



NEWSLETTER

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July
2019

**NEUTROG
ORDER PICKUP
WEDNESDAY
31ST JULY
9.30 - 12
WALSH AVE.**

STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB AGM

As a result of the June AGM the 2019/2020 Committee for the Strathalbyn Garden Club is

President	Norma Keily	8536 6276
Secretary	Jenny Thomas	8536 4275
Treasurer	Ced Huxter	8536 2215
Catering & gifts	Carolyn Huxter	8536 2215
Welcoming & trips	Maria Maxwell	8536 3731
Printing & Tables	Jackie Chapman	8536 8798
Special Events	Penny Fairweather	0402 152 984
Special events	Sue Leers	0408 920 262

Subs remain at \$10

DOREEN ARNEY

A long time member of the Garden Club, Doreen will be celebrating her 100th birthday in August.



Lynton and Claire Arney will be holding an open house at her home 15 Liverpool Drive, Strathalbyn, on Thursday 22nd August, from 2 - 4pm with cake cutting at 2.30pm.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the backbone of every community organisation and the Garden Club is grateful for the support of our stalwart band of helpers.

Guest Speaker co-ordinator	Ruth Franck
Raffle ticket sales and calling	Ren Tremayne and Dawn Gunn
Raffle Table management	Margaret Jenkins and Helen Fairweather
Netrog controller	Frank Chapman
Name Badges	Janet Jones
Website & Facebook	Joy Bourne
Morning Tea Assistants	You!

PARKER AVENUE COMMUNITY GARDEN - ACTIVE AGEING IN ACTION

The Active Aging Grant received from the Government of South Australia kick started the planning for the Parker Avenue Community Garden and holding a Celebration Day seemed the best way to present the idea to the community.

After all the cold, rainy weather the day was warm and sunny and the crowds of young and old turned up for the free seedlings, plant sales and fun activities.

The talks presented by Tess Minett from Duck Flat Community Garden and the Fleurieu Regional Waste Management Authority were well attended by an attentive and interested audience.

The Parker Avenue Community Garden is a joint venture of the Strath Neighbourhood Centre, Strathalbyn Garden Club and the Strathalbyn Senior Citizens Club but it is not

necessary to belong to any of these organisations to be involved in the Community Garden.

The Alexandrina Council is in the process of planning to extend the Senior Citizens Hall to accommodate the Strath Neighbourhood Centre and once those plans are finalised the garden can be designed.

In the meantime the site can be cleared and a planting list of desirable species can be developed. Cuttings can be propagated and resources gathered.

Regular updates on the progress of planning will appear on the Strath Neighbourhood Centre Facebook page and in the Garden Club newsletter.



STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM 2019

July 26th	Penny Fairweather	Experiences as an RAN nurse in remote Aboriginal Communities
July 31st Wednesday	Pick up Neutrog	Walsh Avenue 9.30am - 12 noon
August 23rd	Matt Daniel	Angas Zinc Mine habitat regeneration
September 27th	Rosie Verco	Maintaining mobility for gardening
October 12th Saturday	Cavalcade of Gardens	
October 18th Friday	Visit to Drouin Garden	Multi award winning garden in Littlehampton \$5 entry BYO mug for morning tea
October 25th	Bloom competition	Festival of Flowers
November Tuesday 19th	Let's celebrate! Final meeting for the year	End of year lunch. Goolwa Hotel



IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO PLAN FOR CHRISTMAS!



The Function room at the Goolwa Hotel has been booked for the Garden Club end of year celebration lunch.

The meal will be a two course Christmas menu with tea and coffee and a dinner mint to finish.

The only date available was Tuesday 19th November which is just 3 days before our scheduled meeting date. A Rufus Coach has been booked and to take full advantage of the day we are including a visit to the award winning Morgan Park Garden Centre at Victor Harbor. There is a seating limit of 80 for lunch and 50 seats on the coach.

DETAILS

- Tuesday 19th November
- Lunch at Goolwa Hotel \$25 (drinks extra)
- Coach travel \$10
- Spending \$\$ for Morgan Park Garden Centre
- Coach departing from the Strathalbyn Train Station 9.30am returning 3pm.
- Lunch 12 for 12.30.
- Full payments via EFT with your name and Christmas Lunch in the remitter line.
- Or correct money in an envelope with your details on the front to the Treasurer.
- Car pooling can be arranged for those not quick enough to find a seat on the coach.

PAYMENTS TO THE TREASURER EFT (Internet Banking)

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.

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.

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!



STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB MEMBER'S TALK

Did you have a good holiday and more importantly did you visit an interesting garden or park?
Don't be shy, don't be nervous - we are all interested in what you have to say. Just five minutes (more or less) would be great.
Speak to any member of the committee!



