



NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the end of each season there is often a valuable opportunity to secure quality plants at bargain prices. Many of the large nurseries and plant retailers put perfectly good plants out for half price or less simply because they may have finished flowering, become over crowded in their pots or may look a little scruffy.

These plants are worth rescuing and I make the bargain shelves my first port of call when doing retail therapy in the garden section.

I have recently acquired some pots of calla lilies which are usually outside my price range, for half price, along with some dahlias and fuchsias which had finished flowering. Add some punnets of bedding begonias for 50 cents and a couple of leptospermum due for planting out and my day was made.

From past experience I know that these plants will do well in my garden and the savings can go toward the purchase of fertiliser and quality potting mix.

On our forthcoming coach trip there may be a race to see whether the Virginia Nursery has a plant rescue stand!

The recent rain and milder weather has meant my precious gardening time can move from constant water to more constructive planning, pruning, planting and propagating.

Norma Keily

THE HISTORY OF GARDENS - ELIZABETH CALDICOTT

Elizabeth is a retired high school teacher now living at Goolwa with her husband, John.

She has a Diploma of Teaching, Post Graduate Diploma of Environmental Science, BA, and MA (Geography) at the University of Adelaide

Her Master's Thesis "Changing Garden Styles in Post War Suburban Adelaide" encapsulated her special interest in garden styles and native plants. She enjoys gardening, photography and travel, and has visited many of the famous gardens of the world.

In the last few years Elizabeth has discovered a new talent, writing poetry, regularly contributing to the local media, as well as publishing several books.

In her lavishly illustrated talk Elizabeth covered the history of gardening from the days of the earliest agrarian peoples through the ancient civilisations to the essential food gardens of early CE centuries and then to the ornamental gardens which were status symbols in later centuries.

Each historical period and nationality has had an impact or different influence on the development of the garden.

Changes in society from agrarian to industrialised has changed the focus from purely functional to both productive and ornamental. Global exploration and travel opened up the trade in plants and the delights of "garden tourism". New food plants were just as important as unique ornamental specimens.

Changes in how society uses its leisure time has changed how home gardens are designed and planted. More space is allocated to recreation with pools, BBQs and seating while plants are low maintenance and lawns may be artificial or replaced by paving. Alternatively concern about the commercial over use of chemicals has seen the rise of interest in organic home-grown produce.

The proliferation of high density living has increased the importance of public parks and gardens to keep people in touch with nature.



STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
February 26th	Pam Catcheside	Fungi of the Mt Lofty Ranges
March 18th	Coach Trip	Al-Ru Farm and Virginia Nursery
March 25th	No meeting due to Good Friday	
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

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>

March

5—6

Tropical Cooida,

34 Cooida Crescent, **Athelstone**

Von Der Herz Garden,

10 Lyndoch Road, **Gawler East**

12—13

Highcroft Garden,

231 Mail Road, **Harrogate**

26—27 (EASTER WEEKEND)

Cork's Cottage,

27 Seventh Street, **Gawler**

Maurjoy,

36 Berrett Road, **Gawler East**

April

2—3

Casuarina,

52 Sheoak Road, **Mylor**

9—10

"The Laurels" Retirement Village

2 Hutchinson Street, **Mt Barker**

16—17

Keogh's Garden, Daku

24 Davies Road, **Sandy Creek**

Pomona Cottage,

55 Pomona Road, **Stirling**

23—24

The Chestnuts,

46 Waverley Ridge Road, **Crafers West**

24 (Sunday Only)

Glenalta,

55 Old Carey Gully Road, **Stirling**



OPEN
GARDENS
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



THE WAIT IS ALMOST OVER!

The 2016 season of Gardening Australia will commence on Saturday 5th March, 6.30pm ABC TV and repeated on Sunday at 1.00pm.

SELLER'S TABLE

To book a place at the Seller's Table contact Jackie Chapman 8536 8798. Items for sale should be relevant to the Club (ie garden related). Sellers should make a discretionary donation to the Club for the opportunity to sell and should be in attendance on the Table.

