



# NEWSLETTER

Website: [www.strathgardenclub.com.au](http://www.strathgardenclub.com.au)

Email: [strathalbyngardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:strathalbyngardenclub@gmail.com)

Phone contact: 0416 173 573

Issue No: 129

July  
2014

## From The President,

The AGM was a successful meeting with over 100 in attendance and 7 new members joining us.

Thank you for expressing your confidence in me by electing me for another year as president.

Congratulations and thank you to the other elected members and my apologies to Selina Kemmis whose withdrawn nomination I overlooked before the meeting.

Noreen Wendelborn volunteered for the committee after the AGM and there is a clause in the Constitution allowing for her inclusion.

The committee is grateful for the offers of support for the various activities during meetings. Help setting up, staffing the sellers' and donations tables, taking care of visitors and new members and all the other myriad tasks that make a successful meeting is always welcome. In October we will need a convenor for the Bloom Competition and in August we will need assistance with the Neutrog delivery and pick up.

As we hibernate inside waiting for spring it is comforting to realise that the cold is filling the chilling requirement for fruit trees so we may have a cherry harvest this year.

The rain is filling the catchments and tanks and soaking deep into the soil for summer use and in the meantime we can read garden books and plan for spring.

Norma Keily

## SPRINGING INTO ACTION WITH SOPHIE THOMSON

Sophie began her talk by asking the rhetorical question "Do we need all the products promoted on the garden programs?" Not all bugs are bad and not all bugs need to be 'nuked' as there are more environmentally aware means of controlling them.

Healthy plants are less susceptible to insect attack and are more disease resistant and healthy soil produces healthy plants.

Compost is a vital component of healthy soil and instead of adding kitchen scraps and garden waste to the landfill every home should be composting.

Bokashi buckets are suited to homeowners who do not have space for traditional compost heaps.

Soil is not dirt! With trillions of beneficial bacteria per inch the intelligence in soil is beyond our understanding. Worms are of profound importance to the life of our planet and in their eight years of life they can process thirty tons of soil each.

Bacteria have three primary functions

- ⇒ To break down pollutants
- ⇒ Sequester atmospheric carbon dioxide
- ⇒ Deal with pathogens in the soil.

Fungi in the soil extend the root systems of plants to give them greater access to water and nutrients. The ratio of bad to good bacteria is 1:1000.

Tips for a healthy productive garden include:

Exclude cabbage moths and birds with nets; copper tape works against snails and slugs; snail traps filled with the brown snail bait are effective;

companion planting confuses the bugs; seaweed tonics are very beneficial as they strengthen the plants' cell walls.

Many chemicals still permitted in Australia are banned for use overseas, in particular the Neonicotinoids which may cause honey bee colony collapse.

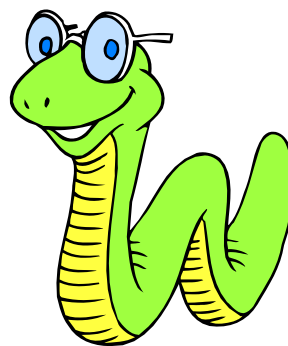
Always read the label on

any product before using it.

The key to successful gardening is a \$1 plant in a \$100 hole.

Sophie's final point was the health benefits of getting out into the natural world and getting dirty. 'Nature Play SA' is an organisation directed at getting children outside to play.

"Friend" Sophie Thomson's public face book page for a regular supply of garden tips and information.



### ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2014/15

President	Norma Keily	8536 6276
Secretary	Jenny Thomas	8536 4275
Treasurer	Mary Golden	8536 4267
Speakers	Ruth Franck	8536 2020
Tables	Jackie Chapman	8536 8796
Trips	Maria Maxwell	8536 3731
	Noreen Wendelborn	8536 3595

### SUPPORT MEMBERS

#### MORNING TEA

Yvette Holdsworth & Annelie Daly

#### Gifts

Selina Kemmis

#### Name Tags

Janet Jones

#### Bloom Competition

Vacant

# STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
July 25th	Greg Ruckert	Growing and caring for bulbs
July 25th	Neutrog Order 2014 Closes	
July 30th	Rose Pruning	Maggie Minchin's , Dry Plains Road.
August 15th	Neutrog Order pick up	5 Ashbourne Road Strathalbyn
August 22nd	Norma Keily	Snapshot of a Garden Lover's Holiday.
August 22nd	Eden Valley Bushfire recovery	Plant collection day - bring your plants to the hall.
September 26th	Rob Fairweather	Birds and basic photography
October 11th	Cavalcade of Gardens	1 - 4pm
October 24th	Guest Speaker from the Art Gallery	Flowers in art.
October 24th	Spring Bloom Competition	
November 24th	Garden Party	Sgorra Bhreac, Marchant Road, Strathalbyn

## CAVALCADE OF GARDENS 2014

**SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER 1 - 4PM**

Put the date in your diary as planning is underway.

More details will be released as they are finalised and maps and descriptions of the gardens will be available at the September meeting.

If you would like your garden included please let Norma know as there are still free spots on the route.

Friends and relatives are welcome to join you as you visit our Cavalcade of Gardens.



## COMING EVENTS

### Rose Pruning Demonstration and practice

Wednesday 30th July 2014

9.30 - 11.30am

At Maggie Minchin's

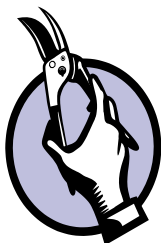
Next to the Race Course entrance on Dry Plains Road Strathalbyn.

Bridget Knight will demonstrate her method for pruning roses and Maggie would be delighted to have all her roses pruned!

Bring your secateurs and tough gloves.

Dress for the weather.

Morning tea provided.



## STRATHALBYN AND DISTRICTS SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

An Invitation to our 47 Birthday Party  
to be held at the  
Seniors club rooms  
6 Parker Ave  
Strathalbyn 5255

Monday 15 Sep 2014 at 1pm

Entertainment by Modbury Singers  
Afternoon Tea

Lucy Door Prize - Raffles - Trading Table - Chocolate Stall

RSVP: 15 Aug 2014

Strath Seniors Box 268 Strathalbyn 5255

Ph: Jenny Sandercock 7511 7134

Email: [grahams38@optusnet.com](mailto:grahams38@optusnet.com)

## NEUTROG ORDER



2014

### THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE ORDER FOR 2014

- ⇒ Decide which products you want.
- ⇒ Fill in the order form.
- ⇒ Place the completed order form and the money in the envelope provided.
- ⇒ Fill in the details on the front of the envelope.
- ⇒ Hand the envelope to the Treasurer or her assistant by July 25th.
- ⇒ The Treasurer will record your order and details on the master order spread sheet on her computer.
- ⇒ Pick up your receipted order form at the next meeting from the Treasurer as it will be needed on collection day Friday 15th August

### COLLECTION DAY FRIDAY 15TH AUGUST

#### AT 5 ASHBOURNE ROAD 9.30AM - 1PM

- ⇒ Bring your receipted order form on collection day.
- ⇒ Do not drive into the driveway until summoned.
- ⇒ Parking is limited on the road side but parking is available at the Oval.
- ⇒ Help will be needed to sort and distribute the Neutrog. Volunteer to Norma.
- ⇒ If unable to pick up your order on collection day please make other arrangements with Norma or Rob Fairweather.

Please be discreet when discussing with anyone our arrangement with Neutrog as we do not wish to offend any of our local suppliers.

#### 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.

#### 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!

N.B.

## SIGNING IN

Members are reminded that it is important to sign the Attendance Register on arrival and when picking up your name badge for the meeting so that our record keeping for insurance purposes is accurate.

Apologies can be recorded with an A in the appropriate column.

## GOT A PROBLEM?

If you have a problem, something to share, need a cutting or seeds or scion wood then the newsletter is a good means of communication. Norma edits the newsletter and will gladly find space for your request.

