



NEWSLETTER

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2018

OPEN GARDENS SA SUMMER OPEN GARDENS

'The Good Life' marks the first of a series of productive gardens coming up this Summer, with February declared Productive Garden Month.

Saturday and Sunday – January 20 and 21

The Good Life
19 Arthur Street,
Prospect

February 3 and 4

John's Organic Garden
4 Brand Avenue,
Victor Harbor

February 10 and 11

Joe's Connected Garden
6 Argent Street
Elizabeth Grove

February 17 and 18

Hector's Patch
35a King Street
Mile End

February 24 and 25

Mile End Village Garden
16 Goodenough Street,
Mile End

Find out more at
www.opengardensa.org.au.
All gardens open from 10am
until 4.30pm
General Entry Cost - \$8
Children FREE

GARDENING AUSTRALIA

Re-commences in 2018 with the usual line-up of presenters but at the new time slot of 7.30pm on a Friday evening and for a full hour. Repeating at 1.30pm on Sunday afternoons.

Be watching on Friday 26th January.

The program will include

- Miniature Wonderland
- New Year Garden Plans
- The Wolery
- Tropical Delights
- 2017 - The Year that Was
- Possum-Proof Gardens
- Summer Beverage Basket
- Summer-proofing the Garden
- Werribee Park Community Garden

Full details on their website <http://www.abc.net.au/gardening> with video clips of each segment and fact sheets.



BLOOM COMPETITION OCTOBER 2017

Having the entries displayed in the Main Hall gave Garden Club members more space and opportunity to view the extensive variety of blooms entered for judging before finally committing their voting buttons.

Voting was quite evenly distributed across the entries although in each category the winners were ahead by a clear margin.

Best Bloom was a lovely blue iris grown by Lyn Michelmore.

The native was a very large flower spike from a banksia growing in the garden of David Thomas.

The rose category was won with a fragrant bloom from an Australian Red Cross Rose grown by Norma Keily.

Dawn Gunn won the Pot Plant section with a most unusual tropical plant featuring green, red and yellow parrot beak shaped flowers which intrigued many members. After some conjecture the plant was identified by Malcolm McDougall as being the Congo Cockatoo, *Impatiens niamniamensis*.



The Parrot Impatiens (*Impatiens niamniamensis*) is also known as the "Congo Cockatoo". It's a perennial species from tropical Africa that typically grows almost to a metre tall. It has a handsome "bonsai tree" look, thanks to its stocky growth and brown stems that resemble wood. The stems are succulent and flexible, like typical Impatiens. The large, 1½ inch blooms are scarlet red and yellow, with a lime green hood. The red almost looks brushed on. These exotic blooms emerge from all over the plant, even on the "old wood".

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Why do we use botanical nomenclature?

Why aren't the common names of plants good enough?

We use scientific plant names (or "botanical plant names") to avoid confusion, since they are an international language of sorts.

For over 200 years we have used the classification model of botanical nomenclature (that is, scientific plant naming) instituted by Linnaeus (1707-1778), the language of plant taxonomy that is employed around the world.

The Latin name is a global naming standard that ensures that, although a plant may have hundreds of common nicknames, there is only one scientific name that is used in any climate on the planet for that specific plant.

The first name is the genus and the second name is the species. The first name is always capitalized and the second is lower case and they are always in italics. Sometimes you may see this, *Echinacea purpurea* var. *Sunset*. The var. abbreviation simply shows a cultivar, or variety of the species *E. purpurea*.

In each two-part (or binomial) botanical name the first word is the genus name and the second reveals an identifying characteristic of the plant. In Latin the ending of an adjective varies according to the gender of the subject being modified and so -us, -a and -um are all used as appropriate. Extensive lists can be found on a range of websites and in specialist gardening books.

Some words that may appear on plant labels:-

Red is *rubrum*; rosy-pink is *roseus*.

Purple is *purpureus*. If it's very dark, it might be *atropurpureus*.

White is *albus* or *alba*, black is *nigrum*.

Green, might be *viridis* (or *sempervirens* in the case of evergreen).

If a plant is graceful or slender, *gracilis*.

A shrubby plant - *fruticosus* or *frutescens*.

Upright and columnar- *fastigiatus* or *columnaris*.

narrow, with nearly parallel sides: *linearis*.

A dwarf plant - *nanus* or *pumilus*;

a creeping one, *repens*;

Flat on the ground, *prostratus* or *procumbens*. If straggly *divaricatus*

Pleated leaves *plicatus*. Woolly leaves - *lanatus*.

Mollis means soft (because the plant is covered with soft hairs);

glaucus or *glauca* plants are coated in what's called bloom (a fine white powdery coating).