DONATIONS TABLE

Items of a gardening or produce nature can be donated for sale on the Donations Table.

Bring on the day although if large or unusual a phone call to Jackie Chapman 8536 8798 would be helpful.

RAFFLE TABLE

Raffle items should be well presented and desirable.

Plants should be labelled, healthy and protected with a plastic bag if likely to drip or stain.

Do you have any garden/plant photos that we can share with Neutrog to show how their products are working in our gardens? It is good PR for the Club and for Neutrog. Let Norma know 8536 6276.



**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

THE BUS TRIP

MARCH 18TH

JUST A FEW SEATS LEFT!

Departing Rufus depot at 8 am

Departing Strathalbyn Railway Station 8.15 am

Arrive **Al-Ru Farm** 9.30 - 9.40 am

Tour includes morning tea

Stay until 12 noon

Arrive **Virginia Home and Garden** 12.30 pm

Lunch at own cost in the well-appointed cafeteria or
BYO

A garden and gift shopping opportunity with 20%
discount in the gift shop!

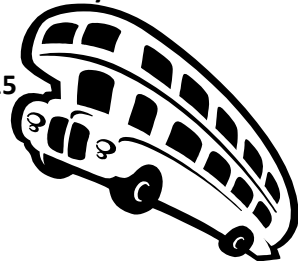
Depart at 3 pm

Arrive Strathalbyn at 5pm - 5.15
pm

\$35 per person.

50 places only

First 50 paid up get to go.



HELP WANTED FOR CLUB VISITS

Mildura Garden Club are planning to visit Strathalbyn on
the way to a weekend in Victor Harbor on **Friday 15th April**.

They will be visiting "Serenity" on Old Bull Creek Road where
they will have lunch and enjoy the garden.

They would like to visit another garden in the area before
travelling to their accommodation in VH

Would you consider sharing your garden? It would be pref-
erable to have one in the town or on the Goolwa Road side
of Strathalbyn.

Offers to Norma Keily 8536 6276

Requests come quite regularly for clubs to visit gardens in
Strathalbyn so we are always looking for volunteers. So if you
enjoy sharing your garden and welcome compliments please
offer to be available. Usually there is plenty of notice so
there is time to tweak and tidy, not that perfection is re-
quired.

COMPOSTED PIG MANURE

\$7.00 per 27 litre bag

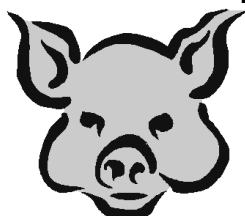
Free delivery in Strathalbyn

Phone 8536 2628

Ros 0428 362 628

Brian 0438 362 628

Practically odourless!



STRENGTH FOR LIFE 50⁺

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

RSL Hall, High Street, Strathalbyn

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.

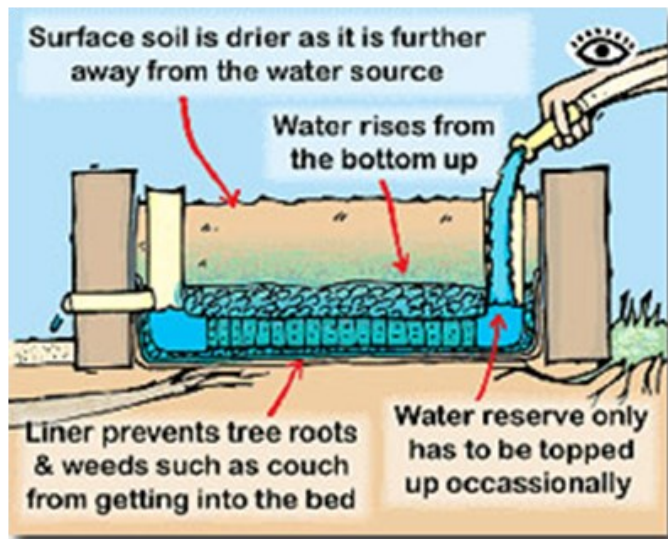
WICKING GARDEN BEDS

A few of our members have experienced great success with wicking garden beds especially during summer when watering and temperature control can be problematic.

