

# BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2018



President: John Tuckwell 0408 625 156

Secretary: Jane Moore 4842 1494

Treasurer: Fran Woods 0422 181 020

Newsletter Editor: Margy Gardner 0412 616 352

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH December 13th

Marilyn and Brian Carle have generously offered their home again on the Nerriga Rd as the venue for this year's ever-popular Christmas lunch. Lunch will be provided by Vanessa and her team from Vanilla Catering and the Garden Club will provide a welcome drink and nibbles (other drinks BYO), with the cost at \$35 per head. Numbers are unfortunately limited to 50 persons (first booked basis).

The booking sheet is available at Bendigo Bank but do remember that you must be a Garden Club member to attend our functions, so if you haven't yet renewed your membership, this is a good time to do so. Please book by Friday 7 December.

As always this will be a fun event, with Christmas raffles, a plant swap, and a "Best Posy" competition. We will also be testing our horticultural knowledge with a quiz [and plant identification competition].

Marilyn Carle will judge the best posy and reminds us that a posy is not just a bunch of flowers! From the 'Australian Judging Manual', a true posy is not more than 23cms overall, with fresh plant material. Small flowers are more suitable and may be of mixed type or only one type. It should have a circular outline and be shaped like an upturned saucer. Posies can be finished off with a frill of tulle, lace or paper doily or a ring of leaves, and may have a ribbon decoration. So, we will all be challenged to meet that definition! Bring your posy in a jar with no identification.

This is a good opportunity to share the plants we know do well in our climate. If you can, please bring a plant (or several plants) for the plant swap. A gold coin donation is all it takes to select a plant or two to take home on the day.

We will meet at Ryrie Park at 11.am to car pool. Directions to the venue will be available then. If you need more information please email [braidwoodgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:braidwoodgardenclub@gmail.com), or phone 48422381

***It is a requirement for insurance purposes and our public liability requirement that all attendees at Garden Club events must be paid up members of the Garden Club.***

### REPORT OF THE NERRIGA ROAD GARDENS VISIT - THURSDAY NOVEMBER 8th

On a gorgeous day, just after a reasonable day of rain, 40 members were treated to a day out on Nerriga Road in what must be considered one of our best outings of the year.

We began at 'Clovelly', the lovely home of Jennie and Michael Marston and enjoyed their new and ambitious garden (they only moved into their new home four years ago). They envisage a park land setting with a series of garden rooms beyond the main house area. Their extensive planting of trees and natives are still to be fully established to give shelter and create a micro-climate, so the garden is currently fully exposed to the elements and the challenges this present, but also allows stunning views in all directions. Their enthusiasm and energy mean that there are many beds in development which are already full of colour and promise. An orchard is doing well and there is a nice sized vegie patch. Jennie is rightly proud of her rosemary hedge which is the result of growing from cuttings from a just few mother plants and she has many more cuttings to plant out. She is also lucky to have a delightful potting shed lovingly made for her by Michael.

We enjoyed a very generous morning tea in their welcoming courtyard area, thanks to the members with surnames A-L.

Our next garden is at the home of Rosemary DeMartin and Graham Barlow. This was a more established garden (some 35 years) with all the benefits that time brings, having large pine trees providing windbreaks and shelter for their 1923 weather board house.

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>



This relaxed farm garden has sections developed for flowers, vegetable, native and orchard areas. Their roses and foxgloves were looking their best and despite Rosemary suggesting it struggled during the winter, the orange tree on the north facing side of the house looked amazing. Again, there were some lovely views from the property and an interesting carpeted potting shed!



Our final stop was in the garden of Sally and Phil Thackway's property 'Oorong' where we enjoyed lunch in their delightful courtyard. Their garden mainly consists of old-fashioned roses, lavenders, viburnums, dogwoods, crabapples, lilacs, perennials and bulbs positioned among hedges, pergolas, a stone courtyard and lawns. They are having a wedding on the property later in the year and so our visit was like someone doing a half-marathon while training for a full marathon – just a step on the way. All their hard work is paying off, with new beds developing well and the garden looking just lovely.



More photographs of the trip can be found [here](#).

### **Report on The Informal Meeting - Charley's Forest Road garden visit Thursday 22nd November**

On a perfect late spring morning around 20 members assembled for an informal meeting to re-visit Donna Sherriff's garden and Sandra and Robert South garden.

We last visited Donna's garden in September and were invited us back to see the seasonal changes and enjoy it at a better time of the year. This was illustrated by a hawthorn hedge which had red stems in September which complemented the roof colour, but now this hedge is all green. The garden started with three lovely

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

mature trees – a chestnut, a walnut and an apple tree and a very small garden close to her 90 year-old farmhouse. Since Donna moved there in 2007 she has create a densely planted garden full of European trees and shrubs. Contrasting red and green foliage is a feature of her garden, and plants are placed to complement each other in size, shape, texture and colour. For example we were greeted by a stunning Black laced Elder bush (*Sambucus nigra f. porphyrophylla?*) with its delightful light pink flowers and purplish-black foliage.

Her combined orchard and vegetable garden, including extensive plantings of soft fruit, was delightful, particularly a semi-circular bed which has a mixture of herbs and flowers. Amongst other vegies her globe artichokes nearly ready to pick and added architectural quality to that part of the garden.

Donna's garden is on the basalt belt of very fertile deep soil and her beds are mulched heavily with horse manure to add to the fertility and she is a keen compost maker. Donna also has the advantage of the "Monga Mist" and the higher rainfall associated with her location close to the mountains.

