



NEWSLETTER

Issue No: 121

August
2013

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I look through my rain spattered windows at the storm damaged garden I wonder whether an apartment in the city close to culture and night life with just a few pots on a balcony might be preferable to my rambling, time consuming garden.

However on venturing out to start the post storm clean up in the fresh cold air I discover that the broad beans are still standing straight and tall, the blossom is still on the fruit trees and the first asparagus spears have shot out of the soil. Although there are lots of small branches blown down from the eucalypts the only permanent damage is to a top heavy Pink Ice Protea which split through the trunk and will have to be dug out.

Blossom and new growth are appearing on all the native plants and the roses are producing glossy leaves and flower buds. I imagine how they will flourish even more with the Neutrog fertilisers waiting to be spread out. The dams and rain water tanks are full and the sub soil is well and truly saturated so watering will not be a problem at least for the first part of summer. I have started sowing vegetable seeds in pots ready for planting out once the soil is warm enough. Even on cold wet days my glass house is a cosy place to work although I have trouble with my specs fogging up. Naturally the rain will produce increased growth on the road verges and in parks and reserves which will provide a greater fuel load for bushfires so for every up side there is a down side.

I am looking forward to visiting the inaugural Australian Garden Show in Sydney on 6th September.

Spring is an exciting and challenging time in the garden so let's get out and enjoy it.

Norma Keily

TIPS FOR EARLY SPRING GARDENING

Fruit tree spraying.

If you have missed spraying the stone fruits with a copper spray because of the rain then once the buds are open spray with Yates Mancozeb which will not harm the bees.



Snail Trails.

Snails are starting to wake up and look for food so now is the time to reduce their numbers by baiting or trapping. Look for them around the agapanthus and other winter hiding places. Protect seedlings with a band of wood ash, crushed egg shells or pine needles.

Citrus.

Citrus Gall wasp is an Australian native wasp which will infest most varieties of citrus. Galls should be cut off and burnt or buried deep in the garden before the wasps emerge in late August. There is no effective insecticide against the wasp and affected trees can quickly become covered in galls resulting in very little leaf and fruit production. For aphids, scale, sooty mould and leaf miners apply white oil every three weeks. Water in some iron chelates to stop the leaves yellowing and once flowering has finished fertilise with a slow release organic fertiliser.

Bulbs

Once the flowers are finished feed the bulbs with a soluble fertiliser to ensure good flowers next season.

Vegetable Beds

It is not too late to turn in the green manure, compost and weeds. Don't be too hasty in planting seeds as the soil will still be cold. To speed up soil warming cover the garden bed with clear plastic weighted down against the wind.

Weed Tea

Soak weeds in a bucket for a week or two until they start to break down. Dilute the liquid 1 to 10 with water and use as a fertiliser. The sludge can go in the compost.

VISIT MELBOURNE FLOWER SHOW 2014 WITH RUFUS

Monday 24th March—Friday 28th March 2014

Travel by Overland to Melbourne, stay 3 nights at the Pullman, Albert Park. Return by coach spending 1 night at Comfort Inn Bell Tower in Ballarat.

Visit the Dandenong Ranges, Melbourne Flower Show, tour Melbourne, dine on the Restaurant Tram, & much more.

Cost and additional information from Rufus Bus & Coach Pty Ltd.

STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM

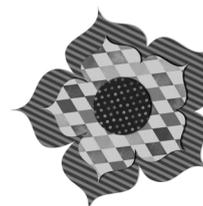
MEETING DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
August 23rd	Phillipa Lamphée	Geraniums and Pelargoniums
September 14th	Judging for Strath Show	Spring Garden Competition
September 27th	Judy Cross	Angas Plains Wines
October 12th	Cavalcade of Gardens	Strathalbyn
October 25th	Troy McKenzie	The potted garden
October 25th	BLOOM COMPETITION	
November 22nd	Christmas Lunch	Strathalbyn Bowling Club
December 27th	No Meeting	

