



# NEWSLETTER

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Website: [www.strathgardenclub.com.au](http://www.strathgardenclub.com.au)  
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Phone contact: 0416 173 573

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2018

### OPEN GARDENS SA AUTUMN OPEN GARDENS APRIL 21ST - 22ND

CASUARINA  
52 Sheoak Road  
Mylor

APRIL 28TH - 29TH  
BRAE GAIRDEN  
41 Avenue Road  
Strathalbyn

APRIL 28TH - 29TH  
SERENITY  
775 Old Bull Creek Road  
Strathalbyn

Find out more at  
[www.opengardensa.org.au](http://www.opengardensa.org.au).  
All gardens open between  
10am and 4.30pm  
General entry - \$8  
Children - FREE  
Open Gardens SA MEMBERS - \$6  
Government Concession Card  
Holders - \$6

### SOPHIE'S PATCH

Springs Road Mt Barker  
Saturday March 31st,  
Sunday April 1st,  
Monday April 2nd 2018

### AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY AUTUMN PLANTS SALE & EXPO

21st & 22nd April 10am  
Adelaide Show Grounds  
Gold coin entry  
Featuring Edible Australian  
Plants.

Workshops include:

Linda Hoffman: Growing and  
cooking with Wattle seed  
Dr Maarten Ryder: CSIRO Native  
Food Trials.

More details on the website  
[www.australianplantssa.asn.au](http://www.australianplantssa.asn.au)

## ORIENTAL GARDENS - ELIZABETH CALDICOTT

In the introduction to her talk, Elizabeth, who did her MA in Geography researching the history of gardens, provided the following historical context.

In past ages gardening was considered one of the arts, along with painting, music, literature and poetry.

All these, and religion, are intrinsic in the design of Oriental gardens.

The earliest oriental gardens in China rank in age and importance with the very early European and Middle Eastern gardens. The Japanese gardens as we know them today developed at a much later period. These unique styles of gardens were largely unknown to the west until the 17th century (Chinese) and much later in the 19th century the Japanese.

Chinese gardens can be dated back to 3000BC with evidence provided by scrolls, illustrations on pottery and legends featuring the "eight immortals" which have been passed down through the years.

Elizabeth reminded us that the Christian religion began in a garden.

In Chinese society the beautiful ornamental gardens were the preserve of the wealthy, the temples and often retired government officials. Plant classification systems were developed and gardening books written.

Marco Polo wrote of the gardens in Asia and the Silk Road increased the interaction between the gardeners of China and the Mediterranean.

The eighteenth century saw the rise of the Anglo - Chinoiserie gardens.

Features of the classical Chinese garden included streams, rocks, artificial mountains, curved bridges, colourful plants and trees, pavilions, courtyards and viewing windows. The borrowed landscape was considered an integral part of the garden and the aim was not to have all the garden visible from the one point.



Elizabeth dispelled the myth of the story depicted on the willow pattern china as it was the creation of Minton Pottery to capitalise on the fashion for Chinoiserie.

The Chinese Garden of Friendship at Darling Harbour is well worth a visit as it contains all the elements of a traditional Chinese Garden.

Japanese Gardens, by contrast, are more austere with dry rocks, raked and patterned gravel and few plants.

Too much colour is considered vulgar and flowers are often pruned off before they bloom. An exception is the cherry blossom which is revered and celebrated annually.

Bonsai trees and bamboo as well as symbolic statues of turtles and cranes are incorporated into the Japanese garden where quiet contemplation is encouraged.

The Himeji Gardens in Adelaide has all the elements of a traditional Japanese garden and it has matured elegantly over the past thirty or more years.



# STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
March 23rd	Barbara Colquhoun	Althorpe Island Conservation Park
March 23rd	Launch Neutrog Order	Forms attached to the newsletter
April 13th Friday	Car Pool Outing	Details in February & March Newsletter
April 27th	Brian Noone	Growing Capers
May 25th	Tony & Trevor	Cut Above special garden tools
June 22nd	AGM	Subs Due \$10
June 22nd	John Zwar	Pt Augusta Arid Botanical Gardens update
July 18th	Neutrog Pickup 9.30 - Noon	Lions Shed Walsh Avenue Strathalbyn
July 27th	Alice McCleary	Unley Gardeners Plant rescue group
October 19th	Paech Farm Visit	

## NEUTROG ORDER 2018



- ⇒ Orders open 23rd March
- ⇒ Product information and order form attached to this newsletter. Extra copies available.
- ⇒ Completed order form with correct cash/cheque/proof of Electronic Transfer in an envelope handed to Frank Chapman.
- ⇒ 29th June is the final date for orders.
- ⇒ Wednesday July 18 Pick up from the Lions Depot on Walsh Avenue 9.30 - noon.

### NEW PRODUCTS

Sudden Impact for Roses Liquid 1 Litre bottle \$12  
Whoflungdung 20kg bale \$16



Biologically activated, nutrient rich, weed free, absorbent super mulch.

Details for EFT (Internet banking on line)  
Account Name: Strathalbyn Garden Club Inc  
BSB 105019  
Account Number 037 873 640  
Include **YOUR** name and **"NEUTROG ORDER"** on the transaction.  
Print a copy of the completed transaction and attach it to your order form.

