was cancelled, so here we are! These sort of glitches appear from time to time, and it is a credit to committee members to be able to see past this and reorganize another venue and catering solutions.

The Committee continues to plan ahead and indeed, all months up until February 2025 have been planned at this stage.

For those of you considering joining the Committee today, this is a huge bonus, as it will allow you to ease into how the Committee works, without taking on too much responsibility. The tasks are not arduous, though with reduced numbers on the Committee, it was beginning to feel a bit like a job. All of us have other responsibilities and commitments to family and organisations, as do most of you. That said, it is voluntary, and has great value in a community as small as Braidwood.

Our membership continues to be strong -though a little down on previous record levels (when we jokingly said we would have to cap numbers, like they do in Goulburn). Membership cost has remained the same, at \$20 per annum, though due to the increasing price of everything, the charge for printing and mailing out a few newsletters in hard copy has risen to \$30 a year.

There are quite a few thank-you to be made:

- Bendigo Bank, for their continuing help in taking bookings directly and doing our banking. The staff are fabulous, as we all know.
- Braidwood Servicemen's Club and staff, especially recently-retired Michelle Griggs, Scott and Anjali, who are always welcoming - Committee meetings are held there each month, as well as some events.
- Braidwood Buses, for getting us to and from destinations safely whenever we need them.
- Braidwood Rural/Mitre 10 for providing our members with 10% discount on various garden products.
- Clare at Bunyip Jungle for providing plants or gift vouchers for us.
- Kate Chinnick for her monthly contributions to the newsletter - she is a Life Member of our club, and we hope to continue to enjoy these until life's end ! 'Plant of the Month' is an invaluable section of the newsletter. Kate also makes our name tags.
- Vanilla Catering - fabulous food, exemplary staff and attention.

To our committee members...

Committee members: Fran Woods, Jenny Sutherland, Chris James, Bronwyn Johnson

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2024

Thank you for putting up with me as the 'not the President' Vice President - I am sure the incoming President, whoever they are, will bring a little more stability. I am retiring, not from the Club, but from the Committee.

Margy Gardner - our outstanding Newsletter Editor/constructor, is also retiring. We will miss her! Our newsletter is a vital source of information and enjoyment for our members. Not easy to replace...

Fran Woods - another hugely important Committee member. She is not only our 'Braidwood Garden Club' website manager and configurer, virus and snarl wrangler, diligent updater of the website ... but she has also taken on the job of Treasurer again, since Amanda left. Fran takes all the photos for the website and has cards made for sale for the Club. A huge effort - thank you, Fran.

Jane Moore - our indomitable Secretary whom we cannot do without - Jane is our minute-taker, agenda compiler and gentle reminder of things we forget to do. A fabulous storehouse of information.

Charmian Thomas - our brilliant catering officer, transporter of urn and tea/coffee break necessities. We would be left gasping for a cuppa if not for her.

Leonie Jolley - our raffle organizer- sounds a bit frilly but without that, an important revenue source would be lost from the Club. Raffle income helps subsidise bus trips, gifts for guest speakers and so on.

Bronwyn Johnson- has a brilliant ability to turn the most ordinary plant into an "I want one of those" with her articles in the newsletter. She also organizes events and helps me compile the Xmas Quiz - which will continue for the moment (stop groaning, it's fun, remember?).

Sunita Kotnala - our newest Committee member, handles the outside publicity. She is unable to be with us today but assures us she will be fully on board on her return.

** An especially enormous thank-you to all the people who open their gardens and homes to us with such warm welcomes. We are very very grateful

And to you, our Garden Club members, thank you for your continuing support - and for providing those extraordinary morning teas for our meetings.

Gardeners are wonderful optimists - resilient against all odds, continuing to grow plants in adversity, persistent in the face of the death of a loved plant or tree. We salute you!

Please put your hand up to be part of the Committee that makes all this possible. Thank you all!



BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2024

Braidwood Garden Club -Next Committee Meeting

When: Wednesday 18 September 2024

Where: Braidwood Servicemen's Club

Time: 10am

Members are invited to attend. Hear how the committee makes decisions, have a say, however you cannot vote. And then join in for lunch afterwards.

2024 Garden Club Planned activities

- 12 September: Narranghi Olive Grove
- 10 October: Local Garden Visit
- 14 November: Nimmitabel Visit
- 12 December: Christmas Party Lunch
- No meeting in January 2025
- 13 February 2025 – Permaculture - Sunita

The Hospital Auxiliary Fete needs your plants

Saturday 12 October 2024

Now is the season for dividing and moving plants. And it will also be the season for fetes and street stalls.

Please spare a moment to pot up extra plants or take cuttings for the Hospital Auxiliary Fete this October. The fete is on Saturday 12th October. Plants can be left at the National Theatre on Friday 11 October, or if you are coming to town earlier you can leave them along the cement path in front of my house at 35 Coronation Ave (aka the happy yellow house)

Narranghi Olive Grove

12 September 2024

For our September excursion we will be visiting 2 great properties, Hazelwood and Narranghi Olive Grove.

