



NEWSLETTER

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Website: www.strathgardenclub.com.au
Email: strathalbyngardenclub@gmail.com
Phone contact: 0416 173 573

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Strathalbyn Garden Club prides itself on being a welcoming group that encourages everyone who is interested in gardening to join in. However this means that meetings can be crowded and even intimidating and at times overwhelming for the less agile and not so young members.

Some of us are a little hard of hearing or have trouble seeing clearly but still want to enjoy the social outing.

We can improve the caring quality of our gatherings by being more aware of the needs of others.

Not talking during the formal meeting, raffle draw and guest speakers is essential good manners and makes hearing easier.

During morning tea offering to bring a cup of tea and biscuit to someone who might be reluctant to join the queue at the kitchen is a neighbourly act of kindness.

By simply not adding the extra squirt of perfume you might improve some-one's day and such small thoughtful acts can improve enjoyment for everyone.

The new arrangements for accessing the meeting should allow for a little more space in the hall so that we can spread out and have a bit more elbow room. If only we could have a few extra car park spaces as well!

Norma Keily

MICHAEL KEELAN - GARDENING IS GOOD FOR OUR HEALTH!

Michael Keelan, one of South Australia's foremost media horticultural experts, began his talk by commenting on the very favourable season we have been enjoying recently. The regular rain has flushed the build up of salts from the soil and the warm days and cool nights make for ideal growing conditions.

Michael grew up in a family with a strong gardening history as one of his forbears was Head Gardener at Windsor Castle during the reign of Queen Victoria and his grandmother had an "Edna Walling" garden. The family fodder business which morphed into a Garden Centre and happy years at Urrbrae influenced his career direction into gardening.

His plant hire business 'Jungles' led into his 42 year radio career during which he worked with Jeremy Cordeau and Philip Satchell. The radio career opened the door to television shows such as "Out of the Blue" and to print journalism including SALife magazine.

Travel as part of his work life provided Michael with the opportunity to visit many wonderful gardens and to observe and enjoy how 96% of people around the world garden whether in window boxes, on small balconies and any available plot of land from a pocket handkerchief to acreage. Photographs of gardens taken during his travels are a great reminder of places visited.

Michael shared with us the knowledge that Australia leads the world in the Nursery Industry, in garden waste recovery and fertiliser development.

There is a thirst for garden knowledge giving rise to the many specialist garden societies, TV and radio segments, open gardens and garden shows.

Gardens are a living work of art, individual to the gardener and always a work in progress.

The benefit of gardening to health are enormous as it provides a workout for the body while stimulating all the senses of smell, sight, touch, hearing and taste while lowering blood pressure and relieving stress.

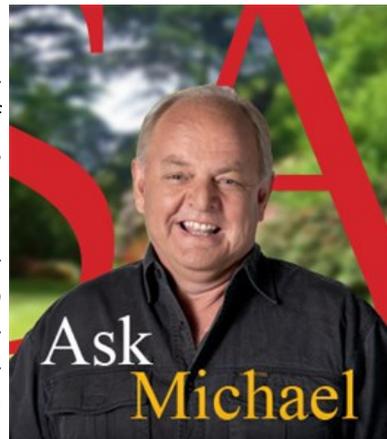
Gardening has a symbiotic relationship with nature which keeps gardeners grounded and entertained. In retirement years gardening helps maintain mobility and flexibility and it encourages forward planning and social interaction.

Michael encouraged us to stay safe while gardening by dressing for the weather remembering that as we age our skin is thinner and is prone to sun and wind damage as well as cuts, scrapes and thorn damage.

Broken skin should be treated immediately.

Power tools should be used with care and safety gear in the form of protective gloves, ear muffs and safety goggles must be worn.

Trip and slip hazards in the garden need to be taken care of and ladders should be avoided, both climbing up and walking under. Warm up before gardening and take regular breaks from repetitive activity. Stop occasionally to smell the flowers.



STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
February 24th	Amanda Reynolds	Green Platypus Gardens
March 24th	Geoff Spear	Orchids
March 24th	Knitted Garden	Deadline for contributing knitted flowers
April 21st	Coach Trip	Jurlique & Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens
April 28th	Sharee Kelly	Native flowering plants
May 6th - 7th	Strathalbyn Craft Fair	Knitted Garden On Display Strathalbyn Town Hall
May 26th	Barb Field	Adelaide's Botanic Garden
May 26th	Launch Neutrog Order	Order form & price list attached to the May newsletter
June 23rd	Garden Club AGM	20th Birthday Celebration

COACH TRIP FRIDAY 21ST APRIL 2017

A 50 seat Rufus Coach will take us to

JURLIQUE AT BIGGS FLAT

You will see on the tour

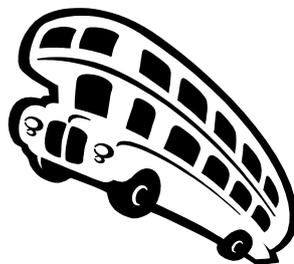
- Display Garden
- Seed propagation area
- Biodynamic* preparation area
- Herb drying shed
- Farm retail shop

On the tour you will learn about

- History of Jurlique
- How seedlings and plants are propagated
- Plant varieties and their uses
- Biodynamic* farming principles
- Soil fertility and compost production
- Harvest process
- Bee Keeping

What to wear – ESSENTIAL

As the tour is on a working farm, for your comfort and safety we ask all tour guests to wear



- Closed toe, flat shoes, sneakers or boots (high heels, sandals and open toed footwear are not suitable)
- Full length pants, trousers or jeans
- Hats and sunscreen during summer months. Wet weather gear as required.

