



BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2024

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Thursday February 8 – Gardening As We Age, with Sue Tuisk, 9.45am

Stretching Class for Gardeners: Thursday 8th February at 10am in the Hall, at the Braidwood RSL Club, led by Retired Physiotherapist Sue Tuisk.

This will be a gentle class that will address joints and muscles that so often become affected when Gardening, and with hints along the way to avoid injury and overuse.

Please bring a rug and a yoga mat (as the floor is wood!) or something equivalent, and wear loose-fitting, comfortable clothes. There will be chairs for those members who prefer not to get down on the floor.

Please arrive at about 9.45am so we can start on time at 10 am. The class will last about an hour and then morning tea.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Members with last names L-Z bring a plate of morning tea to share

Report on the Christmas Lunch, December 14, 2023. by Rose De Martin

Another cracker of a Christmas Party for the Braidwood Garden Club! The old Anglican Sunday School Hall was the perfect venue. The marvellous wizardry of air conditioning was appreciated by most, a challenge for a few! You know who you are... jackets required!

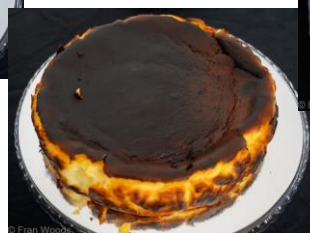
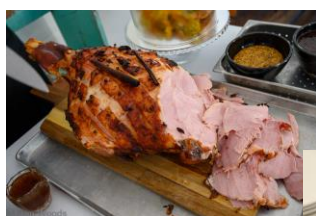
There was an excellent sparkling wine from Grant Burge Wines upon arrival, (thankyou Margy, great choice) or an orange juice or combo, to get the party started, and a longer than usual lead-in time before lunch to allow chatter and catch up time.

Lunch, catered by Vanilla Catering, was superb as usual. A huge ham on the bone, marinated roast chicken quarters, magnificent salads and condiments and seconds and thirds if you wished. Then, if you had any room left, there was the arduous decision to be made of choosing which dessert to have... chocolate? Meringue? Such a glorious array. A big thankyou to Kayla and Louise for attending to us so well.





During lunch, the quiz was being tackled, with no table finding it easy, apparently. (Those sneaky quiz masters!) The table winning by a nose, with 31 points (out of 50) was "5 + 2", followed by "Christmas Wishes", then "Rose between 2 Thorns" coming third. There must have been something in the air this year as some table's title's bore a close resemblance to each other, referencing the number of males at the table... perhaps something a bit more inspired next year? Congratulations to all, if for no other reason than being good sports and having a go...



The Haiku was well contested again, and we (the sneaky quiz masters), knew that the theme, 'Windy Day in the Garden', was open to a bit of humour, and happily we got it. All Haikus later in this report. The Christmas decoration competition barely got a look-in in the day's events, with a wonderful creation by Noela being the only one presented, and well worth the prize regardless. You have to be in it to win it!

The raffles are always a hit, and again this year the very generous donation of a night's luxury stay for 2 at the fabulous Mona Farm was the main prize. This was won by a very happy Sheelagh Noonan! Thank you once again, Mona Farm.

On that theme, a big thankyou to the committee members who spent time setting up and decorating the tables. Also thankyou to Sue Tuisk who lent us the water glasses, Margy Gardner for the champagne glasses, and Margaret Tuckwell for laundering the tablecloths.

HAIKUS

The Winner.... from table "3 Guys Plus"

*Where is that husband
Passing wind in the garden?
Phew! Best place for him.*

And more...

*My hat blown away
Cockatoos laughing at me
Noisy, windy day.*

*All is very still
Suddenly the leaves all move,
Then all hell breaks loose.*

*The wind is singing
Do you see the leaves moving?
The trees join the fun.*

*Blow wind, fierce and strong
Leaves tossed in gay abandon
All in disarray.*

*The days grow longer
Causing wind to grow stronger,
I wish it would stop!*

Admirably, some tables produced more than one Haiku... But there is only one winner's name to go on the Invisible Perpetual Trophy.