Email [strathalbyngardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:strathalbyngardenclub@gmail.com) or phone 85366276.

## LUCKY DOOR PRIZE

Just a reminder that the lucky winner of the door prize has first pick from the raffle table and this can be taken before the raffle draw so there is ample time to make a choice.

## SELLERS TABLE

It was decided at the January Committee meeting that Sellers may give a donation either in cash or kind for the privilege of using the **Sellers Table**. The choice and amount is up to their discretion. We encourage members to make use of this service as well as to continue making donations to the **Donations Table**.

## GARDEN HELP

Later in the year three of our members will be opening their gardens with Open Gardens Australia. Maggie Minchin, Tania Richardson and Joy & Chris Bourne might be delighted if Club members would offer some volunteer time to help in the preparation of their gardens. Working Bee times will be planned closer to the dates but help might be needed earlier with pruning, weed control and planting.

Assistance during their Open weekends might also be appreciated. It is a great opportunity to meet other gardeners and promote Strathalbyn.

## WOOD ASH IN THE GARDEN



Many of us have slow combustion stoves and open fires that produce a lot of wood ash which we would love to be able to recycle in the garden. Wood ash is a good source of lime and potash, as well as magnesium and phosphoric acid, all of which are good for enriching the soil. However, if there is a lot of ash, it's probably best to put it out with the rubbish to be collected, because it's rather alkaline and can cause problems. In small quantities, though, there are several ways to use it in the garden.

Because it's alkaline it can be used to sweeten up compost heaps, which tend to be rather acid. Don't overdo it - just sprinkle some on from time to time and turn it in. When composting leaves on their own to make a rich leaf mulch for the garden, sprinkle it in between layers to hasten the mulching process. This is especially good with oak leaves or pine needles in the heap.

When pear or cherry slugs attack the leaves of fruiting or ornamental pear or cherry trees, throw some wood ash amongst the foliage every few days. The dry ash dehydrates the slugs and they quickly 'drop off the twig'. Sprinkle a few ashes around seedlings that are under threat from slugs and snails. They don't like the texture and won't crawl across it. Replenish it every few days, especially in wet weather, as rain will quickly leach away any nutrients that ash may contain.

Because of its alkalinity, make sure to keep any wood ash away from acid-loving plants. Keep it away from ground to be used for growing potatoes and don't let it near any seed potatoes.

This information refers only to ash from wood fires. Ash from burning paper, leaves or coal is not especially useful and may even be harmful in the garden. The large chunks of charcoal can be used in the bottoms of pots.

For average soils it is safe to apply about a shovel full, or 1 kilogram to the square metre. Spread it out and scuff it into the soil to prevent it blowing around in the wind. Again, don't add ash to garden beds in areas with alkaline soil. Knowing the pH of your soil is an essential key to gardening success.

---

## AN AID FOR CHOOSING PLANTS FOR THE GARDEN

[http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/botanicgardens/Learn/Green\\_Infrastructure/Plant\\_Selector](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/botanicgardens/Learn/Green_Infrastructure/Plant_Selector)

### Plant Selector+

The Botanic Gardens of Adelaide has launched an updated online Plant Selector tool as part of its Green Infrastructure project.

Plant Selector+ is a comprehensive, relevant and user-friendly online resource to help achieve more sustainable urban landscapes through improved plant selections.

The **Plant Selector +** is a website designed to help choose the right plants for the right places in South Australia. Plants include Australian native and exotic species. They are carefully screened to suit the climates, soils and other conditions of the areas for which they are recommended.

Detailed information, including an illustration, is provided about each plant including suitability for different landscape types, soil and light preferences, physical appearance, growth habits, attraction for native fauna, common landscaping uses and other qualities and cautions. Additional information about trees includes suitability for a variety of urban placements and purposes.

This project has been assisted by the Local Government Research & Development Scheme and SA Water. Guidance and expertise has been contributed by: TREENET;

State Flora plant nursery at Belair; Nursery & Garden Industry of South Australia; SA Water; local government representatives; independent landscape architects and designers; Botanic Gardens of Adelaide horticultural staff; and Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide.

