



NEWSLETTER

Website: www.strathgardenclub.com.au

Email: strathalbyngardenclub@gmail.com

Phone contact: 0416 173 573

Issue No: 145

April
2016

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was saddened recently to discover that the Littlehamp-ton Nursery has closed its doors. I had always looked on it as the best nursery for sourcing that 'special' plant or accessory for my garden. We are fast running out of independent nurseries as 'High Street' and the 'Leaf Boutique' have also closed but there is no point in thinking the garden has no need or room for more plants or bulbs because the nurseries are continually offering exciting new 'temptations'. On-line shopping and ordering from catalogues is not quite the same.

Now is the time to choose and plant bulbs and corms and to watch for the first shoots of bulbs planted in previous years to start emerging. Mine often take me by surprise as they appear in spaces where I had forgotten they were, quite often when I am digging around preparing to plant something else. Gardening always has an element of surprise!

Autumn also brings the eagerly awaited supply of vibrant autumn leaves. On the trees they are a beautiful sight and on the ground they have great potential as a play ground for young and old to kick through and then as material for the compost heap and food for the garden beds.

No wonder poets, painters and photographers as well as gardeners revel in this season so don't waste a moment of it as winter and inclement weather will come soon.

Norma Keily

PAM CATCHESIDE - FUNGI OF THE MT LOFTY RANGES

Pam Catcheside studied Botany at Imperial College, London University. She taught Biology and Science in Senior Schools in England and Australia. Pam is an Honorary Research Associate at the State Herbarium of South Australia, investigating the taxonomy and ecology of the larger fungi, particularly the disc fungi, fire-site fungi and the inter-relationships of fungi and the environment.

Fungi can be large, small, microscopic, common, rare, edible, toxic, smelly, beneficial or detrimental, medicinal, beautiful or ugly but always fascinating.

Fungi make up 10 - 15% of all living organisms and there could be up to five million species world wide

with a quarter of a million in Australia including moulds and micro-fungi.

Unlike plants, fungi lack chlorophyll for photosynthesis so they digest outside their bodies. Most consist of branching networks of tiny, fine tubes called hyphae which they wrap around the roots of plants, entering inside the tissues. These are called mycorrhizal structures, wherein the plant receives soluble nutrients from the fungus, and the fungus receives sugars and other carbon-based products from plant photosynthesis. Decay of vegetable matter arises mainly from these "saprotrophic" fungi, together with a few bacteria. If this didn't happen, we would be surrounded by dead vegetable matter! Fungal enzymes are widely used to clean up oil spills, while others can dissolve plastic, they are included in washing powders to dissolve stains, antibiotics are created from them and there are even fungal enzymes which can dissolve rocks.



Amanita muscaria Introduced to Australia
Pretty but poisonous!

Some fungi are edible while others are extremely toxic, others are hallucinogenic while some glow in the dark. Extreme caution should be taken when deciding to eat wild mushrooms.

Fungi are the 'first responders' of the plant world following bushfires and their presence is essential for the soil to recover. as the soil slumps after it has been

burnt and turns into fine black silt. Ash is very alkaline and the fungi work to reduce the pH as well as aerating the soil to allow water in. Studies have revealed that the fungi start acting within a few days following a bushfire. An excel-

lent article found on the internet in the WA journal **Western Wildlife** Volume 13.Issue 2 2009 provides comprehensive information on how and why this occurs.

The website <https://fungimap.org.au> provides a wealth of information about the fungi of Australia and while the new edition of the very comprehensive book "Fungi Down Under" is being prepared the website is the best place to research for details.

Pam paid tribute to the Rangers in the NPWS parks for their dedication in locating, identifying and preserving fungi.

When out in the bush please respect the fungi by not squashing them or kicking them around as they are mostly an essential part of the ecology although the introduced Amanita muscaria which was imported to support the pine plantations has moved to other hosts and has a detrimental effect on native fungi.

APRIL 2016 GARDEN PROFILE

OUR DAY OUT TO AL-RU FARM AND VIRGINIA NURSERY

Despite the early hour and cool weather there was the usual air of anticipation among the Garden Club members as we set out for One Tree Hill and Al-Ru Farm.

