



# NEWSLETTER

Website: [www.strathgardenclub.com.au](http://www.strathgardenclub.com.au)  
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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This report celebrates my sixth year as President of the Strathalbyn Garden Club. In 2011 I responded to the urgent call for someone to take on the President's mantle and I have grown to enjoy the role and unless deposed I do not plan to retire just yet. That time will come and I would like to think that there will be someone prepared to take on the role. As I re-read the reports from the past five years I am aware of a recurrent theme, the need for willing volunteers to take up positions on the committee. The club is currently well served by a small but dedicated committee which works efficiently to provide an excellent service but responsible management requires an effective succession plan to provide continuity for the organisation so 'be prepared'.

It is important to acknowledge all the Garden Club Members who help out at meetings and at other times, volunteering willingly to perform a myriad of essential tasks. When thanking all those who help I am concerned that someone may be overlooked so as you enjoy each meeting please be aware and personally thank everyone who is helping.

The Strathalbyn Garden Club has had another successful year with a good turn up at each meeting, excellent guest speakers, well stocked raffle tables, a wide range of items on the sellers' and donations tables and plenty of socialising during the morning tea breaks.

Our extra-curricular activities during the past year included a car pool visit to Carrick Hill during their Symphony of Flowers festival. A feast of beautiful flower arrangements topped off with a stroll through the extensive gardens. In March this year we enjoyed a coach trip to Al-Ru Farm and the Virginia Nursery which provided many photo and shopping opportunities. These excursions require a deal of time and effort to arrange and Maria Maxwell is to be congratulated for their success.

The Cavalcade of Gardens has become an established event on our annual calendar and it is pleasing to see our

members take full advantage of the opportunity to visit the gardens which have been generously opened for viewing, thanks to Jenny Thomas for her time and effort in the organisation. Similarly the Spring Bloom Competition brings forth a glorious range of flowers and pot plants for members to appreciate. Providing the ground work for these plants and gardens could be our annual Neutrog delivery which is capably managed by Frank Chapman with the support of the local Lions Club.

We have Janet Jones to thank for our name badges, for the welcome at the door and for the member profiles which appear in the Newsletter. Behind the scenes Joy Bourne looks after our website and Facebook page which are important elements in keeping the community informed and advertising our existence to the wider world.

The Guest Speaker program is designed both to entertain and inform and we have been well served by Ruth Franck who took care of the program until the end of 2015 and more recently by Pat Simpson who volunteered to take on the role in 2016. It requires a deal of effort to target, contact, liaise with and eventually welcome the guest speakers. We are fortunate to have a wealth of interesting people in South Australia who are willing to share their knowledge and experience with our club and suggestions of potential speakers are always welcome.

Finally a club is not a club without members and we are fortunate to have so many of you who turn up each month bringing your enthusiasm and donations for the raffle table. The Membership's gardening experience ranges from those who manage large gardens, to those who find it an effort but are still interested and to those who are happy in their small courtyards. Every gamut of gardening is encompassed by our members and as someone who enjoys all aspects of gardening I take great delight in having this opportunity to share all things gardening with you.



Subs (\$10) now due. + Update your contact details if they have changed.

# STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
June 24th	AGM	Consider standing for the committee
June 24th	Deb Cantrill from Nirvana Organic Farm	"Life in the slow lane" Organic farming and lifestyle
July 1st	Car pool excursion	Newman's Horseradish Farm plus more!
July 22nd	Linda and Les Crane	Beekeeping
August 26th	Wendy Phillips and Bob Daly	Birds in the garden
August 31st	Pick up Neutrog	Walsh Avenue 9.30am - 1.00pm
September 23rd	Jill 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

## OPEN GARDENS SA IS GOING STRONG

*From Chairperson Vick Winnall.*

Open Gardens South Australia is now approximately eighteen months old and is thriving and in good shape financially. We have completed our first program of open gardens and the results have been very encouraging.

Numbers of garden visitors have been consistently good and the very few low attendance weekends have been offset by some bonanza weekends.

The garden owners are the heroes of our organisation and we are hugely appreciative of their generosity in opening up their gardens on our behalf. Especially in the beginning, when there was not a lot of notice. They worked so hard to get their gardens ready.

They are directly responsible for our existence not to mention the large amount of money donated to charity.

A big thank you to our garden visitors. We know you are getting value for money but it is wonderful that you keep turning up to our marvellous gardens.

What's coming up?

Planning for the upcoming Spring Season 2016 is well and truly underway, with more than 40 gardens already approved to open. Of these 30 have never been open to the public before.