We also enjoyed a scrumptious and very generous morning tea in Donna's garden, thanks to members M-Z.

On our way back to Braidwood we then visited Sandra and Robert South garden "Lambing Flat ", Mongarlowe who kindly invited us when they heard about the informal meeting. Their gorgeous and restful garden is 20 years old and is forever evolving.

Robert worked hard when establishing the garden putting in retaining stone walls to create an interesting tiered level effect with little nooks. We were welcomed by a couple of Philadelphus (mock orange) bushes at the gate It has mature trees, with an under story planting of different foliage and shape, including lovely drifts of windflowers (Japanese anemone) and lambs ears (*Stachys byzantina*), all adding colour when there are no plants flowering. The bush backdrop from the rear of the gardens with lovely big gum trees contracts nicely with the manicured garden and adds greatly to the overall ambiance of the garden.

Robert's vegie patch was looking good, with some particularly advanced potatoes looking like they were on steroids!

Fran Woods could not make this trip so unfortunately no photos this visit.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER  
Morna Shiels

## **FROM THE MAILBOX for your information**

### **My Open Garden**

Visit the 'My Open Garden' website <http://www.myopengarden.com.au> for information on the latest Open Gardens in NSW.

### **DATES OF SHOWS**

Queanbeyan Show Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> 2018

Goulburn Show Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019

Braidwood Show Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019

Canberra Show Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### **Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

If you are planning a visit to the show, early bird tickets are now available.

***“Early Bird tickets are flying out & will be gone pre-Christmas so don't miss out!”***

<http://melbflowershow.com.au>



## One of my Favourite Plants by Bronwyn Johnson Plectranthus argentatus (Silver Plectranthus)

In the Braidwood climate it may seem strange to nominate *Plectranthus argentatus* as one of my favourite plants, considering that most of this species are frost tender. However, I've found *P. argentatus* to be more cold-tolerant than generally assumed, and the plant makes an attractive addition to the garden.

The genus plectranthus contains more than 350 species of annuals, perennials and shrubs from warm temperate to tropical areas in Africa, Asia and Australia. They can be grown in shadier parts of the garden, under trees and will also tolerate occasional dry conditions and root competition.

*Plectranthus argentatus* (or 'Silver Plectranthus') is an Australian native, growing among rock outcrops and rainforest in the border region of eastern Queensland and New South Wales. This species is commonly cultivated in temperate regions as an ornamental plant for its attractive silver foliage, which provides contrasting colour and texture in a mixed garden bed.

Silver Plectranthus is a spreading shrub up to 1 metre high, with branches and leaves covered by velvety silver hairs. Small mauve-blue and white flowers appear in long narrow spikes from summer to autumn. The flowers are particularly attractive to bees. In my garden the distinctive buzz of our native 'blue banded bee' can be heard around the plant all summer.

Despite cold winters, I've grown Silver Plectranthus successfully for many years, mostly as a pot plant. In very frosty winters the plant dies down completely but should be left in situ. A few weeks into spring, just when I'm doubting its survival, fresh silvery-grey shoots will appear from beneath last year's dead sticks. Given a feed, water and warmer weather, the new plant grows rapidly and soon fills the pot once more.

After surviving a few winters the plants can become less vigorous. For this reason, each summer I take the precaution of potting up a few fresh cuttings to ensure I have healthy plants the following year. Silver Plectranthus also self-seeds readily – it is not uncommon to find fresh seedlings coming up in neighbouring pots.

Keen gardeners may be interested in other varieties of plectranthus, which all strike easily from cuttings. I've grown *Plectranthus Mona Lavender* (large purple flowers, dark green leaves) as a pot plant, although less robust than *P. argentatus*. This year I'm trying *Plectranthus ciliatus*, which has white/mauve flowers and glossy green leaves. Another attractive species is *Plectranthus ecklonii*, available with either purple or white flowers. Both *P. ciliatus* and *P. ecklonii* are reputed to tolerate temperatures down to -7C.



P.Argentatus



P.Ciliatus



P. Ecklonii White  
P.Argentatus



P.Mona Lavender

## PLANT OF THE MONTH by Kate Chinnick



**Persicaria**  
(Polygonum)  
**bistorta**  
(Snakeweed)

- Found from Europe to Western Asia
- Evergreen perennial with creeping rootstock 60 cm tall
- Flowers pink or white in Summer
- Leaves are oblong with wavy margins 10 – 20 cm long
- Prefers full sun to partial shade
- Very frost hardy
- Propagate from seed in Spring or division in Spring or Autumn
- “Superba” is a taller form with bright pink flowers
- Can become invasive if not checked

### What to do in the garden for December

- Plant summer and autumn annuals
- Remove weeds and top up mulch
- Watch for sucker growth from below the graft on roses and remove
- Dianthus can be layered or cuttings taken
- Finish pruning spring flowering shrubs
- Deadhead annuals and perennials to promote more flowers
- Take cuttings of Daphne, Grevilleas and Buxus
- Remove whippy growth from Wisterias
- Twist off finished Rhododendron flowers & spray for lace bugs
- Divide Bearded Iris if congested, plant new outside growth and discard old rhizomes
- Continue to make sowings of vegetables
- Prune stone fruits and thin fruit if too heavy
- Watch for Pear and Cherry slug - spray with Success or Dipel