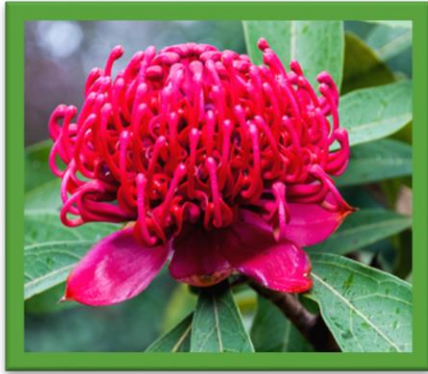


BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2019



President: John Tuckwell 0408 625 156
Vice President: Rosemary De Martin 0439 412 134
Secretary: Jane Moore 4842 1494
Treasurer: Amanda Scott 0404 834 632
Newsletter Editor: Margy Gardner 0412 616 352
<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>
Instagram : braidwoodgardenclub

Thursday 12th December - Christmas Party Lunch

At the Braidwood Servicemens' Club (large room) from 11.30 am

A delicious lunch will be provided again by Vanessa and her team from Vanilla Catering and the Garden Club committee will provide a nibbles (drinks bought at the bar), with the cost at \$35 per head.

The booking sheet is available at Bendigo Bank or you can book via direct transfer (BSB: 633 000 account number 118346444 - put 'Xmas lunch' in the reference section). Please book by Friday 6th December.

As always this will be a fun event:

- Lucky door prizes;
- Christmas raffle;
- The ever-popular and mind extending horticultural quiz;
- Plant identification competition;
- "Best Flowering Pot Plant" competition;
- "Thing from my garden" table - bring in something unusual from your garden or a plant or a flower you want to share with others; and
- Plant swap table - 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.

For those who are busy that day with other events, lunch will be served from ~12.30 pm (please advise if you will be arriving late).

If you need more information please email braidwoodgardenclub@gmail.com or phone John Tuckwell on 0408 625 156.

WATER RESTRICTIONS

Remember Braidwood is currently on stage 2 water restrictions, which means for those using town water on their gardens:

- No sprinkler or other irrigation system, other than a dripper system may be used.
- A hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, a bucket, a watering can or a dripper system may be used to water lawns and plants between 7am and 10am and between 7pm and 10pm.
- Watering only on alternate days as per the 'odds and evens' system (ie even house numbers watering on even days and odd house numbers on odd days and not 31st).
- Those using tank water, dam water or a bore water are not affected by these restrictions. In these situations though, it is advisable to have a notice like 'Garden watered by tank water' at your front fence.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS
Kate Gwinn, Diane Hughes, Barbara & Mike Merrony

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB 2020 CALENDARS

With thanks to Fran Woods, we have a number of Braidwood Garden Club Calendars for 2020 and they are on sale for \$10. The photos in the calendar are of the gardens we have visited and you will no doubt recognise the gardens and maybe see your own garden. These will be on sale at the Braidwood Visitors Information Centre as from 3rd December.

Report of Local Garden Visits on 14th November - by Jane Moore



Most of November has been very windy and hot, but the 14th proved to be our lucky day with perfect weather for visiting gardens.

Our first garden was that of Kate and Owen Gwinn at Exeter Farm. The views from the veranda of this beautiful old home were lovely. Kate told us the garden had been started after the drought in the 1980's. The only things left from the original garden were the trees, so Kate and Owen had to start from scratch. Kate described how she enjoys leading you through a narrow opening into a large garden room, which we saw plenty of. They have created beautiful garden rooms around the house, and paths were you can wander through the old trees. We enjoyed a lovely morning tea looking at the view and chatting.



We moved from the large country garden of Kate and Owen to the much smaller, but no less beautiful, town garden of Christine Dimmer. This garden is a wonderful example of how much can be done with a small garden. The garden was started about 5 years ago, and Christine started by laying out gently sloping paths, and then terraced the sloping sight. She now grows espaliered apple trees next to shrubs, perennials and annuals. To the back of the house is a productive soft fruit garden. Her latest project is growing plants to cover a pergola on the patio.





We moved from Christine two houses away to the larger town garden of Jane and John Moore (my garden). In the Moore household John looks after the food garden and the lawns (dead grass and weeds as it is at the moment) and I take care of the other plants. We started planting in the garden about 6 years ago, and like Christine we too have a sloping site so had to put in retaining walls. The slope from the top of the garden to the house was our biggest nightmare, which we eventually solved by planting a grevillea called bronze rambler. This has done a great job of covering the hill. The wind this year has been so bad that I now have a very crooked rose arbour, as you will see in the photo that Fran took.



ELM LEAF BEETLE (ELB) INFESTATIONS

The garden club has been working with QPRC in preparing a brochure on managing ELB found here (<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>) and a listing of contractors who can treat for ELB found here. (<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>)

Please note that Dan Grant Rural, the contractor used by QPRC, is intending to treat the Council's elm trees in Braidwood during a w/c 9 December and if you are interested in using his services you should contact Dan on 0409 467 240 and get a reduced price as he is already in the area.

