

## Pet owners value the peace of mind

LOCAL business owners Ralf and Will Munson have been named franchisees of the year after their pet minding business, Don't Fret Pet!, took out the award for service excellence.

The couple was judged on the basis of client feedback, business success and their devotion to the franchise.

Founding director Jenny Brearley said she was very pleased to present the award to Ralf and Will.

"They have been outstanding franchisees who always put in 100%," Ms Brearley said.

The pet-minding service, which offers to find a home away from home with a carefully screened minder or visits the pets in their own home, has franchisees based in Sydney, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide and of course, on the Sunshine Coast.

"We were thrilled to receive the award," Ralf said.

"Over the past three years we've devoted ourselves to providing top-quality service to our clients and their furred, feathered and finned kids and it's great to be acknowledged for it.

"We have many clients who come back to us again and



**Will and Ralf Munson have been selected as franchisees of the year for the Don't Fret Pet! group.**

again because they know they're dealing with a professional service with three levels of back-up for their pets."

The Munsons said they first discovered the Don't Fret Pet! franchise when they needed to have their two dogs, Yandi and Hamish, minded.

After using the service, they liked it so much they wanted to be a part of it.

At the time Ralf and Will were operating a successful lawn-mowing franchise but gave it up to begin the home-based pet-minding business and put their backgrounds in HR and finance to good use.

Since then, the pair has not looked back. For more information phone 1300 30 70 21 or visit [www.dontfretpet.com.au](http://www.dontfretpet.com.au).

# Mass of colour a delight in winter

HERE we are in the middle of winter when gardens should be drab and uninteresting.

Yet, why is there so much in flower now?

It is due to the fact the coolness of autumn and winter is conducive to providing ideal conditions for many flowering plants.

Let's take a look at some of the best of the many flowering plants that will add brightness and colour to your winter garden.

Abundant small yellow and orange flowers, providing a marmalade effect, smother the compact bush known as Browallia, which provides bright splashes of colour in a sunny winter garden.

The leptospermum or tea tree family is host to lots of winter-flowering gems.

Tea trees enjoy a sunny, well-drained situation where their showy double and single flowers in white, pink and red will provide lots of natural colour.

Anigozanthos, or kangaroo paw, is looking great at the moment, with the newer dwarf varieties being the most popular. Good drainage and sun are necessities.

The delightful Euphorbia diamond frost is covered with masses of tiny white bracts all year round, with winter being no exception to this stunning performer. Full sun and good drainage make this tough plant a

## SUB-TROPICAL GARDENING

with Garden Guru  
Graham Ellis



**Flowering plants add bright colour to winter gardens.** PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

real water-wise winner.

Tibouchina Jazzie, the best flowering tibouchina of all, is again providing lots of deep purple blooms, and looking an absolute treat. All tibouchina enjoy sun or part shade and moist conditions.

Bougainvillea are always winners in winter as the cooler conditions cause them to shed lots of foliage, which creates perfect conditions for massed flowering.

Bougainvillea need lots of sun, particularly hot, western sun.

Early flowering azaleas are stunning right now with their

colourful single and double showy flowers lighting up a winter garden.

Part shade, moist conditions and an acid soil are ideal.

The delightful fuchsia is always popular at this time of year. Buy sun-hardened plants and continue to grow them in sun until the warm weather.

■ Catch Graham at Peregrian Garden Centre Friday through Monday, or tune into ABC Coast FM 90.3, next Saturday from 9am to 9.40am for more great advice.