



NEWSLETTER

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2014

From The President,

I was quite shocked and saddened to receive the email from Open Gardens Australia announcing that they would cease to exist after June 2015.

Over the years I have enjoyed visiting gardens across the State and have planned some trips interstate to coincide with open gardens in other cities. The guide book has provided details of gardens to contact for group visits at other times and I have had the pleasure of opening our garden to visitors for three seasons. This season four of our members are opening their gardens with Open Gardens Australia and many of us will also be taking the opportunity to revisit the garden of Sophie Thomson.

I will be taking every opportunity to visit as many of the open gardens as possible to send a message to the organisation that this is a valuable scheme and that every effort should be made to reverse the decision to close.

Visiting gardens is a popular pastime as evidenced by the recent visit by group from Moonta and Kadina to four of our gardens and later in the year we will host a group from Eureka Tours.

The Cavalcade of Gardens is a popular afternoon of visits to some of our own gardens and one which I hope will continue to be an annual event.

Welcoming visitors to our gardens is beneficial both to the garden owner and to the visitors as ideas and cuttings are shared and for a brief moment all the garden chores are up to date.

Norma Keily

A GARDEN LOVER'S HOLIDAY

Holidays are beneficial in many respects but they can also be hazardous especially when accompanied by the phrase "That gives me an idea..."

Visiting gardens in countries with very different climatic and soil conditions, traditions and seed catalogues can create feelings of envy and wonder. The difficulty of gardening when the soil is frozen for half the year and the sun rarely shines for months on end must be challenging. The shortage of garden space leads people to being innovative in their gardening as window boxes, pots and planter boxes flourish on balconies, canal boats, and courtyards.

It is intriguing to see plants displayed in different combinations and colours and how the different climate and growing conditions can subtly alter the appearance of some species.

Statues and fountains abound in the public gardens and add the extra dimensions of history and art to the experience as many of them portray historical or mythical figures.



European trees like copper beeches and linden trees which do not usually appear in our parks and gardens have caught my attention and they have formed part of my "idea".

Many of the historical gardens featured edible plants in their formal displays and the art of espalier has been highly developed so that every fruiting bud receives maximum exposure to sun light.

The highlight for me? Monet's garden even though it had no statues or clipped edges, no fancy gravel designs or manicured lawns. The vibrant colours of the mixed plantings in the garden beds and the contrasting cool green tranquillity of the large pond with wisteria covered bridge was worth leaving home to see.



SUBS ARE NOW DUE \$10

IF YOUR NAME APPEARS IN YELLOW ON THE SIGN IN SHEET YOUR SUBS
MAY STILL BE OUTSTANDING.

STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
September 26th	Rob Fairweather	Birds and basic photography
October 11th	Cavalcade of Gardens	1 - 4pm
October 24th	Cristobel Sadler	Flowers and gardens in art.
October 24th	Spring Bloom Competition	3 categories - 1 entry per category per member
October 31st	Visit to Urrbrae House and Arboretum	Car pool
November 24th	Garden Party	Sgorra Bhreac, Marchant Road, Strathalbyn
November 28th	End of Year Lunch	Strathalbyn Bowling Club
December 26th	Boxing Day	No meeting
January 23rd 2015	John Zwar	International Botanic Conference in NZ.

COMING EVENTS

URRBRAE HOUSE AND ARBORETUM

Friday 31st October 9am - 4pm

Cost \$7.70 for the guided tour.

Car pool - meet at Coleman Tce car park to share rides.

Lunch - BYO or purchase at the café.

A guided tour of historic Urrbrae House and its lovely garden from 10.30 -12 noon.

Lunch followed by a self guided walk through the arboretum.

This visit follows the talk given by John Zwar at our January 2014 meeting. Information about the house, garden and arboretum appears in the February newsletter. (Available on our website.)

Register to attend with Maria Maxwell.

Money must be paid by the October meeting.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Friday November 28th 11.30 - 2.30.

Strathalbyn Bowling Club

Cost \$25

Money to Mary Golden by our October meeting.

SPECIAL GARDEN OPEN

Maria Maxwell is opening her garden to club members and their friends on

Saturday 4th October 9:30 - 4:30.

5 Haigh Court Strathalbyn

No charge, No frills, All welcome.

Strathalbyn Agricultural Society Spring Garden Competition

- **Entry form and details available from the convenor Chris Elliott 8536 3004**
- **Tuesday 7th October Closing date for entries.**
- **Sunday 12th October. Judging day.**
- **Judge Mr Ross Swayne former KESAB Tidy Towns Director.**
- **Results published in the Southern Argus**
- **Awards Dinner will be held for presentations of all awards and prizes.**

GARDEN PARTY

24th November 2- 4pm

At 'Sporra Bhreac' home of Cynthia Nicholson. Marchant Road - drive to the end turn left and keep going!

Cost \$10 which includes afternoon tea and a tour of the garden.