If you do not wish to inject using the systemic insecticide Imidacloprid, less effective organic approaches which do not require qualified contractors include banding the trunks of trees with sticky substances or tape (with the sticky side out) wrapped around the trunk and changed every few days. This approach can kill significant numbers of larvae which interrupts the ELB life cycle. It is best done prior to the descent of the larva down the trunk (usually around Christmas time). Commercial bands can be sourced from horticultural suppliers.

FREE MULCH

QPRC is continuing to clear out the creek at the Rec Ground over the next few weeks and will have quite a bit of mulch available to give to our members free, saving it from the tip. The mulch is a mixture of woody weeds, mixed willow and hawthorn. If you would like a truck load delivered or would like to pick up some from the Rec Ground, please contact their contractor, Adrian Brereton from Bungendore based EnviroAg Services, on 0447 447 805

FROM THE MAILBOX for your information

My Open Garden

For gardens and events in NSW and ACT, log in to this website <https://www.myopengarden.com.au>

DECEMBER 14th – JANUARY 12th The Friends' Botanic Art Group's **NATIVE WILDLIFE EXHIBITION**. Daily from 9.30am – 4.30pm. The Visitors Centre, Australian National Botanic Gardens.

FEBRUARY 8th – MARCH 1st 2020 Canberra Show

MARCH Saturday 7th 2020 Braidwood Show

MARCH Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th 2020 Goulburn Show

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

MARCH Tuesday 10th The President, Committee & Members of the Goulburn Garden Club Inc. warmly invite our BGC Members to join them for a **FRIENDSHIP MORNING** at the Goulburn Workers Club Auditorium, McKell Place, Goulburn at 10am for 10.30am. Cost \$10. The Guest Speaker is Trisha Dixon, author, photographer, tour leader & gardener. RSVP: 4th February, 2020 Maggie Snape, ph 4821 6605 margaret2@ipstarmail.com

THANK YOU FROM THE HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Thank you to all our lovely Garden Club members for your very generous contributions to the Hospital Auxiliary Fete. A huge effort was made from the group who went to Floriade to dig up so many plants and all the others who potted up at home as well as the cooks who made such delicious cakes, slices, biscuits, jams and preserves.

It was very much appreciated and made a significant difference.

Thank you so much.

Di Roach and Sally Thackway (on behalf of the Hospital Auxiliary)

Another of my favourite plants: Mandevilla laxa

I was first introduced to *Mandevilla laxa* several decades ago when I bought a 1930s house in the city of Bathurst. The side entrance porch was surrounded by an old timber lattice, which was completely entwined with an equally old vine. Come summer, the vine was covered in beautiful white flowers and their perfume wafted into the house every time I opened the door. I was eventually able to identify the vine as *Mandevilla laxa*, with the common name of Chilean jasmine.

Mandevilla is a genus of tropical and subtropical flowering vines belonging to the family Apocynaceae, first described as a genus in 1840. The genus was named after Henry Mandeville (1773-1861), a British diplomat and gardener. Mandevilla species are native to North, Central and South America, and the West Indies.

My old favourite *M. laxa* is native to southern Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and northern Argentina. It grows as a vine and is deciduous in cool climates. Most Mandevilla species are frost tender and prefer a mild to warm climate. However, given some shelter from nearby plants, a roof or awning, *M. laxa* adjusts well to tableland conditions, as proved by the age and size of my Bathurst plant. The vine dies back during frosty winters but as soon as warmer conditions arrive, vigorous new shoots begin to sprout. Damaged stems can be cut back as it will re-shoot from the base.



Fragrant trumpet-shaped white flowers appear throughout the warmer months. The vine is particularly suitable for training over a garden trellis or arch, although at Bombay I've simply allowed mine to wander its way through and over other plants in the garden.

After flowering, long greenish seed pods appear. When dry and brown in late summer, these eventually open to release numbers of fluffy seeds, which are not difficult to germinate. If planting from seed, choose a semi-sheltered position in dappled sunlight, with moist, humus-rich and well-drained soil. Water plants well during the growing and flowering seasons, with occasional feeding. However, avoid over-watering as this plant does not like wet feet. In fact, although it enjoys regular watering, *M. laxa* can handle occasional periods of drought.

I've always grown Mandevilla from seed, but I understand they can also be propagated in summer from half-hardened stems or from cuttings. [Note: some gardening websites warn that the cut stems exude a milky latex which may irritate sensitive skin].

Nurseries in warmer climates may stock other Mandevilla species, whose flowers come in a variety of colours including pink, yellow and red. Some varieties have more of a shrubby habit, without the vigorous wandering tendency of *M. laxa* - which to my knowledge is the only one capable of surviving outdoors in our Braidwood climate.

Bronwyn Johnson

<https://braidwoodgardenclub.wordpress.com>

THE PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Kate Chinnick



Clematis tangutica

- Long flowering species from China
- Grows to 6 m
- Flowers with clear yellow nodding “thick skinned” petals
- Attractive silky seed heads follow
- Flowers from summer to autumn
- Prefers a protected part shaded position
- Dislikes dry conditions
- Propagate from seed or cuttings in summer

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