



## Welcome

Every season brings its own unique aspect. With Spring making its way out the back door and Summer ringing the front doorbell, now is the time to embrace the sun kissed days and beautiful warm balmy nights.

Flowers Design School has a special invite to their Christmas Soiree – RSVP's close Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Bookings are to be made through Flowers Design School on 9321 0222 or [info@floristry.com.au](mailto:info@floristry.com.au). See page 3 for further details.

Our sustainability focus this season is Fremantle's 'The Meeting Place' – a sustainable house with some clever ideas we can incorporate into our own homes, something to consider with the warmer weather on its way. See page 4 for further details.

### ***In this issue***

Page 1 Geek chic – The unsung sense: How smell rules your life

Page 2 Product Focus - Hydrangeas

Page 3 Flowers Design School – Christmas Soiree invite

Page 4 Sustainability Matters – Fremantle's Sustainable House

## Geek Chic

There's a little bit of nerd in all of us...

### **The unsung sense: How smell rules your life**

19 September 2011 by **Catherine de Lange** for **New Scientist Magazine**

Dog noses are renowned for their sensitivity to smells, while human noses are poor by comparison. Yet that might be a misconception. According to a spate of recent studies, our noses are in fact exquisitely sensitive instruments that guide our everyday life to a surprising extent.



Subtle smells can change your mood, behaviour and the choices you make, often without you even realising it. Our own scents, meanwhile, flag up emotional states such as fear or sadness to those around us. The big mystery is why we aren't aware of our nasal activity for more of the time.

Noses have certainly never been at the forefront of sensory research, and were pushed aside until recently in favour of the seemingly more vital senses of vision and hearing.

Read the full article. Visit: <http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg21128301.800-the-unsung-sense-how-smell-rules-your-life.html>



# Product Focus

## Hydrangeas – rich in colour, rich in history

Hydrangeas have been cultivated in western gardens since the first American species were brought to England in the 1730s. This stunning plant is a genus of about 70-75 species of flowering plants native to southern and eastern Asia (China, Japan, Korea, the Himalayas and Indonesia) and North and South America.

*Hydrangea macrophylla*, the common, big-leaf hydrangea has been known by gardeners in its native land of Japan for many hundreds of years and grown in its many forms. There it has been treasured not only for the beauty of flowers and foliage, but also used as an herb, certain serrata forms having long been popular to create a sweet herbal tea.

In the West, the large-leaved *Hydrangea macrophylla* intrigued French plant breeders at the turn of the last century. A few, like Lemoine, Mouillère, and Cayeux began raising new seedlings. With the late twentieth century came a renewed interest in lacecap forms of *Hydrangea macrophylla*, and European breeders again produced an exceptional range of colours in this wild floral form. As Lacecaps have grown in popularity so have the more delicate cousins of the Macrophyllas, the Serratas, and many cultivars that originated in Japan have been brought back from the Orient by modern day plant collectors.

They have a special charm in full bloom, with their large, domed heads of pink, blue or white flowers. Pink hydrangeas in Asia generally means, "You are the beat of my heart". Hydrangeas are common to the Azores Islands of Portugal, particularly on Faial, which is known as the "blue islands", Terceira, named the "lilac Island" for hydrangeas of that colour. Today the potted hydrangea is almost a symbol in France of Mother's Day.

There are two flower arrangements in hydrangeas. Mop-head flowers are large round flower heads resembling pom-poms or, as the name implies, the head of a mop. In contrast, lace-cap flowers bear round, flat flower heads with a center core of subdued, fertile flowers surrounded by outer rings of showy, sterile flowers.

Two factors affect the colour in Hydrangeas, soil acidity and the presence of aluminium in the soil. Flowers can be made to 'blue' only when aluminium is present in the soil. It is more difficult to acidify soils than to make them more alkaline. The addition of lime to the soil will boost alkalinity, but increased acidity is achieved only by more laborious methods. The addition of acid organic matter like peat moss will gradually affect soil acidity, and the use of acid plant foods, those formulated for azaleas and rhododendrons will help. A soil test will save much trial and error, and achieving a pH of 7.0 to 7.5 will assure good pinks and reds, 5.5 to 6.5 being ideal for good blues, as long as a supply of aluminium exists as well.

