



Australian Fuchsia Society Inc

P.O. Box 97 Kent Town, S.Australia 5071

Newsletter January, 2012

Hi Fellow Fuchsia Growers

Firstly let me wish all of you a Happy, Healthy and Flourishing New Year. As I had written in my Newsletter of September 2011, The Quarterly Journal previously produced by the Society would not continue in that form and we would try to put together a Newsletter. Well here is the first of such attempts.

Vale

It is with much sadness I report the passing of two of our current Members and one previous member. Shirley Jones; News of Shirley's passing came to us in November, Shirley had been a long time member some years ago, and was always an avid grower, attendee and exhibitor at our shows. Shirley had not been a member recently. Our condolences to family members.

Ron Harley;

Ron was an interstate member in Victoria, we also heard of Ron's passing in November, his widow Joyce wrote to tell us how Ron and his great mate would meet and talk about fuchsias in depth. They would discuss the relative methods of cultivation, fertilizers best to use, and various pest problems and how to solve them. Joyce also advised that Ron had some 240 different fuchsia plants in his garden together with too many baskets to tally. Joyce also said that she doubted that she had the knowledge or time to maintain such a large collection.

Peter Walkley;

To say that Peter was a Life Member of our Society would surely be an understatement. He was much more. His drive, energy and enthusiasm to get things done were phenomenal. He was the all action man that any organization would be glad to have on hand. Peter was the main builder and constructor at our shows, whatever needed building, putting together or just setting out, you only had to ask Peter how it could be done and he would give you the solution. He was tireless and was always on hand to dismantle and clean up at the close.

He was also the organizer of the store room where all the Society's assets for the shows and meetings were secured.

He will be sorely missed by not only his family but those Societies of which he was a member. Our sincerest condolences to Margaret and family.

Meetings

The last three meetings of the 2011 year were attended by a small, but committed group of members. The turnout was disappointing because we had Guest Speakers at both the October and November meetings.

At the October meeting we welcomed Chris Scrase of Weald View Gardens Fuchsia Nursery. Weald View Gardens Fuchsia Nursery here in South Australia is family owned and has been in the business of growing Fuchsias for many years. We enjoyed a very informative evening in which Chris was not only able to give us much information to assist the growing of our current plants, but also details of the latest varieties available, many of which are newly hybridized by Weald View Gardens. All attending enjoyed the evening thoroughly.

At the November meeting we welcomed Brenton Natt of Cobb & Co, Cobb and Co are wholesale suppliers of a wide range of Horticultural and Garden products. Brenton demonstrated many products including the latest disease and pest control products, also many new fertilizer aids available. Again all attending were treated to an entertaining and informative evening.

The December meeting is traditionally a Christmas break up, where the members gather for a relaxed evening of eating and BYO drinking. Although small in number, we enjoyed a pleasant evening.

A.F.S Society

What has happened to your Society?

In August after much work had been put in by our member Rob Pengilly in the preceding months, the new Website was up and running. Its address is www.australianfuchsiasociety.org.au Care needs to be taken when assessing the site as the previous site is still assessable on www. To ensure you are on the correct site, it is the one that shows the Society box office address. Please take the opportunity to visit the site. I think you will agree that Rob has done a splendid job.

In the September meeting, the proposed New Constitution was accepted by the members present and submitted to the Office of Business and Consumer Affairs for approval. With one minor exception the proposed Constitution was accepted. Copies of the amended clause/s will be sent to the all members in due course.

Culture Notes

Something that I had personally not taken the time to do is to read the Journals and Newsletters that we receive from other Societies. This is a major oversight on my part; many of the articles contain valuable tips on growing fuchsias. For example in the American Fuchsia Society bulletin for October to December 2011 there was an article by Dr. Peter Baye referring to the disease rust and its control. The article is with the kind permission of the American Fuchsia Society reprinted below. "Nothing will make existing infection disappear. Leaves already infected have to come off. Sprays are used to prevent the spread of Fungi to young uninfected ones. To minimize risk to injuring foliage, spray only in cool, moist, shaded conditions never in sun or high temperatures.

Baking Soda. Baking soda has been tested as an effective inhibitor of rust fungi on hybrid tea roses. It is quite non-toxic and has limited potential to burn foliage. For fuchsia, adjust the concentrations to your local conditions and plants, starting with about ½ teaspoon per quart of water, with a drop or two of soap to act as a spreader. Increase the concentration if repeated sprays don't slow the spread. Watch for leaf tip burn a sign that injury occurs from concentrations of baking soda too high for your temperatures.

Simple Green'; Dilute solutions of the non-toxic household cleaner appear to have some ability to inhibit rust fungi, as well as insects. For fuchsias, adjust the concentrations to your local conditions, starting with about ½ teaspoon per quart of water, with a drop or two of soap to act as a spreader. Increase the concentration if repeated sprays don't slow the spread. Watch for leaf tip burn a sign that injury occurs from concentrations of Simple Green too high for your temperatures. [Ed's note; I don't know if the house cleaner "Simple Green" is available here in Australia, but some other local non-toxic house cleaner would possibly do the same job. Locally we use ½ tsp. Bi-carb Soda and ½ tsp. Vegetable oil in two pints of warm water for the same purpose.]

Weather and handy hints

Here in Australia at this time of the season [mid-summer] we have high temperatures, more so apparently here in South Australia. We have just gone through one mini heat wave and more hot days are expected.

What do you do to counteract these conditions? I am sure many of you have suggestions that others may find useful, so why not share your secret with us and drop us a note. Here are some suggestions already received.

When the forecast conditions are for hot days with winds, lower your baskets closer to the ground and increase the humidity in area by placing tubs of well watered succulents or ferns under or around the plants.

Make sure your potting mix stays moist, not wet by overwatering. More plants die from overwatering than being allowed to dry out. Water in the mornings and be watchful on checking your pots as they can dry quickly.

<p>Membership subscriptions of \$14.00 are now due and can be paid at the AGM meeting or in the case of interstate members paid by cheque or money order made payable to the Australian Fuchsia Society Inc. and sent to The Secretary, Australian Fuchsia Society Inc., PO Box 97, KENT TOWN SA 5071</p> <p>Annual General meeting The Annual General meeting will be held on the 12th March at the same venue also starting at 8.00 p.m. All positions are vacant. Nomination forms need to be with the Secretary one month before the meeting.</p>	<p>Diary Dates</p> <p>Monthly meeting The Society's first meeting for 2012 will be held on the 13th February at the Payneham Masonic Hall starting at 8.00 p.m. The address being 393, Payneham Road, Marden</p> <p>Festival of Flowers Where Enfield Recreation Centre, 540 Regency Road, Enfield. When Saturday 21st April and Sunday 22nd April Admission \$3.00</p> <p>Displays by African Violet Society, S. A. Begonia Society, Aust. Carnivore Society, Cactus and Succulent Society of S.A., Cottage Gardens club of S.A., Fern Society of S.A., Geranium & Pelargonium Society of S.A., Orchid Club of S.A., Weald View Gardens Fuchsia Nursery and hopefully ourselves.</p>
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Membership Subscriptions

A reminder that the annual membership fees for the Australian Fuchsia Society Inc. are now due and payable prior to or at the time of the Annual General Meeting in March.

Family Membership (one or two people living at same address) \$14.00

Please note all country and interstate memberships are classed as a single membership.

Name (s)

Address:.....

..... Post Code.....

Email:

Telephone:

Date:

Payable at the monthly meetings or return to:

The Secretary
Australian Fuchsia Society Inc.
PO Box 97
Kent Town S.A. 5071