



NEWSLETTER

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April
2018

OPEN GARDENS SA AUTUMN OPEN GARDENS

APRIL 28TH - 29TH

BRAE GAIRDEN
41 Avenue Road
Strathalbyn

APRIL 28TH - 29TH

SERENITY
775 Old Bull Creek Road
Strathalbyn

Find out more at
www.opengardensa.org.au
and their Facebook Page:

Open Gardens SA
All gardens open between
10am and 4.30pm
General entry - \$8
Children - FREE
Open Gardens SA MEMBERS - \$6
Government Concession Card
Holders - \$6

CURRENCY CREEK ARBORETUM

OPEN

September
Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd
9am - 4.30pm
Guided Tours
10am and 2pm

**Neutrog Orders
Frank would like
them in by the
MAY meeting if
possible!**

ALTHORPE ISLAND - MICHEL LUCIEER

Althorpe Island, is 91.5 hectares, in area, nearly 1.6 km from North to South and 1.2 km wide at the centre and a plateau 91 metres, above sea level and is located of the south western tip of Yorke Peninsula. The island is uninhabited and can only be accessed by sea or by helicopter.

Althorpe Island was described in 1879 as "no means an abode of bliss, for it is bare and bleak. The vegetation is nothing but scrubby bushes a few inches high, which seem afraid to grow any bigger lest they be blown off; and the flat summit of the now inhabited island rock is swept by the wild winds that chase the rollers into foam on the rocks beneath.

The island was first sighted by Europeans on Saturday 20 March 1802 from HMS Investigator whilst under the command of Matthew Flinders.

Althorpe Island has played a significant part in South Australia's maritime history. The lighthouse keepers' cottages are of State Heritage significance and remain as evidence of the islands' past use. Construction of the Althorpe Island Lighthouse began in 1877. An accident claimed the life of the foreman of works in 1878, slowing the project's progress. Once complete, the lighthouse was operated and maintained by resident keepers from its first light in 1879 until it was demanned in 1991.

The lighthouse was constructed with a combination of limestone and hard sandstone, for hard wearing areas, quarried and cut on the island. The spiral staircase is made of solid blocks of sandstone, treads faced with Mintaro slate. The three Keepers' Cottages were constructed with rendered limestone rubble and hard sandstone for hard wearing areas. Water supply was from rain water held in tanks in the foundations of the tower.

From 14 February 1879, on for the next 112 years, lightkeepers and families main-

tained the 15 metre tower warning mariners from a height of 91 metres above sea level, casting a beam 24 nautical miles into Investigator Strait.

Despite the nightly illumination of 16 rotating light beams during the 112 years, six ships foundered around the island, some of which are commemorated with graves.

The first shipwreck was in 1877 and the last in 1982, with the SS Pareora in 1919, sinking with the loss of 11 crew.

Althorpe was powered by oil/wick; acetylene gas the vaporised kerosene/mantle until the light was converted to electric in 1963. Solar conversion took place in 1991.

Lighthouse logbooks record some of the difficult island lifestyle experienced by keepers and their

families, interluded with comments of wonder and beauty of the island, being shared with an array of coastal birds, including the seasonally estimated 22,000 shearwaters (mutton birds). Life was tough but improved over the years with construction of the 72 metre jetty and the flying fox.

Althorpe Islands Conservation Park is a protected area occupying the Althorpe Islands, Haystack Island and Seal Island in Investigator Strait near the town of Stenhouse Bay. The conservation park was proclaimed in 1972. The purpose of the conservation park is 'to protect important wildlife habitat, particularly for sea-bird populations'

Friends of Althorpe Island Conservation Park members continue the important task of weed eradication during their visits to the island.. The efforts of dedicated volunteers over many years has made a significant impact in reducing noxious weeds such as the African Boxthorn, Tree Mallow, Common Mallow and Cape Weed, allowing the native vegetation to flourish. The abundant and varied bird life demonstrates the island's good health.



STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
April 27th	Brian Noone	Growing Capers
May 25th	Tony & Trevor	Cut Above special garden tools
June 22nd	AGM	Subs Due \$10
June 22nd	John Zwar	Pt Augusta Arid Botanical Gardens update
July 18th	Neutrog Pickup 9.30 - Noon	Lions Shed Walsh Avenue Strathalbyn
July 27th	Alice McCleary	Unley Gardeners Plant rescue group
August 24th	Paul Depuglia	Neutrog - the latest developments
August 25th & 26th	SA Garden Rally	
October 19th	Paech Farm Visit	

NEUTROG ORDER 2018



- ⇒ Orders open 23rd March
- ⇒ Product information and order form attached to this newsletter. Extra copies available.
- ⇒ Completed order form with correct cash/cheque/proof of Electronic Transfer in an envelope handed to Frank Chapman.
- ⇒ 25th May is the final date for orders.
- ⇒ Wednesday July 18 Pick up from the Lions Depot on Walsh Avenue 9.30 - noon.

NEW PRODUCTS

Sudden Impact for Roses Liquid 1 Litre bottle \$12
Whoflungdung 20kg bale \$16



Biologically activated, nutrient rich, weed free, absorbent super mulch.

Details for EFT (Internet banking on line)
Account Name: Strathalbyn Garden Club Inc
BSB 105019
Account Number 037 873 640
Include **YOUR** name and **"NEUTROG ORDER"** on the transaction.
Print a copy of the completed transaction and attach it to your order form.

