

GARDEN PARTY

Happy 5th birthday to Your Child in Whitehorse. It's time for a party!

Even though we are moving in to the cooler months of the year, it doesn't mean parties have to move inside as well. With the right thought and preparation (and a contingency for the very wet weather) a party will work just as well outdoors as it does indoors. And perhaps there are some activities that are better out than in.

Here are some simple ideas to bring the party into the garden.

Balloons, bunting and paper lanterns

One of the necessities for any party to make the space look colourful and festive is balloons. In the garden you can get creative by placing them in the garden or up a tree. Helium filled balloons can be anchored to create upright sentries that wave in the breeze.

Bunting is a great way to spell out a message such as Happy Birthday! or Welcome Home! and can reinforce the theme of the party with it's colours and patterns.

Paper lanterns hanging en masse at different lengths from tree branches or a pergola are also a simple way to create that party atmosphere.

Lighting

To create a magical atmosphere, then lighting is a must. Fairy lights suspended across the garden can create the illusion of a star-studded ceiling. Candles suspended in jars or floating in flower-filled glass bowls add a softer, flickering light and using scented candles brings an added dimension.

Potted Colour

Colour and fragrance can be added to the garden by placing pots of seasonal annuals around the space and having vases of flowers on the table setting.

Fun

The list for fun is endless. Here are but a few ideas to keep the hoard occupied:

- ⦿ host a mini Olympics
- ⦿ outdoor games e.g. twister, bowling (lawn or ten pin) and croquet
- ⦿ a scavenger hunt or amazing race
- ⦿ outdoor cinema with bean bag seating, blankets and pop corn
- ⦿ outdoor disco
- ⦿ cooking class, e.g. pizza making with fresh herbs picked from the garden
- ⦿ creating concrete pavers using mosaics for decoration
- ⦿ decorating a pot and planting it with a plant
- ⦿ toasting marshmallows around an open fire or fire pit

It's party time!

Autumn and winter should not mean that the party moves indoors. These are a few ideas to keep the party outside and to enjoy your garden throughout the year.



Written by Noni Young,
Horticulturalist and Garden Designer.
www.noniyong.com.au