## GARDENAID

For assistance or to volunteer  
contact : Norma Keily interim co-ordinator  
phone: 8536 6276  
Email: strathalbyngardenclub@gmail.com



### 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.

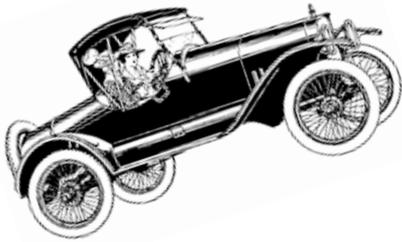
### GREG THE WORM MAN 0438 808 066

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!

### 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!





# CAR POOL OUTING

## FRIDAY 13TH APRIL

Visiting *Talinga Grove Olives*  
& *Sacred Grove*



plus optional lunch at the Bridge Hotel Langhorne Creek

- 10.00am Meet at the Coleman Tce carpark in front of the Library  
10.00am Depart for Talinga Grove (5km along the Langhorne Creek Road)  
10.30 - 11.30 Talinga Grove  
11.30am Arrive at Sacred Grove (32 Milang Road Belvidere)  
11.30 - 12.30 Sacred Grove  
1.00pm Lunch at Bridge Hotel Langhorne Creek (Optional but must book if intending to stay on)  
Cost No entry fees or travel charge just spending and lunch money.

Dress for the country weather and wear sensible shoes as there may be some walking.  
Register your intention to attend with Maria Maxwell at the February or March meeting. No limit to numbers so family and friends are welcome.

### BRIDGE HOTEL - LUNCH MENU

#### 2 COURSES + TEA OR COFFEE \$20

#### MAIN COURSE

- Chicken or Beef Schnitzel - lunchtime size schnitzel with gravy, chips and salad
- Beer battered fish of the day - with tartare sauce, chips and salad
- Panko crumbed prawns - with tartare sauce, chips and salad
- Vegetarian Tart of the day - with chips and salad

#### DESSERT

- Sticky date pudding with icecream
- Brandy Snap Basket with icecream
- Sundae with choice of topping and nuts

#### PLEASE NOTE

Lunch booking and menu choices must be given to Maria prior to the day.  
Payment for the meal to be made at the Hotel on the day.

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## THE TREASURE IN AUTUMN LEAVES

### COMPOSTING

Composting leaves is a great way to make a rich organic fertiliser for your garden. When the leaves have turned brown rake them up and shred them with either a mulcher or lawn mower (blades on the highest setting and grass catcher attached). To make an effective compost it's important to maintain a balance between carbon-rich and nitrogen-rich materials. The brown leaves are rich in carbon so add nitrogenous ingredients such as grass clippings, fruit/vegetable scraps or coffee grounds to the leaves.

Mix the pile together well and continue to turn over every few days to make sure things break-down evenly. Cover the pile with a tarp and wait for the magic to happen. It should take approx. two months for the compost to be ready to use – just in time for Spring! It is ready when it starts to smell earthy and will be dark brown in colour.

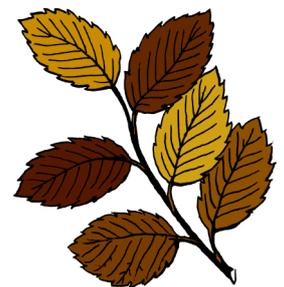
### MULCHING

Mulch works as a protective barrier on top of the soil to keep moisture in and reduce weeds.

Simply shred the leaves and mix together with wood chips and grass clippings. This mixture can then be added to the top of your soil for protection. If you start to see the mulch decomposing it's time to make some more and renew it – unlike compost we do not want the contents to break down.

### LEAF MOULD

If possible shred the leaves, wet them well then load them into a black plastic bag. Try wetting with worm juice or even add a handful of vermicast to encourage microbial activity. Punch holes in the bag to allow air in and leave undisturbed for at least a year.



**STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB MINUTES**  
**General Meeting held at St Andrews Hall**  
**Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018**

Meeting commenced: At 10am. President Norma welcomed everyone, saying it was good to see so many on such a high humidity day. Do remember to switch off mobiles, sign in and record apologies. Thanks to the hardy souls who turned up to the meeting in January.

**Welcome Visitors:** Marylyn Bell, Jill Taylor, Elizabeth Caldicott, Marie-Claire Levi, David Chambers.

**New Members:** Nil      **Attendance:** 97      **Apologies:** 5

**Announcements & Correspondence**

**Thanks to Jocelyn Williams** for an interesting profile. Janet is always looking for more.

**Our Garden magazine** for Autumn 2018.

**International Women's Day** - invitation for Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March.

**Orchid Fair** June 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

**South Australian Garden Clubs Rally** 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> August Mt Barker

**Castlemaine and Districts Festival of Gardens** 3<sup>rd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> November

**Car Pool outing** to Talinga and Sacred Grove – We will now do lunch at the Bridge Hotel cost \$20.00 for two courses. Maria will take lunch numbers at the March meeting.

**March meeting Raffle** – we will need someone to help as Chris is unable to attend.

**Hot weather policy** – The committee decided that we should have a hot weather policy following the extreme heat on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Jan. It was agreed that if the forecast on the Wednesday predicts that the temperature on the Friday is to be 37 degrees or over the meeting will be cancelled. This decision will have to be incorporated in our constitution.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018 page 5 in the newsletter

**Moved:** D. Hill

**Seconded:** V. Philips.

**Business Arising:** nil

**Treasurer:** All quiet at the moment, our balance stands as per last month.

**Member's talk** - Tanya announced that it was "Buy Sheep Manure Day" bags will be available outside the hall later this morning.

**Guest Speaker** Oriental Gardens with Elizabeth Caldicott who gave us the history of Chinese and Japanese gardens along with a lot of pictures she had taken on her travels.

**Next Meeting Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**