



NEWSLETTER

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Issue No: 171

October
2018

CLUB DATES TO REMEMBER

FRIDAY 26TH OCTOBER

Bloom Competition

4 categories

Roses, native bloom, pot plant, any other bloom.

1 Entry per category per person.

Blooms to be entered before the meeting.

Display bottles provided.

Judging during morning tea.

All entries to be removed by the owner at the end of the meeting.



**WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED & PRIZES
AWARDED AT THE CONCLUSION OF
MORNING TEA!**

FRIDAY 23RD NOVEMBER

GARDEN CLUB CHRISTMAS LUNCH

STRATHALBYN RACECOURSE

MENU **COST \$35PP**

Fresh bread roll and butter

MAIN

Roast turkey with cranberry sauce
& turkey gravy

and Roast Beef with mustard and gravy

Crispy roast potatoes and carrots

Fresh green vegetables with parsley butter

DESSERT

Christmas pudding with brandy custard

Special dietary requirements on request

Full Cash Bar Facilities available with Beer,
Cider, soft drinks and Local Langhorne
Creek Wines

FINAL NUMBERS NEEDED BY 9TH NOVEMBER

Pay by EFT to:

Strathalbyn Garden Club Inc

BSB 105019 Ac/No 037 873 640

Christmas lunch and your name in the re-
mitter line.

Send Ced Huxter a confirmation email
cchuxter@aussiebb.com.au



Or pay with cash - correct change - at the
October meeting.

CAVALCADE OF GARDENS 2018

Saturday 6th October was a perfect day for visiting the four gardens chosen for the 2018 Cavalcade of Gardens. It was a fitting way to celebrate 'National Gardening Week 2018'.

Upwards of eighty club members and friends took advantage of the opportunity to enjoy the gardening efforts of Helen and Rob Fairweather, Bridget Knight, Penny Fairweather and Heather and Graham Dean at the Gas Works.

Heartfelt thanks to the gardeners and their assistants and to Jenny Thomas for organising the event.

A report with photographs will be published in the New Year.

PROPOSED PLAN TO CLOSE URRBRAE TAFE

In the recent state budget the government announced its plan to close Urrbrae TAFE campus, South Australia's centre for quality training in horticulture, arboriculture, turf, irrigation, garden design and conservation and land management.

The excellent, purpose built campus facilities and landscaped grounds at Urrbrae are used daily by students to gain practical experience and the proximity of the Waite Arboretum, Urrbrae Agricultural High and the University of Adelaide Waite Campus make it part of a unique horticultural precinct.

John Zwar has asked members of the Strathalbyn Garden Club to consider signing a petition addressed to the State Government to immediately withdraw all plans to close Urrbrae TAFE. Copies of the petition will be available at the October meeting.

OPEN GARDENS NAIRNE

SATURDAY 10TH AND SUNDAY 11TH NOVEMBER

Combined fee of \$12 for the three gardens

KJ's Cottage - 3/8 Saleyard Road, Nairne

An award winning garden that shows what can be achieved in a small space with thoughtful planning

PC's Patch - 30 Megan Circuit, Nairne

This is a professionally designed and constructed garden with the main focus being to create a garden that stood out, had low maintenance requirements and would stand the test of time.

A contemporary young garden full of ideas and an excellent example of how to stylishly maximise and utilise a small space!

Schongarten - 19 Shakes Road, Nairne

Schongarten is an inspirational small garden packed with plants and big on colour!

The sloping block has been terraced and every piece of available space overflows with roses, perennials and annuals selected for their bright and colourful flowers. A vibrant cheerful garden which earned the owners several awards in the Mount Barker Garden competition.

Schongarten translates as 'beautiful garden' and its name says it all!

STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
October 26th	Bloom Competition	Best blooms in 4 categories
October 26th	Margaret Jenkins	Water irises
November 23rd	End of Year Lunch	The Strathalbyn Racecourse Function Centre
2019 January 25th	Paul Lindon	Heritage roses
February 22nd	Sandy Cummings	Weeds and declared plants
March 22nd	Karlene Maywald	Murray River and SA



Seen next to a surf club in a NSW south coastal town this recycled, repurposed jet ski.

