

# Festival of Country Gardens



Balingup, Bridgetown,  
Donnybrook, Nannup  
Manjimup, Pemberton  
South West WA

## Newsletter January 2016

### Welcome to garden visiting in 2016

The Festival, started in 1999, is one of the early examples of garden tourism. We have been successful over the years in enticing many garden lovers to visit; some have returned year after year. We've had comments such as, "I thought I had to travel to Tasmania to see gardens like this." From another, "This reminds me of the Southern Highlands of NSW." Or the Dandenongs of Victoria, or the Adelaide Hills.

So impressed are some of the visitors with our region that the Festival has introduced them to, that they buy a garden (usually with a house attached) and come to live down here. They bring investment to the area.

The Waroona Fires and the destruction of Yarloop, has marked something of a tipping point for tourism in the South West and for other businesses as well. There were extended major road closures that prevented trade and visitation. There was a view that much of the South West had burnt and that it was hazardous to travel here. We need to reverse this perception and bring people back.

Thus we are looking for gardens to open now for Autumn to show off our dazzling autumn scenery and seasonal fruits (apples, pears, quinces and more). Set on the first weekend of May, ie., 7 and 8 May it nicely coincides with Mothers' Day on Sunday. Ford House will hold their colourful Autumn Bridgetown Garden Fair from 9 am to 3 pm on Saturday 7 May.

The Garden Exhibit Fee will be the same as for last year; \$50.

We need to entice our previous visitors back and introduce newcomers to our lovely gardens set in the beautiful landscapes of the South West.

Peta Townsing  
21 January 2016

*Pictures: (Below), Sunnyhurst;  
(R), Hydrangeas in Balingup*



## Festival Events 2016

**Autumn: Weekend 7 - 8 May**

**Prelude: Weekend 8 - 9 October**

**Main Festival: Thu 3 - Sun 6 November**

Memberships are welcomed from supporters and Garden Exhibitors. The fee for two years 2016 and 2017 is \$30. Becoming a member helps support the organization, keeps you in the loop and on our email list. Forms are on the website and right.

Editor: Peta Townsing

### Notice of Meeting

AGM of Blackwood Country Gardens will be held on:  
Thursday 11 February, 2016 at 5 pm at Ford House (Old Barn)  
(Garden No 14), Eedle Tce, Bridgetown, the home of Jenny Rotman.

**Light refreshments to follow. All welcome.**

#### Agenda

- the Chairman of the Association reporting on the performance of the Association for the preceding year;
- the Treasurer providing a financial report;
- the election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer for the ensuing two years;
- the election of the Executive Committee;
- any other business which is set in the agenda.

### Committee Members

The present committee members of the Association are:  
Peta Townsing, John Pritchard, Jenny Rotman.



### Membership Application Form: 2016/2017

I apply to re-enrol as a member of BCGI. ☐  
I would like to become a member of BCGI and agree to support the aim and objects of the association. ☐  
I enclose \$30 for membership for the two-year cycle which ends at 31 December 2017.  
Payment can be made direct to BCGI account:  
BSB: 036-121; A/C No. 139484. *(Please put your name).*  
Members receive newsletters, can vote and join in activities of the Association, including opening their garden.  
Membership is on a *per person* basis for up to two years.  
Title: ..... Given Name: .....  
Surname: .....  
Home address: ..... Postal Address: .....  
.....  
.....  
Garden Name: ..... Tel: .....  
Email: .....  
Signature: ..... Date: .....  
Please fill in the form with payment and leave in tray at Bridgetown Visitor Centre or post to Blackwood Country Gardens Inc.

Blackwood Country Gardens Inc. ABN: 81 340 223 835

PO Box 293, Bridgetown WA 6255. 0427 426 160

Tray at Bridgetown Visitor Centre (9761 1740)  
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