



NEWSLETTER

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2014

SUBS DUE TODAY \$10

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is with pleasure that I can report that the Strathalbyn Garden Club is maintaining its popularity with a steady membership of about 150 and a regular monthly attendance of close to ninety members and friends.

Guest speaker highlights for the past year have included Professor Chris Daniels talking about Backyard Biodiversity, Phillipa Lamphée telling us about geraniums and pelargoniums and demonstrating how to pot up cuttings and care for them. Judy Cross from Angas Plains Wines gave an entertaining talk on the history and development of the winery and provided samples of the wines and preserves for members to taste. In October Troy McKenzie from Leaf Boutique entertained us with a display of colourful pots and ideas on how to create a potted garden.

In the New Year we enjoyed a visit from John Zwar who gave a very interesting insight into the Waite Institute, Urrbrae Campus and the Arboretum. In the following month we had a representative from Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority who dispelled all the myths about recycling and rubbish management. To herald the start of the fruit tree planting season Chris Perry gave a talk on fruit trees for the backyard and covered details of care and pruning to produce the best fruit crops. In preparation for our spring Neutrog order Vince Daveys gave an update on the latest Neutrog products and answered many questions about the various fertilisers available. Ruth Franck works tirelessly to ensure that we have an

outstanding and varied range of guest speakers to entertain members and we are extremely grateful for her continued enthusiasm for the task.

Maria Maxwell has done a wonderful job organising our coach trips and has taken us to some very interesting destinations including the Neutrog factory, Monarto Zoo and State Flora in August last year. To compensate for not having a meeting in April, as the meeting



date coincided with Anzac Day, two outings were arranged. In late April we had the very great pleasure of visiting the garden of Sophie Thomson where members enjoyed a guided tour followed by afternoon tea. It was a glorious autumn day and members enjoyed wandering through the vegetable garden and orchard recognising features previously seen on the Gardening Australia TV program.

In early May on a wet and cold autumn day Gavin drove a bus load of Garden Club members through the Adelaide Hills, stopping at the Windmill Hill recycling depot, Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens and the private gardens of Trevor Nottle and Mr & Mrs Roach in Crafers. The final stop was taken at The Depot Nursery in

Mt Barker and although the weather was inclement nothing could deter Club members from enjoying themselves. Arranging the program for the trips, contacting key people, liaising with Gavin for the coach hire, keeping lists of attendees and dealing with unexpected problems and changes can be challenging but Maria has managed the role with patience and skill and we thank her for her commitment to the Garden Club. We are also indebted to Janet Jones for her brilliant pictorial record of our outings.

Other highlights of the year have been our Cavalcade of Gardens in October last year during which eight members of the club opened their gardens to visitors on a lovely spring afternoon.

During the year we have also hosted visits to some of our gardens by other garden clubs and it is always a delight to share their interest and enthusiasm.

Two 'hands on' learning experiences were provided with a propagating morning and a fruit tree pruning session. The efforts of the propagating morning will provide plants for the Eden Valley Bushfire Recovery Project to be gathered and delivered in August.

Managing the finances of a busy club can be time consuming and mentally challenging and we extend our sincere appreciation to Mary Golden for the unflappable and thorough way in which she performs the role of Treasurer.

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STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
June 27th	AGM	Consider nominating for the committee
June 27th	Sophie Thomson	"Spring into action"
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 24th	Guest Speaker from the Art Gallery	Flowers in art.
October 24th	Spring Bloom Competition	
November 24th	Garden Party	Sgorra Bhreac, Marchant Road, Strathalbyn
November 28th	End of year lunch	TBA

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In Spring and Autumn the bloom competitions have been capably managed by Yvette Holdsworth and Annelie Daly and their efforts are greatly appreciated. The competitions provide an opportunity for members to exhibit the best and most unusual from their gardens.

Each meeting of the Garden Club requires a team of volunteers to help with the set up, pack up and servicing of all the different components from Raffle Ticket sales, Raffle table, morning tea, setting out the chairs, tables and noticeboards, attendance register and name tags to the donations and sellers tables and we are very grateful to the members who arrive early to prepare for the meeting.

Prior to the meetings time and effort is required to prepare the newsletter, purchase gifts for the guest speakers and prizes for the competitions, purchase the supplies for morning tea, keep the website up to date, and produce the minutes of the meetings as well as handle any correspondence. On behalf of the members I extend our sincere appreciation to all the volunteers for their work.

there comes a time when circumstances call for a change and this year we are in need of new volunteers for the committee as some of our members have chosen to retire. Involvement in the management of the Garden Club is very rewarding so why not volunteer a few hours from each month? You wont regret it!

