



NEWSLETTER

Issue No: 114

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year and I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and that the hot weather and lack of rain has not been too difficult to bear.

Apart from the usual, very welcome gift cards for Bunnings and Mitre 10 which my interstate sons send as Christmas gifts, the gift I appreciate most is a 'Leaf Lover'. The perfect garden companion designed to make picking up garden waste easier. Made of aluminium it weighs only one kilogram and has long handles and large paddles on the end which can lift large handfuls of leaves, rose prunings, weeds or alpaca manure eliminating the need for bending. Now that bark season is upon us we can make short work of collecting the piles of bark and leaves. (Eucalypt trees start to shed their bark in early January and we quickly end up knee deep in drifts of bark which becomes a hazard and unsightly so we rake it up and stockpile it for shredding into mulch.)

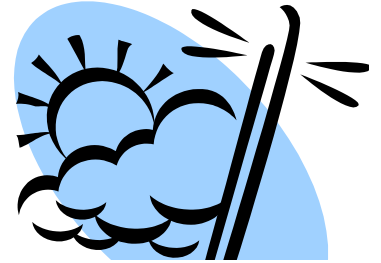
As our dams are close to empty I have once again been carrying buckets and watering cans of water to the pots, young plants and bird baths. Last year I complained that the water sloshed from the buckets into my shoes and Janet Jones wisely suggested that having less water in the bucket would solve the problem. Another solution to fast watering is to use watering cans with the rose removed. The water does not slosh and can be dispensed accurately and quickly.

This year promises to be an interesting and busy one for the Strathalbyn Garden Club thanks to the work of committee members who have arranged the guest speakers and various activities. At times we may need volunteers to step in to help during busy times and your support is appreciated.

Best wishes
Norma Keily

CARING FOR YOUR GARDEN IN THE HEAT

- * Watch the weather forecasts and water deeply prior to the high temperature days.
- * Use fresh grey water from the shower or bath or laundry rinse to keep plants alive. Use low phosphorus and salt laundry products.
- * Prioritise plants - preserve those that are precious or have sentimental value.
- * New plants need extra care so try not to plant in spring and summer.
- * Well established plants will survive even though they may droop.
- * Natives are hardy and adapted to conditions but will appreciate water if possible.
- * If plants start to look scruffy tidy them a little but do not prune as it causes stress and the burnt leaves will still provide sun protection.
- * Tomatoes and capsicum can get sun burnt so provide some sun protection and lettuce will turn to mush if not protected.
- * Anti transpirant spray will help plants survive the hot weather but it will not protect new growth which appears after the spray has been applied.
- * Pot plants especially those in black plastic pots could be double potted (put inside a bigger pot).
- * Dunk pots into a bucket of water and leave until they stop bubbling. Occasionally tap the pot off and check that the entire root ball is wet.
- * Sun protection can be provided by white 50% shade cloth, old sheets, net curtains, double thickness of knitted bird netting but make sure there is air flow so the heat does not build up.
- * Water beneath the mulch either by using a dripper system installed beneath the mulch or by scraping it aside in a swale or by pushing the hose into it.
- * Use a trowel when watering to check that the soil is getting wet enough.
- * Provide wind breaks to protect against the drying effect of hot north winds.
- * Add some seaweed extract to the watering can occasionally to help reduce heat stress.
- * Plan for future hot summers by assessing which plants have survived the heat best.
- * Plan to plant hardy ground covers which keep the soil cool while looking attractive.
- * Not all plants that are drooping need water some just droop in the heat and perk up again when it is cool.



PROGRAMME JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER 2013

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
January 22nd	John Zwar	Garden Highlights from Melbourne
February 22nd	Greg Ruckert	Liliums & Bulbs
March 22nd	Professor Chris Daniels	Backyard Biodiversity
March 22nd	NEUTROG DELIVERY Sudden Impact for roses	20KG bags for \$35 each
April 26th	Ben Simon	Native plants in and around Strathalbyn
May 24th	Prof. Don Bursill	Water for South Australia
	BLOOM COMPETITION	
June 28th	Annual General Meeting	Quiz Morning
	SUBS DUE	
July 26th	John Yates	Carnivorous Plant Society
August 23rd	Phillipa Lampehe	Geraniums & Pelargoniums
September 27th	Judy Cross	Angas Plains Wines

PERENNIAL POPPIES GROUP VISIT

In November some members of the Strathalbyn Garden Club helped to cater for a lunch at 'Serenity' for sixty members of the Perennial Poppies Group who were visiting from Queensland. Their President, Barbara Wickes is originally from Strathalbyn and was keen to show her home town to the group who are all keen gardeners in Queensland. Printed below is an extract from an email received from Barbara.