Members are to meet at Ryrie Park at 9.45am. Bring some lunch and a chair. Having your name badges also is a help and perhaps some gumboots or wet weather shoes.

Morning tea to be provided by members whose names start with L-Z.

So says Leonie



Useful Books:

I'm always looking at books and magazines to get ideas. IF you have a favourite please email it to me for inclusion in this column.

Jackie French:

Best of Jackie French's Garden is a 'best of' which starts in the soil with how to plant and grow and then goes inside the house with practical and delightful ideas for cooking and using your home-grown produce

Belconnen Garden Club to visit Braidwood in October

This Canberra Club is looking forward to visiting some of our gardens. They will likely arrive around 10 am and I believe they will be visiting Jenny and David's Sutherland's garden. Jenny has kindly offered Braidwood Garden Club members an opportunity to walk through their vast park and also to meet with the Canberra Club. Please contact Jenny at j.sutherland4@bigpond.com

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2024

Community Garden News

The Braidwood Community Garden was set up by members of Braidwood Urban Landcare group at least 15 years ago. Now it's main workers are Maggie Moore, (tip duty) Sunita Kotnala (general of promotion) and Erika Mordek (maintenance ie lawn mowing). Recently the Bakery Boys have taken over 3 beds to plant exotic vegies (we hope).

Winter has been a bit bleak in the garden but just before winter hit Apreet and Bobby from the bakery joined the team and their beds are looking great. They are very good at weeding and digging the earth. They are growing mustard and fenugreek and planning on radishes. They want to grow produce from their region of India.

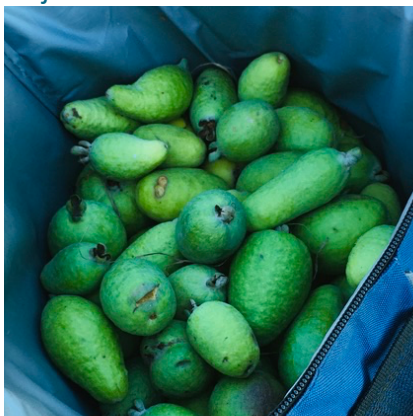
The garlic bed is going well; this year I am watering them as the weather is quite dry and weeding as weeds are their enemy. I am hoping for a large of many sized bulbs. We have lots of Jerusalem artichoke. I grow them for the flower and they have improved the soil. However I need to get rid of some.

Unfortunately the wallabies have de barked some of our young trees in the paddock.

We hope to create a community garden where there are spots to sit and think, sit and eat, and do a bit of growing and weeding. To that end we plant flowers and trees for shade. Our paths are not quite set, but we do mow in a bid to keep the grass and snakes at bay.



Produce from the garden:
Feijoas



Produce from the garden: Globe artichokes.

We offer the community a chance to pick our produce and do a bit of weeding, and to wander along our paths.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Kate Chinnick



Forsythia

X intermedia

- Native to Japan and China
- Deciduous shrub growing to 2.4 – 3m tall and slightly wider
- Dark green lance-shaped leaves
- A hybrid between *F. suspensa* and *F. viridissima*, first found in 1885.
- Flowers are bright yellow or gold in spring
- Fully frost hardy
- Prefer a sunny position, but will not flower without a cold winter
- Prune only to remove older branches
- Propagate from cuttings in early Summer

What to do in the garden for September

- Tie Sweet Peas to supports
- Dahlia clumps left in the ground can be divided now
- Plant new perennials & pot on any cuttings
- Winter flowering Sasanqua Camellias can be pruned after flowering
- Feed Camelias, Rhodo's, Azaleas, Daphne, Pieris and Ericas with old animal manure
- Plant and repair lawns
- Still plant onion seedlings
- Tomato seedlings should not be planted yet (late frosts!!)
- Weeds are thriving, keep them clear
- Spray Peaches and nectarines for leaf curl at pink bud swell
- Prepare vegetable beds for spring planting
- Enjoy the spring bulbs

WHAT'S ON IN THE GARDENING WORLD

- **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**
<https://www.queanbeyanpalerang.com.au/events/braidwood-open-gardens>
- **October 16 - Belconnen Garden Club visit to Braidwood**
- **OCTOBER Saturday 19 - Sunday 20 Little Hartley Garden Festival & Plant Fair**
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/visiting-and-exploring-nsw/nsw-events/hartley-valley-garden-festival-and-plant-fair>
- **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
- **Sunday 27th October 2024**, Narrandera Garden Club is hosting their annual Narrandera Town & Country Open Garden Day. There are 6 gardens opening with a complimentary Devonshire Tea and a 25% discount at the Shady Gum Nursery on the day, included in the entry fee. A delicious lunch is available at 'Bella Vista' with entertainment and stalls in the garden for your enjoyment. All you need to do is come and join us for a lovely day out.