Walking access

- The terrain varies with gravel and dirt pathways and some steep gradients.
- The length of walking on the tour is 600m.

At the conclusion of the tour, visit our Farm Retail Shop where you can purchase a selected range of products

Lunch will be at the Cleland Wildlife Park Cafeteria

The afternoon will be spent at the Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens enjoying the autumn colour.

COST - \$25 plus lunch. You may BYO packed lunch or purchase from Cleland cafeteria.

Only 50 seats so it is first in best dressed.

No refunds for late cancellation.

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)

\$5/ 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.

PAYMENTS TO THE TREASURER

- Provide correct money in an envelope with your name and contact details on the front.
- Receipts will be available at the following meeting.
- Keep all receipts as proof of payment.

COMPOSTED PIG MANURE

\$9.00 per 27 litre bag

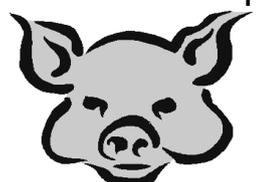
Free delivery in Strathalbyn

Phone 8536 2628

Ros 0428 362 628

Brian 0438 362 628

Practically odourless!



THE KNITTED GARDEN - UPDATE

- ◆ Admire the mini display today which will also appear at the International Women's Day event to be held on Friday 3rd March at the Show Hall - details from the Strath Neighbourhood Centre.
- ◆ Patterns and yarn are available at all Club meetings until the deadline at the end of March.
- ◆ The Strath Neighbourhood Centre at 1 High Street will also have yarn and patterns and are open every weekday between 9.30am and 3pm.
- ◆ Finished flowers may be delivered to the Club or the Strath neighbourhood Centre
- ◆ Apart from flowers we will need knitted leaves, paving stones, soil and grass.
- ◆ Knitted/crocheted butterflies, birds, vegetables in fact anything remotely garden oriented will be welcome.
- ◆ Donations of wool of any colour, thickness or fibre is welcome.
- ◆ Volunteers to help create the garden will be needed in April 2017.
- ◆ Contact Norma 8536 6276 with offers of help.

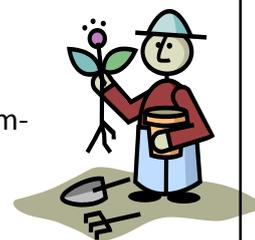


STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB

GARDEN MARKET DAY

FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2017

- * To be run as part of the September meeting
- * Club members may book table space to sell: Seedlings, well grown cuttings, fresh garden produce, seeds, bulbs, potted plants. Cottage garden plants are popular.
- * There will be a small charge or commission fee for table space (yet to be determined).
- * The meeting procedure may be re-arranged to allow more browsing and buying time.
- * More details will be available as plans are refined but now is the time to start taking cuttings and collecting seeds.
- * All items to be sold should be clearly labelled with plant name and growing information and free from pests and diseases.



GARDENING COURSES AT MOSHCC

PATCH FROM SCRATCH

- 10 week course with an experienced Horticulturalist
- Starts Tuesday 14th March 12.30 - 3pm
- At Milang Old School House Community Centre
- Donation \$5 week
- Learn how to set up a vegie patch from design to harvest, work out how many plants are needed to eat healthy and save money.
- Afternoon tea included
- Bookings essential 85370687

INTRO TO WATER-WISE GARDENING

- ◆ 10 Week Course \$5 per session
- ◆ Starts Wednesday 15th March 9.30 - 12.30
- ◆ Bookings essential 8537 0687
- ◆ Hands on series to plan and create a garden bed at the Lakeside Butter Factory in Milang. Get tips and hints from the talented Tutor to build your skills whilst you work on this group project.



PLANT PROPAGATING.

Propagating can be done by plant division, taking cuttings, layering or growing from seed. Most garden books will have a chapter on the various techniques and which method is best for a particular plant and the best time of year to achieve success.

"The plant propagator's bible" Miranda Smith 2007 and "From seeds to leaves" Doug & Robin Stewart 1999 are two informative titles.

When considering propagating it is important to be aware of PBR - Plant Breeder's Rights.

Plant Breeder's Rights, if granted for a particular cultivar, prohibits the commercial propagation of that plant variety for the prescribed period (usually 20 years) unless the plant breeder has granted the grower a licence to do so. The breeder would also have exclusive rights to sell, import or export that cultivar.

This means that home gardeners can propagate the plant for their own purposes, but cannot sell propagation material or whole plants.

The PBR status of a plant will be indicated on the plant label with the PBR logo, along with the description and growing information.

The majority of plants in our home gardens which have been lovingly grown from 'pieces' acquired over the years are not affected by the PBR restrictions but it is important to recognise and respect the effort, expense and time that nursery growers have expended to develop that many enticing new plants available for purchase in garden centres.



PBR Logo

*Happiness is to hold flowers in both hands.
Japanese proverb*