"This is a belated thank you for having us visit and sharing your garden. Gardening in the South Australian climate can be a challenge with extreme heat and difficult soil conditions so creating a haven as you have done is an achievement. Yours was the best veg garden we saw! The vistas from the house are superb and on a windy cold winter's day what a great place to be!

Can you please extend our thanks to the garden club for the superb lunch....it was the best on the tour!

I had a few days with my brother and family after the tour and copped a real summer's day - hot northerly winds with dust blowing! Luckily the next day was cooler. That's the SA climate isn't it!

Each member of our group was asked to write a report on a garden and in the New Year I will put this together in booklet form. This will be mailed to all our members and to the owners of the gardens we visited. The 11 day tour was wonderful as we viewed some great gardens and added variety by including historic homes and some wineries. We are having some hotter and drier than usual weather for this time of year - November/December is usually the start of the 'wet' but it hasn't hit yet. Our dam is half full but fortunately we don't rely on it for watering as we have a good bore.

If you are ever up this way please let me know and we can show you some of our gardens."

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year."

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.

To give Away - Plastic pots in all sizes

The Garden Club has been given a ute load of garden pots for members to take. They will be available at the meetings so come prepared with a bag or box if you would like some free pots.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of

Pam Walter

on 5th December 2012.

We extend our sincerest sympathy to Pam's family and friends.

OPEN GARDENS AUSTRALIA

\$7.00 ENTRY FEE

MOST GARDENS OPEN 10AM—4.30PM

January 26th

Brummit Garden: 33 Statenborough St, Leabrook.

Highly sustainable, low maintenance native garden inspired by author May Gibbs.

January 27 - 28

Tupelo Grove: 104 Bradbury Rd, Mylor.

Hardy Mediterranean plants with salvias a specialty.

February 9 - 10

Joe's Connected Garden: 6 Argent St, Elizabeth Grove.

A fine example of neighbourhood co-operation with highly productive, low maintenance, permaculture gardens feeding all the owners of the interconnecting gardens. Plus Rare Fruit Society talks at 11am and 2pm.

February 16 - 17

Koehn Garden: 1 Ayr St, Pooraka.

A passionate gardener has used every inch in a suburban garden. Cocos and bangalow palms, bougainvillea, bromeliads, bottle trees, flowering ash, wisteria.

Sophie Thomson in a recent article recommends that we visit at least one new garden each month to get new ideas and inspiration.!

YOU WERE ASKING ABOUT?

CURLING TOMATO LEAVES

Tomato Plant Leaf Curl Virus

Curling tomato leaves may be a sign of a viral infection. Normally this virus is transmitted through whiteflies or through infected transplants.

The most common indicator of the disease is the yellowing and upward curling of the leaves, which may also appear crumpled. Plant growth becomes stunted, flowers will not develop and those that do simply drop off, fruit production will be reduced.

The plants should be removed and destroyed and white fly should be treated.

Other Reasons For Tomato Curling Leaves

Another cause of tomato plant leaf curling is a self-defense mechanism.

During excessively cool, moist conditions, leaves may roll upward and become leathery in an effort to repel this excessive moisture. This specific condition occurs around fruit setting time and is most commonly seen on staked and pruned plants.

Curling tomato leaves may also be triggered by just the opposite—uneven watering, high temperatures, and dry spells. Leaves will curl upward to conserve water but they do not take on the leathery-like appearance. Check the soil to see if it is moist and provide sun shade and mulch.

N.B.

SIGNING IN

Members are reminded that it is important to sign the Attendance Register on arrival at the meeting so that our record keeping for insurance purposes is accurate.

NEUTROG SALES

It has been decided that we will only do one group purchase of Neutrog in 2013 as it is possible to buy the products on special at Mitre 10 in Mt Barker. They are currently selling 20kg bags of Rapid Raiser for \$23.99 and 15kg bags of Rocket Fuel for just \$19.99.

We will be providing Sudden Impact for Roses 20kg bags for \$35 a bag which is a considerable saving as most suppliers stock the 10kg bucket for about \$50. Pre-payment in full will be accepted at the January and February meetings.

