



NEWSLETTER

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2016

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year!

After a hot and hectic December it was almost a relief to say farewell to 2015 and to welcome with eager anticipation the new year.

Our November meeting which took the form of a traditional roast lunch, beautifully cooked and served by the members of the Strathalbyn Bowling Club was a fitting end to a successful year. Those attending enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere, good company and excellent food.

Being a leap year this year means there are an extra 24 hours in which to get organised, or to take a one day mini break and not upset the flow of the year's activities.

In these currently hot and windy days I call to mind the women of Henry Lawson's poetry, scanning the horizon for tell tale columns of smoke. The sound of low flying aircraft has me glancing out the window then turning to the CFS web site for a current incident update. We have raked up and taken trailer loads of fallen bark and leaves to the recycle centre but just as quickly as it is picked up, more falls. Toward the end of "bark season" I like to shred a large heap ready for use as garden mulch but to have it piled up for too long could be a recipe for disaster as well as home to unwanted wildlife. I saw on the news that brown snakes are now hatching and moving into the suburbs, time to tidy up and take extra care in the garden.

Norma Keily

KIM SYRUS

Kim Syrus is the South Australian face of gardening on Channel 9 & Gem's "The Garden Gurus" along with being a presenter on the travel program "Gurus Explore". "In the Garden" which appears seasonally on Channel 9, Sundays at 5.30pm is Kim's locally produced program with seasonal local content. Kim can also be heard on 5AA garden talk-back radio.

Along with being one of Australia's most respected rose experts, Kim is the Australian Agent for Meilland International, long regarded as one of the most influential of all rose breeders.

With garden tourism being the biggest motive for tourists across the world international flower festivals are important destinations. Kim visited the Flower Festival Commemorative Park at Gifu which is one of the most magnificent rose gardens in Japan, with 7000 varieties and 30,000 plants contained in an 80 hectare park. It consists mainly of two outstanding gardens.

The first is the Rose Theme Garden which contains 14 themed gardens such as the Fragrant Rose Garden, the Royal Rose Garden and the Blue Rose Garden. The second is the World Rose Garden with roses gathered from all over the world and planted by country. There are also other unique areas called "The Path of Old Roses" and "The Valley of Species Roses".

On the subject of roses Kim pointed out that autumn is the real testing time for roses due to the heat and humidity and

ROSES & MORE

the loss of energy over long summer months.

Breeders are continually striving to breed disease resistant, fragrant roses. Each year there are many rejects from the range of new roses and fashion in plants, like fashion in all areas of life is fickle.

A new variety for 2016 is the 'Origami Meimozahiq': The Star Rose! A nice rose bush with an abundance of Grouped flowers with subtly colored red and white petals, forming a right angle, like a stack of square boxes. A true varietal innovation by Meilland, a unique rose in the world.



Origami Meimozahiq

Kim's suggestion for summer reading is "For Love of a Rose: Story of the Creation of the Famous Peace Rose" by Antonia Ridge. It's the story of the creation of the Peace rose, which was the twentieth century's most successful and most popular rose, in 1935 by a young French hybridist named Francis Meilland. Ridge gives the full back story of the Meilland family's connections to roses, so it spans several generations of a few different French and Italian families, illustrating the hybridization of rose-loving humans as well as their roses.

STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
2016 January 29th	5th Friday to avoid the Tour Down Under	
January 29th 2016	Elizabeth Caldicott	Garden Travels
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
June 24th	AGM	Consider standing for the committee
June 24th	Deb Cantrill from Nirvana Organic Farm	Weaving with natural fibres

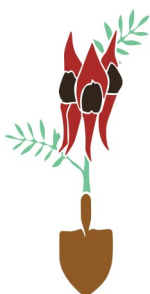
OPEN GARDENS SA

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>



OPEN
GARDENS
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

FEBRUARY

6TH-7TH

JOE'S CONNECTED GARDEN

6 ARGENT STREET, ELIZABETH GROVE.

Joe and his neighbor Rosanne share a common passion for the ideals of permaculture. With an amazing collection of temperate and sub-tropical trees and a large collection of vegetables, this garden really is a cornucopia in suburbia.

20TH - 21ST

FLIGHTPATH

5 WILTON TCE TORRENSVILLE

The Flightpath Garden is all about fruit and vegetables. The front garden is filled with well-tended olive trees heavily laden with fruit. Two generously fruiting pomegranate trees frame the entrance to the back of the property, which is an excellent example of a productive and sustainable garden on a suburban block.

Fruit and vegetables abound to provide year round produce. Citrus, including oranges, lemons, limes and grapefruit are grown together with apricots, pears, plums, figs, quinces and passionfruit.

Vegetables in season for the opening include interesting varieties of chillies, tomatoes and capsicums.

A small hillock has been created in the rear garden as a focal point to grow Australian natives and some Mediterranean water wise exotics like germander, westringias and echiums. There is an attractive Mallee eucalypt and drifts of kangaroo grass. Succulents also feature in unexpected places.