We are still interested in securing more summer and autumn gardens and anyone interested or knowing of a suitable garden is encouraged to contact us on [interest@opengardensa.org.au](mailto:interest@opengardensa.org.au)

In 2016 your membership will entitle you to a flat \$6 entry fee to all gardens and there is a \$30 membership fee. A great gift idea for those who enjoy visiting gardens! Membership forms can be downloaded from the Open Gardens SA Website.

The September program of open gardens has already been set with gardens open every weekend. Something to look forward to.



OPEN  
GARDENS  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## SAMPSON FLAT THANK YOU

Greetings to your members and a sincere thank you to those who donated plants to the Sampson Flat Bushfire recovery effort this time last year. It was such a thrill to arrive at the Kersbrook oval to a sea of green after living in a blackened landscape for the months since the fire. We were overwhelmed by the level of genuine care and concern represented by the plants that were lovingly donated by yourselves and others in our time of need. In fact, I am still moved to tears, as I was that day. Planting your gifts was one of the first recovery tasks we attempted and it brought such hope for renewal. Our new garden has survived a long, hot summer with careful watering, and the rains of the last week will ensure they will continue to thrive. Those little pop-stick labels that came with each plant have been carefully placed under each and provide a continued reminder of your kindness. It meant so much to read those very personal words, "With best wishes from the Strathalbyn Garden Club."

*Kathie & Peter Anderson*



## 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 at 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!**



## FRIDAY 1ST JULY CAR POOL TRIP



Sometimes we need to explore all the wonderful attractions in our own backyard so our next Car Pool Trip will visit local treasures.

Newmans Horseradish Farm at Langhorne Creek.

The property on the banks of the Bremer River has deep black alluvial loam needed for the Horseradish. The factory for processing was completed in 1992 and using the original recipe, Brian and Anne Meakins and their staff carry out all stages of production.

Other details and venues for the outing are still being planned but there might be a garden and there definitely will be food so keep the day free in your diary and register your intention to attend with Maria. Maxwell.

## SHARE YOUR STORY



In our newsletter we have enjoyed reading about members and how gardening has played a role in their lives.

Some learnt the skills from helping their parents, others began their gardening life in different countries and had to adapt their knowledge to our different conditions.

Some members have developed a number of gardens over their lifetime while others

have come to gardening in retirement.

Our members have written about their fruit trees, roses, bush gardens, winning competitions with their vegetables, how they struggled to establish gardens in inhospitable terrain and through all the stories shone their compulsion to garden and the enjoyment of the pastime.

Everyone has a tale to tell and Garden Club members would love to hear your story.

Janet Jones is waiting for you to volunteer and is happy to help in any way to get your story on paper.

Janet Jones 8536 2900

email [sargus@adam.com.au](mailto:sargus@adam.com.au)

### COMPOSTED PIG MANURE

\$7.00 per 27 litre bag

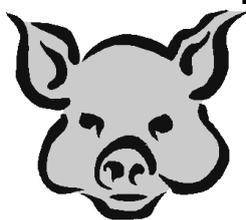
Free delivery in Strathalbyn

Phone 8536 2628

Ros 0428 362 628

Brian 0438 362 628

Practically odourless!



## FYI For Your Information

### Bloom Competition. October 28th

A convenor is needed to take charge of the event. Helpers have already volunteered but someone is needed to manage it. All the equipment is supplied. Speak to Norma Keily if interested.

### The *Potting Shed on Sunter*

is now definitely open

Follow them on Facebook :

Open 10am - 4pm Wednesday - Sunday.

Call in to discover the treasures in the shed, the wide range of colourful annuals and perennials, shrubs and trees. Ask for advice and suggestions for your garden



### A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF CLUB FINANCES FOR THE PAST 6 YEARS

INCOME			
SUBS	2011/12	\$1,030.00	
	2015/16	\$1,510.00	
RAFFLE	2011/12	\$1,539.00	
	2015/16	\$1,612.00	
DONATIONS	2011/12	\$373.00	
	2015/16	\$19.00	
SELLERS	2011/12	\$240.00	
	2015/16	\$675.50	
OUTGOINGS			
CATERING	2011/12	\$285.00	
	2015/16	\$272.45	
PRINTING	2011/12	\$521.00	
	2015/16	\$703.80	
HALL HIRE	2011/12	\$220.00	
	2015/16	\$360.00	
GIFTS	2011/12	\$699.00	
	2015/16	\$897.00	

### 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.