TREASURER'S REQUEST

After much consideration it has been decided that only payment in full will be received by the Treasurer for Club activities. In the past it has proved to be difficult and time consuming to take deposits for trips and Neutrog and as the Treasurer's task is demanding and exacting it was decided to reduce the work load by taking this step.

Members may still register their interest when trips or Neutrog are planned but only payment in full with a receipt issued will confirm the transaction.

GARDEN CLUB COACH TRIP

Where would you like to go this year?

Interest has been expressed in an over night visit to the Arid Lands Botanic Gardens in Pt Augusta following John Zwar's very interesting illustrated talk last year.

What would be a good destination for a one day outing? If you have any thoughts please let Maria Maxwell know.

BLOOM COMPETITION OCTOBER 2012

BLOOM - Joy Bourne - "Ian Thorpe" rose

NATIVE - Margaret Croser - Eucalyptus Torquata x woodwardii

POT PLANT - Maria Maxwell - Yellow peony

Congratulations!

NEW MICROPHONES

A headset and lapel microphone have been purchased for use by our Guest Speakers and we hope it improves audibility for members.

When asking questions from the floor could members please stand and speak clearly so that we can all hear what is being asked.

I NEED TO KNOW?

If you have a problem, something to share, need a cutting or seeds or scion wood then the newsletter is a good means of communication. Norma edits the newsletter and will gladly find space for your request.

INTEGRATION OF HOUSE AND GARDEN FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING

PROFESSOR JOHN BOLAND AND CHRIS BRYANT

Professor Boland is an expert in environmental modelling. He has an extensive background in using mathematical analysis to evaluate the thermal performance of buildings, principally domestic dwellings. His PhD was on this topic of sustainability in housing.

Chris Bryant is a registered nurse and an accredited Permaculture Designer. She has long experience in not only designing the garden that she and John have developed at Felixstow in the northeast of Adelaide, but also in advising others, including the Community Garden at Lochiel Park. She has just added another string to her bow, becoming a bee keeper.

They produce 30% of their food from the 55 fruit and nut trees and vegetables that they grow in their suburban garden. The garden provides not only food, but climate control, habitat for birds and lizards and frogs, and also provides a tranquil living environment.

John and Chris bought a small 1940s asbestos clad house riddled with white ants on a large block in Felixstowe. Over the years they have used their knowledge of sustainability to direct the renovation of the house and to develop a garden designed using the principles of permaculture.

The white ants were treated, the asbestos removed and insulation was added to both external and internal walls. Air flow through the house was increased by installing

internal windows and awnings and verandas were installed to protect external windows from the harsh late summer sun and security screens were added so that windows could safely be left open while double glazing was used wherever possible.

Shelter trees were planted to protect the house and the garden which contains seven frog ponds and sixty fruit and nut trees which provide year round food. A river red gum is coppiced for fire wood and dead trees are left for habitat. There is no irrigation in the garden so rather than spend hours hand watering swales have been created and a system of partial root zone drying is used. Large pots are partially buried in the ground at the side of the trees and filled with newspaper or compost. Once a week the pot is filled with water which ten seeps slowly into the ground. The pots are relocated every couple of years. The same system is used to water vegetables with the pot in the middle and vegetable seedlings planted in a circle around it.

Chris collects grass cuttings from the neighbours to make compost.

John concluded their talk by showing photographs of poorly designed homes which have large west facing windows with no eaves, black roofing and no cooling trees or gardens. These simple design elements can make a great difference to the energy efficiency of a house.

SWALES

A **swale** is a low tract of land, especially one that is moist or marshy. The term can refer to a natural landscape feature or a human-created one. Artificial swales are often designed to manage water runoff, filter pollutants, and increase rainwater infiltration they are basically a water harvesting ditch on a contour..

NATURAL SWALE

Swales as used in permaculture are designed to slow and capture runoff by spreading it horizontally across the landscape facilitating runoff infiltration into the soil. This type of swale is created by digging a ditch on contour and piling the dirt on the downhill side of the ditch to create a bund. In arid climates, vegetation (existing or planted) along the swale can benefit from the concentration of runoff. Trees and shrubs along the swale can provide shade which decreases water evaporation.

SWALES IN THE HOME GARDEN

When planting shrubs and trees in our gardens it is usually a natural reaction to build a swale of earth out from the trunk so that precious water can be directed to the root ball. It also provides a convenient border to keep the lawn at bay and to hold the mulch in place. While useful in summer for holding water near the root ball of the plant in winter the swale may lead to water-logging especially in slow draining heavy soils.



STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB

MINUTES

General Meeting held at St Andrews Hall
Friday, 26th October 2012

Meeting commenced: 10am Norma reminded members to switch off mobiles, and to please sign in the attendance book on arrival.

Welcome: **Visitors:** Helen Holdinghouse, Ruth Anderson, Lorraine Stokie.

New Members: Joan Jaensch.

Attendance: 97 **Apologies:** 10

Lucky Door Prize Winner is Don Jones.

President's Comments Congratulations to all the winners of Strath Show Spring Garden competition
Our Open Garden weekend was a success, we had 400 visitors.

Minutes: Page 5 of the newsletter **Moved:** R. Fairweather **Seconded:** Ann Feast.

Business Arising: Nil

Correspondence In Our Garden Magazine.
Lilium Bulb Show Jan 12/13th
Travel Brochure.
CWA – Christmas Tree Festival.
Acknowledgement Card from Helen Watson.
Out: Nil

General Business : **Raffle tickets and raffle prizes:** Going well, Norma reported she sold many tickets during her open garden weekend..

Mildura and Brisbane garden club visits. 2nd and 16th Nov. respectively.

Bus trip to Botanic Gardens: 9th Nov. 6 seats still to be paid for.

Christmas lunch: 60 bookings so far. The car park will not be available for this event.

Bloom Competition voting – Voting to take place during morning tea.

A.O.B. Anyone interested in a double white tree dahlia should go to 4 Lime St. where there is a freebee available.

Member's Talk: Margaret Jenkins reminded members that the Iris Show is on at Goodwood this weekend, there will be lots to see and buy.
Pat Simpson thanked all members who helped with the Glenbarr open day, especially Maggie and Maria. It was very much appreciated.

Next Meeting : Christmas Lunch 23rd November at Strathalbyn Bowling Club

Raffle: A heavily laden table of plants and produce to choose from.

Morning Tea: A coffee, a gossip and a vote was enjoyed by all.

Guest Speaker: Prof John Bolland and Christine Bryant – shared their experiences of living in the city intergrating house and garden for sustainable living.

Greg Cain - January 2013



Greg's grandfather owned a store in the Grenfell / Hutt Street area of the city and imported Queensland bananas for re-sale to the smaller shops.

Greg's mum grew up on an apple orchard at Lenswood where grandfather Filsell had one of the first cold stores and Greg says all his gardening skills came from him.

Greg grows anything and everything - at the moment, celery, potatoes, cucumber, beetroot, tomatoes, onions, garlic, radish, rhubarb, also lemons and mandarins.

His dad had a terrific orchard - three acres with 65 trees at Tintinara and Greg remembers clearing out the sheering shed and manuring the garden and orchard.

Dad raised little piglets and put them in the orchard in a circle of mesh - they dug the ground and manured the orchard 'they did a great job' Greg says.

With dad's three Jerseys and beef cattle, Greg learned to milk the house cows

when he came home from college to give dad a hand with the harvest.

He stayed at home and enjoyed the farm and working with dad, a pretty hard task-master.

His dad taught him to drive everything, starting at age eight and Greg still remembers the block of wood his dad bolted to the clutch so he wouldn't crunch the grears.

Dad was the gardener, growing all the vegetables - mum loved to grow flowers - daffodils and roses.

Married, Greg left home and has always had a garden, enjoying growing his own vegetables - sometimes roses too as they are ever so hardy.

Strathalbyn Garden Club - Greg loves it, the social outing, mixing with others of similar interest and enjoying the many very interesting guest speakers.

Worms - Greg has millions of them in his 20 worm farms.

Since 1996 when Greg started off with one or two worm farms, he has continued to add a few more and a few more until now when there are 20 of them.

Greg regularly attends Strathalbyn's Monthly Markets and loves talking to people about worms - worm castings, worm juice and selling his produce and worm farms to others.

Grandfather told Greg 'you are never too old to learn' and Greg trials his products on his home garden before promoting them to others - he's happy to teach and learn and the market is a good place to swap ideas and he encourages some to get their old worm farms out and back into use again.

His product trials have taught Greg that you should never use your worm juice too strong - one part in ten of water is safe - stronger may knock off your soft seedlings, or so he has found.

Greg says 'Gardening is just a matter of trial and error, relaxation and a whole lot of common sense.'

Today as a Farm Manager, Greg has 400 beef cattle in his care, but always finds time for his worm farms and caring for his extensive vegetable garden.