“DROUIN” 12 MOSSOP COURT LITTLEHAMPTON CAR POOL OUTING FRIDAY 18TH OCTOBER



SUE & JIM SMITH'S RETIREMENT

In five short years the garden at Drouin has been developed from a bare paddock to the Award Winning “Grand Champion” at the Mt Barker Show Spring Garden competition in February 2019.

Sue and Jim Smith purchased their 5-acre property in Littlehampton in the Adelaide Hills six years ago -Sue was looking for something to keep Jim busy in his retirement.

Essentially a perfect blank canvas, Sue wanted to develop a garden with continuous colour in the form of camellias, roses, bulbs, irises, salvias and other perennials, using the borrowed landscape and making the garden an exciting space for their grandchildren to enjoy, with curving pathways and hiding places. The front garden has a park-like feel with the addition of a woodland garden that has just been planted with daffodils, hydrangeas, camellias and perennials. The back is a rambling country style garden with some formal areas for added interest.

The garden features fountains, manicured lawns and hedges with some Australian touches including a windmill and native plants. A garden is always a work in progress and future plans may include a bridge at the end of the small lake, a bog garden, a meadow filled with flowers, a cutting garden and building part of an old ruin using stone from the original farm...and of course a lot more planting.

Sue and Jim started using Neutrog products four years ago. “I purchased a bucket of Sudden Impact for Roses and now use it twice a year on my 500+ roses” says Sue. “We use Rapid Raiser as a general throw-it-everywhere type of fertiliser twice a year when it rains. We use Gyganic on our 40 fruit and nut trees, Kahoona on the camellias and Meatworks Blood’n’Bone on the vegetable garden.

Jim loves his lawns and uses Sudden Impact for Lawns, Blade Runner and Upsurge at various times during year”. All new plants get a dose of Seamungus in the planting hole. Last year Sue started using GOGO Juice on her pots and has now bought some liquid Seamungus to take over from Seasol which she used for several years on her propagation pots.

“Last October we started using Whoflungdung on some of our rose beds –it’s great for weed suppression, the blackbirds don’t like the smell and it’s fine enough to let the rain penetrate through to the soil when we eventually get some” says Sue.

Jim and Sue draw their inspiration from gardens around the world and have recently returned from an overseas trip looking at thirty gardens over twenty days.



Value add to your day out by visiting a garden centre on the way home:

Misty Creek Garden Centre, 9 Victoria Cres, Mt Barker
or The Garden Depot, Secker Road, Mt Barker.

TREASURE FROM THE RAFFLE TABLE



The opportunity to score a garden gem often happens when your ticket number is called out at the Garden Club raffle.

These Lachenalia Quadricolour bulbs were a prize earlier this year and it is a prize that will keep on giving as the bulbs multiply and flower annually with bright little bells on upright stems.

Lachenalia are fabulous blooms. The colouring is intense and unusual. Once a staple they fell out of fashion but are now back with a vengeance as they naturalise readily and are undemanding in nature.

The flowers open from late winter, bringing much needed colour back to garden. The blooms are glowing shades of red, yellow, chartreuse and purple.

The foliage is just as vibrant, with purple patterns over the light green leaves and stems. The blooms last well in the garden and can even be picked for indoor display.

Lachenalia look good planted at the front of beds and borders, in rockeries, along pathways or in pots.

Plant into well drained soil in a sunny position. They will tolerate some shade but flower better in sun. Plant 5-10cm deep and 10cm apart. Water in then keep just moist in growth. Add a little fertiliser when they begin to bloom and that is about all you will need to do. They are easy care bulbs that can be left in the ground to naturalise.

Very effective combined with Muscari or Grape Hyacinths, they also grow well with early Daffodils or spring star flowers.

DR UWE STROEHER - MICROBES MAGICIANS IN THE SOIL

Dr Uwe Stroehler is the in-house microbiologist at Neutrog with a special interest in soil microbiology and bioremediation. Dr Uwe commenced his talk by sharing the fact that only 1/32 of the land surface of earth is suitable for agriculture and currently 10 million hectares per annum is lost to erosion and salinity. New arable land is created by clearing old growth forests.

Fungi and bacteria form numerous tight and symbiotic relationships with plants by encouraging microbes into the root zones of plants. Young plants secrete sugars into the soil to feed beneficial microbes and as the plants age the secretions change to attract different fungi.

Without fungi the plant is limited to the area where it gets its nutrient. Roots that have a symbiotic fungus gain better access to the essential elements in the soil.

THE WOOD WIDE NET

For centuries, fungi were widely held to be harmful to plants, parasites that cause disease and dysfunction. More recently, it has become understood that certain kinds of common fungi exist in subtle symbiosis with plants, bringing about not infection but connection. These fungi send out gossamer-fine fungal tubes called hyphae, which infiltrate the soil and weave into the tips of plant roots at a cellular level. Roots and fungi combine to form what is called a mycorrhiza: itself a growing-together of the Greek words for fungus (*mykós*) and root (*riza*). In this way, individual plants are joined to one another by an underground hyphal network: a dazzlingly complex and collaborative structure that has become known as the Wood Wide Web.

