



NEWSLETTER

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From The President,

Do you, like me, make a quick walk around the garden your first priority after being absent from home? Even before the door is unlocked and the bags taken in I am out checking the garden for new flowers, damage, moisture levels and weed growth. The first sight of the garden after a period of absence gives me a fresh perspective and often a renewed appreciation.

Quite often any trip away for me results in additional plants, garden ornaments or decorative pots for the garden and it is always a pleasure to fit them into my landscape. I am always grateful that space can be made for more because with each visit to a nursery or open garden there are new plants to discover and design ideas to embrace.

Picking up the mail in the anticipation of receiving the latest edition of a garden magazine or Diggers catalogue is another high point along with the regular weekly garden reminders from Jon Lamb and the Yates Online Garden Club in the email in box.

No I am not obsessive, just keen - very keen!

Sharing our gardens with others is always a delight and it will soon be time to commence planning for the 2015 Cavalcade of Gardens. I am hoping that a member of the Club will volunteer to take on the organisational role and that we will not have to beg for volunteer gardens to participate! Training for the organising role and gardening support for the volunteer gardens will be made available. Please apply!

Norma Keily

TROY MCKENZIE & COMPANION PLANTING

Companion planting is basically using one plant to benefit or support another. There are various ways of practicing Companion Planting.

PLANTS THAT ATTRACT

BENEFICIAL INSECTS

Planting a mixture of flowers and herbs among vegies and fruit trees will encourage a healthy diversity of living creatures to move into the garden. Insect-attracting plants that grow readily from seed include herbs like thyme, sage, coriander, chives and mint, and flowers such as cosmos, calendula, lavender, echinacea and marigold. These beneficial plants will continue to self seed year after year.

Borage is a prolific self seeder which attracts beneficial insects, enhances the flavor of nearby vegetables, encourages their growth and has edible flowers.

MASKING AND DECOY PLANTS

Masking plants emit an odour that disguises the smell of desirable plants and confuses the insect pests that might otherwise attack them. A good example is planting chives, onions or garlic near roses to deter thrips, aphids and other pests.

Closely related to the masking plants are the 'decoy' plants that attract pests to themselves and away from their neighbours. Nasturtium is one of the best known decoy plants acting like magnets, pulling pests away from other plants.

Plants like this are sometimes called 'sacrificial' or 'martyr' plants because

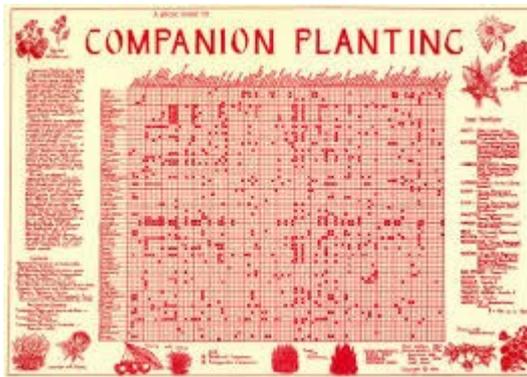
they're prepared to suffer in order to protect their companions.

NURTURING PLANTS

Other plants improve conditions for their neighbours. The best-known of these are the peas, beans and other members of the legume family that have the ability to capture nitrogen from the atmosphere. Plants growing in close proximity to peas and beans benefit from the nitrogen the legumes have added to the soil.

CHOOSING COMPANION PLANTS

Working out which plants grow well together is often a matter of individual trial and error, but some favourites are pumpkin loves corn, beans and radish; cabbages love beans, celery and onions; beetroot loves broccoli, lettuce and onions.



DISLIKES

Even in the plant world there are enemies. Very few plants tolerate fennel, onions do not do well near brassicas, cucumbers dislike aromatic herbs and potatoes are best grown in isolation.

Companion planting also includes the use of plants as windbreaks or as supports eg corn, or on a larger scale trees and shrubs planted as windrows and hedges on farms.

The best thing about companion planting is that it increases the biodiversity or variety of life forms in the garden.

There are a number of books and charts that cover the topic and it is convenient to have a companion planting chart of likes and dislikes to hand when laying out the vegetable garden and orchard.

STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
May 22nd	Vince Davey	Neutrog
May 22nd	Launch Neutrog order	For delivery on August 21st
June 26th	AGM	Consider nominating for the committee
June 26th	Graham Morris	Cymbidium Orchids
July 24th	Michael Coulson	CFS Fire ready
August 21st	Neutrog Delivery	Pick up from Walsh Avenue
August 28th	Mark Thomas	Gondwana Landscaping & consultancy



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE YOUR PHOTOS?

