



BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2020

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<https://braidwoodgardenclub.org>

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THURSDAY December 10th 2020

Christmas Party Lunch at Palerang Homestead, Mulloon

Meet at Ryrie Park at 10.45 to car pool

Wander through Palerang Homestead's delightful gardens

Glass of bubbly, bucks fizz, or orange juice on arrival

A delicious lunch provided by Sweet Creation Braidwood (Alison Stutchbury)

Lunch Menu

Roasted Pumpkin & Beetroot Salad, Creamy German Potato Salad

Garden Salad, Roasted Rolled Turkey, Glazed Ham

Christmas Pudding & Custard, Pavlova & Whipped Cream

Still and sparkling water provided, otherwise BYO drinks

Lucky door prizes & Christmas raffle

The ever-popular and mind extending horticultural quizzes

Plant swap table – 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.

If you need more information please email braidwoodgardenclub@gmail.com

or phone John Tuckwell on 0408 625 156.

Cost: \$35 per head.

The booking sheet is available at Bendigo Bank or you can book via direct transfer (BSB: 633 000 account number 118 346 444 - put 'Christmas lunch' in the reference section). **Bookings**

MUST be made by Tuesday 1st December for catering purposes.

Given the space outside at Palerang Homestead there is no effective limit on numbers for this function under current Covid-19 restrictions.

NEW BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB WEBSITE

The Braidwood Garden Club website has moved and acquired a new name. Check it out at: braidwoodgardenclub.org

The old website was very limited in what we could do as it was a freebie. Our new site is not a freebie and does not have the limitations of the old site but you will find all our photos, newsletters and other information transferred there.

The old one will die in December but the new one already has some exciting changes incorporated into it. We are open to suggestions on ways to improve it and expand it so use the Contact Us form for your suggestions.

Remember the new name: braidwoodgardenclub.org

Report of Mongarlowe Garden Visits November 12

by Elizabeth Ganter & Others

The day began with members gathering at Ryrie Park to receive our group allocations and maps. As some of us contemplated the collective noun for a group of gardeners on a day out, someone came up with 'meadow', which might capture the wildness of our roadside gathering. We split into two groups of 20, and this report will be very much swayed by the program and energy levels of Group 2, as the day heated up.

Group 2 started with morning tea in Charmian and John's garden at 91 Wilson St Braidwood, with its magnificent views of Dr Wilson's Hill. This lush, east-facing garden is a lesson in what can be done in eight years if you 'dig a \$10 hole for a \$1 plant', or a far bigger hole than the size of the plant.

Starting with a copse of silver birches in the front corner and a magnificent ginkgo biloba tree, the front garden is filled out with lush verbenas, may bush and conifers of various heights. If you're sick of mowing, make gravel pathways and the occasional sculptural rock work for you, filling spaces with feature plants. Down the driveway are azaleas, rhododendron and a crab apple on the shady side, with nandina and jasmine along the north facing side fence. Charmian and John grow, harvest and stew their rhubarbs and strawberries together – great idea – and have a huge photinia hedge underway that will help block out the western sun. Even the ferns in the sunroom were lush, with not a brown leaf to be seen.



Hosts Charmian & John



In Mongarlowe, our first visit was Tim Wimbourne and Meraiah Foley's inspirational Mountain Pepper Orchard. Mountain pepper, or *Tasmannia Lanceolata*, is a cold climate native species that Indigenous people use as a food and medicine for the antioxidant and antibacterial properties in its berries, leaves and bark. Tim and Meraiah's orchard is the first of its kind in NSW. Mountain pepper is new as a commercial industry, and even the oldest mountain pepper orchard, which is in Tasmania, is only 20 years old. After buying their property adjoining Budawang National Park 20 years ago for its deep gullies and basalt base, Tim and Meraiah have now developed the mountain pepper's Budawang phenotype.



