



NEWSLETTER

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2014

From The President,

Please take time to fill in the Membership information update form attached to this newsletter and hand it back before you leave the meeting today. Some of our member information is out of date and at times we like to get in touch with you so accurate contact details are important.

The next few months will again be busy ones for the Garden Club as we celebrate spring. Today we are collecting plants for delivery to the Eden Valley Bush Fire Recovery. In October we have our Cavalcade of Gardens and the spring Bloom Competition. The judging for the Strathalbyn Show Spring Garden Competition also takes place in October this year rather than in early September as it has in past years. Let's hope for a gentle start to spring with sufficient rain and sun to make our gardens thrive.

As Yvette and Annelie have taken on the very important task of managing our morning tea the Club now needs someone to convene the Bloom Competition. All the equipment is supplied so all that is required is early arrival on the meeting day and a steady hand filling the bottles with water for the blooms. Please come and see me if you are interested.

Spring also heralds the start of the new season for Open Gardens Australia and we are fortunate to have several gardens in our area open for viewing and I have listed the details in the newsletter. Garden owners who are Club members may be looking for help so please consider offering your support.

Norma Keily

GROWING AND CARE OF BULBS - GREG RUCKERT

Although we had invited Greg to speak about Bulbs he began by expressing grave concerns about the plight of gardening and gardens in general.

Government regulations, rightly or wrongly, are strangling the sharing of plant material across Australia

and while he acknowledged the need for biosecurity and quarantine the survival of the bio diversity by sharing plants, seeds and bulbs should also be considered.

In the past Nurseries were independent and grew their plants to supply gardeners but

now they are more generally franchises supplied by a central body with plants which may be inappropriate to the area.

Across the world funding is being cut to centres of horticulture such as Kew Gardens in London and our own Bicentennial Conservatory which has had the power turned off.

Greg expressed the opinion that we gardeners have a responsibility to encourage our children and grand children to take an interest in gardening so that the skills are not lost and because getting out into the dirt is good for everyone's health.

On the topic of growing bulbs Greg

challenged members to consider growing the unusual and more difficult to find varieties.

Some that he mentioned included Arisaema, Bellevalia, Ismene, Worsleya rayneri, Eremurus and variegated monstera and Pancratium.

There are also native bulbs such as the garland lily Calostemma purpureum which is native to South Australia. The Society for Growing Australian Native Plants is a good source from which to acquire plants.

Bulbs begin to grow whether they are in the ground or not. Bulbs can be planted in the garden in beds, in clumps in the lawn or in

pots. Wherever you choose for them to grow they must be planted at the right depth in the soil and put in the right way up. The right planting depth is crucial to keep the bulb cool but it must not be planted too deeply down or its shoot will fail to reach the surface before it runs out of steam.

Free draining soil and full sun to part shade are ideal conditions for bulbs. They can be grown in pots but not usually for consecutive years. Let the tops die down naturally after flowering and lift and divide clumps every few years to improve flowering.



SUBS ARE NOW DUE \$10

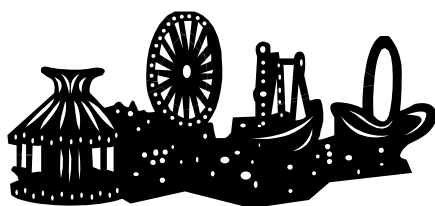
STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
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	Cristobel Sadler	Flowers and gardens in art.
October 24th	Spring Bloom Competition	3 categories - 1 entry per category per member
November 24th	Garden Party	Sgorra Bhreac, Marchant Road, Strathalbyn
November 28th	End of Year Lunch	Strathalbyn Bowling Club
December 26th	Boxing Day	No meeting

COME TO THE 2014 ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW

Thursday 11th September

Travel on a Rufus Bus \$20 per person
 Departs Strathalbyn Train Station 9am
 Arrive Show grounds 10.15. approx.
 Depart Show grounds 4.30
 Arrive back in Strathalbyn 5.40 approx.
 Show tickets can be pre purchased at IGA
 Your time at the show will be your own to enjoy to wander, watch, taste, touch, rest and refresh knowing the bus will be at the gate to take you and your purchases home.
 Contact Maria Maxwell to book your seat. 8536 3731



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.

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



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 beheld for presentations of all awards and prizes.

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

OPEN GARDENS AUSTRALIA

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

SEPTEMBER

6 - 7

Tintagel. 29 Jeffrey St, **Nairne**. A romantic roomed garden on a steep site.

13 - 14

The Looking Glass Garden. 2 Caralue Rd, **Marino**. An imaginatively landscaped garden on a challenging steep site.

20 - 21

Hamilton House. 23 Commercial Rd, **Strathalbyn**. Joy and Chris Bourne's wonderfully colourful garden.

Dalveen. 173 Dalveen Rd, **Woodchester**. Tania Richardson's garden demonstrates how sheep manure benefits the garden.

Burnlea. 100 Burnlea Rd, **Bletchley**. An excellent example of dryland plants surviving in a harsh location. Heather McMurtrie

Sunday 21st September

Port Elliot Walk - 4 contrasting gardens and studios will showcase sculpture, ceramics, pottery and sustainable planting. \$15 for the four gardens. Tickets from South Seas Books and Trading 53 North Terrace, Port Elliot.

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. Mt Barker

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



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.

NEUTROG ORDER

NEUTROG delivered three pallet loads of fertiliser valued at \$4382 to 5 Ashbourne Road with a bit of difficulty. With a lot of effort on Rob Fairweather's part it was stacked into piles ready for the distribution on Friday 15th which went smoothly and efficiently. Next year we will need a new venue. Somewhere with easy access and preferably with a concrete floor so the trolley jack can be used. If you know of someone close to Strathalbyn with a straight drive and shed with a concrete floor please let Norma know. (Shed space is rare as hen's teeth but we can hope.) Thanks to all who helped.

