

Activities

- Award-winning author and gardening guru Jackie French speaking at Mona Farm Sunday 1pm
- Guided garden tours of Mona Farm with Head Gardener Gavin Hardy Sunday 12.30pm and 2.30pm \$15pp, limited numbers
- Cake stall at Longsight on Sunday
- Guided tours of historic Bedervale Homestead every hour from 10am - 1pm Sat & Sun \$20pp
- Raffle tickets for sale at each garden gate - Win a night at Mona Farm's luxury guest house The Shearer's Quarters + bottle of sparkling on arrival Tickets \$5 each or 3 for \$10

Please note

- Entry to each garden at own risk
- No dogs permitted
- There are uneven surfaces and steep slopes
- The ground may be wet and boggy, exercise caution
- Do not touch any animals
- Do not touch fences (they may be electrified)
- Look out for snakes and avoid walking through long grass
- Exercise caution around water features and moving vehicles
- Supervise children and others at risk of above hazards at all times

Toilets

Ryrie Park, Wallace Street next to the National Theatre, Bedervale

- First aid available at each garden gate



map



Braidwood Open Gardens 2023

Explore 6 amazing gardens
A fundraiser for Braidwood Preschool

4 & 5 November
10am-4pm

\$5/garden
Cash at gate
Under 18s free

Oorong

235 Brightside Road, Durran Durra



Buying a 100-year-old farmhouse is bound to throw up a few surprises. But it's been watching the garden come to life that's been the biggest revelation for Paul and Merewyn Partland, the new owners of historic Durran Durra property, Oorong.

A rambling English-style garden with a distinctly Australian sensibility, the couple say it has revealed itself in layers as spring advances.

Originally part of the 3500-acre holding of Braidwood's McDowell family, Oorong nails casual elegance with its curved buxus hedges, meandering gravel paths and mass plantings of roses, lavender and lamb's ear.

Wisteria, grapevines and climbing roses shade a sunny granite courtyard and two stately pencil pines add a dramatic vertical element to the formal front garden.

Mona Farm

Kings Highway, Braidwood



The history of Mona Farm, and its gardens, can be traced all the way back to Thomas Braidwood Wilson, the founder of the town. Originally known as Braidwood Farm, Wilson purchased the land now known as Mona Farm in 1824 and established the gardens with Scotch Firs, Oaks and Elms.

Today the garden, designed in the style of Lancelot (Capability) Brown, welcomes guests via the original carriageway lined with Poplars to discover vast sweeping lawns, framed by an enchanting elm woodland. Grand Oak and Linden create a magnificent and commanding backdrop for more intimate garden spaces.

Open Sunday only 12pm-3.30pm.

Willow Tree

21 Solus Street



Having moved from Victoria's Dandenong Ranges to Braidwood in 2007, Lyn Slade knew more than most about cold-climate gardening. She'd spent years working in wholesale and propagation nurseries and had created a garden from scratch in a region known for its harsh winters. But nothing prepared her for Braidwood's fierce frosts. "I just assumed that both being cold climates, I could grow here what I could grow there but I couldn't have been more wrong - the frost here is a totally different ball game."

The Braidwood property, located on the sweeping bend into town from Canberra, is one many locals and regular Kings Highway travellers have watched develop. "In this climate, autumn colour plays more of a part than flowers so I've chosen trees with different colours and habits - claret ash, golden elm, Canadian maples and gleditsia."

Bedervale

1a Monkittee Street



Bedervale's historic colonial homestead and outbuildings were built by convict ship captain John Coghill after he purchased the land for 1400 pounds in 1822.

The current garden was established in 1974 in an informal style which provides a sweeping panorama from all angles. Massed planting and mature shade trees provide structure and the rolling rural vistas take in the nearby lake.

The homestead is listed as a building of historical significance by the Heritage Council and its rare historic furniture and contents, including a collection of Coghill family portraits, are owned by The National Trust of Australia.

Longsight

25 Glenmore Road



Dating to the 1850s, Longsight was once home to Sir Austin Chapman, the first Member for Eden-Monaro in the inaugural Commonwealth Parliament. Wanting to do justice to the garden's history, owner Samara Zeitsch carefully peeled back the layers of weeds, ivy and elm suckers, keeping the gems she discovered - roses, flowering quince, granite outcrops - and letting them shine.

Early on, she planted a thuja plicata fastigiata hedge on the eastern boundary and an avenue of capital pears along the driveway before working to open up the vistas from the house to the surrounding farmland.

"A lot of what I've done has taken inspiration from what was there and then just repeated the elements I think worked."

Open Sunday only 10am-4pm

7 Wilson Street

Majors Creek



After retiring from their busy Canberra veterinary practice in 2007, Marjorie and Randall Lemin couldn't wait to get their hands in the dirt. They purchased a 1.5-acre block in Majors Creek and immediately set about planning the house and garden. They began by planting windbreaks, a vegetable garden and hedges; later came a stately curved arbour and gently meandering granite walls, paths and edges constructed from local area stone.

The big trees (horse chestnut, copper beech, cedar, casuarina, London plane) were followed by roses, camellias, viburnum and flowering quince. Dahlias, daffodils, lavender, tulips and hydrangeas provide added pockets of colour.