The Mountain Pepper Orchard



Three years ago they planted 2,800 trees in the deep topsoil of their ideal microenvironment. But fire threatened their property a number of times during the 2019-20 fires, and on the final occasion burnt all but 30 trees. The juveniles were completely destroyed, but some of the more adult trees are finally rejuvenating. Tim now aims for 1000 trees, and is supporting others in the development of local mountain pepper industry.

Next was Hollow Wood, the garden of Karen & Frank Hansby, with its grand entrance of a pair of old majestic pine trees. In 2010, Karen and Frank bought their 43 acres with extraordinary views of Budawang National Park, and began establishing their lovely sweeping garden in 2012. They have achieved good growth in their young trees with the help of mountain mist. They planted silver birch, dogwoods, Chinese Pistachio and olives and have a vegie patch featuring herbs and strawberries and potted lemon and cumquat trees. On the side of their quaint and pretty home, Karen and Frank have created a peaceful, rectangular garden where there is a beautiful rose trailing over the iron trellis that came from Karen's parents' house, "Yately", in Braidwood. They have also built an impressive shed constructed from the remnants of the shed used in the filming of "On Our Selection" with Joan Sutherland and Leo McKern.



The final garden visit was to Donna Ricketts' place, a picturesque 20-minute drive from the Mongarlowe intersection along Charleys Forest Road. Group 2 was thinning out and not all of us made it, we are sorry to say but for those with stamina, they were not disappointed to visit Donna's garden again (last time was September 2018). She has designed the garden around a 90 year-old farm cottage, using trees and shrubs reflecting our European heritage. Donna started with a very small garden and three trees – a chestnut, a walnut and an apple tree, inherited from previous owners. The garden is located on a belt of basalt soil running through this area with deep fertile soil which holds moisture well. Donna also receives the moist air from the Monga Mist, rolling down from the Budawangs close by. This garden features plants which survive and thrive in our climate. Donna's years working in a nursery in Bungendore gave her access to trees and shrubs selected for colour contrast and the beauty of seasonal changes.

One unusual plant which was looking outstanding was her Black Lace Elder (*Sambucus Nigra* Eva) as was her magnificent chestnut providing a lovely shady spot to rehydrate. Her vegetable garden was thriving with some enormous garlic just harvested and broad beans in abundance, with many different fruit trees and berries that are set to provide a wonderful harvest. One of Donna's passions is making compost and she showed us her huge heaps and described how she makes compost with the help of her numerous chickens.

The theme for the day was 'blank canvas' as we viewed gardens that had grown from nothing ten years before – or in the case of Mountain Pepper Orchard, was starting again from new trees and the rejuvenation of old ones. We look forward to seeing the produce from this rare spot in another ten years, and congratulate all our hosts for the extraordinary work that they continue to put into creating memorable gardens.

HOSPITAL AUXILIARY MINI FETE Saturday November 28, Ryrie Park Markets

There will be the usual array of interesting plants, a book stall, wonderful collectables and bric a brac. (If it's wet, the stalls will be under the shop awnings on the corner of Duncan and Wallace Sts.)

Braidwood Rural

Braidwood Rural will kindly continue to offer Garden Club members a 10% discount on their garden lines during 2020-21.

The way this will operate in the future, is that the garden club will provide a list of all members to Braidwood Rural without any contact details. When you go to Braidwood Rural you will need to ask for the discount and if you have an account they will link this to your account for future reference. If you do not have an account, they will set up what is called a 'cash account' and you will need to give them your address and telephone number to establish the cash account. It is also understood that in the near future there will be new 2.2m shelving at Braidwood Rural which will significantly increase the number of garden lines they will carry.

Another in the Series 'Uncommon Natives' MYOPORUM FLORIBUNDUM (Weeping Myoporum) by Bronwyn Johnson

Although uncommon, *Myoporum floribundum** occurs naturally on the coastal ranges of southern NSW and Victoria. In NSW the species has been reported below Jenolan Caves and near the Nepean River growing in sclerophyll forest. In Victoria it has been found in the Upper Snowy River and Deddick River valleys where it grows in woodland on steep gravelly slopes.