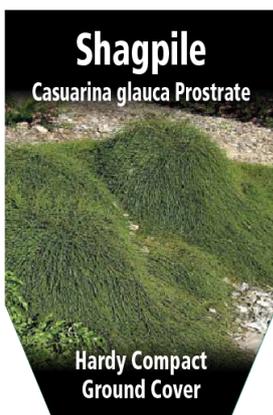
If the surface glistens - *fulgens*

Inodorus means a plant has no fragrance.

Smell can be identified by - *pungens* (pungent), *odoratus* (sweet-smelling), and *foetidus* (fetid, or stinking).

glabra = smooth, *japonica* = from Japan

lanceolata = lance-shaped (leaves), *latifolia* = wide-leaved
longiflora = with long flowers, *longifolia* = with long leaves.



GARDENAID

For assistance or to volunteer

contact Mary Golden Phone 8536 4267

Mobile 0418 800 040

Email: marygolden@bigpond.com

Alternative Garden Help is available from

Ray & Noreen Harrison \$30 an hour (2 people)

phone 0448 888 508 pensioners only



STRATH NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

1 HIGH STREET STRATHALBYN

8536 2856

SNC FUNDRAISER

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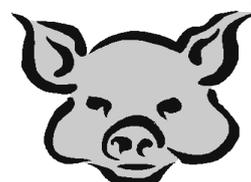
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Ros 0428 362 628

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IRISES - MARGARET JENKINS

Margaret commenced her talk by confessing that her interest in irises dated back to 1964 and in the ensuing years she has won awards and has an extensive range of named hybrids to her credit.

Iris, comprises some 300 species of bulbous, fibrous, and rhizome-rooted perennials as well as countless hybrids. The hybrids include: Arilbred hybrids; Bearded hybrids, which are further divided into miniature dwarf bearded, standard dwarf bearded, intermediate bearded, miniature tall bearded, border bearded, and tall bearded; Pacific Coast or Californian hybrids; Dutch hybrids; Louisiana hybrids; Oncoclycus hybrids; Siberian hybrids; and Spuria hybrids. As befits a genus named for Iris, the Greek goddess of the rainbow, the flowers occur in all colours and often incorporate brilliant combinations of colours.

Most irises develop into dense foliage clumps with fans of grassy to sword-shaped leaves that are sometimes variegated. Their flowers, the model for the fleur-de-lis, have 6 petals: 3 erect petals known as standards and 3 downward-curving petals known as falls, which may be bearded, beardless, or crested, and occur in all colours. The flowers appear from late winter to late summer, depending on the species.



All irises prefer a position in sun or partial shade but soil requirements vary with the growth form. Bog irises need permanently damp soil; woodland irises prefer moist well-drained soil; bearded irises should be kept moist when actively growing and flowering but should then be kept dry; and rockery irises need moist but perfectly drained gritty soil. Propagation is usually by division when dormant, less commonly from seed.

Irises require full sun for at least half a day in summer. Insufficient summer sun does not allow proper development of flowering. Full sun all day is desirable for most, however dark coloured blooms that flower later in the season will last better if given some protection from the hot afternoon sun. Full winter shade is not a problem.

Even if irises are in full sun, the rhizomes may be shaded by mulch or creeping perennials such as violets or evening primrose.

Irises like to be chilled in winter. The degree of chilling required depends on the cultivar, but many Dwarf Bearded require actual frosts to bloom. Reblooming irises may need less chilling than other varieties.

Excessive use of nitrogen rich fertilizer can cause lush plants with little or no flowers. Bearded irises like good supplies of phosphorous and potassium, and less nitrogen. Pelletised organic fertilizers such as Rapid Raise or Dynamic Lifter are recommended. However irises that like very acid

soil (Louisiana, PCs and Japanese) are best fertilized with aged cow manure or Kahoona.

It is best to fertilize when transplanting and then at the beginning of the growth period, a couple of months before flowering.

Irises can exhaust the soil after a number of years, or grow too dense. Depending on the cultivar they will need dividing every 2-5 years. They should be moved to another spot or else have their soil refreshed.

The part of the rhizome most susceptible to rot is the top of the rhizome where the flowering fan is. Sometimes this may rot a little over winter and the rest of the rhizome survives and the newer small fans along the sides continue to grow, but the fan that would have produced bloom has died. This usually causes reduced bloom rather than total lack of bloom.

The best time for moving Bearded Iris and Louisiana Iris is generally immediately after flowering or in late autumn - early winter. If it is too close to flowering time, bloom will be small, late or not happen at all. Moving during summer is OK, but bearded iris don't grow much over summer so don't water them a lot to get them to grow, you will only induce rot.