Pay at the door. To assist with catering please register your intention to attend with Jenny Thomas. Funds raised support the work of "The Paddlers", cancer survivors who are working to renovate the Cancer Council Accommodation on Greenhill Rd for country patients requiring treatment in Adelaide. Troy from Leaf Boutique will guide the Garden walk.

OPEN GARDENS AUSTRALIA

Most Gardens are open 10 - 4.30 each day.
Entry is usually \$8 per person, under 18 free.

September

27 - 28

Wirrapunga. 7 Williams Rd, **Aldgate**. Garden of John Walmsley featuring plants indigenous to the Aldgate Valley.

Gleeville under the Hills. 1 Dashwood Rd, **Beaumont**. Dating from the 1830s an historic garden with heritage listed Norfolk Island pine.

Sunday 28th

Beaumont House. 631 Glynburn Rd, **Beaumont**. The garden of the heritage listed 1849 House is undergoing careful restoration.

October 11 - 12

Dunedin. 16 Fairfield Drive **Strathalbyn**. A very colourful town garden with roses, sedums, bulbs and bedding annuals plus an impressive kitchen garden.

Fairlie. 92 Dry Plains Rd, **Strathalbyn**. Maggie Minchin's wonderful country garden full of colour, interesting garden ornaments, natives and exotics, fruit trees and ornamental trees.

18 - 19

Hamlyn Cottage. Sophie Thomson's garden. 394 Springs Rd Mt Barker Springs.

25 - 26

Buccleuch, 28 Burbank Way **Mt Barker**. Cottage perennials in a tapestry of colours and 260 roses.

Casuarina, 52 Sheoak Rd, **Mylor**. Dazzling colour, foliage interest, water wise plants. Dam with boardwalk.

Anlaby 829 Anlaby Road, **Hamilton (near Kapunda)**
Celebrating its 175 th anniversary this year. A large garden with exotic tree species, unusual annuals, perennials, shrubs, ornamentals, fruit trees, roses, poppies, irises and Mediterranean species.

More details in the Open Gardens Australia Guide and on their website www.opengarden.org.au

With the organisation ceasing to exist after June 2015 this may be the last opportunity to visit many of the gardens listed.



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.

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.

ABC GARDENERS' MARKET A RUFUS TOUR

Saturday 11th October \$58 pp

Pick up Strathalbyn Railway Station 7.00am

3 hours at the market (gold coin entry)

Smorgasbord Lunch at the Walkers Arms

Return 2.35 - 3.25 approx.

Contact Rufus Bus & Coach 8536 2663 for more details and to book a seat.

BLOOM COMPETITION

Members are restricted to one entry per category - bloom, native, pot plant.

Where possible the botanical or common name of the plant should be attached as people often ask.

When bringing in you bloom please allow time for your details to be registered.

Display bottles filled with water are supplied as are the buttons for voting!

All plant material must be taken away at the end of the competition.

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.

GLORIOUS GARDENS GALORE

Gardeners were spoilt for choice with gardens to visit on the weekend of 20th - 21st September.

Three very different Strathalbyn gardens opened their gates for the weekend and visiting all three provided an insight into the diversity of conditions with which gardeners work. Salty water, no water, poor soil, rocky soil, wind, pests, lack of space, competing tree roots all provide challenges to be overcome in the creation of their gardens.

The pleasure in having plants survive and thrive, the challenges in defeating the pests and the delight in sharing all make the effort worthwhile.

Gardening is a universal passion so it was a delight to take the opportunity to join the Port Elliot Garden Walk along with many other Sunday visitors to the sea side town.

Having spent 35 years as a holiday home owner in the town walking the streets delivering Neighbourhood Watch newsletters and peeping over fences at gardens it was a pleasure to be invited in to four of them.

"Glengarry", opposite St Jude's Church hall and built in 1853 had always tempted me but the dense hedge hindered any real views. The current owners have planted many heritage roses and have maintained the historic nature of the garden.



The dovecot has been a feature of the garden for as long as I can remember.

The Muller Garden to the north of the town, past the old school grounds (now a building site for a Resthaven development) is a cornucopia of plants. The small yard has been developed over three years to a dense garden packed with a wide range of plants. The soil is deep beautiful loam filled with earthworms so every thing thrives. Eremophilas are entwined with sweet peas, hakeas and hardenbergas share space with succulents and a slow growing Xanthorrhoea quadrangulata has taken root into the ground through the base of its pot and is growing and flowering. The before and after photos of the transformation demonstrate the dedication to the task by the garden owners.

Muller Garden. An Aloe plicatilis at least 40 years old. one of the few items retained from the original garden.

The remaining two gardens on the walk featured the artistic creations of their owners.

Charteris Place has a series of

courtyards featuring the sculptural work of the owner and enhanced by the choice of complimentary shrubs and trees clipped to suit.

The studio in the artists' garden on North Terrace had lovely examples of the inspiration gained from plants, flowers and seaweed in the creation of their artistic pieces.

Described as an evolving garden with many fragrant plants providing a third dimension to the experience. Heavy clay soil and root competition from existing trees make adding to the plantings a challenge.



Unique large garden pots and sculptures populate the garden..