#### Using the Plant Selector+

You can access plants and trees in the Plant Selector + Database in two main ways. You can use a suburb or postcode to select an initial plant list, or if you already have a plant or tree in mind you can enter the name details in the name field. Using the name will display any plant in the database that contains the text you enter in this field. Plant/Tree names are entered using either *genus species* or common name. You can enter any part of these names as well. E.g. if you enter *euc* your list will contain any plant in the database with *euc* in either the Botanic name or Common name.

The **My List** feature of **Plant Selector +** gives you the ability to save your favourite plants to a list which you can either print or email to yourself for later reference.

This comprehensive database is worth exploring when looking for specific plants. It does not include information on propagating but does have basic care instructions.





## Lynn Michelmores - July 2014



Mum and Dad's garden with Wisteria draped all over the tanks, masses of purple flowers - everyone had a Wisteria in those days, this is a great memory.

I grew up at Macclesfield on a dairy farm and Dad always had an extensive vegetable garden - manure, from cows and pigs was plentiful - vegetables were grown in a pig yard on rotation, everything grew well - massive pumpkins and plenty to feed the family, Mum, Dad and three kids.

I married and first lived on Summer Hill out of Strathalbyn and began gardening on a blank canvas, from then I have always made a garden wherever I've lived.

The Mother of four, my kids were allergic to cow's milk, so I bought goats for their milk and then got into breeding, showing and selling them all over Australia.

Of course the goats assisted with the garden pruning and loved every wind fall peach that fell over their fence, sucking off the flesh and spitting out the stones.

I've had a rose garden with 100 Roses, all different types and colours, this was a another farm garden as were my two previous gardens to this one.

My farm gardens were big, with lots of big trees planted away from the house and lots of vegetables planted in the big back yards.

I always planted Grevillias in my farm gardens and found them to be hardy and great for the birds - Honey-eaters and the like.

I always had mains water for my farm gardens, plus rain water too and over the years

have run up some big water bills, of course mostly put down to the stock water...

Now single, I'm living in my 7th garden - my 4th in seven years, but this is my final garden, I'm settled and here to stay.

Each of my previous gardens, 'though some were rentals, has had my attention and care.

Now retired from full time work, with just a part time 'occasional help out' job I breed 'Black Magic' alpacas - breeding black alpacas is quite a challenge and some what difficult, with lots of other interesting colours arriving along the way - it's always a lucky dip, but interesting.

I've found that Alpaca manure is about the best animal manure I have used, it's mild and there are no weeds, but wherever it's spread I have found heaps of earth-worms.

I've always had ducks and chooks and presently I have Cochin and Speckled Sussex chooks - a small flock of roosters roam my front garden and are the colourful welcoming committee for my visitors, I don't think there's a bug left in my garden.

These big boys aerate my garden, I just have to put the mulch back onto my garden beds occasionally.

On my five acre block on the outskirts of Strathalbyn I have some big trees, lots of gums, Broughton Willow Wattles, native shrubs and a few standard Roses, plus Geraniums and Nasturtiums for colour - I love my ferns too.

The Broughton Willow Wattles sucker and grow up from seed, so I am always removing the seedlings and take every care not to work too close underneath and cause suckering.

I have Virgillias - these bright flowering, quick growers are easy to shape, I trim them right from the start to a 'standard' shape and find they last longer - I love their pink flowers.

Sunburst Gleditsia is another favourite, these are easy to trim and keep to a small size and have bright yellow flowers.

I think my five acres are fairly well utilised, with paddocks for my alpacas and a large garden around the house - there is plenty of room for everything.

My garden is made up of trees, which I trim regularly to keep them neat and tidy; native shrubs, Geraniums and Nasturtiums of course for colour - it's all fairly easy care.

Now retired, I'm really looking forward to getting to attend and enjoy every garden club meeting and every garden club outing.