Hydrangeas are available in Australia from November



The Innovators of Floral Education

# You're invited!

Join the team for a celebratory drink Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Please help celebrate this festive season by joining the team Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2011. Enjoy an evening of industry fellowship, see two of our very own Master Florists; Iris Pich and Anette Hotger-Hill demonstrate the latest in global design trends as well as enter or form part of the judging in the student Floral Design Competition "Goodwill To All Men". The competition is open to all current and past students and we have three entry levels to choose from, Beginner, Intermediate and Senior. For catering purposes, please RSVP by 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011 – 9321 0222 or email; [info@floristry.com.au](mailto:info@floristry.com.au)

## Christmas Soiree Details

We hope that you are able to join us!

Date: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Time: 7.00pm – 9.30pm

Drinks: Light drinks & nibbles served

RSVP: Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011

## Master Florist Demonstration

Come along to see our wonderful Master Florists, Iris Pich and Anette Hotger-Hill demonstrate the latest in European designs and trends.

## Student Floral Design Competition

Flowers Design School students of all skill levels are eagerly encouraged to enter this competition. The design brief is deliberately general to allow full creativity and flair from individuals!

**Design Brief:** "Goodwill to all Men"

**Categories:**  
Beginner (less than 6 months training)  
Intermediate (more than 6 months less than 2 years)  
Senior (more than 2 years)

**Entry Conditions:** Past or Current Students Only.

**How to Enter:** See reception for an entry form!  
Entry forms to be in by 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
Competition Piece to be submitted on the event day; Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2011.





# Sustainability matters

## Sustainability is everywhere today

– in the media, in our homes, our every day practices are now starting to focus on how to be sustainable and how we can better manage our carbon footprint.

One prime example of how we can learn to be sustainable ourselves is to look at the City of Fremantle and their sustainable house or 'The Meeting Place' (TMP) as it is more affectionately called. Saving energy and learning to be more sustainable is on the agenda at The Meeting Place. This building has been retrofitted as a sustainable demonstration home and shows how a typical Fremantle home can be adapted to reduce energy costs.

There is now an underground rainwater tank, solar hot water, solar tubes for lighting, window treatments (new glass and blinds), a photovoltaic system (2Kw), recycling, vegetable tanks to name a few. The project is a City of Fremantle initiative, supported by the state government Office of Energy. (<http://www.energy.wa.gov.au>)

## Retrofit tours

The Meeting Place has had a sustainable retrofit and is now open for tours. Local tour guides will show you through the building highlighting the new retrofit editions, explaining their benefits and how to adapt your own home.

Contact The Meeting Place on 08 9335 3394 to find out more information on tour dates and times.

## Free sustainable house consultants

Are you wondering how to reduce your carbon footprint? Not sure where to start to make your house more sustainable? The City of Fremantle is offering residents the opportunity to sit with an ecological architect to review your house plans and look at opportunities for improvement. You will receive a 30 minute survey to complete at home before the consultancy.

The Meeting Place newsletter is distributed to residents and general community quarterly. If you would like to receive their term newsletter contact the centre on 08 9335 3394 during office hours or by emailing [meetingplace@fremantle.wa.gov.au](mailto:meetingplace@fremantle.wa.gov.au)

The City of Fremantle has taken the following steps to protect the environment and demonstrate leadership in sustainability:

- Being the first carbon neutral local government in Western Australia. Further action, for both council and the community, is embodied in the low carbon city plan
- installing renewable wind and solar energy devices, including a 30kW solar farm at the Fremantle Leisure Centre
- Retrofitting a heritage listed sustainable house
- Being a founding partner of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Australia

- Being the first local government to support a CAT bus outside of the Perth CBD
- Helping to establish the award winning Living Smart program
- Sending our community's waste the South Metropolitan Regional Council's (SMRC) Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) to divert waste from landfill and save greenhouse gas emissions
- Participating in the SMRC's ClimateWise program
- Free electric vehicle charging point bays in the Queensgate Carpark.

For further information, please contact the City of Fremantle's sustainability officer on 08 9432 9999.

(Information on The Meeting Place has been extracted from the City of Fremantle's website and is correct at the time of publishing. Please visit the link below for further information on this fantastic community service).

[www.fremantle.wa.gov.au](http://www.fremantle.wa.gov.au)