

# BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024

## News from the Committee

Next meeting is at 10.15am at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club, Wednesday 18 September. Members discuss future plans such as excursions. All members are welcomed to attend and then stay for lunch. There have been 158 visitors to the website in July, and 112 so far in August.



## This month's content:

- Committee News
- October Excursion
- Community Garden News
- Plants for Hospital fete
- Other gardening news
- One of my favourite plants
- Book of the month
- This month in the garden



## 10 October Excursion

This month's excursion is visiting some Braidwood town gardens. As usual meet at Ryrie Park at 9.45 am for 10am departure. The gardens you will be visiting are:

1. Erika and Chris's, 35 Coronation Ave and
  2. Jenny and David Sutherland, Coronation Ave
- Morning tea supplied by A-L to be had at Jenny and David's garden. We estimate you will have half an hour or so in each garden. Meet by 11.30 at Sunita's,
3. Sunita and John's garden, 13 Monkittee and
  4. Bek and Matthew's garden 15 Monkittee St.

Lunch will follow. BYO chair

## Community garden news

The grass is growing quickly in the garden. We have had generous donations of fruiting shrubs and plants but unfortunately due to the nature of the plot it has been hard to find suitable locations that are not boggy. We have been concentrating on growing herbs such as thyme and tarragon. The late winter frosts have set back some hydrangeas and the figs, but we await good results from the garlic. We hope to have better paths so that a visit may be arranged next autumn.



## Plants for the Hospital fete

The fete is on Saturday 19 October. Please give generously your extra plants. You can leave them at 35 Coronation ave or drop them off to the National Theatre on Friday 18 October as they will be setting up.

## 2024 Garden Club Planned activities

- 14 November: Nimmitabel Visit
- 12 December: Christmas Party Lunch
- No meeting in January 2025
- 13 February 2025 – Permaculture - Sunita

## In the gardening world

- **SEPTEMBER 11 – OCTOBER 13, 2024 Tulip Top Gardens**  
<https://www.tuliptopgardens.com.au>
- **OCTOBER Saturday 5 - Sunday 6 Braidwood Open Gardens**  
<https://www.queanbeyanpalerang.com.au/events/braidwood-open-gardens>
- **October 16 - Belconnen Garden Club visit to Braidwood**  
They will be visiting David and Jenny's garden in Coronation Ave. Club members are invited to join if you want to meet other gardeners.
- **OCTOBER Saturday 19 - Sunday 20 Little Hartley Garden Festival & Plant Fair**  
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/visiting-and-exploring-nsw/nsw-events/hartley-valley-garden-festival-and-plant-fair>
- **OCTOBER Saturday 26 - Sunday 27 2024 Bathurst Gardeners Club Spring Spectacular.**  
<https://bathurstgardenclub.org.au/bathurst-spring-spectacular/>
- **OCTOBER Sunday 27, 2024 Bungendore Show**  
[www.agshowsnsw.org.au/shows/all-shows/85-bungendore-show](http://www.agshowsnsw.org.au/shows/all-shows/85-bungendore-show)
- **October Sunday 27 2024, Narrandera Garden Club is hosting their annual Narrandera Town & Country Open Garden Day.** There are 6 gardens opening with a complimentary Devonshire Tea and a 25% discount at the Shady Gum Nursery on the day, included in the entry fee. A delicious lunch is available at 'Bella Vista' with entertainment and stalls in the garden for your enjoyment. All you need to do is come and join us for a lovely day

## One of my Favourite plants

Bronwyn Johnson

### Silver Plectranthus (Plectranthus argentatus)

In the Braidwood climate it may seem strange to suggest *Plectranthus argentatus* as worth planting, considering that most *plectranthus* 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* ('Silver Plectranthus') is an Australian native which grows 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.

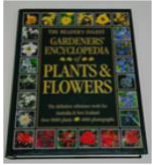
Silver Plectranthus is a spreading shrub up to (rarely) 1 metre high, with branches and leaves covered by velvety silver hairs. Small mauve-blue and white flowers appear in long narrow spikes from summer to autumn. The flowers are particularly attractive to bees. In my garden the distinctive buzz of our native 'Blue Banded Bee' is often heard around the plant in 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 a few years the plants can become less vigorous. For this reason, each summer I take the precaution of potting up a few fresh cuttings to sit in a sheltered spot, ensuring that some healthy plants survive through winter for the following summer. 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*. I've also raised a few *Plectranthus ciliatus*, which has white/mauve flowers and glossy green leaves. However a caution - I've recently heard this one has become a 'naturalised weed' in some coastal areas, so be sure to keep it well-contained!



**Book of the month: The Reader's Digest Gardeners Encyclopedia of Plants and Flowers.** I've had this book for years and I have found invaluable information about plant habits, but more importantly what they look like. At the last bookfair there were at least two for sale.

## This month in the garden

Kate Chinnick

Prune flowering shrubs as they finish flowering

- Azaleas should be clipped back; any dead growth removed.
- Choose new Azaleas & Rhododendrons while in flower
- Roses will respond to fertilizer
- Check Roses for fungal problems & mulch to retain moisture
- Nip out Sweet Pea shoots as they reach top of supports
- Gladiolus corms can be planted at two weekly intervals (90 to 100 days to flower)
- Dead head annuals and bulbs (don't remove foliage)
- Feed all bulbs with a high potash fertilizer
- Plant Pea and Bean seeds and erect supports
- Plant out Lettuce, Cabbage etc.



## *Epimedium alpinum* – Barrenwort

Low growing perennial from southern Europe

- Evergreen ground cover, good under azaleas and rhododendrons
- Finely toothed glossy leaves are bronze red when young



- In spring it bears racemes of pendant yellow and crimson flowers
- Grows to 25cm in height and 30cm spread
- Prefers cooler climates
- Prefers woodland conditions and well drained soils
- Old leaves are better cut back in early spring
- There are many lovely different varieties with other colours
- Propagate by division or seed in autumn

Please send any contributions for The October Newsletter to Margy Byrne as Erika is away visiting gardens in Italy. [daisymarg2000@yahoo.com.au](mailto:daisymarg2000@yahoo.com.au)