

BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2021

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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11

At our first meeting for 2021 we will have a presentation about picking the right garden tool and caring for it. It will also include a segment called the 'secateur challenge' where members are asked to bring in their current secateurs and we will look at the way they cut and feel.

The presentation will be given by Catherine Watson a Director of [2WP](#), which is an Australian company leading the way with innovative, durable and easy to use garden cutting tools and homewares. 2WP products will be available for sale at the end of the presentation.

What: Presentation on picking the right garden tool and caring for it.

Where: The Servicemens' Club, Corner Coronation Ave and Victory St, Braidwood

When: 10.30 am for Morning Tea

Members with surnames M-Z please bring cake, slices or biscuits for Morning Tea. To meet Covid-19 requirements these will be served with tongs by a member of the committee.

After the presentation by Catherine Watson there will be enough time, for those inclined, to view a remarkable local rural garden just outside of town - there is a proviso though that this could be cancelled at the last moment as the property has sold - so we will be very lucky to view it at this stage.

The garden is a massive 7 acres, largely comprised of a woodland area of many varied 'specimen' trees. The approach to the house is along a lovely tree-lined driveway, while closer to the house is a more traditional garden space of shrubs, roses and perennials, and of course an orchard.

If you want to visit this garden please bring your own lunch and a chair.

Report on the Christmas lunch at Palerang Homestead

On Thursday 10th December 58 members (60 if you include the two dynamic members behind our caterers for the day) met at Palerang Homestead, Mulloon for our annual Christmas Party Lunch. It was great also to see a few more of the male members present on the day.

On arrival members were provided a glass of Champagne, bucks fizz, or orange juice and were able to wander through and enjoy Sue and Ulli Tuisk's delightful gardens.



The plant swap stall was very popular with lots of plants provided, boosted by Gabby and Bob Frizzell's large quantity of Naked Ladies bulbs (Belladonna Lily). Thanks to all who brought plants and particularly to Chris James for managing the plant stall and taking the left-over plants to Majors Creek, where they were gratefully received by the local community there. A delicious Christmas lunch provided by Sweet Creation Braidwood (led by Alison Stutchbury and ably supported by her mother Sandra Small) which everyone enjoyed, was tremendous value, and greatly appreciated. Our thanks to Amanda Scott for stepping in and helping serve in a Covid-19 safe way.



Then came the mind-bending garden quiz composed by Rosemary De Martin and Bronwyn Johnson & they excelled themselves with some really great questions. We thought they were so good and informative that we decided the questions and answers should be published in the newsletter (next month) so all members could benefit from them. Our thanks to Rosemary and Bronwyn for the time, effort and thought that went into setting the questions and for Sue Murray for helping with the marking and who is forever the teacher!

The winning table for the quiz was from the Native Bees, who also won the haiku poem competition. Their HAIKU was..... **Magical moment, After the drought and bushfires, When the rain comes down** There were also winners for the Lucky Door prize and our super Christmas raffle, with thanks to Leonie Jolley for yet again ably organising these.

Finally, our sincere thanks to Sue and Ulli for opening up their home and garden to us, for providing the table decorations and doing so much in the background to make the event such a success.



More photos can be found at: <https://braidwoodgardenclub.org/pixt/bgc55/index.htm>

Another in the Series Uncommon Natives by Bronwyn Johnson:

HYPOCALYMMMA ANGUSTIFOLIUM

The Pink-flowered Myrtle is a small shrub related to the tea tree (*Leptospermum*) and the bottlebrush (*Callistemon*) and is endemic to the south west region of Western Australia. It grows to around 1.5 metres in height and has arching stems with narrow leaves.

The plant's appearance through the year is fairly inconspicuous, but the dainty white and deep pink flowers attract attention when the season begins in mid-September or October. They are set close on the stems, regularly spaced in whorls of three or four in the axils of the leaves, giving a neat and dainty appearance.



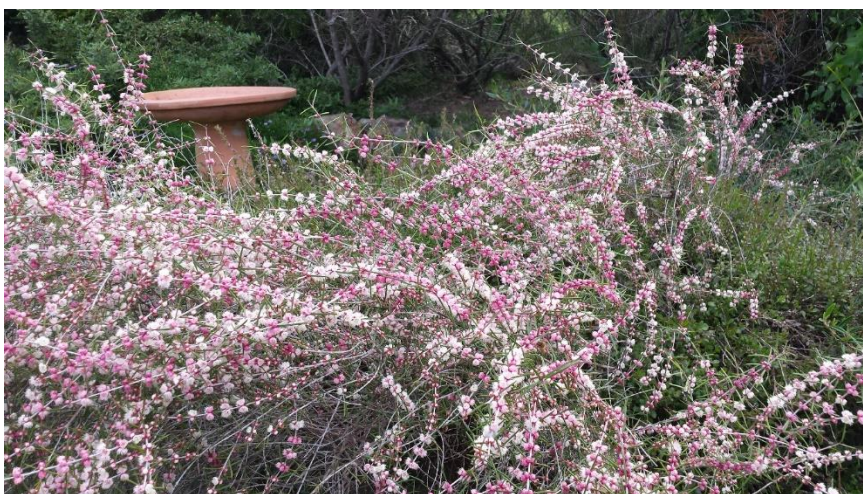
Opening first at the stem tips, flowers are cup-shaped with stamens very prominent giving a fringed effect. Colour may be white, cream or pink, and the pink forms deepen to red with age so that there is always a range of soft carmine tints along the stems. Bees are often seen visiting the small flowers. New tips are growing as flowering passes, and these when half ripe may be used as cuttings for propagation (which I've not yet attempted).