The relationship between these mycorrhizal fungi and the plants they connect is now known to be ancient and largely one of mutualism—a subset of symbiosis in which both organisms benefit from their association. In the case of the mycorrhizae, the community, for example, or a young seedling in a heavily shaded understory might be supported with extra resources by its stronger neighbours. The network also allows plants to send one another warnings. A plant under attack from aphids can indicate to a nearby plant that it should raise its defensive response before the aphids reach it. It has been known for some time that plants communicate above ground in comparable ways, by means of airborne hormones. But such warnings are more precise in terms of source and recipient when sent by means of the myco-net. Over fertilising can destroy

this relationship.

NITROGEN

Nitrogen is an essential nutrient for plant growth and development and although around 78% of the earth's atmosphere is nitrogen, plants cannot utilise this. Plants instead depend upon combined or fixed forms of nitrogen, such as ammonia and nitrate.

Biological nitrogen fixation is an important component of organic gardening and farming. Through a partnership with micro-organisms in their roots, some plants can turn atmospheric nitrogen into nitrogen fertilizers useful to themselves but also becoming available to their neighbours over time through root die back, leaf fall, and chop and drop pruning. These are known as the nitrogen fixing plants.

This is a mutually beneficial relationship with the plant providing carbohydrates obtained from photosynthesis to the microorganism and in exchange for these carbon sources, the microbes provide fixed nitrogen to the host plant.

There are two main groups of microbes that plants associate with in order to utilise the atmospheric nitrogen to fuel growth. They are *Frankia* and *Rhizobium*. Many plants partner with micro-organisms called *Frankia*, a group of Actinobacteria. These plants are known as the actinorrhizal nitrogen fixers.

Actinorrhizal plants are found in many ecosystems and they tend to thrive in nitrogen-poor environments and are often the pioneer species in plant communities playing an important role in plant succession. The Allocasuarina is one such

By far the most important nitrogen-fixing symbiotic associations are the relationships between legumes and *Rhizobium* and *Bradyrhizobium* bacteria. These plants are commonly used in agricultural systems such as alfalfa, beans, clover, cowpeas, lupines, peanut, soybean, and vetches.

The *Rhizobium* or *Bradyrhizobium* bacteria colonize the host plant's root system and cause the roots to form nodules to house the bacteria. The bacteria then begin to fix the nitrogen required by the plant. Access to the fixed nitrogen allows the plant to produce leaves fortified with nitrogen that can be recycled throughout the plant. This allows the plant to increase photosynthetic capacity, which in turn yields nitrogen-rich seed.

SOIL AND ORGANIC CARBON

Soil organic carbon is a

measurable component of soil organic matter. Organic matter makes up just 2–10% of most soil's mass and has an important role in the physical, chemical and biological function of agricultural soils.

Organic matter contributes to nutrient retention and turnover, soil structure, moisture retention and availability, degradation of pollutants, carbon sequestration and soil resilience.

SOIL MICROBES AT NEUTROG

Neutrog composts are made with poultry litter, a by-product of the broiler industry, composed of manure and bedding material which is either straw, wood shavings, or combination of the two. The composting process is started with a specific blend of both bedding materials.

In addition to fresh poultry bedding, mature compost containing established populations of composting bacteria from previous batches is added into the new compost pile. This gets all those good bacteria brewing. Each batch is also inoculated with Neutrog's eNcase, a liquid bacterial inoculant, which is manufactured on site via a continuous brewing system, where cellulose material, oxygen and heat are added to help generate the beneficial bacteria. When added to the incoming organic material, eNcase immediately populates the organic material with a wide diversity of beneficial bacteria designed to improve and speed up the composting process. The beneficial bacteria act as a deterrent to bad bacteria, filling any "space" within the organic material that could otherwise be taken up by pathogenic or disease-causing bacteria.

Composting is undertaken in batches of 400–500 tonnes with the help of deep stacking, thermophilic composting methodology, which improves the ability to reach and maintain ideal temperatures.

The temperatures and moisture levels of each batch are monitored and recorded throughout the composting process, which dictate the regularity and timing of turning batches. All batches are turned a minimum of five times and maintain a temperature of at least 55C for fifteen continuous days (often 30-45 days). This management criteria helps ensure a minimal amount of nutrients are lost, which reduces risks to the user, reduces the growth of weed seeds and ensures pasteurisation of beneficial pathogenic bacteria.





STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB MINUTES

General Meeting held at St Andrews Church Hall.
Friday 28th June 2019

Meeting commenced: 10AM. Please put phones on silent as we get ready for the AGM. AGM finished at 10.08. General meeting recommenced at 10.10.