Strathalbyn Garden Club Committee 2013—2014

President/Newsletter	Norma Keily	8536 6276	strathalbyngardenclub@gmail.com
Secretary	Jenny Thomas	8536 4275	jnd@hotmail.net.au
Treasurer	Mary Golden	8536 4267	marygolden@bigpond.com
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Morning Tea/gifts	Margaret Croser	8536 3164	
Committee member	Ruth Anderson	8536 4963	ruthse@internode.on.net

CAVALCADE OF GARDENS - SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2013

Keep the day free between 10am and 4pm to drive around with your family and friends for a feast of spring gardens. Refreshments will be available at some gardens and maps will be provided at the September Garden Club meeting.



STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB END OF YEAR CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Friday 22nd November 12 noon.

Strathalbyn Bowling Club \$25 per person.

Traditional roast lunch.

Payment and numbers due by October 25th meeting.

Special dietary requirements catered for.



GARDEN CLUBS OF AUSTRALIA DIARY DATES FOR THE TRAVELLER

September 4th - 8th. Australian Garden Show Centennial Park Sydney

September 15th - 18th. Garden Clubs of Australia Biennial Convention Ballarat. Visits to historic and interesting gardens in and around Ballarat.

October 17th—20th. Berry Gardens Festival NSW. 8 beautiful gardens to visit.

October 5th - 13th. Leura Gardens Festival NSW. 10 spring gardens in the beautiful Blue Mountains.

October 26th- 30th. Iris at Eidolia Park NSW. A four day convention to be held by the Iris Society of NSW .

OPEN GARDENS AUSTRALIA 2013 –14

The annual Guide is now available at bookshops and news agencies for \$19.95

Most gardens are open 10am—4.30pm both days with an entry fee of \$7 (under 18 free)

AUG 31 - SEPT 1

Avondale Avondale Rd near Rhynie
Currency Creek Arboretum Adelaide Place Currency Creek
Daisy Patch 1 George Tce Coonalpn

SEPT 8

Wirranendi 13 Allalange Tce Tatachilla

SEPT 14 - 15

The Looking Glass Garden 2 Caralue Rd Marino
Richwyn 3 Linwood Ave Aldgate (Sunday only)

SEPT 21 - 22

Wirrapunga 7 Williams Rd Aldgate
Metzger Garden 35 Garrod Cres Stirling
Trigg Garden 51 Kakatoe Cres Sandy Creek

N.B.

GOT A PROBLEM?

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.

Email strathalbyngardenclub@gmail.com or phone 85366276.

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

If you have been on holidays and have visited interesting gardens and don't mind putting pen to paper why not write a short article for our newsletter?

Photos of interesting gardens, birds, plants or wildlife (not the grand children) are also welcome. Send them to Norma.

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.

GOT AN EMAIL ADDRESS?

Sign up for the Club Newsletter to be sent electronically.

Also sign up for Jon Lamb's Weekly Garden Reminders

www.gardenandoutdoorliving.com/newsletter.html

STRATHALBYN SHOW SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION

The competition is open to all home and business gardens located within the Strathalbyn portion of the Alexandrina Council.

Entry forms are now available with the closing date being 4pm Monday 9th September. Cost of entry is just \$5 per garden and there are nine classes for judging.

The Show also has a comprehensive range of flower, fruit and vegetable classes which can be entered at 50 cents per entry.

DONATIONS TABLE

If you have excess produce, too many seedlings, an excess of cuttings that have grown, bulbs, pot plants or any garden related items to share why not offer them to our Donations Table. Plant items should be labelled for ease of identification. Funds raised support the Club.

BIODYNAMIC GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

INTRODUCTORY FIELD DAY

SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 9:30AM—4:00PM

WILLUNGA WALDORF SCHOOL

Contact Thelma Newman 8536 2728
for details and registration

Learn how to:

- Cultivate the soil to improve soil structure
- Improve the health, humus and microbial activity in soil
- Store and use BD (Biodynamic) Preparations
- Make compost using BD principles and preparations
- Read the Biodynamic Sowing Chart

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.