This shrub is eye-catching and dainty when flowering for many weeks in spring and does best in a position sheltered from strong winds. It is frost hardy, but not always a tough subject in very hot or wild stormy weather. Growth is dry and fragile so that in an exposed site the plant is liable to be blown sideways, becoming a poor shape with bare wood. With shelter, adequate water and yearly pruning for bushy growth a more lush plant should result, which will live a good number of years with continued care. When five years old it will probably be a dense shrub 1 metre high with thin, flexible weeping branches.

The plant in my garden is on the edge of a raised garden, moderately exposed but well-surrounded by other low-growing plants, and partially sheltered from late afternoon summer heat by taller shrubs. Over many years it has tolerated frost in our winters and heat in summer, with only occasional supplementary watering. As you can see from these photos, it has adopted a somewhat horizontal shape.

When planting out, lighter soils are suitable as long as free from lime. My usual practice with all native plants is to fill the planting hole with native potting mix to give the new plant a good start, after which they adapt to local garden soil. Right from the start it is a good idea to provide a mulch of composted leaves, straw or other suitable material to keep the soil cool. The plant should need only regular light trimming to promote bushy growth and of course, adequate water. Serious pests and diseases have not been noticed.

This is a very pretty shrub for cutting, easy to arrange and lasts in shallow water for a long time. It will sometimes dry out if left, making it suitable for use in dried arrangements.



As with other 'uncommon natives', obtaining this lovely plant may be difficult. On Google, the nearest nursery listing *Hypocalymma angustifolium* is in Sydney, with only two others - both in WA.

RANDOM GARDEN TIPS by John Tuckwell



Are some of your pots looking somewhat daggy? Do you want to spruce them up a bit? There may be a solution for you.

That is Megatreat Liquid Terracotta Paint which is available from Bunnings (unfortunately despite Braidwood Rural's best efforts, Megatreat will not supply them).

This is a terracotta coloured liquid clay paint which is easy to apply and clean up as it is a water-based paint and dries quickly. It also has a clay texture feel to it so totally transforms the pot, whether old or new.

For more detail see:

https://www.bunnings.com.au/megatreat-1l-liquid-terracotta-paving-paint_p1561893



Old tired pot before



One coat on half the pot



Two coats and finished



It is also very good on new plastic pots which look too plastic. The product has only been tried on plastic pots, but is meant to work on terracotta, concrete and other materials. Megatreat also has liquid sandstone and limestone products which have not been tried (see: www.megatreat.com.au for detail).

Help From Our Readers

If you have any random garden tips you would like to share please email them to braidwoodgardenclub@gmail.com

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### **FEBRUARY Friday 19 & Saturday 20**

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

<https://nswfloralartassociation.org.au>

### **OCTOBER Saturday 30 & Sunday 31**

Bathurst Spring Spectacular Live Music, Market Stalls & Displays

<https://bathurstgardenclub.org.au/bathurst-spring-spectacular/>

### **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>

**THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BOTANICAL GARDENS NURSERY** is now open every Tues, Thurs and Sat 9am to 3pm.

As all the plants for sale have been propagated from those growing in local gardens, we know that they will survive in your garden. The stock is an ever-evolving range and each week the volunteers tend to them under the watchful eye of professional horticulturists.

Feel free to browse and there is always a friendly face around to advise on the right kind of plant for that special corner in your garden.

### **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



**Amaryllis  
belladonna  
(Naked Lady)**

- A native of South Africa
- A large bulb. Belladonna means 'beautiful lady'
- Leaves are bright green and rather succulent appearing after the flowers
- Flowers are in sturdy stems 75cm tall from bare bulbs
- Flowers come in pink, dark pink and white in late summer
- Prefers sun in well drained soil. Light shade in hot areas
- Plant bulbs at soil level or just below
- Bulbs multiply into large clumps
- Divide clumps when they become too dense
- Grows easily from seed

### What to do in the garden for February

- Lift Tulips and Dutch Iris for storage in a cool dry place
- Tie Dahlias and tall Chrysanthemums
- Dead head Rhododendrons, Camelias and Azaleas, mulch and feed
- Sow seeds of annuals for planting out in April
- This humid weather promoted black spot - spray if necessary
- Remove weeds before they seed
- Obtain spring flowering bulbs
- Sow seeds of Asian Greens, Radish , Spinach and Turnips
- Remove vegetable plants as they finish cropping
- Apply liquid fertilizer fortnightly to vegetables
- Remove excess growth from Apples and Pears
- Trim Lavender and Rosemary
- Take semi hardwood cuttings and keep moist