



NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Time spent sitting in waiting rooms can be put to good use when the magazine shelf contains titles which include gardening sections.

Waiting for the dentist recently I found some interesting information about eco-friendly pest control. The recipe provided was a simple mix of 1 cup of molasses to one litre of warm water to be sprayed on new growth as a deterrent to caterpillars and other pests. Molasses is available from fodder stores at a very reasonable cost and as I already had some I planned to try it on my newly planted seedlings.

However it is often a good idea to verify such suggestions so I checked my other gardening books and found additional uses for molasses. Intrigued I went to the internet and found more suggestions and recipes with one suggesting the addition of a drop or two of pure liquid soap to be sprayed regularly over the leaves of all plants attacked by caterpillars and other chewing pests. Apparently caterpillars would rather starve than eat leaves sprayed with this mixture. It has also been used with success by some gardeners as a possum repellent and for the treatment of soil affected by root knot nematodes by doubling the concentration of molasses.

Having spent all that time researching it was too late to actually get out into the garden so the caterpillars are safe for another day!

Norma Keily

PAM MARSHALL - THE SELF SUFFICIENCY SHOPPE

How many cleaning products are there lined up under the kitchen sink, in the laundry cupboard and cluttering the shelves of the bathroom vanity?

In 1990, just twenty six years ago, there were approximately eight hundred cleaning products on the super market shelves and now there are over thirty thousand.

Pam Marshall grew up in the country and began a career in Nursing and since the 1970s she has been interested in returning to the basics for cleaning products and has recognised the need for widespread education into the potential hazards and costliness of many commercial products.

For example plugin air fresheners can be hazardous to health if used in a poorly ventilated room. The chemical compounds in detergents are not reabsorbed back into the environment and the minute particles in toothpastes and abrasive cleaners are now being seen as very detrimental to sea life.

The consequences of chemical overload in everyday life are still developing and eventually everyone will be affected in some way.

Pam demonstrated simple ways to use items such as bi-carb soda and vinegar to clean and deodorise. Her website

www.theshoppe.com.au

provides a wealth of information on how to make alternative cleaning and personal hygiene products as well as offering a wide range of workshops where skills can be learnt.

The information available covers self sufficiency and self reliance, environmental and frugal living, chemical free, recycling, past skills and knowledge.

E-Booklet sets are available covering all these skills and more including. Ways with herbs, Practical Kitchen Skills,

Practical Crafts and Gifts, Beeswax Products and Backyard Self Sufficiency.

Opportunities are available for interested people to become workshop presenters so the skills and ideals can be more widely spread into the community.

All the alternatives offered as "essential" products are cost effective, easily accessible from the supermarket or garden, safe to use and very environmentally friendly and by using them as suggested a vast range of both household and personal cleaning products can be eliminated from the shopping list.



My name is Pam Marshall. I am the creator and proprietor of The Self-Sufficiency Shoppe. Finding ways to replace consumer products with cheaper household alternatives has changed my life. It has helped me in many ways. Please join me in discovering the wonders of 'anti-consumerism' and freedom from the retail cycle.

STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
May 27th	Jane Brummitt	May Gibbs and Nutcote
May 27th	Launch Neutrog Order	
June 24th	AGM	Consider standing for the committee
June 24th	Deb Cantrill from Nirvana Organic Farm	Weaving with natural fibres
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	TBC	
October 8th	Cavalcade of Gardens	5 Gardens to view around Strathalbyn
October 28th	Bloom Competition	
November 25th	Celebratory Lunch	A new venue TBA

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NATIVE BEES

From the website "South Australian Native Bees a glimpse into their world" based on the book by Susanne Richards.

It is easy to mistake other insects for native bees and native bees for other insects.

Bees, ants and wasps are closely related and can look very similar. Bees fly in a zigzag pattern and flies move in a spiral or circular fashion. Bees have long, thin antennae and four wings; flies have two wings with short and thick antennae. When looking for native bees, remember not all of them make a buzzing sound that you can hear. Larger bees have a lower pitch sound than honey bees, and small bees are higher pitched.