A large chook shed has grapes growing over it to provide shade in summer and there are plenty of interesting recycling ideas and artwork featured in the garden. (0.25 ac)

BLOOM COMPETITION OCTOBER 2015

Once again members scavenged their gardens to produce a wonderful display of blooms and pots for judging.

Congratulations to:

Lyn Michelmore for her elegant iris.

Val Phillips for a pot full of orchid spikes

Bridget Knight for a stunning grevillea bloom.

A sincere thank you to the club members who arrived early and stayed late on the day to set up and dismantle the competition and who accepted the entries and counted the buttons. Your efforts ensured the smooth running of the competition

It has been suggested that the 2016 Spring Bloom competition should have a separate section for roses. A great idea on which the committee will take action.



Lyn, Bridget and Val with their winning blooms.

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

MYSTERY BUS TRIP MARCH 18TH REVEALED!

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!

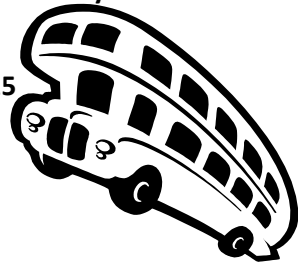
Depart at 3 pm

Arrive Strathalbyn at 5pm - 5.15
pm

\$35 per person.

50 places only

First 50 paid up get to go.



HELP WANTED FOR CLUB VISIT

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

Can you help with the lunch catering? There will be approxi-
mately 40 people and they will be paying \$10 each for lunch.

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 of help to Norma Keily 8536 6276

2015/16 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	NORMA KEILY
SECRETARY	JENNY THOMAS
TREASURER	MARY GOLDEN
HOSTESS & TRIPS	MARIA MAXWELL
NEWSLETTER & TABLES	JACKIE CHAPMAN
GUEST SPEAKERS	PAT SIMPSON
COMMITTEE MEMBER	HEATHER MCMURTRIE

SUPPORT

RAFFLE	REN TREMAYNE
MORNING TEA	YVETTE HOLDSWORTH & ANNELIE DALY
BLOOM COMPETITION	ROB FOX

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE CLUB.

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!

COMPOSTED PIG MANURE

\$7.00 per 27 litre bag

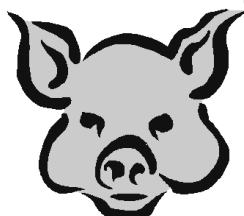
Free delivery in Strathalbyn

Phone 8536 2628

Ros 0428 362 628

Brian 0438 362 628

Practically odourless!



SHEEP MANURE for Sale

\$5 / bag (delivered to Strath)

\$4 / 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.

MYSTERY BUS TRIP - REVEALED!

AL-RU FARM

AL RU Farm, a small cattle holding purchased in 1981 by Ruth and Alan is nestled in the Adelaide hills, half way between the city and the Barossa. The cattle, olive oil, wedding and antique aspects of the farm create a lifestyle that the owners want you to come and share.

The 10 acres surrounding the homestead has been nurtured into gardens reminiscent of the French country side. Cattle graze 50 hectares of rolling farmland and olive trees enjoy the Mediterranean climate facing north towards the sun. The garden at Al Ru is one of the largest and most admired gardens in South Australia. Inspired by her visits to hundreds of gardens in every corner of the world, talented plants woman Ruth Irving has created a series of garden rooms each with its own distinctive style and palette of plants. In Spring the woodland garden is awash with shocking pink silene, electric lime green euphorbia, bluebells, honesty, campanulas, Dutch iris and crabapple blossom. There are colour themed perennial borders, a wisteria and rose covered arch leading into the white garden – (a favourite spot for wedding ceremonies) and a formal rose garden and a delightfully informal wild garden where freesias and white lawn daisies have been left to naturalise. There are many romantic French provincial garden structures, urns and statues and these combined with the barn and other outbuildings give the garden a distinctly olde world Mediterranean feel.



VIRGINIA HOME AND GARDEN *"It's not just a nursery!"*

Jim Gencheff began his career as a vegetable grower in Virginia, South Australia. High quality tomatoes earned him recognition within the local community and interstate. For many years Jim worked as a vegetable grower developing his knowledge and experience in horticulture.

Jim's sons, Chad and Marcus joined him in the family business in 1992 when the wholesale nursery started, supplying vegetable seedlings to local growers. A market demand for salinity control prompted an addition to the business in the way of native trees, saltbush and Blue gum seedlings. Since opening Virginia Home & Garden in 2002, it has established itself as South Australia's largest retail garden outlet.

Household gardens are an iconic part of the Australian life style and it is gratifying to observe the enthusiasm of our visitors. Assisting customers realise the joy of gardening, relaxing and time spent with family and friends in the household garden is equally rewarding.

Over time, Virginia Home & Garden has established Adelaide's most extensive supply of greenlife, water features, pots and gardening accessories.

We now include the following shops within our centre, Stella's Home and Gifts, "Stella's" Kitchenware and our own Doncho's Café which is open 7 days a week for breakfast & Lunch or to grab a quick coffee during your shopping experience.

(Gavin assures us that there is plenty of room in the luggage compartment of the coach for purchases.)