Irises that go dormant (Siberian, Spuria and Japanese and bulbs) are best moved during dormancy. Spuria iris can be moved soon after they begin their spring growth, but should be planted immediately and not allowed to dry out.

Pacific Coast Iris should only be moved once they have started their winter growth, usually 4-6 weeks after the beginning of the autumn rains i.e. mid May - mid June.

HOW DEEP SHOULD I PLANT MY IRISES?

Bearded iris should be fairly shallowly planted, with about 1-2 cm of soil over the rhizome. Too deep and they won't get enough summer heat or winter chill. If exposed to the sun they may develop scorch in the Australian climate. (Books that talk about exposing the rhizome are generally written for cooler climates where every effort is required for sufficient summer heat).

When replanting ensure that the bottom of the rhizome makes good contact with the soil underneath it.

Other (beardless) iris should be planted a bit more deeply, 2-4cm. If your Louisiana iris rhizomes end up above the surface of the soil, it doesn't really matter.

Bearded Iris are more easily killed by over-caring than anything else. Excessive moisture, especially over summer will induce rot. Make sure your bearded iris are well drained. Do not cover the rhizomes with moisture holding mulch (e.g. lawn clippings, pea straw), particularly if you use overhead watering. If rot starts to happen, remove the rotten part of the rhizome and expose the cut surface to the sun for a few days, then replant. Excessive use of nitrogen fertilizer can produce lush growth susceptible to rot.



CLUB NOTICE BOARD

REMINDERS 2018

Website: www.strathgardenclub.com.au

Email: strathalbyngardenclub@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/strathgardenclub/>

Phone contact: 0416 173 573

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
January 19th 2018	Andrew Barker	Grow Free
February 23rd 2018	Elizabeth Caldicott	Oriental gardens
March ?	Excursion details TBA	
March 23rd	Barbara Colquhoun	Althorpe Island Conservation Park
April 27th	Brian Noone	Growing Capers
May 25th	Tony & Trevor	Cut Above special garden tools
June 22nd	AGM	Subs Due
October 19th	Paech Farm Visit	

PAYMENTS TO THE TREASURER

CASH

- Provide correct money in an envelope with your name and contact details on the front.
- A generic Receipt will be available immediately
- Keep all receipts as proof of payment.

EFT (Internet Banking On-line)

- Strathalbyn Garden Club Inc
- BSB 105019 Ac/N^o 037 873 640
- Always put your Name and the purpose for the payment e.g. J.Adams subs in the remitter line
- Send an email to cchuxter@aussiebb.com.au advising of the funds transfer.
- Receipts (electronic) will be issued by return email
- Keep all receipts as proof of payment.

SELLER'S TABLE

To book a place at the Seller's Table contact Jackie Chapman 8536 8798. **Only 2 sellers per meeting**

Items for sale should be relevant to the Club (i.e. garden related). Sellers should make a discretionary donation to the Club for the opportunity to sell and should be in attendance on the Table.

DONATION TABLE

Items of a gardening or produce nature can be donated for sale on the Donations Table.

Bring on the day although if large or unusual a phone call to Jackie Chapman 8536 8798 would be helpful.

RAFFLE TABLE

Raffle items should be well presented and desirable
Plants should be labelled, healthy and protected with a plastic bag if likely to drip or stain.

COMMITTEE 2017/18

PRESIDENT & NEWSLETTER EDITOR	NORMA KEILY	8536 6276
SECRETARY	JENNY THOMAS	8536 4275
TREASURER & VICE PRESIDENT	CED HUXTER	8536 2215
ASSISTANT TREASURER	CAROLYN HUXTER	8536 2215
TABLES & PRINTING	JACKIE CHAPMAN	8536 8798
TRIPS & WELCOMING	MARIA MAXWELL	8536 3731

VOLUNTEERS

MORNING TEA	JAN WITHERS & JULIE WILSON
GUEST SPEAKERS	RUTH FRANCK
NEUTROG	FRANK CHAPMAN
SPECIAL EVENTS	BOB PAPPIN
RAFFLE TICKETS	REN TREMAYNE & CHRIS BOURNE
RAFFLE TABLE	HELEN FAIRWEATHER & MARGARET JENKINS
NAMETAGS	JANET JONES
WEBSITE & FACEBOOK	JOY BOURNE

ANNUAL EVENTS

Neutrog Order - place order June/July pickup August

Cavalcade of Gardens - Saturday October 6th 2018

Bloom Competition - held at the October meeting

Further details will be in the appropriate Newsletter.