

### Directions

All gardens will be well signposted on the day. The gardens can be visited in any order.

### Admission

Entry is \$5 per garden  
Children under 18 years free  
Extra for activities

### Refreshments

There will be a BBQ, Devonshire tea and other refreshments at Mona and Durham Hall.

### Activities

- Mona: pony rides, carriage rides and face painting all weekend
- Durham Hall: treasure hunt for the kids
- Bedervale at 2pm each day: guided tours of the homestead and its rare collection of National trust listed furniture and contents
- The Braidwood Farmers markets are also on Saturday morning at the National Theatre

### Toilets

- Ryrie park
- Main street next to the National Theatre
- Mona
- Bedervale

### Please note

- Entry to each garden is at a person's own risk.
- All gardens have water features.
- Children and others at risk must be closely supervised at all times.
- Dogs not permitted.

# Braidwood *Open Gardens*



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2014

1 & 2 November  
10am-4pm

Four amazing gardens, each showcasing a unique part of the town's rich history:

Mona  
Durham Hall  
Bedervale  
14 Solus Street

## **Mona** **Kings Highway, Braidwood**

**W**andering among Mona's grand gardens, you'd be forgiven for thinking you'd stepped on to the set of period drama *Downton Abbey*.

Stands of ancient trees, sweeping lawns, clipped hedges and impressive stonework leave no doubt that this is a formal garden of the black-tie variety.

This historic Braidwood property, which dates back to the 1830s, is one of four open to the public for the Braidwood Open Garden Weekend.

A work in progress since 1837, Mona's award-winning gardens present postcard views in all directions.

Formerly operated as a luxury accommodation business, its 120 acres have been developed following the principles of English landscape designer Capability Brown.

Owner Rose Deo, who bought the property nine months ago, says maintaining such a large and historic garden can be a daunting task.

"I've discovered it's a lot of work but I think it's worth it. There are not many properties around like Mona and I don't think it could be replaced.

"I have always wanted a big rambling old house in the country and when I saw Mona with her beautiful old trees and winding garden paths, I felt like I had come home."

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## **Bedervale** **1a Monkitee St, Braidwood**

**S**haring the same vintage is Bedervale, a 1400-hectare sheep and cattle property bought by convict ship captain John Coghill in the 1820s.

Dotted among the 2.8 hectares of gardens are modern sculptures created by the sister of owner Sonia Horan, creating a counterpoint to the Georgian-Colonial-style homestead listed by the Heritage Council.

The current garden was first established in 1974 in an informal style, with massed plantings and mature shade trees framing rolling rural vistas.

Standing to attention not far from the house is an enormous Bunya pine, a species which can grow to 45 meters high and develop cones weighing 10 kilograms.

"As there were no roads or signs in the early days, they planted trees like this to let passers-by know that this was a homestead, it acted as a landmark" Sonia says.

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## **Durham Hall** **666 Majors Creek Rd, Jembaicumbene**

**J**ust out of town is Durham Hall, an 1830s cottage set on 760 acres of prime grazing land at Jembaicumbene.

A sprawling lawn, mature shade trees and an old tennis court provide a glimpse of what life would have been like in early Victorian times.

It's not hard to imagine horse-drawn carts approaching the stone steps along the now waist-high box hedges that line the carriageway that these days act as a maze for the daughters of owners James and Belinda Royds.

The garden was first established by Anne Badgery, wife of William Henry Roberts, in the 1840s. Their daughter married Thomas Molyneux Royds, who bred racehorses on the property, including Archer, the first winner of the Melbourne Cup.

The centrepiece of the garden is hard to miss. Standing majestically at the northern side is a

massive Atlantic cedar, its branches reaching more than 30 metres high.

"People often say that I must've loved climbing it as a kid, but look at it, I'd need a ladder to get to the first branch," James laughs.

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## **Solus Street** **14 Solus Street, Braidwood**

**T**he fourth garden is 14 Solus Street, a vision of calm tucked away behind a pre-1900s home on the sweeping bend into Braidwood from Canberra.

Twelve years ago, Cheryl Raper's two-acre property was little more than a sheep paddock and a collection of weeds.

Today it is a lush and manicured oasis of lawn and colourful garden beds, the fruition of outdoor "therapy" she began after taking a step back from running a busy restaurant and the local paper.

Cheryl has divided the garden into "rooms" for different purposes: some - like the fruit and vegetable section - for utilitarian purposes; others for sheer enjoyment and relaxation.

Out front, a towering English oak extends its branches, a stately specimen that at 120 years old is listed on the Register of Australia's Biggest Trees.

The original 1840s bluestone cottage at the heart of the current house was the old Mona manager's cottage. Since moving in, Cheryl and husband Don have added architecturally-designed extensions which marry seamlessly with the original bones of the house and provide a stunning backdrop for the real showstopper: the garden.