Some cynics would say that it is a better use for the machine!

THE TOUR DOWN UNDER COMES TO STRATHALBYN



The 2019 Challenge Tour and Stage 5 of the Tour Down Under will both finish in Strathalbyn on Saturday 19th January 2019.

Ten thousand people (locals and visitors) are expected to be in town on that day so it presents an excellent opportunity to showcase Strathalbyn.

Albyn Tce and the park have been earmarked for the use of the TDU organisation and Swale Street, High Street and Sunter Street will be available for Strathalbyn activities.

As the finish of the race does not happen until after 3.00pm food, entertainment and stalls selling all manner of things are being considered to keep the visitors entertained.

Strathalbyn Garden Club may be asked to provide 'potted colour' for the day to decorate the area. No decision has been made yet - just the suggestion of a thought by the organisers. It is something we can do to support the town.

A planning committee has been formed and their first meeting will happen before the end of October but as the event occurs during our off season any involvement on our part will need to be done via email and word of mouth. Norma Keily 8536 6276 email strathalbyngardenclub@gmail.com is the contact for the event.



S.A. IRIS SOCIETY

2018 IRIS SHOW

Saturday 27th October 11am - 5pm

Sunday 28th October 10am - 4pm

Goodwood Community Centre

Rosa St Goodwood

\$5.00 entry

Iris displays, floral art

Plants for sale

Refreshments available



STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB MEMBER'S TALK



Each month at Garden Club we announce details of a range of interesting garden related activities - plant shows, gardening demonstrations, open gardens to visit. Each month we give members the opportunity to give a short talk.

If you have been to a garden activity or done something interesting in your own garden why not share it with our club members.

Don't be shy, don't be nervous - we are all interested in what you have to say. Just five minutes (more or less) would be great.

THE GREAT VICTORIA DESERT - JAN FORREST

Jan Forrest (OAM) began work at the SA Museum in 1963 and was the Senior Collection Manager in Terrestrial Invertebrates on her retirement in 2011. Despite being retired Jan continues to volunteer at the museum and is currently focused on the installation of a broad diversity of terrestrial invertebrate fauna into the Museum's South Australian Biodiversity Gallery. The enthusiasm which Jan continues to hold for the study of insects and all areas of research was evident in the entertaining and informative talk about her visits to this isolated region of Australia.

The Great Victoria Desert is the largest of Australia's deserts and was first crossed by the European explorer Ernest Giles in 1875. He named it after Queen Victoria.

David Lindsey's expedition crossed the area from north to south in 1891 and between 1903 and 1908 Frank Hann searched for pastoral lands and gold in the region.

Len Beadell worked there as a surveyor for the Australian army in the 1960s. The Anne Beadell Highway, in reality a seriously corrugated, two wheel track, is named after his wife.

The Great Victoria Desert has no surface water and receives only little rain hence its desert classification. The rainfall range is 200 - 250 mm a year, but is unreliable. Southern parts receive some winter rainfall, further north the only water source is summer thunderstorms which are isolated and unpredictable.

The Great Victoria Desert consists of many small sandhills, grassland plains, gibber plains and salt lakes. It is over 700 kilometres wide and covers an area of 348,750 square kilometres from the Eastern Goldfields region of Western Australia to the Gawler Ranges in South Australia. The Nullarbor Plain to the south separates it from the Southern Ocean.

As this area has had very limited use for agriculture, habitats remain largely undisturbed. Parts of the desert are protected areas including Mamungari Conservation Park in South Australia, a large area of pristine arid zone wilderness which possesses cultural significance and is one of the fourteen World Biosphere Reserves in Australia. Habitat is also preserved in the large Aboriginal local government area of Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara in South Australia and in the Great Victoria Desert Nature Reserve of Western Australia.

