



NEWSLETTER

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Issue No: 138

June

2015

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Reviewing the monthly newsletter and the meeting attendance register shows that the past year for the Strathalbyn Garden Club has been busier and more popular than ever.

All credit goes to our small but very efficient and dedicated Committee and the team of volunteers who support the Club by assisting with the operation of the Raffle table and ticket sales, preparing and managing morning tea, assisting with the Donations and Sellers tables, managing the Entry Table and the annual Bloom competition and managing the website.

The dedication and skill of the committee members is evidenced by the smooth running of the meetings, the interesting range of guest speakers, the quality of excursions, the informative newsletter and the increasing membership of the club.

The club members have shown their interest by attending meetings regularly, supporting the raffle table and sellers and donations table, participating in excursions and entering the bloom competition. Support for the plant collection for the Eden Valley Bushfire Recovery was overwhelming. Interest in the annual Cavalcade of Gardens continues to be strong and the willingness of members to open their gardens to visiting groups is heart warming.

During the past year we have enjoyed presentations by Greg Ruckert, Norma Keily, Rob Fairweather, John Zwar, Steve and Barbara Ward from Yarrabee Water Garden, Rodney Hutchinson the ant expert, Troy McKenzie from the Leaf Boutique and Vince Davey from Neutrog. Ruth Franck has worked diligently to provide a varied and interesting range of guest speakers and despite retiring from the committee has committed to being the liaison for the speakers she has arranged for the remainder of the year.

The member's profile in the newsletter is always read with

interest and we appreciate the efforts made by Janet Jones in cajoling members into sharing their stories. Janet also provides a wonderful display of photos from our excursions. Not all our members are able to attend all meetings so the newsletter is a good means of sharing information. The web page is a great asset to the Club in providing information to the inquiring public and we are exploring the option of having a corporate Facebook page. More and more of our members are becoming tech savvy so it makes sense to use email and Facebook to share information.

Trips to Anlaby Station and Murray Bridge Garden Club, high tea at Sgorra Bhreac, a tour of Urrbrae House and gardens and the annual Cavalcade of Gardens have exposed members to other gardens and the annual Spring Bloom Competition has given members the opportunity to share their gardening delights.

On behalf of the Club membership I extend sincere appreciation to everyone who helps make this Club the success it is. However in order to maintain the level of success that the Strathalbyn Garden Club enjoys new folk with fresh ideas, different skills and new energy are required on the committee. Reading back over my President's Reports for the past five years there is a recurrent theme - the need for additional members for the committee. While continuity is important so is succession planning and as responsible managers we need to take steps to ensure the longevity of the Strathalbyn Garden Club by having these matters in hand.

Being President of the Club for the past five years has given me great pleasure and I am grateful for your support and confidence.

Norma Keily

SUBS DUE TODAY

\$10 TO THE TREASURER'S TABLE

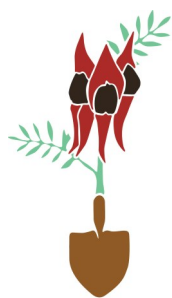
Please let us know if you have changed your contact details

NEUTROG ORDERS

ORDER FORM AND CORRECT MONEY IN AN ENVELOPE WITH YOUR NAME ON THE FRONT TO THE TREASURER'S TABLE.

STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
June 26th	AGM	Consider nominating for the committee
June 26th	Graham Morris	Cymbidium Orchids
July 24th	Michael Coulson	CFS Fire ready
August 21st	Neutrog Delivery	Pick up from Walsh Avenue
August 28th	Mark Thomas	Gondwana Landscaping & consultancy
September 25th	Jeffrey Reid	Mangroves - Where the land meets the sea
October 10th	Cavalcade of Gardens	Visit local gardens
October 23rd	Kim Syrus	Roses and more
October 23rd	Bloom Competition	3 categories to enter
November 27th	End of year Lunch	TBA



OPEN
GARDENS
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

OPEN GARDENS SA BEING LAUNCHED SOON!

