



*Wentworth Falls Garden Club Inc*  
Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc

12 November 2015: Edition No 288

*From the President ...*

I know it is so predictable, but where has the year gone? If you haven't put your names down for the Christmas Lunch to be held on 3 December (which is the **first** Thursday), please do so today. We are unable to book our normal meeting date as the Wentworth Falls Country Club always has a prior booking that day ... it seems they give priority to their golfers! ... and just because it is a golf club ... what are they thinking? Just remember that you can bring along a guest to this function. See Sharon today as she needs final bookings to be made and paid for. It is always a friendly end to our year.

We have had quite a bit of rain over the last few weeks so let's hope that it continues so that we are free from fires and we all stay safe over the holidays. I sincerely hope that you have all enjoyed the year of speakers, trips and member involvement, but remember that 2016 is a new start so feel free come to me if you have suggestions as to how we can improve.

On behalf of all of the committee, I wish you all a happy holiday season with too much food and drink, and lots of overnight rain to keep the bush damp and the garden thriving.



**A Christmas wreath idea:** seen in a beautiful garden on our Darling Point trip earlier in the year ... if only I had the time!?

*Celeste*

## **Judy Horton**

**Horticulturist and Member of Australian Institute of Horticulture  
and the Horticultural Media Association**

We are very pleased to have Judy Horton as our guest speaker today. Judy is a garden adviser who has had experience in retail nurseries, bush regeneration, radio talkback and garden writing. For 22 years she was Yates Communications Manager, with responsibility for disseminating gardening information and updating the *Yates Garden Guide*, Australia's best-selling gardening book. Judy currently has a regular talkback spot on 2UE on Saturday afternoons at 2pm and also appears on the ABC 702 Saturday morning gardening show on a monthly basis. Since her retirement from Yates Judy has taken on a new role with Botanica World Discoveries. She travels with Botanica as a horticultural guide and promotes Botanica at garden shows and other gardening-related events. Judy has been the recipient of the Golden Wattle Award, the highest award presented by the Australian Institute of Horticulture, and the Allan Seale award given by the Nursery Industry of NSW for outstanding contribution to the gardening media.



## ***November Gardening Tips***

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- Ornamental plants and exotics have finished flowering by this time and can be lightly pruned or have spent flowers removed. Give a dose of blood and bone after pruning with 10% potash, having watered before and after fertilising.
- As well as deadheading, the priority is to feed and water. Very dry soil will repel water so it is imperative to make sure this condition does not occur. One mistake is to water too lightly. Moisture penetrates only a few centimetres and roots come up towards the surface looking for water, making it likely that they will dry out.
- Check garden beds previously mulched at the beginning of Spring for dried out crusts that may have formed. Break up, aerate around the plants and water well.
- Watering in the morning will reduce the risk of fungal disease and black spot on roses. Yates Rose Gun Advanced controls disease in roses and other ornamentals.
- Foliar feeding makes a significant difference to plants' vitality. Spray or drench the leaves with heavily diluted minerals such as seaweed concentrate. It is basically a soil conditioner applied to the foliage. Plants can absorb certain minerals directly into their system through pores in the leaf surface. Early morning is a good time to apply it as there is less chance of diseases taking hold when the foliage is able to dry off.
- Lawns can be sown now but will need watering every day if there is a dry summer.
- Flat weeds can be controlled by using lawn sand, but if there is only a relatively small amount of weeds, a pinch of sulphate of ammonia each week will do the trick. Mow regularly to control weeds by cutting them before they seed.
- If dahlias have not been divided and replanted it is now an urgent job as they are starting to appear. When replanting include stakes in readiness for providing support for the plant.
- Azaleas, rhododendrons and camellias have shallow roots and dry out easily. Water deeply and mulch heavily.
- It is important to deadhead flowers and to prevent them from going to seed to maintain their energy for flowering next time. With rhododendrons this will not occur for 12 months. If the withered trusses are not snapped off before formation of seed capsules there will be fewer blooms next year. Roses, particularly hybrid tea and floribunda types, will produce another flush of blooms during January with a final flush in April. Snapping off the dead blooms is enough, but if the stems are also pruned back to the next healthy leaf junction the next lot of blooms will be quite good.
- The priority for deep watering is the vegetable garden, which needs watering daily unless there is heavy rain. Light rain only settles dust.
- Sow or plant more tomatoes, zucchinis, eggplant, beans, beetroot, capsicum, carrots, celery, herbs, lettuce, parsnip, pumpkin and sweet corn.
- Mulch tomatoes with old compost or manure. Remove bottom leaves to reduce disease problems. Once tomato plants begin to set fruit, keep them well watered and fertilised and prepare for fruit fly. Spray for fruit fly. Infested fruit should be sealed in a plastic bag and left to 'cook' in the sun.

