

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025

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The box

Editor's Note

What's in the box? In anticipation of my impending retirement, I went overboard with the Tesselaar catalogue. And just recently I accompanied Chris to Nirvalley Nursery in Tarago in order to restrain his purchases. After all we have no space. My order was for plants for shady places, Helleborus, double flowering, Lily of the valley, Heart of a lieutenant, Agastache. I also got loads of gladioli and some Christmas Lilies for the front garden that has more sun. Chris bought hedging plants for the back fence, camellias and some kiwi fruit to form an arch.



At the time of writing we are busy preparing soil and planting. The order came with a handy plant care booklet.

Committee News

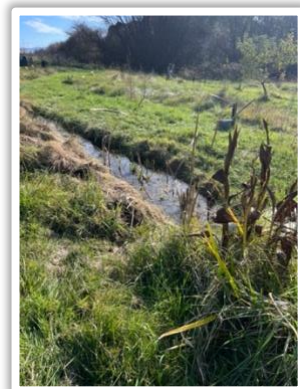
Due to the tardiness of this newsletter there was no announcement of the June meeting. However Committee meetings are usually the 4th Wednesday of the month at 10am, and all are welcomed to join. Membership year now aligns with the financial year. Consequently, membership fees will be due on the 1st July. Members who joined in May or June will have their membership carried over for the next year. The fees remain the same at \$20 for the year, and we don't send out paper versions of the newsletter anymore. You can pay at Bendigo bank,

Committee members: Dot Willcoxson, Jane Moore, Leonie & Richard Jolley, Fran Woods, Charmian Thomas, Jenny Sutherland, Chris James, Bronwyn Johnson, Sunita Kotnala, Erika Mordek

or by direct transfer to BSB 633 000 account number 118346444, please put membership fees and your name in the reference.

Community garden news

Robin and Nic who live out at Mongarlowe have donated some water iris and come help weed. They planted water iris, and combined with the weeding, the water has stayed around the iris. Some beds are being prepared for blueberries and strawberries.



Left to Right below: Pennywort (add the green leaves to your salad, relieves arthritis), Lad's Love (keeps away mosquitoes), Wasabi. I'm keeping these plants at home until the frosts are over.

Pennywort or Arthritis Plant



Lad's Love - mosquito repellent

Wasabi



2025 Garden Club Planned activities

- 10 July - no meeting
- 14 August - Annual General meeting
- 11 September - talk on cool climate gardening by Rohan de Britt
- 16 October - Bus trip to Berry Open Gardens
- 13 November - Braidwood Ridge Gardens
- 11 December Christmas Party and catering by Vanilla

May trip report

20 members enjoyed beautiful weather at the coast. Unfortunately, the Mogo nursery was closed, but members still found plenty to fill in their time. The botanical gardens had lots of walking trails, and

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a lovely café.

June Bric-a-Brac report

On a sunny Thursday morning 11 members gathered to enjoy the bric a brac swap morning. We swapped our goodies, enjoyed a delicious morning tea, and lots of friendship and chatter. A lovely get together. Charmian Thomas.

July meeting: none this month

August meeting: Annual General Meeting

More information in the next newsletter

In the gardening world - [Click on the link to find out more](#)

Garden Clubs of Australia are the site to go to if you are travelling interstate and would like to know about events on your journey: <https://gardenclubs.org.au/>

Thursday Talks at the Australian Botanical Gardens

Our Thursday lunchtime talks cover diverse aspects of the natural world in Australia and around the globe. The talks are aimed at a general audience and everyone is welcome. Talks last for 1 hour. We welcome donations by gold coins, notes, or electronically. The Friends use donations to support Gardens programs and development and we thank all those who have donated. It is a good idea to **reserve a seat** in advance, as talks can book out very quickly. The booking link for each talk is on the [Friends calendar website](#) entry for the respective talk. Bookings can be made about 30 days in advance until Wednesday night before the talk. Please direct queries about the talks to the [Thursday Talks Team](#)

July 1 [Plastic Free July](#)

Plastic Free July, a global movement led by the Plastic Free Foundation, empowers millions of people to be part of the solution to plastic pollution.

July 11 [Queensland Garden Show](#)

Nambour Showgrounds Coronation Avenue, Nambour, Queensland, Australia Love plants? head to Nambour on Queensland's glorious Sunshine Coast for 3 days full of plants, gardening advice and so much more!

