

"The In Ground Fuchsia Group" Newsletter - January, 2016

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Wanted; small pots about 3-inch – like the ones we sold the plants in at the Open Garden.

Meetings and activities

Upcoming Meetings

Sometimes meetings have to be changed and members informed. If you don't usually attend meetings and plan to come, let me know, as I only inform regulars of last minute changes unless you have email. Meetings are usually held on the second weekend of the month, mostly in Spring and Autumn, as "hands on" sessions and garden visits are not possible in the very hot or cold weather. Future meetings may vary, so please contact me to confirm details of future meetings. Volunteers for garden visits or hosting meetings are always wanted.

February, Saturday 13th - 11am - My place, 4 Allen St Lawson (contact details above) Pruning demonstration and practise for anyone who wants it. I have a few free plants that need digging up if anyone wants them. Let me know if you would like to take cuttings and pot them up after the meeting. The weather has affected my fuchsias quite badly but you will be able to see what I have done to combat this and how well (or otherwise, though at present it seems successful) they have responded. Morning tea provided, bring your lunch and stay after the meeting.

March - Saturday 12th - 11am - Barbara Davidson's, 3 Easter St, Leura, ph. 4784 2473 Note: this is the 4th weekend instead of the usual 2nd weekend. Come and see Barbara D's lovely garden. Morning tea provided; you are welcome to stay to lunch (bring your own) after the meeting. Talk or discussion to be announced later.

April - Saturday 9th - 11am - Mandy Stubbs, 5 Second Avenue, Lane Cove, ph. 9436 2891. Mandy will talk on the way round the garden, chat about Permaculture. Her garden has a big range of flowers, including fuchsias as well the more usual vegetables. Morning tea provided, stay for lunch (bring your own) after the meeting.

May - probably Chris Shale's at Warrawee

No Meetings in June or July

Volunteer hosts needed for August and September

October - Barbara Bessant at Wentworth Falls

November 12th - Open Garden and Fuchsia and Geranium Sale – Lawson mark your diaries

Propagation Days/ pruning demos, Lawson

Propagation days - help needed to pot up cuttings for the school's fuchsia stall at the Open garden. Also come along and get some cuttings for yourself.

Tentative dates will be 31st March and 1st, 4th and 6th April. Let me know if you will be coming and what days you prefer so I can confirm or change the dates.

Potting medium provided, bring your own small pots or tubes also gloves and sharp scissors or small secateurs.

Reports of Meetings

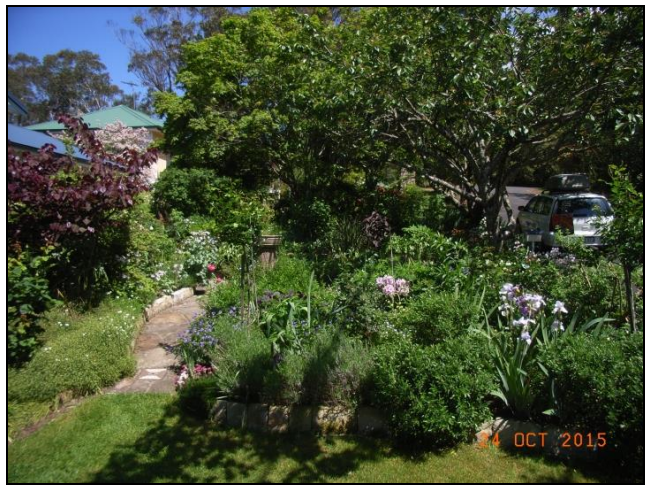
September - Hazelbrook - Norma and Andrew Price's Open Garden PLUS our big Fuchsia Sale was a huge success. The garden was absolutely beautiful and we sold most of the fuchsias. With the ones sold later we raised almost \$1,000 from fuchsia sales. There was also a probable increase in garden visitors but that is hard to evaluate as a ticket could be purchased at any of the gardens. Many thanks to all of you who helped; it was good to get to know some of the new members better and to catch up with our regular helpers; we couldn't do without you. The weather was perfect.