GARDENAID

For assistance or to volunteer
contact : Norma Keily interim co-ordinator
phone: 8536 6276
Email: strathalbyngardenclub@gmail.com



SHEEP MANURE FOR SALE

\$5/ bag
\$20 collected in a trailer (6X4)
Tania & John Richardson
Woodchester
85375011
We're happy to make your garden happy! Spread the word.

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!

COMPOSTED PIG MANURE

\$9.00 per 27 litre bag
Free delivery in Strathalbyn
Phone 8536 2628
Ros 0428 362 628
Brian 0438 362 628
Practically odourless!



Currency Creek Arboretum

Currency Creek Arboretum was established and is managed by Dean Nicolle and is largely self-funded. The arboretum has the largest collection of eucalypt species in the world, with over 900 species and subspecies (and over 8000 individual plants) having been planted on the site, more than double the number of eucalypt taxa being grown on any other one site elsewhere. Major plantings continue at CCA most years.

Privately owned and operated, CCA is open by appointment only and does not charge entry fees. Run by volunteers, there is no paid staff.

Dr. Dean Nicolle began looking for land between Mount Compass and Strathalbyn in 1990 to create an arboretum. The specific soil type he was looking for had to be well-drained, limestone-free, and with a neutral or slightly acidic pH. CCA was established in 1992. The site covers 32 hectares (79 acres) and has a Mediterranean climate with 450 mm (18 in) annual rainfall.

The first seed plantings of 18 eucalypts occurred in 1993 with all plants grown from seed collected from wild populations by Dean. Details of the site from which the seeds were collected have been meticulously recorded using GPS locators. Using trial and error in choosing planting dis-

tance, some trees that were initially planted too close are being replanted.

The eucalypt collection includes 1,000 species and subspecies, with over 8,000 trees. including Eucalyptus, Angophora and Corymbia. Each species is planted in groups of four and any that die are left in situ.

Research activities includes eucalypt conservation, cultivation, ecology, physiology, systematics, and taxonomy. Additional research consists of the cut flower industry and honey production, as well as tree use, such as firewood, shade, and windbreaks.

A visit to the arboretum is essential for any one who loves the beauty and diversity of eucalypts.



THE TWO GROVES CAR POOL OUTING - MARIA MAXWELL

Our carpool outing on Friday 13th, delivered a most enjoyable event, but the prediction of a storm was a little worrying, my prayers were answered and it held off until we were on our way home! Thirty three members participated.

First stop was "Talinga Grove" a family run olive produce farm. Christine and Bob were very inviting and made us very welcome.

The group was split, one group visited the show room for tasting and explanation of "Extra Virgin Oil" and the process involved in creating it. Various infused oils were sampled, along with dukkah and Kalamata and Pendolino preserved olives. Mini packs and various skin balms were popular to those on retail therapy. In the olive grove, Bob described the various types of olives farmed for oil and the handpicked varieties for preserving. The olive

tree receives a vibration which in turn drops the olives into an upside-down umbrella which catches the fruit. The handpicking is very time consuming and laborious. Water is essential for fruiting and good rains produce heavy crops.

From Talinga, we visited "Sacred Grove" members will recall Edmund was a guest speaker in August. Edmund, has future plans to cater for visitors, eg. Morning/afternoon tea, toilets etc. but currently concentrating on his health products, skin balms, native oils etc. from his thousands of Sandalwoods, Eremophilas, Emu Bush and native pines. We sampled Eremophila tea, and Sandalwood nuts.

Edmund was very keen for us to visit again and spend more time, as he will be restoring an old barn, an old brick kiln where bricks were manufactured many years ago.

Lunch was very welcome and enjoyed at the "Bridge Hotel" concluding a very educational and enjoyable day out.





HOSTED BY THE
LILIUM AND BULB SOCIETY & THE STIRLING AND HILLS GARDEN CLUB
SATURDAY 25TH - SUNDAY 26TH AUGUST 2018
CONERSTONE COLLEGE THEATRE

68 MOUNT BARKER ROAD, MOUNT BARKER 5251

Speakers include Sophie Thomson, Kim Syrus, GCA President George Hoad, Trevor Nottle and Dr Uwe Stroehrer.

Afternoon Garden visits.

The Rally is a time to socialise, learn something new and wander in beautiful gardens. It is also an opportunity to meet the President and Committee Members of the Garden Clubs of Australia, Zone Coordinators and members of other Clubs.

Registration fee \$95 per person covers speakers, garden visits, morning and afternoon tea and lunch.

Payment through direct deposit or cheque.

Registrations close July 31st

Follow us on Facebook, Garden Rally 2018 or register your email for direct updates.

Facebook: Garden Rally 2018

Email: gardenrally2018@gmail.com

Phone: Elizabeth 0400 116 463

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number (Mobile preferred) _____

Email address: _____

Garden Club: _____

Please provide any personal details that we need in order to ensure you are comfortable at the rally (For example food allergies, vegetarian, wheelchair access required.)

PAYMENT

We accept cheques or direct debit.

Direct Debit: Use your initial and surname as the description.

Bank SA Garden Rally 2018 BSB 105 079 Account Number 0550 42240

Email registration form to gardenrally2018@gmail.com Receipts returned via email.

Cheques

Make cheques payable to Garden Rally 2018

Post to E.Dobson 551 Scott Creek Road, Scott Creek SA 5153

Enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope if you wish the receipt by mail.