Each gardener has used different recycled materials and design to create their wicking beds but the essential concept has remained the same as set out below.

This information has been taken from the website <http://permaculturenews.org/2011/06/20/from-the-bottom-up-a-diy-guide-to-wicking-beds> but a google search or a browse through any comprehensive gardening book will have details and then when building one yourself you are only limited by your imagination and the recycled materials available.

Wicking beds are a unique and increasingly popular way to grow vegetables. They are self-contained raised beds with built-in reservoirs that supply water from the bottom up – changing how, and how much, you water your beds. Water well pots use the wicking concept.



HOW WICKING BEDS WORK

A wick works through capillary action – the same force you observe when you dip a piece of tissue paper partially into a glass of water and watch the water climb the paper. Wicking occurs in many materials; cotton, wool, geotextile, soil, gravel and even wood to some degree. Every material has different wicking properties which you can

test by placing that material into a glass of water and watching the water “climb” up.

ADVANTAGES OF WICKING BEDS

Wicking beds have a lot of advantages over standard raised beds and in-grown swale-based gardens:

- They are water-efficient! Watering from the bottom up prevents evaporation of surface water (which occurs when you water beds from the top).
 - They are self-watering! Wicking beds are an especially great system to use in community gardens because they save people from driving every day during hot weeks to water their beds. A full wicking bed should irrigate itself for about a week.
 - They can be placed close to the house without risk of water damage since the water is contained in the bed.
 - No evaporation means no salting of soil. If you are watering your soils from the top with hard water, you risk accumulating salts, because the water evaporates and leaves the minerals behind. Eventually your soil will struggle to support plant life.
 - They provide a lot of drainage in the event of a large downpour.
 - Since they're raised, they will warm up quicker in the spring.
- You can easily attach sun protection to them or cover them in winter against frosts.
- They are great for people with less mobility and strength as you don't have to haul heavy water containers.

WHAT TO DO IN EARLY AUTUMN

CHECK PLANT TIES

As stems grow and thicken old ties can bite into the bark and cause wounds which may weaken or kill the stem. Alternatively they may have worn and in a strong wind could break and so not be there to support the plant.

PROPAGATE

Now is the time to take semi ripe cuttings from shrubs and softwood cuttings from perennials.

COLLECT SEEDS

Seed collecting from both flower and vegetable plants is a great way to share the joy. Seeds must be dry and ripe. Clean by sifting off the chaff. Store in paper bags or envelopes and label. Keep in a cool, dry dark place and don't forget you have them!

SUMMER PRUNING

Last minute pruning to shape fruit trees can be carried out.

IT'S TIME TO PLANT

Brussels sprouts
Cabbage
Cauliflower
Kale
Peas
Radish
Salad leaves
Silver beet
Spring and bunching onions
Late tomatoes such as Burnley Bounty can be planted in a sheltered spot or even in a pot to follow the sun.

Joan Dawson - February 2016



I was born 4th November 1931 at Leigh in Lancashire, UK, six weeks early and a surprise stomach ache for my mother - my brother followed 16 months later and as we grew older we became great pals until our teenage years when we constantly argued.

My father worked as a fitter in the Lancashire coalfield and worked at Bickershaw, home of the famous Colliery Band that won the National competition many times.

My mother had been a school teacher, but had to leave on becoming married - she later took in sewing to help the family budget.

My brother and I had a very happy childhood wandering miles through fields and country lanes and I often wonder how we knew what time to get back for meals, but I suppose our stomachs told us.

There were about six children close by, mostly boys and we went around as a gang, getting up to all sorts of mischief on the way, climbing trees and falling out of them, pinching apples and paddling in ponds and streams and often getting home wet through - it is possibly my memory, but the days were always long and sunny.

I can remember my brother and I having measles and being confined to bed, but we got bored and decided to play Indians - we sat cross-legged under our high bed and lit a fire!!! Mother was up the stairs in no time at all and putting it out, but for many years we had a burnt circle in the lino - how lucky we were that mum was on the alert.