17 July Thursday talk - Australian Botanical Gardens

Ryan Odonnell

Contributions towards understanding the evolution of the Australian terrestrial orchid flora and its associated fungi

24 July Thursday talk - Australian Botanical Gardens

Anke-Maria Hoefler

Frog-tastic facts: Bringing local croakers into your mind (and into your garden)

October 4: [Maleny Garden Club Spring Fair](#)

Maleny Showgrounds Pavilion 13 Maleny Stanley River Road, Maleny, QLD, Australia Come along to the Maleny Garden Club Spring Fair at Maleny Showgrounds pavilion. There will be open gardens and a garden market featuring a variety of plants and products from Queensland nurseries.

October: Braidwood Open Gardens

November 1: [New England Garden Festival](#)

New England Garden Festival Barney Street, Armidale, NSW, Australia

The 2025 New England Garden Festival (NEGF) will be held at the Armidale Racecourse on

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the first weekend in November, offering plenty of gardening activities, demonstrations and stalls for gardeners!

Gardens in England:

I have returned from a trip to London and environs. While there I managed to walk around to see common gardens. The English love their street gardens, public space gardens, and many flourish on the sides of roads. Many of the plants were familiar to me as I love cottage gardens.



Alton Community Garden in the local park



The bumblebees are large



Street garden



Volunteer at Jane Austen's House



Garden at the Herschel Museum

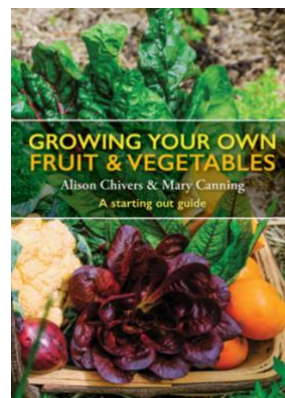
If you see good looking plants at your location and would like them included in this newsletter, please forward a small photo with description to theboxgirl@gmail.com

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Growing your own fruits and vegetables

[Alison Chivers](#),

A new book whose review I found in this month's Gardening Australia. It's good for a starting out gardener. It includes organic gardening advice. Available at all good bookstores, the library and online.



Composting tips:

There is not just one type of composting method, there is open air composting, tumbler composts, worm farms, direct composting into trenches and quite a few more types. Decomposition of organic matter can be a slow process, but this may vary with which composting method you choose. Here we look at traditional layering method.

What materials can be used?

For composting to be successful a layering method of ingredients is important for the traditional composting method. Often what you're adding to the compost pile is either called brown or green waste. Brown waste includes straw, shredded paper, sawdust, twigs, dry leaves, bark chips, potting mix or light cardboard. Green waste can include scraps from the kitchen including eggshells, vegetable scraps, table scraps and fruit scraps, plant clippings and grass.

To achieve optimal drainage for the traditional compost method, start with small thin branches or twigs as this gives larger gaps for air flow and for the pile to drain well. The layers can be up to 150cm each, and you alternate between one green and two brown waste and give it a light hose after each layer. Top off the pile with paper and then water. Some like to top this with sawdust, soil, potting mix or compost previously made to reduce odour. If your compost bin has a lid you can cover it with a lid as well.

Now for the muscle, every week or two turn the pile. The more aeration the quicker it breaks down. In schools, tumbler compost bins work well as you have a seemingly endless supply of children who want to take turns spinning the handle. Remember the smaller the pieces added

to the pile the quicker they breakdown. When the contents are brown and fine and all the individual parts have blended it is ready to use. The amount of time will vary from region to region and what has been added to the pile but usually it takes months to a year to breakdown.

Can every bit of garden waste go into compost bins?

Not every bit of waste can or should be placed in your compost bin. Putting in diseased plants in a compost bin does not automatically kill off the problems. Fungal disease spores can live months in the warm moist conditions and then reinfect the gardens when the compost is used to replenish beds. Toxic plants should also be avoided when composting. Some items like meat scraps, grease, oils, dairy products and whole eggs, will be slow to break down, and larger bones may not break down at all and attract rats or mice with the odour. Kitty litter and pet faeces or manure from sick animals should also be avoided for composting. Old timber that has been chemically treated or plants recently treated with pesticides or herbicides should also be avoided. Invasive plants or weeds that have gone to seed may survive the composting process and reinfect the garden when the compost is used.

Taken from https://www.aboutthegarden.com.au/composting-layering-method/?mc_cid=776327ec19&mc_eid=969234e60f

Kate's Tips

Just in case you haven't gotten around to doing the following in 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

Read on for

What to do in July

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- 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

Plant of the month – Erica Carnea (Winter Heath)



- Native to the mountains of central Europe
- Very frost hardy
- Forms a low spreading shrub to 30cm
- Flowers through most of winter into spring
- Flowers are small and urn shaped in pink, white and purple
- Forms a good ground cover beneath deciduous trees
- Propagate from seed or cuttings in late summer
- Dislikes lime and animal manures

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