The official launch of the new Open Gardens SA (OGSA Inc) will take place on Sunday 23rd August with an invitation only event at St Austell, Kensington.

The calendar of Open Gardens for the first three months is now available on the website:

opengardensa.org.au

Most Open Garden entries on the website have printable notes attached and there is comprehensive information about the specific details of each garden with photos to whet the appetite.

Entry fee is \$8 per person with children under 18 free. A reduced fee of \$6 applies to Pensioner Concession Card and Health Care card holders. No other concessions apply.

AUGUST OPEN GARDENS

Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th 10 am- 4.30pm
Bellevue Heights succulent garden

81 Highland Drive Bellevue Heights

Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th 10 am- 5.30pm
The Looking Glass Garden Marino

2 Caralue Road - Marino

FRIENDS OF STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB

Following a suggestion made by Vince Davey, the Neutrog Representative, your committee has decided to institute a new category of membership.

Friends of the Strathalbyn Garden Club will be those people who are unable to attend meetings but are keen to be connected and to receive the newsletter via email.

"Friends" will not have voting rights but may attend an occasional meeting as a visitor.

"Friends" may have access to events and activities where partners and friends are invited.

"Friends" who are new to the Club will pay a one off joining fee of \$20 with no annual subs required.

Members who wish to transfer to the new **"Friends"** category will not be required to pay any further annual subscriptions.

It was voted at a meeting of The Strathalbyn Garden Club some six years ago to cap the membership at 150. This change will allow for more active prospective members to join while members who are unable to attend can still remain connected.

Comments or enquiries to Norma Keily please.

For the Travellers

REMARK Rose Festival October 16th - 25th 2015 - in and around Renmark.

CANBERRA'S Floriade September 12th - October 11th on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin.



27 Callington Rd Strathalbyn 8536 8767

OPPOSITE POLO FIELDS

FRUIT TREE PRUNING DEMONSTRATION

Sunday 28th June 1.30pm

Demonstrator: **Chris Elliot**

Chris has had over 30 years experience in the industry and has a special interest in productive plants. Bring your questions and curiosity and learn how the experts do it.

TREES AVAILABLE FOR SALE ON THE DAY

GARDEN VISITS



Our Club regularly receives requests from other Clubs and groups for gardens to visit in and around Strathalbyn.

It is always a rewarding experience for the garden owners as visitors are genuinely enthusiastic and complimentary. They do not expect perfection just a warm welcome and a home garden experience.

I am currently needing additional gardens to visit on 21st August, 14th September and 22nd September. In spring Strathalbyn gardens are spectacular so please consider sharing yours.

Visitors often look for plants and produce to purchase as well.

Thanks to the garden owners who have already volunteered:

21st August - Heather McMurtrie

14th September - Ren Tremayne & Louie Williams

22nd September - Dawn Hill

Bordertown Garden Club is also planning a two day trip to Strathalbyn sometime in spring. More details to come.

Talk to Norma Keily 8536 6276.

COMPOSTED PIG MANURE

\$7.00 per 27 litre bag

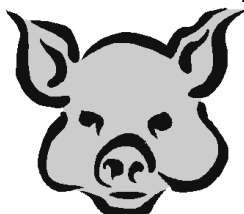
Free delivery in Strathalbyn

Phone 8536 2628

Ros 0428 362 628

Brian 0438 362 628

Practically odourless!



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.

Known future apologies can be recorded in the space provided.

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.

AGM POSITIONS VACANT

Guest Speaker co-ordinator

Assistant Treasurer

Committee member (2 positions)

- ⇒ No remuneration
- ⇒ No set working hours
- ⇒ Training provided
- ⇒ Job satisfaction guaranteed
- ⇒ Congenial work environment



Nomination forms on the Treasurer's table before the AGM or speak to the President Norma Keily.

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)

\$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.



