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108b Wallace St., Braidwood  
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BRAIDWOOD NORITAKE CHINA

## Braidwood's very own dinner set

Margaret Tuckwell sets the table

When I was first looking for a new formal dinner set, I found this one and it reminded me of a Wedgwood pattern I had admired since the 1980s but which was well out of my budget. This was very similar and when I lifted a plate and turned it over — to my surprise and joy, there was the name 'Braidwood', my home town. So of course I had to have it.

I wrote to Noritake to find out why they chose our town for one of their premier Australian dinner sets.

The following is a response from Steven Yeend, National Sales Manager, Noritake (Australia) Pty Ltd.

*'Back in the 1990s Noritake had a very popular bone china pattern by the name of Killian that was unfortunately discontinued by the factory — even though we were still selling it hand over fist.*

*Rather than cry into my beer about Killian's passing I instead came up with the idea of reproducing this design on a more affordable fine porcelain body. Our GM at the time, Mr Goto, fortunately liked the concept and was able to convince Japan to hop on-board too. As you can see from the images below the resulting pattern carried through the sepia tones and dark bordering, with the main point of difference being a slightly lighter brown and less ornate scroll. The new porcelain body was very similar to the original bone body so the design sat really nicely on it.*

*The last thing we had to do was give the new pattern a name, something that was easy on the tongue (it was to be sold internationally), but also embodied the design. Around this time I was a frequent traveller to Tomakin on the south coast*



*and we would always take the inland route via Goulburn and Braidwood. We would often stop in Braidwood for a rest break, grab a coffee and stretch our legs with a wander around town. I was very taken with the place, its beautiful historic buildings and its rustic nature....Bing! I had a light bulb moment — the town's name epitomised the rustic nature of this new design and thus the pattern called Braidwood was born. A lovely design befitting the town that it is named after.'*

And so Braidwood has its very own named dinner set — something to be proud of.

### Some history of bone china

The first commercial bone china was developed by the English in the 1790s, from then until the later part of the 20th century it was exclusively made in England. In 1904 the first successful company outside of England was established in the village of Noritake near Nagoya Japan. It took a decade of research and trials to create the first porcelain dinnerware plate that was suitable for the western world.

Now in the 21st century Noritake is an acknowledged leader in tableware with products sold to customers in over 100 countries and used in households, hotels, restaurants and airlines throughout the world. Not only is Noritake quality porcelain and bone china the strongest ceramic dinnerware material, they are every bit as dishwasher safe as casual dinnerware.

Noritake has a vast number of international designs and in the Australian collection there are nine separate formal dinnerware sets; apart from Braidwood there is only one with an Australian name 'Toorak Noir'.

KILLIAN NORITAKE CHINA



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