Nests

Bees can be split into two main groups Social Bees (hive bees) and Solitary bees.

Solitary bees live by themselves and work independently of each other, however if conditions are ideal they will nest next to each other rather like a block of flats.

These solitary bees are then split into two categories- Ground Nesting and Hollow Nesting

Ground Nests

As solitary bees do not live in hives but by themselves, where they live is called a nest. The largest group of solitary bees are those that live underground.

These 'ground-dwelling' bees live in holes which they dig in the ground. Bees like to receive sunlight from a North-East direction to keep their nests warm.

Ground-dwelling bee nests can be quite shallow or can go down 1.5 m and have side chambers where up to 20 eggs are laid. Some bees dig into the side of banks, others dig straight down.

Hole sizes range from 3-4 mm for smaller bees to 10 mm in diameter for a big bee (larger than the honey bee). When a hole is active you will often see loose, freshly removed soil around it. Piles of dirt around ant holes are more granulated.

Spider holes have either a cap or you can see the web.

Hollows Nesting

As with the ground dwelling bees hollow dwellers like to have their nests in a North-east facing position. Some like the direct sun some like a little bit of shade.

Megachile bees build their nests in holes found in trees, which are often made by borers. Megachile bees close their cells using resin from eucalypt trees. They often decorate the nest entrance with leaf bits, grass or bits of mud

Nest Boxes

Simple nest boxes can be made to encourage hollow nesting bees into your garden.

A 160 mm PVC pipe packed with muddy clay loam soil. Different size straws skewers and a wire are used to form the holes, and left for 2 days before pulling out. Bee nests made of different size diameter straws made of paper or bamboo, are easily made as well.

Bees do not like plastic as it does not breathe.

Native bees do a brilliant job pollinating native plants and are a key part of healthy ecosystems. Unlike the honey bee which spits on the pollen making it infertile before putting it into its pouches, the native bee collects the pollen dry on the hairs all over its body.

Native bees also pollinate some introduced plants, so they also improve food production.

Plant Callistemon, Westringia, Leptospermum, lavender, Grevillea, salvias and herbs such as basil, borage, rosemary and thyme to encourage native bees.



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.

GARDEN HUMOUR

Knee: A device for finding rocks in the garden

Seed Catalogue: A Work of fiction with fantasy photos

Bulb: Potential flower buried in Autumn, never to be seen again. What do you get if you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter?

A: Pumpkin pi.

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows."

God made rainy days, so gardeners could get the housework done.

"What does the letter "A" have in common with a flower?

A: They both have bees coming after them."

Hard work doesn't harm anyone, but I do not want to take any chances.

IDEAL GARDEN MULCH FOR SALE

Alpaca Manure and Straw from the recent Alpaca Colour Classic held at the dog track on Milne Road.

Contact Alex Warin 0477 415 745 for details and price.

Funds being raised to aid the Strath Rovers



COMPOSTED PIG MANURE

\$7.00 per 27 litre bag

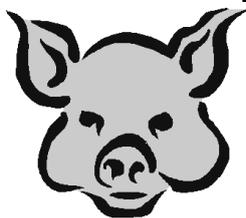
Free delivery in Strathalbyn

Phone 8536 2628

Ros 0428 362 628

Brian 0438 362 628

Practically odourless!



FVI

AGM June 24th.

Nomination forms for committee positions are available now.

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.

Cavalcade of Gardens October 8th.

We need one more garden to volunteer to participate in this annual event. Speak to Jenny Thomas if interested. (Dob in a friend!).

The Potting Shed on Sunter Street.

A new nursery soon to open officially. Take a peak through the railings or call in on the weekend.

STRENGTH FOR LIFE 50+

Run by Fleurieu Fitness and Health in conjunction with COTA SA.

Footy Club Rooms

Sessions held 9.30 – 10.30

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

\$7.00 per session.

Each participant must have an initial assessment to design an individual program to suit their specific needs. (Cost \$25)

For more information contact Paul Holdsworth phone 8536 2204

Continuous enrolments so you can join anytime
Strength, balance, coordination & flexibility.

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.