



NEWSLETTER

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August
2015

FROM THE PRESIDENT

August will deserve a sigh of relief when it is over, not just because we will be farewelling winter but because it has been busy.

The Murray Bridge Social Garden Club visit required planning and a day in the kitchen preparing refreshments plus time had to be found on the day to collect our Neutrog order.

A fortnight away from home at the start of the month left little time to weed, trim and tidy in preparation for the visit but it all went well on the day.

On Sunday 23rd I had the pleasure of attending the Launch of the 2015/16 season for Open Gardens SA, held at St Austells in Kensington Gardens. It is always a pleasure to attend gatherings in lovely gardens surrounded by gardeners.

Our calendar for the remainder of the year has a number of treats to look forward to including the Cavalcade of Gardens, Bloom competition with Kim Syrus and the visit to Carrick Hill.

We welcome Pat Simpson to our committee and thank her for volunteering to take on the role of Guest Speaker coordinator and I am sure she will welcome your suggestions and contacts.

Norma Keily

BUSHFIRE READY

MICHAEL COULSON - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UNIT, SA COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE



Winter is the best time to start thinking about Bushfire Preparedness and despite the fact that most of us live within the town boundaries we can still be at risk from fire.

Michael showed photos and footage of the suburban streets of Canberra ablaze in 2003 and highlighted the proximity of homes in Golden Grove to the Sampson Flat fires earlier in 2015.

Fire needs three components to survive - fuel, oxygen and heat - take away any of these and the fire will go out.

Fuel can be grass, twigs, leaves, bark or fine mulch all of which ignite easily and burn fast.

Weather can affect the rate of spread and intensity with low humidity, high temperature and wind being the key factors.

Topography is also important in the spread of a fire with speed doubling for every 10° up a slope and northern and western slopes being dryer so adding to the intensity of fires.

There are typically three stages of a bushfire with the first being the ember attack followed by the radiant heat of the fire front which is followed by continued ember attack potentially for days after the fire.

Preparing the property can potentially save it from destruction during a bushfire.

- Create a defendable space of at least 2 clear metres around the house.
- Minimise fine fuel - leaf litter, fine mulch etc
- Remove combustible mats, mops, and washing on the line.
- Avoid having items stored around the house where embers can lodge and burn.

- Shade cloth burns.
- Wooden decks burn.
- Rough timber and areas of disrepair can trap embers which will ignite.
- Gaps in the external structure - under the eaves, air vents, between the tiles or roofing iron can all trap embers.
- Some plants are more combustible than others and useful plant guides can be found on the internet www.cfs.sa.gov.au.

The fire ban season stretches from November to April or May each summer and autumn but bushfires can happen any time when the conditions are right.

Members of the community should monitor the fire weather warnings and should be prepared to act appropriately to stay safe.

The best option in Severe and Catastrophic conditions is to leave early and travel to a safe place. It is too late once the fire is approaching. Each community has identified Safe areas and Last Resort Refuges but as the name suggests these are not the best places to be during a bush fire.

During a fire roads will be unsafe as they may be blocked by fallen trees, crashed cars, wild life and domestic stock or there may be fire appliances and emergency services vehicles taking up the roadway. It is not safe to 'wait and see' before leaving

KEY ADVICE - HAVE A PLAN.

PREPARE ACT SURVIVE

A FIREY WOMEN'S COURSE is being run at Milang Old School House for 4 weeks from 7th September.
Phone 8212 9858.



Judge each day not by the harvest you reap but by the seeds you plant.

Robert Louis Stevenson.

SUBS DUE - HAVE YOU PAID YOURS?

STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
August 28th	Mark Thomas	Gondwana Landscaping & consultancy
September 14th	Victor Harbor Garden Club visit.	
September 25th	Jeffrey Reid	Mangroves - Where the land meets the sea
October 10th	Cavalcade of Gardens	Visit local gardens
October 16th	Carrick Hill visit	Pay by September 25th (\$15)
October 23rd	Kim Syrus	Roses and more
October 23rd	Bloom Competition	3 categories to enter
November 27th	End of year Lunch	Strathalbyn Bowling Club
2016 January 29th	5th Friday to avoid the Tour Down Under	

OPEN GARDENS SA

GARDENS OPEN 10AM - 4.30PM
ENTRY \$8, CHILDREN UNDER 18 FREE

September 2015

Sat 5 - Sun 6 - **Avondale** Rhynie
14 Avondale Road, Rhynie
Sat 12 - Sun 13 - **Gables End**, Mitcham
27 Carrick Hill Drive, Mitcham
Sun 13 - **Marybank**, Rostrevor
404 Montacute Road Rostrevor
Sat 19 - Sun 20 - **Sheringa**, Carey Gully
2091 Greenhill Road, Carey Gully
Sun 20 - **Richwyn**, Aldgate
3 Linwood Avenue, Aldgate
Sat 26 - Sun 27 **St Austell**, Kensington
364 Glynburn Road, Kensington
Sat 26 - Sun 27 **Wirrapunga Indigenous Garden**,
Aldgate. Williams Road Aldgate

Additional information, photos and garden notes
written by the owners can be found on the Gardens
SA website: <http://opengardensa.org.au>



THANK YOU



Thank you to Frank Chapman and his team of helpers for their efforts with the management and distribution of the Neutrog order. There will be many healthy gardens around Strathalbyn judging by the size of the order this year. Thanks also to the Lions for allowing use of their depot on Walsh Avenue as it was ideally suited to our needs.