Photos taken at the Fuchsia Sale



Fuchsia Group volunteers helping customers select fuchsias and give advice.

October, Leura - Barbara Davidson's lovely garden was at its best and the small group that made the effort to go along really enjoyed themselves. The weather couldn't have been better. The change in Barbara's garden in the 4 years since the earlier photos is amazing. The small fuchsia on the left was just the start of this section of the garden and now is one of the larger shrubs under the big tree. The March meeting will also be here, so come and see the lovely garden in Autumn.



November -My place, 4 Allen St Lawson We still did a garden tour with a couple of demos despite the rain, then adjourned to the lounge room to see some fuchsia videos when the rain got heavier. We had the sale of basket fuchsias in the garage and those who came despite the dreadful weather got some very reasonably priced lovely plants.

A tip from Barbara Bessant

With the incredibly hot days we have been experiencing, it is helpful to use StressGuard on both fuchsias and other plants which suffer in the heat. Use according to the instructions on the package. I have not had any plant have an adverse reaction, quite the contrary. They come through the hot days looking quite happy. I do have some fuchsias in full sun which can start to burn or wilt. Apply first thing in the morning, before the heat gets too bad. Think of it as an antiperspirant for plants.

Possum deterrents by Barbara Bessant

Vicks VapoRub I used bamboo short garden stakes as they are smooth so I avoided getting splinters. Wipe the VapoRub along the stakes and place the stakes around the garden bed or plants you want to protect. The VapoRub will need to be replenished at intervals, depending on how much rain or heavy dew you get. You can tell when that needs to be done because the rain/dew no longer beads on the stake.

This was the first success in stopping the possums polishing off my plants at a rapid rate. I guess they don't like smell. My next success was in the form of a physical barrier. I have a small raised garden box. I put a star picket in each corner, attached the steel mesh panels available from the hardware store, tied them to the star pickets with electric wire ties, 3 per panel, so well secured from top to bottom. I was concerned the possums might climb over the panels, but no. So far, so good. I have been told that if I use chicken wire instead to not tie it taut, but to leave it a bit slack. Thus, if they do try to climb on it, it will sway and they don't like that.

Now I am having some success I will return to the fuchsia garden bed which had been demolished. The possums thought I had put on a smorgasbord for them. I have read in gardening books that they do like fuchsias, and putting so many together was too much to resist. I have noticed that individual fuchsia plants scattered elsewhere are left alone. I think I will use the Vicks VapoRub in this garden because I don't want a visual physical barrier.

I have tried PossOff with no success. Also, there is too much in my garden to use the electrical units.

Some things I am doing at present to my fuchsias.

1. Checking for rust as the present weather really is perfect for rust infection.
2. Spray if necessary.
3. Prune any damaged fuchsias - the rain alternating with hot sun produces a lot of leaf burn and also possible mould and mildew.
4. Pinch out or slightly prune any smaller plants (or ones that have become leggy) that haven't got lots of branches. Do this a few times – remember that each branch will flower in the Spring so increasing the number of branches will give you a good display without sacrificing too many flowers now. If you do this now they will grow again quickly and you will have time for more “pinches”.
5. Remove all dead flowers and leaves from around the plants. If you don't any pests and diseases present will spread.

R. I. P. Helen Simpson

We lost one of our best loved and earliest members of the group late last year. Helen was happy to go, after a long illness with cancer. The regulars will miss her very much as she always turned up to help whenever there was something to do, and came along to everything. Here are some photos taken on happy days between the treatments that affected her so much. She was happy to the end and always cheerful when we visited her. The funeral was beautiful, 6 members attended, and the arrangement of fuchsias from my garden was really appreciated – many of her friends commented on them as it was too early for any of Helen's to be out.

