

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

January 2025

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Val Herbst's place in Bells Creek 1997

Editor's Note

I am not yet retired, but it won't be long now when I can join you all on our Garden club activities. One thing is for certain is that I receive too many emails, too much information, and I never read any of them. However I did read Kate's advice last month and I learnt a thing or two: twisting the spent flowers off rhododendrons actually makes them sprout even more. My bush has never looked so great!



Committee News

The next meeting will be at the club Wednesday 22 January 2025 at Braidwood Servicemen's Club. 10am
Please come join in the discussion or just listen. Then you can join them for lunch

Community garden news

You may have heard that in mid December some vandals tore the newly sprouted greenhouse dome. Lifted it right off its poles and chucked it upside down. Why? I hear you ask. No idea. I must say that I did eventually shed a tear, but am even more determined to get it up again.

I've been able to pick an eggplant and some parsley. Gladioli and Mexican Calendula are flowering. And as always, lots of grass to mow.

The grapevine is going well and all the artichokes have been picked; some I have left for flowers as they are a beautiful blue.



I went to Nirvalley Heritage Nursery in Tarago. A lovely Sunday drive Chris and I had. Funny how it always seems so far away when going, but so close to Tarago on the way back.

Peter from the nursery has always been kind to the Community Garden. I got 6 olive trees, 4 leucadendrons and 3 grape vines for a very good price. If you want fruit trees or autumn coloured trees, now might be the time to visit. They will all be planted this week after the last showers.

2025 Garden Club Planned activities

- 13 February -Permaculture - at the Club
- 13 March - local garden visit
- 10 April - Bombay gardens
- 8 May - TBC

Club's Christmas 2024 event

Once again friendship, food and fun were at the centre of our 2024 Christmas lunch. Attendance was down this year due to members being away, sickness and other commitments, however those who did attend had a most enjoyable day. Hope you are feeling better Fran.

Thanks to our committee members who were responsible for the table decorations and special thanks go to Vanessa (Vanilla) for the delicious food.

Not to be outdone, our super quiz masters Bronwyn Johnson and Rosemary de Martin, once again set us all a challenge with the questions. Unfortunately no results are to hand however you can be assured we all had fun checking the answers.

Dot

About the Quiz

As usual the Christmas Quiz at our annual Christmas party get together had mixed reviews. We don't know why ... it's only a quiz! That said, perhaps due to the diminished numbers it was a tad more competitive. But as usual you gave it a really good go. The winning table was The Nerriga Road team and their name will now be engraved (enshrined!) forever on the Invisible Perpetual Trophy. Well done. All tables put in a mighty effort, but obviously one table spent more time chatting and enjoying the social occasion than writing answers. You know who you are Green Fingers...

This year, it was the Haiku that took us all by surprise. The theme was "An insect (or insects) in the garden". Extraordinarily, 2 teams started off with exactly the same first line, and yes, the Blue Banded bee is very cute! But it was not the winner. That award was given to The Dudes who were more interested in ants... and sex! And here it is...

Sexing ants at home
girl ants sink but boy ants float
'cos they are buoyant

Wonderful, huh? We thought so, still makes us smile. They received a gift for being



such bright sparks!

Rose and Bronwyn are (finally) handing in their quiz pens for others to pick up and scribe with... We have enjoyed our time as Quizmasters, and thank you for the compliments and insults, both taken with a grain of salt.

Farewell and keep learning.

Rose De Martin and Bronwyn Johnson

February meeting

The first meeting of the year will be at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club on Thursday 13 February and the topic is Permaculture. The meeting will start at 10am with guest speakers Peter Motley and Helen.

In the gardening world

Click on the link to find out more

February

- 1st: [Craigie open garden](#)

March

- 2nd: Braidwood Show - get your entries in
- 23rd: [National Eucalyptus day](#)
- 26th: [Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show 2024](#)

April

May

- 20th-24th: [Chelsea Flower Show](#) UK
- 23rd: [Orchids out West](#)

Plants around Braidwood



Spiky Eryngium flowers in Coronation Ave



Tumeric does grow in Braidwood



Late poppies in Wilson St



Cactus flowers in Duncan St



Silk tree in flower in Ryrie St

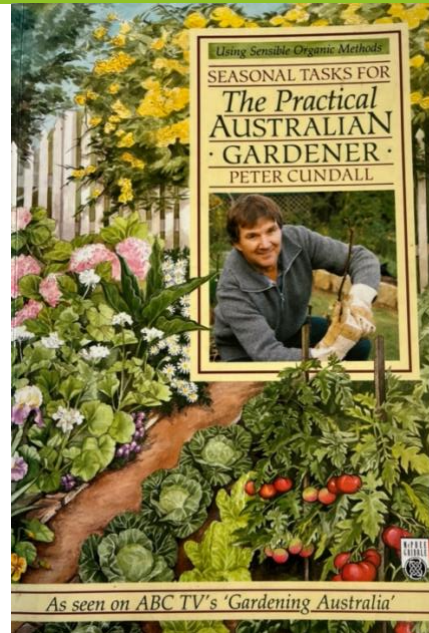
IF you see good looking plants at your location and would like them included in this newsletter, please forward a small photo with description to theboxgirl@gmail.com

Book of the month

This is one of my favourite books. Along with Jackie French's Gardening for all season and Kate's advice, see article below, you will find useful information and a variety of things to do every month.

This is where I learned about the onions: *plant on the shortest day and harvest on the longest day.*

The internet can be handy for sure, but Peter's information does not go out of date.



This month in the garden

What to do in February

Kate Chinnick

- Lift Tulips and Dutch Iris for storage in a cool dry place
- Tie Dahlias and tall Chrysanthemums
- Dead head Rhododendrons, Camelias and Azaleas, mulch and feed
- Sow seeds of annuals for planting out in April
- This humid weather promotes black spot - spray if necessary
- Remove weeds before they seed
- Obtain spring flowering bulbs
- Sow seeds of Asian Greens, Radish, Spinach and Turnips
- Remove vegetable plants as they finish cropping
- Apply liquid fertilizer fortnightly to vegetables
- Remove excess growth from Apples and Pears
- Trim Lavender and Rosemary
- Take semi hardwood cuttings and keep moist

Plant of the month: *Hydrangea Quercifolia* (Oak Leaf Hydrangea)

- Native to the USA
- Deciduous shrub growing to 2.4m
- Deeply lobed dark green leaves change to orange in autumn
- Flowers from mid- summer to mid- autumn
- A mixture of small fertile and sterile white flowers
- Flowers fade to pink and violet with age
- Prefers dappled shade
- Propagate from cuttings



Reminder: all submissions for this newsletter to be sent to theboxgirl@gmail.com by the 15th of the month