GARDEN CLUB END OF YEAR LUNCH

Friday 27th November

11.45am for a 12.30 start.

At Strathalbyn Bowling Club

\$25 per person, partners welcome (Drinks extra)
Numbers, names and payment due to the Treasurer by October 23rd meeting.



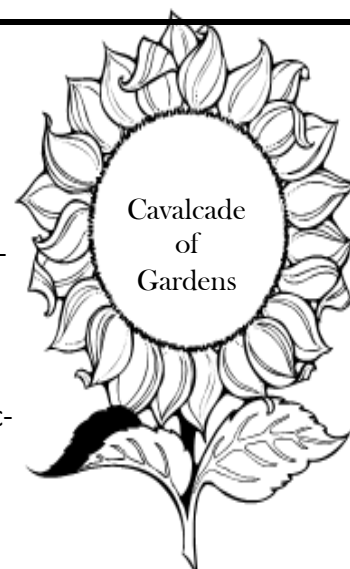
THE CAVALCADE OF GARDENS

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER

1PM - 4PM

The day is free to members and their families and friends. Mark the date in your diaries. Details and maps will be made available closer to the date.

If you would like to volunteer your garden or just need more details speak to Jenny Thomas 8536 4275 or email jnd115@bigpond.com. We would like to have five gardens open for visitors on the afternoon. 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.



SPRING BLOOM COMPETITION

The October Garden Club meeting has traditionally incorporated the bloom competition and this year will be no different.

As usual there will be three categories - Ornamental, Native and Pot Plant.

Members may have one entry in each category and it would be greatly appreciated if the exhibits were labelled with common and/or botanic plant names. Two or three people will be needed to manage the day - arriving early to set up the room, fill the bottles with water and then receive and record the entries. All equipment is supplied.

Help is also needed to pack up at the end of the meeting.

In previous years the display has been spectacular and if we start preparing now 2015 could surpass previous efforts..

Offers of help to Norma or a committee member please.



GARDEN VISITS

14th September - **Victor Harbor Garden Club** - Norma Keily, Ren Tremayne & Louie Williams

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

If you would like to share your garden talk to Norma Keily 8536 6276.



STRATHALBYN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION

The 2015 Show Schedule is out with all the details for submitting entries for the various sections for judging. Fruit and Vegetables, Plants in

Pots, Floral Art and Cut Flowers as well as entire gardens can be entered.

Judging for the **2015 Spring Garden Competition** will take place on Sunday 11th October with the Presentation dinner to be held on Saturday 31st October. Entries close on Friday 2nd October and the cost is still only \$5 per garden.

Chris Elliott ph 8536 3004 is the convenor and the Show Schedules can be picked up at the Information Centre, IGA and the Newsagency.

COMPOSTED PIG MANURE

\$7.00 per 27 litre bag

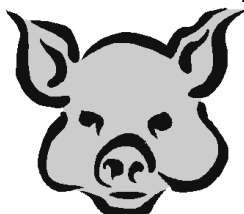
Free delivery in Strathalbyn

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.

2015/16 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	NORMA KEILY
SECRETARY	JENNY THOMAS
TREASURER	MARY GOLDEN
HOSTESS & TRIPS	MARIA MAXWELL
NEWSLETTER & TABLES	JACKIE CHAPMAN
GUEST SPEAKERS	PAT SIMPSON

SUPPORT

RAFFLE	REN TREMAYNE
MORNING TEA	YVETTE HOLDSWORTH & ANNELIE DALY

BLOOM COMPETITION **VACANT**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE CLUB.

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.

CARRICK HILL

46 Carrick Hill Drive, Springfield.

Join us on a visit to this Iconic historic house and garden.

Friday 16th October

Cost \$15 (\$12 concession) for entry to the house.

Car pooling from Coleman Tce carpark meeting at 9am.

A tour of the House and the "Symphony of Flowers" has been booked for 10.00am.

Maria Maxwell is ready to take names and money. Limit of 30 for the house tour.



Refreshments : coffee & cake or set lunch or al la carte. are available or BYO picnic lunch.

Following the House tour we are free to explore the gardens and visit the Australian Museum of Gardening exhibition "Endless Pleasure - the art of Gardens and Gardening".

CARRICK HILL "SYMPHONY OF FLOWERS"

Floral designers and stylists will transform the rooms of Carrick Hill house with floral installations. You will be in danger of being seduced by the scents and sights that blooms and foliage (much grown and supplied by the gardens of Carrick Hill) when the spring garden spills into the house filling it full of music and flowers.

THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM OF GARDENING is currently being established at Carrick Hill historic house and garden. The Carrick Hill Trust (a statutory body vested with the governance of the heritage site) is committed to building the museum to display, study and store the collection as a permanent feature.

Each year the museum will present different stories that define Australian gardening history. The first exhibition will be held in the Guest Wing Gallery at Carrick Hill from August to November 2015. *Endless Pleasure: The art of gardens and gardening* will explore the influences over the past 250 years that have shaped our interest as a nation in gardens and garden making either as a past time or profession.

The Museum's collection currently comprises over a thousand objects including a major donation of Old Mole's Tool collection that forms the core component of this aspect of the museum. Collected by Richard Bird (Old Mole of Armidale, NSW) over two decades there are seven hundred and sixty objects from around Australia and the United Kingdom. Other categories will be added to the Museum of Gardening under the acquisitions policy that the Carrick Hill Trust has in place; for instance two collections of gardening books have been donated that will form the gardening research & resource centre within the museum.

Our mission is to preserve and present our gardening history and to promote it in close collaboration with the Australian Garden History Society, our national history and heritage partner.

CARRICK HILL FORMAL GARDENS

The inner or formal garden, designed by Ursula Hayward, contains a variety of roses, many unusual trees and plants and has stunning views from the lawn terraces to the city and coast.

Different features of the garden include Elms & Lawns, Pleached Pear Arbor, Herb Garden, Orchids, Liliums and cutting beds, Roses, The Alistair Clark Rose Garden, Stone Bridge and Babbling Rill, Shade House, the vegetable garden, maintained by volunteers, displays vegetables commonly grown for the Australian table.

Information courtesy of the website <http://www.carrickhill.sa.gov.au>

MURRAY BRIDGE GARDEN CLUB VISIT.

The inclement start to Friday 21st August reduced the number of Murray Bridge Garden Club participants by a third but fortunately the rain cleared by 10 am leaving the rest of the day fine for the visit to Strathalbyn.

First stop was Heather McMurtrie's inspirational garden carved out of the farmland with a crow bar and considerable determination.

Morning tea was enjoyed at "Serenity" where Maria Maxwell, Pat Simpson and Margaret Shoesmith assisted while the visitors took in the views and explored the various garden areas.

Lunch was taken at Cynthia Nicholson in her unique home and garden. Murray Bridge members were please to see the development of the garden which they had helped to start with propagated plants and working bees.

Final stop was the Studio of Mosaic Art on Adelaide Road where Bruce Long and Linda showed us through the studio and allowed us to wander in the garden which is liberally decorated with mosaic sculptures.

Thank you to our members who helped make this a successful visit with our neighbours.



The scarecrow protecting Heather's covered vegetable garden.

Jane Kent - August 2015



I have now been a member of the Strath Garden club for about 14 months. I would like to tell you why I love gardening.

I am one of nine children, I grew up in a little village in Holland and as our family was large, my father grew everything, from vegetables, fruit and berries.

The inside fence of our garden was lined with Berry bushes - gooseberries, blackcurrants and red berries, my father also had a large hot house and was one of the first gardeners to grow peanuts in there.

I can remember all the beans my he grew, our mum had a bean slicing machine so it was our job to slice the gluten of beans ready for winter.

We had large earthen pots, I remember they where beautiful pale blue with a darker patterns.

We would fill them with the sliced beans packed in salt for the long winter, mind you they did not taste all that good as it took a lot of rinsing to get rid of the salt.

We enjoyed slicing the beans, mostly when our mum left us to it, we would slice the beans so fast they would fly all over the place, one of us would be slicing while the other one was busy trying to catch the beans.

In our house we had a large cellar, were all our apples where stored for the winter, with all the other preserves my mother and eldest sister made in the autumn, so we always had a abundance of fruit and vegetables in our house.

Our neighbour had a small piggery and every six months one of them would be slaughtered, we would see the pig hanging on a wooden ladder to be bled, my brothers and a few other boys would ask for the pig's bladder, they would then blow it up and use it for a soccer ball, which we all enjoyed playing with.

The meat from the pig would than be distributed amongst the people who supplied the farmer for the growth of the pig from the pig's birth until it was big enough to be slaughtered, my parents where vegetarians so we never got to eat the poor pig.

Getting back to myself, my husband and myself moved to Strathalbyn 22 month ago.

We have 3/4 of an acre property here which is a nice size,

The house is on 1/2 an acre and we have a 1/4 of a acre right next to it were I have a vegetable garden which we covered completely with bird proof wire as we get a lot of birds here.

So far we have cut down 22 trees just on the left side of our driveway as they where mostly gums and some of them where very close to our house.

At the moment we are reorganising the garden around the house with roses and small shrubs also some natives.

I don't think that there is anything more peace full than working with dirt and working in one's garden.

I try to use natural methods to keep pests under control and I try not to use chemicals.

My son Greg is over here for a bit of a holiday which is great as he is a horticulturalist by trade.

He thinks that I should get a few chooks I said if he can show me how to build a fox safe chook house I would love to have a few chooks, so that will be the next project.

I love the garden club as it gives me a lot of great information and also contact with other growers.