Norma Keily

COMING EVENTS

ROSE PRUNING

Demonstration and practice
Wednesday 30th July 2014
9.30 - 11.30am

At Maggie Minchin's

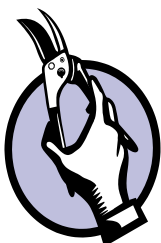
Next to the Race Course entrance on Dry Plains Road Strathalbyn.

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

NEEDED! WANTED!

A MORNING TEA

TEAM



Members of the Strathalbyn Garden Club enjoy their tea break during the meeting however unless we have volunteers to organise and manage it we will have to stop the service.

Ideally we need one person to take care of the supplies and a roster of volunteers to help with the set up, monitoring and clean up.

Margaret Croser has served us well over the past few years but feels it is time to hand on the tea towels to someone new. Training and support will be provided. Unless we get volunteers at the June meeting there will be no morning tea in July.

Speak to Margaret Croser or a committee member TODAY.

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.

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 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.

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!

Neutrog is celebrating 25 years of being in the fertiliser business. A recent surge in demand has been created by the promotion of their products on Television Gardening programs such as Better Homes and Gardens with Graham Ross advocating for the use of GoGo Juice. Long term use of chemicals in the home garden and broad acre farming is finally being seen as adversely affecting the soil and the organic based Neutrog products are helping to address the resulting damage.

Lawn care is important to Neutrog and a range of products are available. Seamungus is produced as a pellet or a crumble to improve soil structure and aid water retention and should be applied every six weeks for maximum benefit. It has a 45% seaweed content. The crumble is better for dry conditions as it breaks down more quickly. Blade Runner is Bounce Back in crumble form and has a 3:2:2 ratio which is also suited to native plants. Upsurge has a higher nitrogen ratio 8:1:4 and is not suited to winter application and it is not totally organic. Sudden Impact for lawns also has a higher nitrogen ratio 12:2:9 and is not suited to winter use but gives a quick lift in spring. It is to be relaunched in 20kg bags. General garden care should include Bounce Back with a 3:2:2 ratio or Rapid Raiser which is slightly stronger at



4:3:2. It is preferable to use a little less more often as plants prefer continuous feeding.

Plant specific products include Sudden Impact for Roses which is suited to use on many non native, flowering plants. Strike Back for Orchids, which has added trace elements and comes as either a liquid or pellets, is suited to most pot plants and Kahoona is useful for all acid loving plants. A new product, Ka-Bloom, has been developed for Bunnings and is an all purpose organic fertiliser high in potassium. Giganic has been developed specifically for fruit and citrus and is endorsed by the Rare Fruit Society. It promotes good fruit size and uniformity and should be applied to fruit trees in small

amounts each month except in winter.

Fertilisers should be stored in a dry place away from pets and pests. White mould on the product is natural bacteria and is not harmful.

Rocket fuel is an organic certified product and royalties from sales are directed to supporting the Stephanie Alexander Foundation.

Other products include liquid Seamungus a good all round fertiliser and GoGo Juice which has the added benefit of essential microbes. GoGO Juice is especially beneficial to poor soils and it is recommended to be used regularly on pot plants to keep the soil biota alive.

There are six primary nutrients that plants require. Carbon, hydrogen and oxygen come from air and water. The other three are nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

N = Nitrogen helps plants make the proteins they need to produce new tissues. If too much nitrogen is available, the plant may grow abundant foliage but not produce fruit or flowers. Growth may actually be stunted because the plant isn't absorbing enough of the other elements.

P = Phosphorous stimulates root growth, helps the plant set buds and flowers, improves vitality and increases seed size. To absorb phosphorous, most plants require a soil pH of 6.5 to 6.8. Organic matter and the activity of soil organisms also increase the availability of phosphorus.

K = Potassium improves overall vigour of the plant. It helps the plants make carbohydrates and provides disease resistance.

Plants need small amounts of:

Calcium used in cell membranes, at the growing points and to neutralize toxic materials. Calcium improves

soil structure and helps bind organic and inorganic particles together.

Magnesium is the only metallic component of chlorophyll. Without it, plants can't process sunlight.

Sulphur is a component of many proteins.

Micronutrients include boron, copper and iron. Healthy soil high in organic matter usually contains adequate amounts of these micronutrients.

Organic vs. Synthetic

Organic and synthetic fertiliser provide nutrients in different ways. Organic fertiliser are made from naturally occurring mineral deposits and organic material, such as bone or plant meal or composted manure. Synthetic fertiliser are made by chemically processing raw materials. Nutrients in organic fertiliser are not water-soluble and are released to the plants slowly over time. Organic fertiliser stimulates beneficial soil microorganisms and improves the structure of the soil. Soil microbes play an important role in converting organic



fertiliser into soluble nutrients that can be absorbed by plants. Organic fertiliser and compost will usually provide all the secondary and micronutrients your plants need.