At five I had whooping cough, as did my brother, then stomach pains which were diagnosed as appendicitis - I was rushed into the isolation hospital 20 miles away, operated on and they caught it just in time - I remember very vividly fighting to get the mask of chloroform off my face.

I was in hospital for four weeks then transferred to another hospital as I had diphtheria and went to a sanatorium for another eight weeks, then had to learn to walk again after having been in bed for so long - how different from today when you are up as soon as possible.

My father became a chief engineer by the beginning of the war in 1939 and living between Manchester and Liverpool we had many alerts, but very few bombs and I used to think going to bed in the air raid shelter was wonderful!!

We were lucky, we didn't realise the danger we were in.

My sister was born in 1940 at the time of Dunkirk and my mother said later that she used to wonder how she would manage with a baby and two young children once the Germans invaded.

I went to Oldham High School from 1943 to 1948 and in 1947 went to Holland on a school exchange visit - we went to Arnhem, stayed with Dutch families and were taken to the huge military cemetery in Oosterbeek that was where the big battle took place - I was a stunned 15 year old, to see such a huge place filled with one grave after another.

After obtaining a good School Certificate I was off to work, firstly for the Midland Bank which I found tedious.

I met my future husband Maurice at a dance in 1949, we got engaged in 1951 and were married on 10th November 1952 - we were the first couple married in the new Limeside Church of England.

We moved to the Midlands in March 1954 and all our children were born there - Peter in 1956, Anne in 1958 and Sally in 1961 - we moved back to the Manchester area when Sally was one month old and bought a house in Stretford, just down the road from Old Trafford.

The house had a long back garden, around one third of an acre, which had been left to go wild, so we had a huge job in taming it. It was roughly divided into thirds and as you went down the garden the first third nearest the house became the lawn and flower garden with a patio close to the house.

The second third was the orchard where we had around eight apple trees and then the bottom third was for vegies.

This portion was my husband's domain and was very productive when the children were all at home - we had rhubarb, gooseberries and raspberries as well as all kinds of vegies and as well as freezing lots of the fruit and vegies, my husband made lots of wine.

Maurice had a job in Trafford Park which he hated, so left and went to college to get his Teaching Diploma and in 1962 started work as a lecturer in Chemistry, teaching to degree level at Bolton Technical College.

In 1964 I decided I would try to achieve what I had wanted to do earlier - teach. I was accepted at Manchester Day College and spent the next three years obtaining my teaching qualification. I started to teach at the local school in 1967 in the infant department, my favourite age was seven year olds as they came on by leaps and bounds. After seven years I applied for and was granted the Deputy Headship at a school in Salford - this was in a very deprived area by the docks and it always amazed me as to how many children grew up normal as some of their lives were unbelievable - this was in the 'Coronation Street' area...

Our three children did well at school and went on to university - Peter in Environmental Studies, Anne in Pharmacy and Sally in Linguistics - once Sally had finished university I applied for early retirement as our elder daughter had immigrated to Australia.

Our first trip to Australia was in 1982 to Gladstone in Queensland and the following year I was back for five months for the birth of our first grandchild and again in 1984 when twins arrived - all of us then returned to the UK to help prepare for our youngest daughter's wedding.

In 1986 our youngest grandson was born in Newman, Western Australia - I was back again in 1987 as our granddaughter had a hole in the heart repaired, then three weeks after the operation we all moved to Queenstown in Tasmania - I loved Tasmania.

In November 2002 Maurice and I celebrated our Golden Wedding with a party for family and friends - we visited Australia again, flew into Melbourne and drove to Nairne in South Australia to be with family - we drove back through the Grampians - what a wonderful trip!

Maurice died suddenly in February 2006 - our youngest daughter was immigrating to Australia in September 2006 and when I decided I was going too, my house sold very quickly and my furniture was there before I arrived in Oz in September 2007 - since moving to Strathalbyn in December 2007 I have found gardening difficult after the ease of gardening in the UK. There were no worries there on watering and our land was quite fertile as it was part of the Mersey River flood plane.

It has been a constant learning curve since I arrived in Oz and I'm still learning and failing!!