



# NEWSLETTER

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Website: [www.strathgardenclub.com.au](http://www.strathgardenclub.com.au)  
Email: [strathalbyngardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:strathalbyngardenclub@gmail.com)  
Phone contact: 0416 173 573

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From The President,

It is a relief when the AGM is passed, the new committee elected and business can resume for another year. It is a delight to be able to welcome Carolyn and Ced Huxter back to the table after six years absence.

Although Pat Simpson has resigned from the committee she will continue to follow up the guest speakers that she has recruited for the remainder of the year. This allows time for Carolyn and Ced to start making contacts and lining up dates for next year.

2017 will mark twenty years for the Garden Club and it is not too soon to start planning the celebrations. One suggestion is that we invite past office bearers and members to a morning tea to be held at the June 2017 AGM. The committee welcomes suggestions, contact details for past members, photos, memorabilia etc for this special occasion.

We had over 30 members take advantage of the 'car pool' trip to Newman's and the Oasis and the warming effects of horseradish and mustard and the very filling afternoon tea in the cosy function centre kept the cold at bay.

For the remainder of this year there is a lot to look forward to as our gardens soak up the rain and prepare for spring and we enjoy the events planned on the Club calendar.

*Norma Keily*

**\$10 Subs now due.**

## Deb Cantrill - "Life in the Slow Lane"

Deb and Quentin moved to Nirvana Farm in Heathfield 33 years ago when it was a neglected, blackberry infested, waterlogged, deceased estate. Their aim was to have a productive orchard and lifestyle while working full time in the city. After 12 years Deb retired to the farm full time as even farming just a few hectares requires a serious time commitment.

Using Biodynamic principles and lots of quality home made compost developed good soil and being at the top of Scott Creek meant a reliable water supply both essential elements for setting up an orchard.

The main orchard crop is chestnuts which are sold hot roasted in Stirling in Autumn and winter as well as value adding to produce chestnut meal. A range of berries including raspberries, red currants, gooseberries, black currants and mulberries plus a small quantity of elder berries are grown along with figs, feijoas and citrus. Porcini mushrooms grow beneath the chestnut trees.

Rudolph Steiner's Biodynamics as used at Nirvana bring all the elements of nature into harmony. The preparation "horn 500" made from cow manure is stirred and 'flicked out' in Autumn and spring and the '501' silica preparation is sprayed on the fruit trees as a fine mist to enhance fruit production.

Composting is a craft which requires dedication and commitment to achieve the best results and workshops are run to explain the various techniques and materials to use.

At Nirvana poultry play an important role in the life of the farm providing both eggs and manure as well as labour to turn over the vege patch.

Despite all the busy-ness of running the property Deb has time to create magical baskets using materials found on the farm. Practical items such as fencing, trellises and plant screens are made and although

they may only last a few years as they gradually decay and return to the soil they serve their purpose and are attractive as well.

Decorative and whimsical pieces are also made to provide interesting focal points around the ornamental garden. Basketry made from natural materials also provides homes for wildlife in the garden.

The craft of natural fibre basketry requires space as the harvested materials need to be hung to dry, then wrapped and stored ready for use and invariably at times the collection needs to be culled as each season brings fresh material from daffodils, iris, day lilies, lomandra, dogwood, grapevine prunings' and wisteria.



Value adding to all the produce from the orchard and berry patch as well as making mead from the honey harvested from the hives, conducting workshops, speaking to organisations such as ours and keeping an eye on the farm shop as well as managing WWOOFers makes the concept of "Life in the Slow Lane" a bit of a conundrum.

Deb mentioned the "Plant Now" email service which is available free at

<http://www.gardenate.com>

Once registered you will receive regular emails reminders of what vegetable to plant plus links to detailed information about the plants, their growing conditions and helpful hints and recipes.

A visit to Nirvana is being planned for the Garden Club next year.

# STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
July 22nd	Oasis Lunch November 25th	Deposit can be paid.
July 22nd	Neutrog order	Last day to order.
July 22nd	Linda and Les Crane	Beekeeping
August 26th	Wendy Phillips and Bob Daly	Birds in the garden
August 31st	Pick up Neutrog order	Walsh Avenue 9.30am - 1.00pm
September 23rd	Gil Holamby	Butterflies in your garden
October 8th	Cavalcade of Gardens	5 Gardens to view around Strathalbyn
October 28th	Bloom Competition	Flower arranging Demonstration
November 25th	Celebratory Lunch	Oasis

## NEED A HOLE IN YOUR BUCKET?

Would you like to try the 'bucket of compost in the hole' method of soil improvement but have no way to drill neat holes in a bucket?

We will have a suitable drill bit and an electric drill at the August meeting so if you bring the bucket we can make the holes. Buckets with lids can often be bought cheaply from cafes and bakeries.

### COMPOSTED PIG MANURE

\$7.00 per 27 litre bag

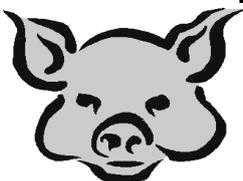
Free delivery in Strathalbyn

Phone 8536 2628

Ros 0428 362 628

Brian 0438 362 628

Practically odourless!



### 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.

### FLOWERS BY LISA MARIE

### POTTED TABLE DESIGNS

LAVENDER, ROSEMARY

& ASSORTED HERBS AND SUCCULENTS

Flowersbylisamarie@gmail.com

Proudly Local

Strathalbyn, SA

## *FYI For Your Information*

### 2016/2017 Committee Members

President Norma Keily 8536 6276

Secretary Jenny Thomas 8536 4275

Treasurer Mary Golden 8536 4267

Tables Jackie Chapman 8536 8798

Trips Maria Maxwell 85363731

Speakers Ced Huxter 8536 2215

Carolyn Huxter 8536 2215

### 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!

### GARDEN CLUB END OF YEAR CHRISTMAS LUNCH

### FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25TH.

Oasis Gardens & Function Centre

Langhorne Creek Road Belvidere

12 midday for 12.30pm

2 course meal (main & sweets) \$36.00 pp

\$10 deposit at July 22nd meeting.

Balance of \$26 by October 28th meeting.

Partners and friends welcome.

Mention dietary requirements at the time of booking.

Put aside just \$2 per week for the next 20 weeks to cover the cost!

(No refund for late cancellation )

**Good Food! Good Friends! Good Fun!**