Synthetic fertiliser is water-soluble and can be taken up by the plant almost immediately. Too much synthetic fertilizer can "burn" foliage and damage your plants. Synthetic fertiliser give plants a quick boost but do little to improve soil texture, stimulate soil life, or improve soil's long-term fertility. As synthetic fertilisers are highly water-soluble, they may leach out into waterways. Synthetic fertilisers do have some advantages in early spring. Because they are water-soluble, they are available to plants even when the soil is still cold and soil microbes are inactive. For this reason, some organically-based fertilisers also contain small amounts of synthetic fertiliser to ensure the availability of nutrients.

For the long-term health of your garden, feeding your plants by building the soil with organic fertiliser and compost is best. This will give you soil that is rich in organic matter and teeming with microbial life.

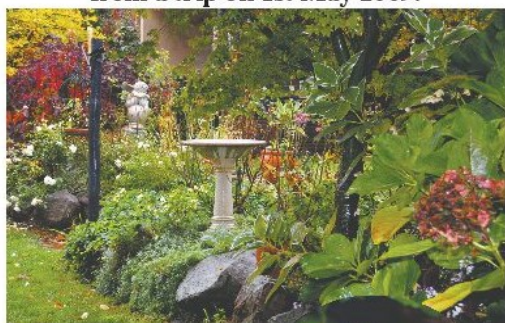
Strathalbyn Garden Club's 9th May 2014 Hills outing



Salvage and Save have a huge range of out door / garden furniture and furnishings; Yvette found plenty of stock on the shelves to choose from.



This view of Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens is from a trip on 1st May 2009.



Above - the Roach garden was full of colour; one of 100 roses in the garden; Below - brollies were in order for the day.



Friday 9th May 2014 is a day 45 members of the Strathalbyn Garden Club will long remember - we headed off with our trusty bus operator, Gavin Rufus, destined for our day trip into the Hills.

Little did we know that we were going to experience one of the wettest Strathalbyn Garden Club outings on record, but spirits were not dampened.

Our first stop was Salvage and Save on Windmill Hill between Mt Barker and Hahndorf, it is like a giant opportunity shop and some of our members took the opportunity to make purchases, while others spent their time looking at what is available.

With rain still falling, we arrived at the Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens and our guides boarded the bus for our bus tour of the gardens - we could see the beautiful autumn colours, but our view was not clear through the rain streaked windows of the bus.

Arriving at Crafers, where we were to visit two neighbouring gardens it was still raining, so with wet weather gear and brollies for protection, we headed off, with our b.y.o. lunches in hand.

We received a very warm welcome, being invited into the Roach's warm living room where most of us found a seat and ate lunch as John Roach told us about his garden which receives an annual rain fall of two metres, a bit different from Strathalbyn's 20 inches.

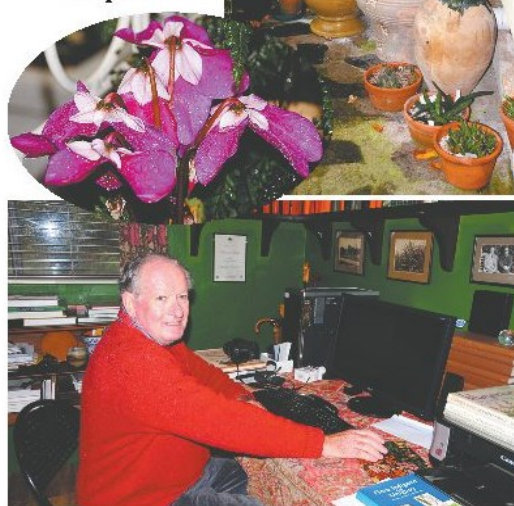
Trevor Nottle told us about his garden while we remained warm and dry, before we braved the elements for tours of both lovely gardens.

Gavin found a dry spot for afternoon tea under the canopy of a disused service station - he is so resourceful.

Our last stop for the day was at The Plant Depot at Mt Barker, where members were able to purchase from a lovely selection of trees, shrubs, ground covers and seedlings.

Thanks Maria for planning our lovely, memorable May, Hills garden outing.

Pots for plants and broom storage on the verandah; an unusual cyclamen; garden writer Trevor Nottle at the computer.



Viewing some of Trevor's old gardening books including one from the 1500s, the first UK print to include American vegetables.



The Plant Depot; Good variety of trees, shrubs, elegant urns, lots of pots and plenty of bright potted colour.