Welcome Visitors: Rob Fairweather, Richard and Angela Castell, Linda Favill, David Croser

New Members: Zoe Thornton, Nancye Kopunic, Jenni Skipworth, Louise Ramsay, Richard Williamson

Re-joining Member: Selina Kemmis

Attendance: 86 members as per the attendance register

Apologies: 17 members as per the attendance register

Lucky Door Prize: Noreen Wendelborn

Announcements & Correspondence

Most items of interest are in the newsletter.

Strath Neighbourhood Centre Community Garden – Celebration Day Saturday 20th July – details in the newsletter and on the flyer. Help wanted with donation of plants for sale and old boots for boot gardens.

Alexandrina Council - have approved \$1,000 for a rain water tank for the community garden.

Parking in Strath: - have your say on the Council web site.

Murray Bridge Social Garden Group - invitation for 30th August.

Neutrog - last chance for you to order today.

Colin Digance – is turning 90. There is a card circulating for you to sign.

Lilium & Bulb Society - will be at Cornerstone College 24th & 25th August.

Minutes of the last meeting: 24th May, 2019, page 5 of Newsletter

Moved: P. Fairweather **Seconded:** J. Sandercock

Business Arising: Nil

Treasurer: Nothing further to add.

Guest Speaker: Dr Uwe Stroehrer – Microbes – Magicians in the soil.

Next Meeting Friday 26th July 2019

Signed as a true and correct record.....

OPEN GARDENS SOUTH AUSTRALIA - SPRING CALENDAR



AUGUST

Avondale 1 Sat 31 August - Sun 01 September 146 Avondale Road, Rhynie

SEPTEMBER

The Slate Garden Saturday 14 - Sunday 15 September 4 St Matthews St, Willunga

Laurel Leaf Saturday 21 - Sunday 22 September 1A Wootoona Tce, St Georges

Al Ru Farm Sunday 22 - Monday 23 September 1016 One Tree Hill Road, One Tree Hill

Teapots and Thyme Saturday 28 - Sunday 29 September 10 Winifred Avenue, Black Forest

OCTOBER

Avondale 2 Saturday 05 - Monday 07 October 146 Avondale Road, Rhynie

Rosewood Saturday 05 - Sunday 06 October 1 Lawson Drive, Pt Lincoln

El Kadera Sunday 06 - Monday 07 October 395 Ironbank Road, Ironbank

ElderHood House Saturday 12 - Sunday 13 October 12 Prospect Road, Pt Lincoln

Moralana Saturday 12 - Sunday 13 October 6 Branch Road, Stirling

TickleTank Saturday 12 - Sunday 13 October 24 Hill Street, Mt Barker

Pitcairn Saturday 19 - Sunday 20 October 68 Strangways Terrace, North Adelaide

Anna's Garden Saturday 26 - Sunday 27 October 46 Gladys Street, Clarence Gardens

Ashgrove Iris Garden Saturday 26 - Sunday 27 October 53-55 Albert Street, Gumeracha

Roseview Saturday 26 - Sunday 27 October 205 Presser Road, Tanunda

NOVEMBER

Bri-Glen Saturday 02 - Sunday 03 November 7 Melaleuca Drive, Gawler East

Woodland Park Saturday 02 - Sunday 03 November 17 Frampton Road, Wistow

Cricklewood Saturday 09 - Sunday 10 November 22 Fenchurch Road, Aldgate

Hardy Garden Saturday 09 - Sunday 10 November 22 Fenchurch Road, Aldgate

Cherry Lane Saturday 16 - Sunday 17 November 7 Cup Gum Grove, Heathfield

Frosty Flats Saturday 16 - Sunday 17 November 2891 Onkaparinga Valley Rd, Birdwood

Spring Court Garden Saturday 23 - Sunday 24 November 11 Spring Court, Hahndorf

Apple Tree Farm Saturday 30 - Sunday 01 December 141 Ridge Road, Ashton

Estella Saturday 30 - Sunday 01 December 38 Cross Road, Myrtle Bank

DECEMBER

Fifty Shades of Green Saturday 07 - Sunday 08 December 23 Netherby Avenue, Netherby



2019 STRATHALBYN SHOW GARDEN COMPETITION

Open to all Gardens located within the Strathalbyn portion of the Alexandrina Council
Great prizes to be won in each category

Entries close Monday September 9th

\$5 entry fee per garden - 9 categories to enter

Judging days Saturday September 14th and Sunday September 15th

Enquiries Chris Elliott ph 0468 386 722

Rex Liebelt ph 0407 181 664

Entry forms available for download at www.strathalbynshow.com.au

Major Sponsor: The Alexandrina Council

Strathalbyn Show - Monday 7th October 2019