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.

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.

RE-PURPOSE BROKEN POTS

When disaster strikes and your favourite garden pots get broken don't despair as with a little ingenuity they can be given a new life in the garden. These ideas were taken from the inspirational website <http://themicrogardener.com/diy-upcycled-broken-pot>. The website has a wealth of ideas not just for us-



ing broken pots but for all areas of gardening from vegetable growing, gardening in small spaces, vertical gardens, using recycled materials and projects in the garden for kids.



SPRING GARDEN REMINDERS

FERTILISE NOW!

Fertiliser applied to fruit trees before bud burst allows time for it to be converted into plant nutrients ready to stimulate new spring growth.

How Much to use?

For a full size tree bearing a normal crop of fruit 3- 5 kg of organic fertiliser or 1 - 1.5 kg of chemical fertiliser. Alternatively a mix of half chemical and half organic. Good advice for roses as well.

PROTECT NOW!

Fungal disease thrives in damp weather so stop the spot and rots on roses and fruit trees with a protective spray of fungicide. Try lime/sulphur spray.

PREPARE NOW!

Tomatoes and other vegetables thrive on beds that have been enriched with large quantities of compost and animal manures. Start digging it in now.

PLANT NOW!

Early seedlings can be started in seed trays and pots if kept in a warm spot (not direct sun light) like a mini glass house or sunny windowsill. Use quality seed raising mix and clean pots for the best results. Try to-



matoes, lettuce, capsicum, egg plants and cucumbers and pumpkins.

DESTROY NOW!

The white louse scale or citrus scale is attacking many citrus trees and now is the time to get rid

of them with a spray of lime sulphur. There is no withholding period so it is still safe to pick and eat the fruit. Slugs and snails are on the march so plant your foot firmly.

PREPARE TO PLANT SOON!

In the ground - seeds of beetroot, carrots, peas, red onions and spring onions, parsnip and beans.

WATCH!

For information and inspiration watch Gardening Australia on ABC CH2 at 6.30pm Saturday. Repeated at 1.00pm on Sunday.

SAVE!

Clean plastic milk bottles with the tops and bottoms cut off make great protectors for newly planted seedlings. Leave a portion of the handle so a bamboo stake can be pushed through to anchor the bottle in place.

Beth Jones - August 2014



I was born in Shropshire, England a long, long time ago and the first garden that I remember was my Grandparents' garden.

Huge multicoloured dahlias in the front and masses of vegetables and fruit at the back of the house.

My Grandparents made wine and chutneys and jams out of every vegetable and fruit they grew - my earliest memory is having a 'little sip to keep out the cold' - even in summer!

With barrels of wine brewing in the cellar, the house always smelt wonderful.

In 1964 I married the boy next door and we moved to Buckinghamshire where we had a baby and a very small garden.

So we joined the local Flower and Vegetable Society which enabled us to have a community allotment.

We then organized a yearly Horticultural Show, specialising in vegetable and flower classes, later adding cakes, scones, wine and flower arrangements - we grew everything, potatoes, broad beans, carrots, onions, beet-root - we grew to freeze, pickle and enter our show - we grew and showed dahlias too.

Around that time I started working with people with mental health issues and became involved in Horticultural Therapy, utilizing the grounds and greenhouses of the big Victorian Hospital where I worked.

I took a course at the local Horticultural College and worked on the theory that fresh air, plants, nature and working with our hands was good for all of us - I didn't actually know much about Mental Health at that time!

Clients lived in and came to the garden for Day Care - gardening worked well and we did exercises too.

I subsequently worked with adults with learning disabilities and challenging behaviours, again using horticulture as a therapy - this became an integral part of our timetable.

We grew vegetables and fruit that we cooked and ate as well as selling our surplus to the public in a small cafe that we ran.

This programme was run in a small town where clients had grow up and we were known as the 'Options' people - we grew all sorts for the cafe in the greenhouse and on the allotment.

We took our 'Options' people out - most lived at home or in care homes - they did jobs - mowed grass and did gardening and got paid for their work and this helped support the cafe and programme.

Many clients had been in big centres and bringing them home was great, it was just so good for them, being in the community where people knew them.

A lot of our gardening skills, the clients and I learnt together, instruction book in one hand and spade in the other!

We also entered our produce in local shows and were very pleased and proud to win prizes - we had chatted up local experts and they gave us tips and cuttings - we entered our flowers and produce up against them at the shows and they were as pleased as us when we were more successful than them.

We had a pottery and worked here mostly when it was raining - we made whatever the people wanted, jugs, cups, mugs, flat vases and dragons - we made a huge six foot dragon for our garden, you burned the rubbish in the back of him and he breathed smoke.

The cafe worked well, parents, families and friends supported us well and everyone enjoyed sitting out in the garden - we sold produce - fruit, vegetables, cakes, scones and eggs.

I had a promotion to a large Day Centre in a big town, it was a backward step going big and was very non-productive, I hated it - our small Day Centre had worked ever so much better for clients, just run with three staff.

In this big centre I never got near a garden!

We moved to Devon and I started all over again in another small Day Centre, where clients got individual attention - it was wonderful, we had the best time.

Eventually my husband and I retired from work and in 2006 we followed our daughter and family to Australia, where we bought a ten acre hobby farm in Ashbourne.

I then realized that I knew nothing about gardening in Australia and had to start learning all over again - thanks Garden Club.

We are now settled on a half acre block in Mt Barker and I continue to learn about gardening Oz style!