We look forward to seeing all of you again sometime through the year in 2024. We have a great line-up of places to go, plants to swap, gardens to see and people to talk to us. Come along.

UNCOMMON NATIVES by Bronwyn Johnson **Lomatia myricoides**

The little-known genus *Lomatia* comprises about 12 species, most of which are found in eastern Australia (NSW, Victoria and the ACT). Three others occur on the west coast of South America. *Lomatia* sits within the family *Proteaceae*, alongside more familiar species such as *Banksia* and *Grevillea*.

Lomatia myricoides is a rounded open shrub or small tree, usually growing to a height of about 3 metres, but may reach 5 metres with ample water and some protection. It has narrow dark green leaves to about 200mm long with irregularly toothed edges. Its showy scented flowers appear in profusion in summer and are usually white or cream. As you can imagine, they attract honey-eating birds and insects. The flowers are followed by flat dry pods containing winged seeds.

I planted my *Lomatia myricoides* in 2014 in the rockery garden behind the house and guestroom - a relatively sheltered location. It is part-shaded from the north and east by buildings, with some root protection from nearby paving. This situation may also provide a bit of shelter from severe frosts. Being on a slope, it receives regular run-off during heavy rain, but is very well-drained.

This situation must be to its liking, as in that time my plant has reached a height/width of approx. 2.4 metres. Its growth has very much accelerated in the last two or three years, which seems to indicate these wetter seasons have been to its liking.

The species may be grown from seed, which germinates well without pre-treatment. This is demonstrated by the fact that my plant's self-sown seedlings often pop up in the nearby paving! I understand that cuttings may also strike readily.

This particular *Lomatia* is not widely cultivated, but is an attractive, hardy, bird/bee-attracting shrub for semi-shaded positions in a range of climates. It may not be widely available commercially, except possibly from specialist native nurseries. (Interested Garden Club members please let me know, as in a good season I may have a few seedlings to share).

My *Lomatia myricoides* flowered very well this summer, so I picked a few branches to help decorate the hall for our recent Christmas lunch. If you were there you may recall them, as several folk asked about the species.

Acknowledgements – Australian Native Plant Society



2024 Garden Club Plans

14 March 2024 – Government House Garden Cruise

11 April 2024 – Local Gardens

9 May 2024 - Local Gardens Visit

13 June 2024 – Speaker at the Servicemen’s Club

July 2024--- No Meeting

8 August ---- 2024 AGM

WHAT’S ON

BRAIDWOOD FARMERS MARKET The market is held in the National Theatre in the main street of Braidwood (opposite The Braidwood Bakery) on the first and third Saturday of each month in the morning.

FEBRUARY Friday 23-Sunday 25, 2024 - **Royal Canberra Show**

<https://www.canberrashow.org.au>

MARCH Saturday 2, 2024 **Braidwood Show**

<https://www.agshowsnsw.org.au/shows/all-shows/79-braidwood-show>

MARCH Sunday 3, 2024 **Tarago Show** <https://www.tarago.org.au/show-society>

SEPTEMBER 11 – OCTOBER 13, 2024 **Tulip Top Gardens**

<https://www.tuliptopgardens.com.au>

OCTOBER Sunday 27, 2024 **Bungendore Show**

www.agshowsnsw.org.au/shows/all-shows/85-bungendore-show

I grow plants for many reasons: to please my eye or to please my soul, to challenge the elements or to challenge my patience, for novelty or for nostalgia, but mostly for the joy in seeing them grow.

- David Hobson

THE PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Kate Chinnick



Zantedeschia

(Arum lily

- Native to southern and eastern Africa
- Strong growing tuberous perennials
- Consisting of evergreen and deciduous types
- Grows to 60cm tall
- Leaves are glossy green, arrow shaped. Some are spotted
- Flowers come in many colours with a central yellow spadix
- Prefers sun or some shade
- Propagate from division in late winter

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