- Harvest strawberries regularly and make sure they're protected from snails and slugs with animal-friendly pellets.
- Cut runners off strawberry plants.
- Trees that have been planted in the last few months require adequate and deep watering. Aerate soil before watering to ensure water penetrates without run-off.
- Replace tired spring annuals with some bright summer colour available as punnets or seeds from local nurseries.
- Fertilise roses with a good quality rose food (eg Sudden Impact for Roses).
- Control pear and cherry slugs with Yates Success Ultra, or dust with wood ash or lime.
- Lift bulbs after leaves have died down. Some gardeners like to dry and store for next year. Most can be left in the ground.
- Spray azaleas and lilly pillies with Confidor to protect from sucking insects, or use Confidor tablets.
- Plant day lilies for their tough constitutions and generous blooming – they'll open a new flower every day.
- Clear away garden rubbish and clean out gutters to reduce fire risk.
- Plant chrysanthemums, cineraria, columbine, cornflower, daisy, delphinium, echium, English daisy, foxglove, gazania, geranium, gerbera, pentstemon, stock, petunia, cosmos, alyssum, snapdragon, bearded iris, dahlia, nerine and waterlily.
- Prune any spring growth that is beginning to fade with the advancing heat.
- Cut back any plants that are less tolerant of summer heat.
- Prune your philadelphus and weigela after flowering. Cut out old branches to make room for new, vigorous wood.
- Cut back unwanted growth on jasmine to keep rampant growth under control.
- Prune climbing roses after flowering.
- Lightly prune native shrubs after flowering.
- Water citrus and fruit trees regularly to ensure healthy fruit. Keep outdoor container plants well watered.
- Make sure your garden beds are well mulched, ready to capture and retain the November rain. Place some dynamic lifter or cow manure under the mulch to give the plants a boost.
- Divide and re-pot orchids if they have formed a dense clump.
- Plant heat-loving herbs such as basil, coriander and chilli.
- Buy and use fruit and flower fertiliser for fruit and vegetables.

#### **Sources**

*The Year Round Gardener* by Stirling Macoboy

*The Practical Gardener* by Peter Cundall

<http://www.yates.com.au/garden-calendar/annual#nov>

<http://www.flowerpower.com.au/garden-diary/november-gardening-diary/>

## *Club Tours and Functions*

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Thursday 12 November after General Meeting	There will be two <b>Garden Rambles</b> in Wentworth Falls directly after the meeting. A map is available with addresses.	12 noon till 1.30pm
Friday 13 November	<b>Glenmore House:</b> 1840's sandstone cottage and garden at Camden. Lunch provided (morning tea not included). Cost is \$36. <i>Waiting list.</i>	Departure 10am
Thursday 3 December	<b>Christmas Lunch at Wentworth Falls Country Club.</b> (Note: not our usual Thursday meeting date.) Cost is \$35 per member. Members are welcome to bring along a guest: cost \$40. Bookings close today. Please wear your Garden Club badge.	12 noon

**PLEASE NOTE:  
There is no General Meeting in December. We meet  
again in January 2016.**

### **Next Meeting**

14 January

#### **Guest speaker**

We hope to have a tentative Speakers Schedule for the first part of next year at the Christmas lunch.

#### **Hall set-up**

TBA

#### **Morning tea duty**

TBA

#### **Bring-a-plate**

TBA

### **Club Information**

All members and visitors are asked to sign in upon arrival.

Members are asked to wear their club name badges to all club meetings, tours and functions. To take part in club functions and tours you must be a bona-fide club member.

General Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, from January to November, at the Wentworth Falls School of Arts Theatre, Adele Ave (cnr Great Western Hwy), Wentworth Falls. Meetings commence at 9.45am and finish around noon. The Library and Plant Stall are open before the meeting and at morning tea. \$5 entry fee.

Joining fee is \$30. Thereafter annual subscription is \$20.

For Club Welfare matters, contact Lea Nelson:  
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