



# NEWSLETTER

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### From The President,

The sound of rain water flowing into the tank is music to the ear just as the sight of plants washed clean and refreshed is a sight for sore eyes. The rain gauge has measured only a few mls so far this autumn but they have made all the difference to the parched and sun burnt garden.

Before long we will be raking up the bounty of fallen autumn leaves to add to the compost and the lawn will need mowing for the first time in months.

With the moisture the snails have emerged and the millipedes are beginning to increase in numbers while the ants are busy everywhere doing whatever it is that ants do. If only their energy and organisation could be harnessed to do garden chores!

I am looking forward to planting winter vegetables and the spring flowering bulbs that I ordered from the diggers plant catalogue.

Despite the uncertainty of the weather and the concerns about climate change there is always something pleasant to enjoy and to anticipate in the garden. The first flower on the camellia or the taste of a fresh picked apple straight from the orchard, the brisk, fresh morning air and the sight of birds gathering pieces to build their nests.

I am looking forward to chrysanthemums, wood smoke and the crunch of autumn leaves under foot.

Gardening - enjoy it!

Norma Keily

## YARRABEE WATER GARDEN AND IRIS NURSERY STEVE & BARBARA WARD

The Wards took over the Yarrabee nursery two years ago and have been on a steep learning curve ever since. The nursery is situated at One Tree Hill and the name Yarrabee means "many trees" despite the fact that in the beginning there were no trees on the property.

Yarrabee Nursery stocks Daylilies, pond plants and bearded and Louisiana iris. There are displays of ponds and water features in many sizes and styles for inspiration and instruction.

Almost anything that holds water can be used as a pond or water feature although 30 centimetres is an idea depth. Care should be taken when using chlorinated tap water which should be left to stand for a few weeks so the chlorine can dissipate. Water should be topped up regularly and mosquitoes are not usually a problem if there are fish present. Fish also eat the algae which can make ponds look unsightly. Fish do not need additional feeding.

Pond plants are better kept in their pots as it helps to contain the roots and makes lifting and dividing them easier. Large ponds should have 'shelves' around the edge for plants that prefer shallow water. Louisiana iris do well on the edge of ponds as they prefer to have wet feet all the time. These iris also do well in the garden if planted in a tin or pot buried in the ground.

Water plants need lifting and dividing every few years and should be re-potted using heavy garden soil topped

with gravel. Pots with drainage holes in the bottom rather than around the side are better and specially designed tablets are the best for fertilising.



A number of products are available for keeping the water clean and a plant cover of 50% helps to reduce light to discourage the algae. Oxygenators like milfoil, Nardoo and Parrots feathers are good for frogs and fish

while azolla and duck weed are good for the fish and it also makes good compost when removed from the pond.

Water lilies are dormant over winter which is a good time to lift, separate, re-pot and fertilise.

Pond pests include the China mark moth, aphids, Caddis fly, snails, herons, kookaburras and plants like water hyacinth and duckweed. A netting cover over the pond can reduce some of the problems.

Additional information about water gardens and plants can be found on the following websites:

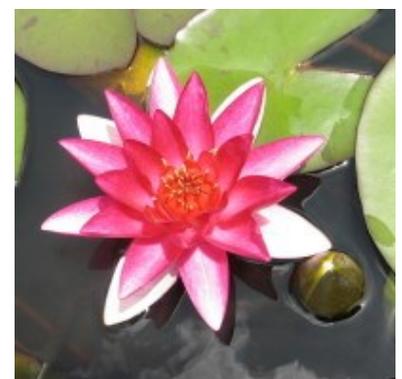
[www.yarrabee.net](http://www.yarrabee.net)

[www.ozwatergardens.com.au](http://www.ozwatergardens.com.au)

[www.australwatergardens.com.au](http://www.australwatergardens.com.au)

[www.bluelotusfarm.com.au](http://www.bluelotusfarm.com.au)

Barbara and Steve Ward will be at the Meadows four day Easter Fair.



# STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
March 27th	Rodney Hutchinson	Ants
April 24th	Troy McKenzie (Leaf Boutique)	Companion planting
April 30th	Visit Anlaby Station	Money to Maria Maxwell
May 22nd	Vince Davey	Neutrog
May 22nd	Launch Neutrog order	
June 26th	AGM	Consider nominating for the committee
June 26th	Graham Morris	Cymbidium Orchids

## ANLABY STATION COME ON THE JOURNEY

Thursday 30th April 2015

Total cost \$55 includes coach trip, garden & house tours and lunch.  
Meet at the railway station 8.30am return 5.30pm (Travel via Kapunda to Hamilton)  
\$20 deposit to secure a seat. Full amount of \$55 per person to Maria Maxwell by April 24th.  
Special dietary requirements notified by April meeting please.

### DEAR FRIENDS OF THE EDEN VALLEY GARDEN RECOVERY PROJECT

Thank you all for your wonderful help in 2014, after the EV fires in January last year. We are pleased to let you know the gardeners in that region took great advantage of your fantastic help and continue to plant out and nurture their new gardens.

As you are no doubt aware, the Project has needed to expand its horizons in 2015, following the disastrous fires that started in Sampson Flat and extended across the Adelaide Hills, again in an early January. We extended the project and are currently receiving registrations from gardeners affected by those far reaching fires, in fact, many more than for the EV Project.

We have been most fortunate in receiving assistance in the form of some funded donations and mulch, so gardeners will be able to set up their garden areas in readiness for planting. However, new plants are very expensive and it would take most of the funds we have just to help a few.

So, we are again going to need your help. If you can spare a little time to look around and see what you have spare, or what might be growing well and could be divided, etc. or that you have grown too many of, we know of a home or two that will take them off your hands!

We currently have a list of available/to become available plants that were deemed suitable for the Eden Valley region recipients. Obviously, the gardeners in the Adelaide Hills region can grow more diverse types, and are happy to receive plants that may not have been suitable for EV. We are also getting requests from some folk who are planning to replace a previously exotic garden with a native garden, so the range is quite wide.

At this stage, we are unable to take delivery of your kind donations, but are again setting up the central spot at Mt Pleasant from where care of the plants, and distribution of them, can occur. In the meantime we would be most grateful if you could think about what you might be able to grow/have spare and let us know. We can then put that on the register so our recipients know what will be available to them once their planting time arrives.

As a footnote, we were very sad to find that some of our Blumberg Garden Club members who had grown plants for the EV gardeners, had their own gardens destroyed by the fires, so it has certainly brought very close to home the reality of the situation for those who love their gardens.

Thank you again for the wonderful help given in the past, and hopefully for your help in the future

Kind regards

Ingrid Howell & Sue Gelade

Co-ordinators

Sampson Flat/Adelaide Hills/Eden Valley Garden Recovery Project



## OPEN GARDENS AUSTRALIA

Most Gardens are open 10 - 4.30 each day.  
Entry is usually \$8 per person, under 18 free.  
More details in the Open Gardens Australia  
Guide and on their website  
[www.opengarden.org.au](http://www.opengarden.org.au)



**With the organisation ceasing to exist after June 2015 this may be the last opportunity to visit many of the gardens listed.**

### APRIL

**Sunday 19th**

**ROCKFORD.** 665 Strathalbyn Road Mylor.

Parking in the paddock.

A beautiful and historic estate garden of stunning century old European trees in full autumn glory. Expansive lawns with perennial borders. Vegetable garden and fruit trees.

## GARDEN VISITS

Our Club regularly receives requests from other Clubs and groups for gardens to visit in and around Strathalbyn.

It is always a rewarding experience for the garden owners as visitors are always enthusiastic and complimentary. They do not expect perfection just a warm welcome and a home garden experience.

I currently have requests from groups planning to visit on 21st August and 14th September and in spring Strathalbyn gardens are spectacular so please consider sharing yours.