VINCE DAVEY

Neutrog - the word that stumps the spell checker means 'Nutrients' + 'organics'.

Exports continue to grow and although the demand is there the bulkiness of the product makes it a costly experience. Current production is 20000 tonnes per year with 65% commercial, 28% retail and 7% export take up. Commercial use is broken down into 45% horticulture (vegetable production) 35% viticulture, 15% broadacre and 4% parks and gardens.

Prospective users are looking for a reliable product and confidence in Neutrog comes from the growing number of endorsements from trusted horticultural organisations.

A new product in the pipeline is 'Bush Tucker' which is undergoing rigorous research and development prior to release. It will suit all natives including those sensitive to phosphorus.

Neutrog is basically about turning sh*t into \$\$\$!

Waste material is composted for 8 - 10 weeks before being turned into 4mm pellets at the rate of 5 - 6 tonnes per hour. The waste from the harvest of opium poppies is being considered as a potential material for turning into Neutrog.

Plants like a consistent diet not plenty followed by famine.

Liquid Neutrog products may be used frequently and safely on all plants as they are less potent than the pelletised products although they do contain lots of trace elements. Pelletised products are stronger so should be used less often but regularly. More is not always better so use fertiliser at the recommended rate only.

GoGo Juice can be used to water in pellet fertiliser. It can be added to compost and mulch to speed up the decomposition. Little and often is the best use.

In winter fertilise with organic products not chemical fertilisers. Seamungus promotes good root growth.

Crumbled fertiliser requires less water to activate it.



Sudden Impact for Lawns is, as the name suggests, quick acting.

Another new product which will be available soon is Sudden Impact for Roses Potting Mix.

Stay in touch by joining the Pooh Bah Club The Pooh Bah Club has been established for people who would like to be kept updated on the various company, product & application developments at Neutrog.

Pooh Bah members receive regular updates including:
e-feedback newsletters
new product releases
new catalogues and brochures

Membership is FREE, communication is via email, and you are able to unsubscribe at any time.

THE CAVALCADE OF GARDENS

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER

1PM - 4PM

Two of our members have already volunteered their gardens and I am hoping for three or four more to come forward before I have to start asking.

This is not a competition and perfection is not required. It is merely the pleasure in having other folk enjoying your patch of earth and showering you with compliments on what you have achieved.

The day is free to members and their families and friends. Mark the date in your diaries.

If you would like to volunteer your garden or just need more details speak to Norma Keily (phone 8536 6276 email strathalbyngardenclub@gmail.com)



Ruth Anderson - June 2015



I was born on the 14th of the 4th 1945, so that makes me 70 years old. I have two daughters. Deborah (Deb) lives in Melbourne and works as an Advertising Manager for the Accor Hotels group in Geelong and Philippa (Pip) who lives at Meadows and works in the Priceline Pharmacy at Goolwa. She is married to Jeff Bailey who is a project manager and they have two sons, my grandsons, Levi and Joel Bailey who used to play football for Meadows as well as for South Adelaide in the development squad. Work now prevents them from playing.

My hobbies are gardening, floral art, writing, reading, walking and I love to travel when able. Growing up I always rode horses and had dogs and this love was passed on to my two daughters. I was a member of the S.A. Writer's Group for a few years. I wrote the 'McTaggart's of Nonning' family history and presented a paper for the History Trust at a conference in Whyalla.

I grew up on our family farm in Somerset in the U.K. Chaffeigh farm house was a magical place for us four children with its 20 rooms, many stairs, long corridors, cellar and huge attic under its thatched roof. This house was National Trust and was built 500 years previously by the monks of Forde Abbey from local Ham Hill stone. Its walls were thick and beams so large you couldn't put your arms around them.

This property, the house, garden, stables and farm buildings was built in an era when everyone grew what they ate not only for themselves but for their animals as well and stored their grain and produce for winter months. The larder room was a dark, cool room supported by strong beams with huge hooks for hanging venison or sheep, rabbits or several brace of partridge or pheasant. We children loved our free range childhood and for me it was where all my wonderful childhood memories were stored and where my love of gardening was engendered.

