

For immediate release

March 5, 2020

### **Gardening media personality dies aged 92**

Sydney's best-loved gardening personality, Shirley Stackhouse, died yesterday morning (March 4) aged 92. She passed away peacefully after a short illness.

Shirley Stackhouse was *The Sydney Morning Herald* gardening contributor for more than 30 years taking over in the late 1960s from 'Waratah'. As well as writing gardening advice, she also illustrated the column with her pen and ink drawings of flowers from her garden.

She always cited her most exciting moment writing for the *Herald* as the report she sent 'from our gardening correspondent in Chile' when she was on the ground at the time of General Augusto Pinochet's September 11, 1973 coup.

She was also well known to gardeners for her top-rating weekend gardening show, 'Over the Fence', on Radio 2UE. She helped gardeners solve their gardening problems for almost two decades with co-host Phil Haldeman.

She was the author of many gardening books, including *Shirley Stackhouse's Gardening Year*, republished in 2008 as *My Gardening Year*. She was also gardening columnist for *Woman's Day* and *New Idea* over many years.

Shirley grew up in Brisbane learning her love of gardening from her mother and grandfather, who had a rose nursery. In 2005 she received an Order of Australia medal for services to gardening. She is survived by her four children: Jennifer, Peter, Katie and Geoffrey; and by her five grandchildren. Her husband, aviation and defence journalist and editor, John Stackhouse, died in 2019.

*For more information contact Jennifer Stackhouse on 0488 047 011.*

*Note: Her funeral service will be held in the North Chapel at Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens and Crematorium in North Ryde on Wednesday, March 11 at 11.15am. No flowers but mourners are invited to wear floral attire.*

**Photo attached: Shirley Stackhouse.**