**Another request has come in for 22nd September.**

Talk to Norma Keily 8536 6276.



OPEN  
GARDENS  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## SA OPEN GARDEN SCHEME

Planning for the spring start up of the state run open garden scheme seems to be well in hand. The selectors are busy adding new gardens to the calendar and the membership numbers are growing.

Details and news can be found on the website [www.opengardensa.org.au](http://www.opengardensa.org.au) and registrations of interest to join can be made by emailing [interest@opengardensa.org.au](mailto:interest@opengardensa.org.au)

**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!

# N.B.

## SIGNING IN

Members are reminded that it is important to sign the Attendance Register on arrival and when picking up your name badge for the meeting so that our record keeping for insurance purposes is accurate.

Apologies can be recorded with an A in the appropriate column.

Known future apologies can be recorded in the space provided.

## LUCKY DOOR PRIZE

Just a reminder that the lucky winner of the door prize has first pick from the raffle table and this can be taken before the raffle draw so there is ample time to make a choice.

## SELLER'S TABLE

To book a place at the Seller's Table contact Jackie Chapman 8536 8798. Items for sale should be relevant to the Club (ie garden related). Sellers should make a discretionary donation to the Club for the opportunity to sell and should be in attendance on the Table.

## DONATIONS 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.

## SHEEP MANURE for Sale

\$5 / bag (delivered to Strath)

\$4 / 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.

## SOPHIE THOMSON'S

### OPEN GARDEN AT HAMLYN COTTAGE EASTER 2015

Saturday 5th, Sunday 6th, Monday 7th & Tuesday 8th April.

Opening times: 10am – 4.30pm

Address: 394 Springs Rd, Mt Barker Springs (Follow signs from the town)

Entry: \$10 per person (children under 18 free of charge).

#### GARDEN TALKS:

There are four different topics each day

- **Butterfly Gardening** – by Jan Forrest (one of the authors of Attracting Butterflies to your Garden – What to Grow and Conserve in the Adelaide Region)
- **Urban Beekeeping** – by committee members of the Beekeepers' Society of South Australia
- **Pesticide free pest control** – by Stuart Pettigrew from Bug Central
- **Attracting native bees to the garden** – By Dr Katja Hogendoorn.

#### NURSERIES:

- Tupelo Grove Nursery – all four days
- Hillside Herbs – herbs and succulents – all four days
- Bickleigh Vale Organic Farm – Sunday & Monday only

#### DEMONSTRATIONS:

- Beekeepers Society of SA – all four days
- Butterfly Conservation Society of South Australia
- Basketry SA – Tuesday only

#### REFRESHMENTS:

Available for sale will be homemade cakes with produce from Sophie's Patch, tea, coffee and fruit juices.

Pizza being sold as a fundraiser for the Mt Barker Waldorf School Year 8 class. To be used for Classroom Resources and future Community & Self-Awareness Programs.

#### BOOK SALES:

I will also have copies of my book "From The Ground Up" available for sale and am happy to sign any books you bring along.

#### SPECIAL EASTER SUNDAY GUEST FOR CHILDREN

We will have special nature craft activities for the kids on Easter Sunday. The wonderful, creative Kate Hubmayer, author of Nature Craft for Aussie Kids, will be doing "hands on" nature craft activities with kids making flower mandalas.



## OPEN GARDEN AT 'SERENITY'

SUNDAY 3RD MAY 2015

1:00PM - 4:30PM

775 OLD BULL CREEK RD STRATHALBYN

\$10 ENTRY INCLUDES AFTERNOON TEA.

(CHILDREN UNDER 15 YEARS \$5)



Award winning large rural garden  
Beautiful views to the Coorong  
Working model railway  
Alpacas  
Entertainment by Con Brio A Cappella  
group fresh from their Fringe performance

#### STALLS SELLING

Crafts  
Plants  
Produce  
Preserves

Funds being raised for the restoration of the Gypsy Caravan at Woodhouse Scout campsite.