Now that the Club has a multimedia projector it would be great to be able to have a slide show of photos before the meeting. The inaugural display received very favourable comments even though they were just my happy snaps from the Cavalcade of Gardens 2013.

Photos can be given to me on a USB (I can provide one if required) any time and I can do the technical stuff.

Photos of garden visits, your garden, travels involving gardens plus close ups of birds and flowers are all suitable.

If any one else would like to volunteer for the IT job you would be welcomed with delight!

Norma Keily

SAROC ORCHID FAIR

SA REGIONAL ORCHID COUNCIL
 SATURDAY JUNE 6TH 9AM - 5PM
 SUNDAY JUNE 7TH 10:00AM - 4:00PM
 TORRENS PARADE GROUND
 FREE PARKING ON THE PARADE GROUND
 \$3 DONATION INCLUDES
 COMPLIMENTARY CUP OF TEA/COFFEE.
 DEMONSTRATIONS: COMPETITIONS:
 RAFFLES: SALES: ADVICE.
 SAUSAGE SIZZLE & DEVONSHIRE TEAS.

AGM

POSITIONS VACANT



- Guest Speaker co-ordinator
- Assistant Treasurer
- Committee member (2 positions)
 - ⇒ No remuneration
 - ⇒ No set working hours
 - ⇒ Training provided
 - ⇒ Job satisfaction guaranteed
 - ⇒ Congenial work environment

Nomination forms on the Treasurer's table at the May meeting or speak to the President Norma Keily.

For the Travellers

RENMARK Rose Festival October 16th - 25th 2015 - in and around Renmark.

CANBERRA'S Floriade September 12th - October 11th on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin.



We will be Launching our Annual Neutrog order on 22nd May with delivery to take place on 21st August. Order forms are the same as in past years and the system will run as in the past. An order form is attached to the newsletter and additional copies are available from the Treasurer's table.

We are delighted that the Strathalbyn Lions Club have made their facility on Walsh Avenue available for pick up. It has off road access, under cover storage and is secure.

Vince Davey from Neutrog, as our guest speaker this month, will be reminding us about all the virtues of using Neutrog products. Start making up your Neutrog wish list and putting \$\$\$ aside.

NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO:

- Take cuttings of many plants for propagation
- Divide plants for potting up like agapanthus, salvia, chives and many more.
- Plant bulbs either in the ground or pots for moveable colour.
- Make compost from the piles of fallen leaves and weeds pulled from the garden and add some fertiliser and lime to improve the mix.
- Rake the lawn, it is good exercise and benefits the lawn by removing leaves and bark which can limit the sunlight reaching the grass. The rakings can be added to the compost.
- Plant garlic and other winter vegetables and herbs taking care to control slugs and snails.
- Care for pot plants by checking their moisture levels and drainage. Remove dead leaves and flowers.
- Rake up leaves from beneath fruit trees and remove any old fruit. Consider spraying for fungal diseases.
- Enjoy the change of season and the benefits of rain.



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 genuinely enthusiastic and complimentary. They do not expect perfection just a warm welcome and a home garden experience.

I am currently needing additional gardens to visit on 21st August, 14th September and 22nd September. In spring Strathalbyn gardens are spectacular so please consider sharing yours.

Visitors often look for plants and produce to purchase as well.

Thanks to the garden owners who have already volunteered:

21st August - Heather McMurtrie

14th September - Ren Tremayne & Louie Williams

22nd September - Dawn Hill

Talk to Norma Keily 8536 6276.



COMPOSTED PIG MANURE

\$7.00 per 27 litre bag

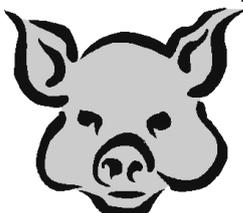
Free delivery in Strathalbyn

Phone 8536 2628

Ros 0428 362 628

Brian 0438 362 628

Practically odourless!



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.

FROM THE GROUND UP

SOPHIE THOMSON

IF YOU ORDERED A COPY FOR DELIVERY

TODAY FROM NEUTROG

PLEASE PAY (\$35) AND PICK

UP FROM THE

TREASURER.



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)

\$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.