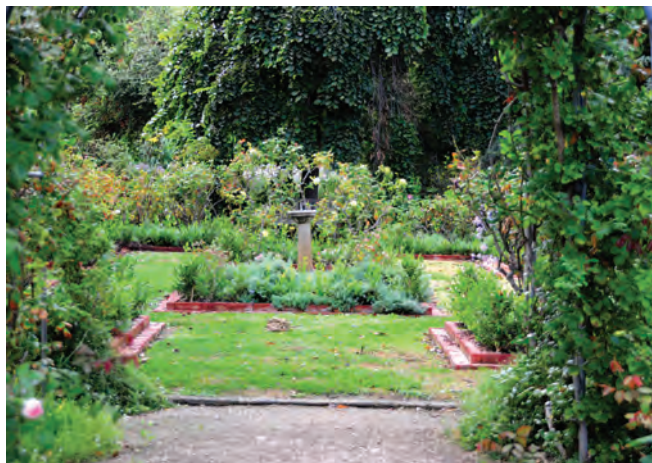
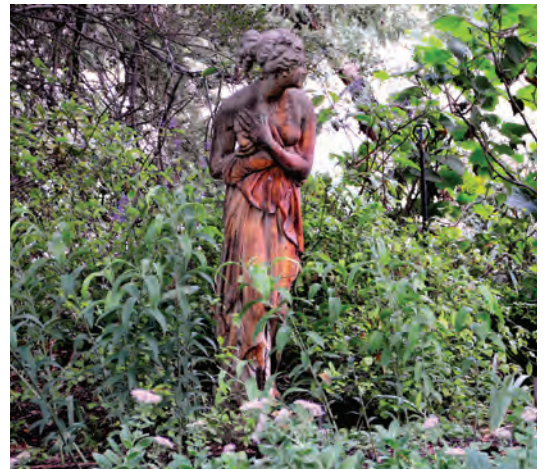
It is always interesting travelling along the 'Hills' roads through country towns and past the evidence of recent bushfires, gauging the dryness of the pastures and the ripeness of the apples in the orchards.

At Al-Ru Farm we were greeted by a rain shower, morning tea, a huge English mastiff, a preening peacock, two free range chickens and an enthusiastic garden owner.

As we refreshed ourselves the rain cleared and so we were able to enjoy a ramble through the extensive garden across expansive lawns, beneath spreading European trees, beside a lily pond and past garden beds overflowing with sedums, plumbago, buddleias, roses and dahlias.

Vibrant bougainvillea graced the walls of the house and a wisteria walk promised spring glory.

The garden covers 10 acres and has 600 metres of perennial borders.



As with most gardens there are projects on the drawing board including creating floating, moveable islands on the dam, and areas to be renovated as trees grow and create extra shade necessitating a change in plantings.

Catering for weddings and receptions and hosting two B&Bs as well as bus loads of garden visitors keeps Ruth and her team of helpers busy.

The Virginia Nursery visit began with lunch in their well-appointed cafeteria.

Their extensive menu had dishes to suit all tastes and delivery was prompt and efficient.

Pots, plants, home-ware, garden tools and necessities were soon filling the trolleys.

The television advertisement for the nursery barely does justice to its size and extensive range of stock.

Fortunately there was plenty of room in the cargo hold of the coach and a good supply of boxes and bags to keep all our purchases safe on the journey home.

After a final cup of coffee we were ready for the journey home after a very satisfactory, garden oriented day.

Thanks to Maria for her efforts in planning the day.

Text: Norma Keily
Photos: Janet Jones



STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
April 22nd	Pam Marshall	Eco living
May 27th	Jane Brummitt	May Gibbs and Nutcote
May 27th	Launch Neutrog Order	
June 24th	AGM	Consider standing for the committee
June 24th	Deb Cantrill from Nirvana Organic Farm	Weaving with natural fibres
July 22nd	Linda and Les Crane	Beekeeping
August 26th	Wendy Phillips and Bob Daly	Birds in the garden

OPEN GARDENS SA

GARDENS OPEN 10AM - 4.30PM

ENTRY \$8, CHILDREN UNDER 18 FREE

Additional information, photos and garden notes written by the owners can be found on the Gardens SA website:

<http://opengardensa.org.au>

APRIL

23—24

The Chestnuts,

46 Waverley Ridge Road, *Crafers West*

24 (Sunday Only)

Glenalta,

55 Old Carey Gully Road, *Stirling*

MAY

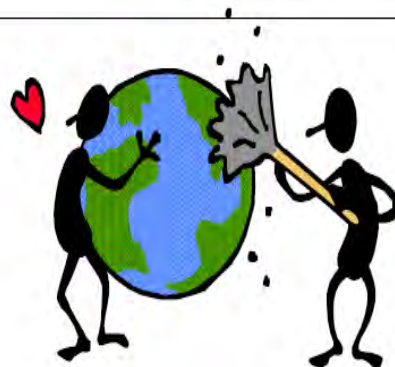
7 - 8

Sunningdale farm

630 Mosquito Hill Road, *Mt Jagged.*



APRIL GUEST SPEAKER: PAM MARSHALL



'Eco-Living' Session

Practical Sustainability in the Home

Ways to replace consumer products with simple, safe household alternatives to benefit both you and the planet

- Safer - less chemicals
- Saves money - it's cheaper!
- Better for the environment - less chemical residue, less containers, reduces use of Earth's resources
- Builds self-reliance

Topics covered: Household alternatives to consumer products such as green cleaning, natural skin care, chemical free living & more

Demonstrations, samples, giveaways and information

Where?: for groups of 10 or more people – in your home, school, work, local group, club, society, etc.