Only the hardest of plants can survive in much of this environment. Between the sand ridges there are areas of wooded steppe consisting of *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa*, (marble gum), *Eucalyptus youngiana* and mulga (*Acacia aneura*) shrubs scattered over areas of resilient spinifex grasses particularly spinifex. Sturt desert pea flowers prolifically in spring as do hakea, grevillea and dodonaea.

There are few large birds or mammals and the only feral animals are camels and dingos. The desert sustains many

types of lizard including the vulnerable great desert skink, the Central Ranges taipan (discovered in 2007), and a number of small marsupials including the endangered sandhill dunnart and the crest-tailed mulgara. One way to survive

here is to burrow into the sands, as a number of the desert's animals, including the southern marsupial mole and the water-holding frog do. Birds include the chestnut-breasted white-face found on the eastern edge of the desert and the Mallee fowl of Mamungari Conservation Park. Predators of the desert include two large monitor lizards, the perentie and the sand goanna.

Jan travels with a diverse team of experts to carry out scientific surveys of the area. The isolation means that all fuel, water and other supplies must be carried by the expedition. Permission to enter the area must be granted by the Aboriginal communities who may choose to send members along with the research team.

Scientific research includes using a drone to photograph the vegetation every four years to survey the changes.

Day flying insects are gathered using a vehicle net and small reptiles and mammals are trapped in pitfalls. Many new species have been identified over the years. The aquifers contain different species of crustacea and water beetles many of which are microscopic. Spiders, scorpions and bees as well as birds, lizards and snakes are all studied and recorded.

The spread of pest plants such as buffel grass and warden weed are noted as is the damage caused by camels which have been shown to travel huge distances when radio collars have been used to track them.



PHOTOGRAPHS

TOP

Thorny devil

CENTRE

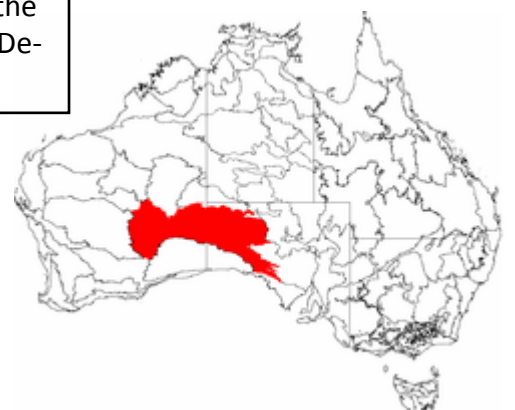
Princess Parrot

RIGHT

Honeysuckle grevillea

BOTTOM

Map of the of the Great Victoria Desert



PANGARINDA BOTANIC GARDEN - PANGARINDA DRIVE WELLINGTON EAST

Just over the ferry crossing on the Murray River at Wellington is the Pangarinda Botanic Garden a veritable treasure trove of rare and threatened flora from Australia's arid regions.

Established in 1993 on a site that was originally cleared for agriculture but which subsequently was left denuded and open to erosion and weed infestation,. this area has been reclaimed and planted with Australian species suited to the conditions.

The plants chosen require very good drainage, low humus and low nutrient levels and excellent rain-fall infiltration and as a bonus most plants require no additional water once established.

Despite the apparently adverse growing conditions the vegetation presents an astounding variety of colourful blooms, intriguing shapes and formations in the seed pods and flowers and a huge variation in leaf shapes, making the gardens a delight to both botanist and photographer. Many varieties of eremophila, banksia, isopogon, hakea, correa, eucalypts, wattles, ground covers and grasses plus much more are all represented.

All the plants are labelled and growing regions are clearly signposted and the walking trails well defined. Copies of



the explanatory brochure can be downloaded from the Coorong Council website.

When planning a visit allow plenty of time because there is so much to see and marvel at. Take water and dress for the conditions and perhaps make a pit stop in Wellington before boarding the ferry as facilities are limited at the site.

The volunteers who manage the gardens are to be applauded for their dedication and the Coorong District Council and local community are to be commended for their support for this unique and inspirational botanic garden.

