

RIGHT: PLAYING TENNIS NEXT TO WHITTAKER'S SHOP WHERE THE AMBULANCE STATION IS TODAY.

BELOW: THE TEN CHILDREN IN 1961.



financial support but to make ends meet Midge took in boarders, mostly school teachers.

"As well as providing financial help, the people who came to live with us helped me to cope with the enormous gap in my life without Vic." Midge remembers all her boarders

with affection to this day. She continued to live in the Duncan Street house, in the end for 62 years, before moving to her current home in Narbethong House.

In 2012 Midge Stalker was named as 'Braidwood Citizen of the Year' in the Australia Day awards.

Welcome to better service and more choice

Our branch is open convenient hours, including Saturday mornings, and we'll welcome your calls at any time.

- > Open Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm and Saturday mornings 9.00am to 12 noon to assist you with all your banking needs.
- > ATM available 24 hours for your convenience.

So make a difference – to your own banking and your community. When it comes to banking the staff at Braidwood **Community Bank**® Branch understand that everyone likes to do things a particular way - that's why we're committed to providing you with access to our services where and when you need it..

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited. ABN 11 068 049 178. AFSL 237879. TH12 (182049_v5) (20/03/2013)

www.bendigobank.com.au

Braidwood **Community Bank**® Branch



BRONWYN'S GARDEN IN



AUTUMN

Bronwyn Richards gives us her seasonal garden tips

IN A COOL CLIMATE LIKE OURS, autumn is the time of incredible produce availability, beautiful weather and planting for a winter feast. This is time of the year to plant the crops that are going to be ready in early spring. Cabbages, caulies, broccoli — they can all be planted now. If you have got caulies and broccoli in the ground, which you will have if you have planned well, they will be fruiting. You will need to cover those heads in a hard frost as frost damages the heads of the crop. Carrots, leeks, spinach and silver beet can go in now as well as lots of the Chinese vegetables — they love the really cool winters — bok choy, pak choy and wombok — Chinese cabbage and the leafy greens. You can still put in a range of lettuces in now, as well as rocket, as they are quite hardy over winter. If you want rocket to remain tender, however, you do need to give it a bit of cover from the frost, although it will grow uncovered.

Don't forget you should always be working your garden bed. Once a crop is out you need to make decisions about what you are going to plant next and what you need to do to prepare that bed, that is, where you are up to in your rotation cycle. Is it time for that bed to have a rest, is it time for that bed to have a grey manure crop, or is it time for that bed to be planted with something else? That work is always ongoing in your garden. You

should always be feeding your soil, adding compost, adding manures, keeping the process going all the time. Now is the time to plant garlic. How could I forget the garlic? Lots of people plant garlic through March and April but we plant in April. That suits us in terms of what we are up to with our garden, but you can plant from now right through to the winter solstice. Garlic is a fabulous crop for this region and it will do really well. To prepare your soil for garlic, the only manure I would put straight into a garlic crop is sheep manure because it is not hot and it breaks down quite slowly. Otherwise I'd be using well-rotted compost because garlics and root vegetables don't like hot manures in their beds. But you don't really need to do much other than keep the weeds out of your patch and give it water every so often, then you should have lovely garlic in spring and summer.

It's too late to put in any of the summer vegetables now, so you can't plant beans and it is too early to plant peas. All the things that are going to be frost tender, have to be cropping now or it is too late to think about putting them in especially as we can get a frost any time from March onwards.

I've been asked how you know when pumpkins are ready to pick. The way to tell is you tap it and it will sound hollow. You have to look at the colour, which depends on the variety of the pumpkin. If you are growing a Gerrydale, which is a good pumpkin for this area, it has a grey skin and that is the colour it needs to be when it is ready to pick. You can hear the difference when you start tapping on those sorts of fruits and tell whether they are ready or not ready.

That's takes us to soil preparation. What should we be preparing now in terms of soil that will pay a dividend later on? It is always ongoing. You should always be adding to and maintaining your compost, closing your compost off, starting a new compost. You should always be nurturing and feeding your soil, you might be adding some microbes or some of your compost or other elements you think your soil might need. Those could be a range of minerals. I use seaweed meal as a way of adding lots of minerals to the soil or you might want to add a little bit of dolomite or lime or something like that, they have slightly different components. Lime has more calcium and dolomite has more magnesium. Rock phosphates and anything like that. But it is an ongoing process.

If you have got a garden you are growing all year in, you are nurturing and adding and feeding and developing that soil all year. If you have got a garden you only sow in for spring and summer and rest over winter, there's a couple of things you could be thinking about for your resting period over your winter and that could be a grey manure crop. For summer/autumn I have been using buck wheat, but for winter you can use lucernes.

With a grey manure crop you plant it and let it grow till about 6-8 inches (15-20 cm) and then you cut it back and you dig it into the soil. That is feeding the soil and it is a good way of keeping weeds out of your bare patch as well. Otherwise you might simply want to put some mulch over your garden patch for winter, just to keep the weeds out and keep the soil a little bit warmer. The mulch will slowly feed the soil over the winter break.