Cost: Negotiable – please enquire

Pam Marshall – The Self-Sufficiency Shoppe

Enquiries: pam@theshoppe.com.au

Web: www.theshoppe.com.au



TO DO LIST

- Time to plant Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli. Peas and broad beans can also go in, as well as radish, turnips, swedes and spinach.
- Herbs, - try some chamomile and lemon grass, mint and lemon balm as well,
- Flowers - cornflower, calendula, dianthus, pansies, viola, snapdragons, stock, ageratum and marigolds. Great at attracting pollinators and beneficial insects to your patch, and the flowers look good as well.
- Green manure crop will add some life and love to an overworked patch. At this time of year try faba bean, field pea, oats and wheat. This will improve your soil.
- Prepare for bare rooted fruit trees and ornamentals. Rich organic matter, a bit of moisture and some mulch will improve the soil.
- Top up mulch on your veggie patches, herb gardens and ornamental beds, especially important for weed suppression at this time of year. Mulch to a depth of about 7cm after watering the patch. Keep mulch clear of plant stems especially young seedlings. Choose a mulch that will enrich your soil as it breaks down.
- Plants feel the need for a feed at this time of year. A seaweed tea or low environmental impact liquid fertiliser is perfect, especially for the seedlings planted this month. Apply to the soil early in the morning.

**Australian Plants Society
(SA Region) Inc
Native Plant Sale**

30 April & 1-May

Sat 10am-5pm

Sun 10am to 4pm.

Adelaide Showgrounds, Wayville.

Gold coin donation.

Large range of SA grown plants from \$5,
including rare, grafted and local provenance.

Free pH soil testing, expert advice, workshops, rare
books, artists, children's activities and much more.

Tel. 08 8336 5275

A list of plants available will be on our website a week
before the sale. www.australianplantssa.asn.au

**FERN SOCIETY OF S.A.
2016**

FERN SALE

Adelaide High School Auditorium West Tce Adelaide

Saturday 30th April

10.00am to 3.00pm

Raffles and Demonstrations

Ferns for Adelaide Gardens

Devonshire teas

Expert Growers available for advice.

STRATH CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 30th April

and Sunday 1st May

from 10am daily

Strathalbyn Town Hall

offering a diverse range of crafts

Shop for Mother Day!

Raffles; demonstrations; refreshments.

COMPOSTED PIG MANURE

\$7.00 per 27 litre bag

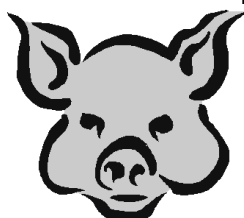
Free delivery in Strathalbyn

Phone 8536 2628

Ros 0428 362 628

Brian 0438 362 628

Practically odourless!



SAROC ORCHID FAIR

Hosted by the Member Clubs of the
South Australian Regional Orchid Council Inc.

Please note change of weekend

SATURDAY JUNE 18th 9 am—5:00pm

SUNDAY JUNE 19th 10:00am—4:00pm

Drill Hall

Torrens parade ground

King William road

ADELAIDE

Free parking on parade ground

⊗ Orchid Competitions ⊗ Orchid Raffles

⊗ Orchid Sales from Leading Commercial Growers

⊗ Horticultural Supplies

⊗ Potting Demonstrations daily, & Free Cultural Advice

⊗ Sausage Sizzle, Devonshire Teas & Refreshments both days

\$3.00 Donation includes complimentary cup of tea/coffee

STRENGTH FOR LIFE 50⁺

Run by Fleurieu Fitness and Health in conjunc-
tion with COTA SA.

Footy Club Rooms

Sessions held 9.30 – 10.30

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

\$7.00 per session.

Each participant must have an initial assess-
ment to design an individual program to suit
their specific needs. (Cost \$25)

For more information contact Paul Holdsworth
phone 8536 2204

Continuous enrolments so you can join anytime

Strength, balance, coordination & flexibility.

GREG THE WORM MAN 0438 808 066

Kilo packs of composting worms

Vermicast for soil improvement

Worm Farms to order

Worm Wee 3 litre & 20 litre containers

Catch me at the Strathalbyn Garden Club meetings!

SHEEP MANURE for Sale

\$5 / bag (delivered to Strath)

\$5/ bag (collected from farm)

\$20 / collected in trailer, i.e. 6'.4'

Tania & John Richardson

Woodchester

85375011

We're happy to make your garden
happy! Spread the word.