Chaffeigh was the kind of place where my mother had cyclamens and sickly smelling geraniums in pots on windowsills in the farmhouse to prevent them from the frost and where I followed Grandad out to the large high stone-walled vegetable garden. Here we often sat and talked and he sang hymns as I helped him weed and sow seeds and hoe the vegetables and pick them and he pretended not to notice when I ate more peas than I was putting in the basket and he always gave me a ride in the wheelbarrow.

He was Chairman of the Council, he was churchwarden and chairman of the National Farmers Union and served on many committees and was held in high esteem. Grandad grew apple, plum and pear trees, blackcurrants, redcurrants, gooseberries, raspberries and sometimes strawberries. He grew cabbages, brussel sprouts, carrots, broad beans, peas and runner beans that wound up trellises.

We liberally sprinkled DDT on the vegetables and thought nothing of it for we knew no different. We dug in farm manures, pig, sheep and cow.

How we loved the Saturday roast, usually a huge joint of roast beef, and many vegetables from the garden while we listened to Dan Dare on the radio. There was always plenty of milk and cream and so lunch always finished with a milk pudding and poached fruit of some kind and of course always plenty of home-made butter and clotted cream. There was a small lawn at the front of the house with evocative smelling roses, honeysuckle, hyacinth, forget me nots, violets and bluebells and Grandad mowed the lawn with a push mower and trimmed the edges with hand shears. Grandma was mostly bedridden but how she loved it when I picked flowers for her bedroom. In the spring we four children went off for the day with a cheese sandwich and a drink to gather daffodils that grew in profusion along the Synderford River and to bring them home by the bucketful.

How Grandma laughed when I filled her room with daffodils. In the autumn we gathered chestnuts, walnuts, hazelnuts and mushrooms and we furiously played conkers.

On Sundays we went to church where Grandad was church warden and where Grandma used to play the organ and we went to Sunday school in the afternoon where we helped to weed between the headstones and to plant flowers.

Out in the fields Dad grew lines of potatoes, swedes, turnips, kale and mangolds. These were mostly grown for stock feed during the winter months when the cattle were confined to the stalls and buckets full of all (except mangolds) found their way into the kitchen for our table.

We four children were expected to help plant the potatoes and to harvest them and of course to take a hoe and weed and thin swedes and turnips and mangolds as they were growing. I can still smell that beautiful rich soil as it was turned over.

My memories of these childhood days take me out into the orchard at harvest time when old Lassie was harnessed into the cart for Grandad and we children picked apples and pears into boxes and took them into the cellar.

If I got bored with the picking I would climb on to Lassie's back and bury my nose in her mane enjoying the smell and the warmth of the sun on my back.

The sour apples Grandad used for making apple cider and how we loved to watch that amber liquid run down through the straw in the cider press. Later when it was in the big wooden barrels the workmen were allowed to take a jug of cider home with them each day.

We children learned to drink cider at a very early age and we seemed to become immune to its potency but how we loved it when our cousins came and we conned them into drinking a few glasses and watched them fall helplessly drunk outside in the garden somewhere – and I remember how we got into trouble with their parents and ours for doing so. I try to remember the names of apples such as Cox's Orange Pippins, Russet and Bramblies perhaps, and were taken to the attic and stored upon sand with straw laid over them for the winter.

Sadly Chaffeigh Farm house burnt down on Boxing Day 1961 when our mother was preparing the Boxing Day lunch for the shooting party who were due. She had stoked up the Rayburn and it was thought a spark escaped a crack in the chimney and caught the thatch alight. As it had begun to snow and the pipes were frozen no water was available to contain the fire and the Synderford River was too far away for the firemen's hoses to reach. I was devastated by this loss, but eventually a new home was built which was far more practical to manage and keep clean.

to be continued...