

Jana Kent - August 2015



I have now been a member of the Strath Garden club for about 14 months. I would like to tell you why I love gardening.

I am one of nine children, I grew up in a little village in Holland and as our family was large, my father grew everything, from vegetables, fruit and berries.

The inside fence of our garden was lined with Berry bushes - gooseberries, blackcurrants and red berries, my father also had a large hot house and was one of the first gardeners to grow peanuts in there.

I can remember all the beans my he grew, our mum had a bean slicing machine so it was our job to slice the gluten of beans ready for winter.

We had large earthen pots, I remember they where beautiful pale blue with a darker patterns.

We would fill them with the sliced beans packed in salt for the long winter, mind you they did not taste all that good as it took a lot of rinsing to get rid of the salt.

We enjoyed slicing the beans, mostly when our mum left us to it, we would slice the beans so fast they would fly all over the place, one of us would be slicing while the other one was busy trying to catch the beans.

In our house we had a large cellar, were all our apples where stored for the winter, with all the other preserves my mother and eldest sister made in the autumn, so we always had a abundance of fruit and vegetables in our house.

Our neighbour had a small piggery and every six months one of them would be slaughtered, we would see the pig hanging on a wooden ladder to be bled, my brothers and a few other boys would ask for the pig's bladder, they would then blow it up and use it for a soccer ball, which we all enjoyed playing with.

The meat from the pig would than be distributed amongst the people who supplied the farmer for the growth of the pig from the pig's birth until it was big enough to be slaughtered, my parents where vegetarians so we never got to eat the poor pig.

Getting back to myself, my husband and myself moved to Strathalbyn 22 month ago.

We have 3/4 of an acre property here which is a nice size,

The house is on 1/2 an acre and we have a 1/4 of a acre right next to it were I have a vegetable garden which we covered completely with bird proof wire as we get a lot of birds here.

So far we have cut down 22 trees just on the left side of our driveway as they where mostly gums and some of them where very close to our house.

At the moment we are reorganising the garden around the house with roses and small shrubs also some natives.

I don't think that there is anything more peace full than working with dirt and working in one's garden.

I try to use natural methods to keep pests under control and I try not to use chemicals.

My son Greg is over here for a bit of a holiday which is great as he is a horticulturalist by trade.

He thinks that I should get a few chooks I said if he can show me how to build a fox safe chook house I would love to have a few chooks, so that will be the next project.

I love the garden club as it gives me a lot of great information and also contact with other growers.