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!

CHRIS DANIELS BACKYARD BIODIVERSITY

Professor Chris Daniels is Professor of Urban Ecology at the University of South Australia and Director of the Barbara Hardy Institute. Chris has been a prolific scientist and author, having edited 4 books and contributed to more than 150 scientific publications. He has been published on issues regarding the natural and built environments, and has an abiding interest in reptiles, particularly lizards. Chris is also an award-winning science communicator. He has regular sessions on 891 ABC Radio and has written for the Advertiser on a range of science and environmental topics.

Chris began by saying that Nature is important in cities and we are fortunate that Adelaide is a biodiversity hotspot and one of only fifteen in Australia.

Most Australians live in cities and 85% of the South Australian population lives between Victor Harbor and Port Wakefield. Adelaide, flanked by the Mt Lofty Ranges, is a green space in a dry, brown state.

The world population is growing at an alarming rate with the anticipated number being 11 billion by 2100. Most people live in cities which are largely concrete jungles and the phenomenon of Nature Deficit Disorder has developed because, as an animal, we humans need other animals and life forms to keep us sane and healthy. The health benefits of nature include: clean air, relaxation, exercise, lower stress, a sense of place. The vital elements of a Sustainable Community include a variety of species with genetic diversity which are interdependent and in balance with a reasonable population level interacting well.

The link between biodiversity and sustainability is the cycling of resources, complexity allows for stability and diversity allows for flexibility in the system so that it can recover from change and adversity. Sustainable management of a region is a three way interaction between the urban community, agriculture and the environment.

The urban community is largely disconnected from agriculture and food sovereignty and has lost contact with what food is and where it comes from.

The degradation of the ecosystem leads to climate change, the increase in the prevalence of pests and diseases and increased vulnerability to external threats.

In 1836 the first European settlers to the Adelaide area had a stunningly diverse landscape of mallee, mangroves, wetlands, open woodlands with a variety of tall trees and candle bark forests in the hills. A network of creeks flowed down to sand dunes which stopped the fresh water flowing into the Gulf. In the ensuing 200 years the sand dunes have gone and the freshwater



runoff has killed the seagrass beds in the gulf and the sand needs constant replenishing on the beaches. In a very short space of years all the trees were removed for fuel and timber for housing and the land cleared for agriculture. Adelaide was a hot and dusty or cold wet and miserable town by 1890. Now Adelaide is a widely spread, low density city but with only 5.5% parkland space. In comparison London has 30% parkland and Beijing has 47%. Manicured parklands do not provide biodiversity as the grass does not provide seed for birds and the cleared spaces do not provide shelter for the small animals. Fortunately a program of street tree planting was commenced and continues so that the Adelaide is now a forest city. The low density housing means that Adelaide is also a garden city with ornamental front yards and productive back gardens containing fruit trees, chooks and a vegetable patch. The dense vegetation between houses, often planted to screen off the neighbours has provided habitat for birds, insects and lizards. By 1860 a wide range of introduced plants and animals had been added to the environment before the catastrophic implications were realised. Many including starlings, sparrows and blackbirds were brought in by the SA Acclimatisation Society in an attempt to recreate the British landscape. The change in the landscape has also led to the migration of native species like the corellas due to changes in food supply and altered habitats.

Fear of the environment has led to the growth of higher density suburbs with large houses on small blocks with no trees, gardens or wildlife. This has led to an increase in energy consumption as the suburbs are less able to moderate the temperature of the seasonal weather. The older generation is a driving force in maintaining contact with the environment and transferring the knowledge to their grandchildren.

Constant vigilance is required to ensure that all new development occurs in a sustainable manner unlike the current Mt Barker development and that multiple use of open space should be considered as in roof top gardens and the example of Windsor Street Unley where the wide verges have been landscaped to provide human interest and wildlife habitat.

Chris observed that many folk fear the environment so they prefer to live in large houses on small house blocks or high rise buildings with no gardens or contact with wildlife which they perceive as being dangerous.