(Gardeners may be more familiar with its relative *Myoporum parvifolium*, a popular native ground cover).

A slender, fragrant shrub to 2.5 m high, *Myoporum floribundum* is adaptable to a wide range of soil types and different levels of soil moisture, though it performs better with good drainage.

The shrub has long, arching branches with narrow pendulous leaves up to 9 cm long, providing an interesting contrast in a garden even when not in flower.



The biggest factor in favour of the species is its delightful appearance during the flowering season from September to November. The five-petaled white flowers are small but massed together along the upper parts of the branches, attracting both insects and birds. In full flower the shrub appears to be covered with snow, with branches often arching under the weight. Flowers are followed in November and December by a succulent fruit which falls to the ground when ripe.

Plants at the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) are reported to have performed well across the seasons in various positions, whether exposed to summer sun or winter frost. However, plants receiving some shade or overhead protection from nearby trees were more bushy and well-covered, so a semi-shaded, well-drained position would be more satisfactory. Only minor pruning is needed, perhaps to tailor shape or correct straying branches, as it does not respond well to harsh pruning.

Propagation of *Myoporum* from seed is difficult, although the ANBG notes that cuttings strike readily. Cuttings can be taken at any time of the year, with best results in spring and summer.

The unusual foliage and profuse white flowers are the main attraction of this species, which has been known in cultivation for many years. It requires good drainage and at least partial sun, is frost and drought tolerant, and no serious pests have been noted in the Botanic Gardens. *Myoporum floribundum* is not widely planted but deserves a place in any garden.

I've grown this plant in my Bombay garden where it thrived for several years until dying suddenly, possibly due to competition from over-crowding plants in dry seasons. Although uncommon, it is worth searching for in nurseries stocking a wide range of native plants.

**Myoporum* - from the Greek, *myo*, to shut, and *poros*, a pore, alluding to its ability to exist in dry areas;
floribundum - botanical Latin, meaning abundance of flowers.

FEBRUARY 2021 Friday 19 & Saturday 20

Floral Design Competition and Demonstrations at Mittagong R.S.L. Club

<https://nswfloralartassociation.org.au>

My Open Gardens

There are many gardens open during the coming months so log on to the website to plan your visits.

<https://www.myopengarden.com.au/openGarden.jsp>

Retford Park, Bowral, is open on the first weekend of each month.

In Spring there's a riot of colour with peonies, arum lilies, dogwood, clematis, rhododendrons, flowering cherries and tulips; and in Summer, the vast arboretum is the perfect shady place for a picnic.

Nurseries nearby

- The Potting Shed - Bowral - 0419 154 860
- Mittagong Garden Centre - Mittagong - (02) 4872 3900
- Wariapendi Farm Nursery - Colo Vale - (02) 4889 4327
- Welby Garden Centre - Welby - (02) 4872 1244

THE PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Kate Chinnick



**Artemisia
absinthium**

(wormwood)

- Native of Europe and Central Asia
- Evergreen small shrub to 1m
- Much divided grey foliage
- Dull yellow flower heads in late summer
- Sub shrub that spreads by rhizomes and branches that root when touching the ground
- "Lambrook Silver" is a good cultivar
- Prefers an open sunny spot
- Fully hardy and prune back to keep tidy
- Propagate from cuttings in summer or division in spring
- Makes a good aromatic hedge
- Plant near henhouse to repel lice

What to do in the garden for December:

- Plant out eggplant, capsicum, chilli, corn, beans, zucchini, pumpkins
- Plant herbs, basil, rosemary, thyme, coriander, parsley
- Sow seeds of lettuce, carrots, radish and beans
- Prune and tie up tomato plants. Liquid feed also
- Pinch out pumpkin runners at 1m to encourage more branches
- Mulch all beds but not onions and garlic
- Deadhead Roses regularly
- Prune spring flowering shrubs when finished
- Plant flowering annuals
- Keep weeds from flowering
- Remove spent Iris spikes by snapping off at base