



NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have been watching the soursobs growing in the lawn and wonder why the undesirable plants seem to thrive while others which have been chosen, planted and tended with utmost care do not survive. Historically the first Soursobs were brought in as ornamental cottage garden plants by the early gardeners but it was not long before they began invading the grazing land where they proved to be detrimental to sheep. It just goes to show how easily control over the environment can be lost and once lost how reclaiming it can be extremely difficult.

On a different note I followed the advice of our April guest speaker, Sharee Kelly, to severely cut back a grevillea that had grown too big and have been watching anxiously for new shoots to appear on the stump. Fortunately the mild autumn weather and occasional watering has encouraged new feathery growth to appear along the remaining stumpy branches. It will need regular tip pruning to keep it down to a manageable size but now that I know cutting it back from six feet to eighteen inches did not kill it I might try the same approach on other leggy and woody native plants.

Autumn seems to be the season for cutting back most cottage garden plants but in the native garden all the eremophilas, correas, grevilleas and hakeas are blooming as are the allocasuarinas and many of the eucalypts. The birds and bees are busy.

Norma Keily

STATE FLORA MURRAY BRIDGE - SHAREE KELLY

Sharee Kelly began working at State Flora in Murray Bridge 11 years ago in the production area pricking out seedlings. Now she works in the retail area providing advice on suitable plant purchases. Gaining a certificate 4 in Conservation and Land Management has increased the breadth and depth of Sharee's knowledge.

The Murray Bridge site grew out of the need to provide a site to grow for the Monarto development as the area has a long growing season although the average rainfall is only about 300mls.

The Monarto plantings featured many species from WA which flower and fruit at different times to local indigenous species. This has resulted in an increase in the number and diversity of bird species visiting the area due to the extended feeding season.

When creating a wildlife friendly garden a range of grasses as well as low and high growing shrubs is needed.

The State Flora Nursery grows all their plants from cuttings and they produce about 100000 plants per year which means that as there is about a 30% success rate at least three to four hundred thousand cuttings need to be taken.

Cuttings are grown in tunnels with bottom heat, misting and air conditioning so that soft tip cuttings can be taken. Coco peat and perlite are used as the growing medium. Home gardeners achieve better success with semi hardwood cuttings. A thousand different species are propagated ranging from high rainfall (750mls) to low rainfall Adelaide plains species (250mls) and with soil requirements ranging from clay to sand.

The nursery is funded by the State Government which has reduced funding so that the facility is currently down sizing. State Flora has been involved with revegetating the Lower Lakes with a range of species from reeds to large shrubs which are planted in the water inessian bags. A very messy and tricky process.

All gardeners need to take care that garden plants do not escape into the natural environment either during times of flood and storm or by dumping garden waste.

There are many indigenous plants which are suited to cottage gardens. All native plants benefit from pruning and fertilising as well as regular, but not heavy, watering. Prune in autumn or after flowering. Tip pruning during the growing season will encourage lateral growth and flowering.

Suitable fertilisers include Dynamic Lifter, Bush Tucker and Blood'n'Bone but anything with a low phosphorus level is acceptable. Troforte is an excellent product which incorporates beneficial soil microbes into the fertiliser.

When taking cuttings of natives be patient as some take many months to put out roots.

If planning to grow natives in a pot use a pine based soil with a pH6.5 with added soil wetters and fertiliser.

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When planting under trees dig in organic matter and add fertiliser and regular watering to establish the new plants.



Top: Pultenea
Centre: Grevillea Golden glow
Bottom: Halganiancyanea

STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
May 26th	Barb Field	Adelaide's Botanic Garden
May 26th	Launch Neutrog Order	Order form & price list attached to the May newsletter
June 23rd	Garden Club AGM	20th Birthday Celebration at the Strath Town Hall
July 28th	Lorraine Thompson	Herbs and succulents
August 23rd	Neutrog pickup	Walsh Avenue
August 25th	Alice McLeary	Unley Gardeners Plant rescue group
September 22nd	Paul Depuglia	The benefits of Neutrog in the garden
September 22nd	Market Day	Book a space and sell plants and garden items
October ?	Cavalcade of Gardens	Details TBA
October 27th	Margaret Jenkins	Irises
October 27th	Annual Bloom Competition	4 categories to enter
November 24th	End of year lunch	Details TBA

NEUTROG ORDER 2017



The current order form for our annual Neutrog Order is attached to the newsletter.

The procedure will be the same as in past years.

- ◆ Decide what you need
- ◆ Fill in the order form and place the form and the correct money in an envelope. Details are on the order form.
- ◆ Mark the collection day on your calendar.

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.

STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB
MARKET DAY FOR MEMBERS
SEPTEMBER 22ND
TO BE HELD DURING THE CLUB
MEETING.



- Bookings for selling space will be available at the July meeting.
- \$10 for a site to be paid at time of booking. Members will retain all the proceeds of their sales.
- Each site will be the size of a card table.
- There will be no raffle at the September meeting.
- The Garden Club will have a sale table for donated items with funds going to the Club.
- Plants offered for sale should be healthy, well grown and clearly labelled.
- Other items offered for sale should be garden related and of a saleable quality
- Help will be needed to manage the day!

PAYMENTS TO THE TREASURER

- Provide correct money in an envelope with your name and contact details on the front.
- Receipts will be available at the following meeting.
- Keep all receipts as proof of payment.

COMPOSTED PIG MANURE

\$9.00 per 27 litre bag

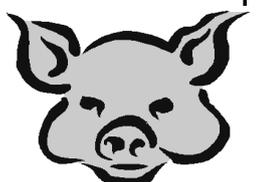
Free delivery in Strathalbyn

Phone 8536 2628

Ros 0428 362 628

Brian 0438 362 628

Practically odourless!





STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB INC

Invitation to attend the
AGM AND 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Friday 23rd June 2017
Strathalbyn Town Hall
High St Strathalbyn
10 am - 12 noon

PROGRAM

Welcome
Annual General Meeting
Election of committee members
Presentation of Life Memberships
Entertainment by
the Fleurieu Harmony Chorus
Morning Tea

STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB AGM 2017

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

After several years of outstanding service Mary Golden will be stepping down from the committee and her role as Treasurer.

Ced Huxter has nominated for the Treasurer's position so we will be needing a new committee member to take on the task of arranging Guest Speakers. Ced already has the program for 2018 in place so most of the work is done.

An additional one or two committee members would share the work load. Please consider nominating. Forms are available from any committee member.

The committee meets immediately after the 4th Friday Club meeting usually over lunch at a local café. It is not a huge time commitment.

2016/2017 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President	- Norma Keily	8536 6276
Secretary	- Jenny Thomas	8536 4275
Treasurer	- Mary Golden	8536 4267
Tables	- Jackie Chapman	8536 8798
Trips	- Maria Maxwell	85363731
Speakers	- Ced Huxter	8536 2215
	Carolyn Huxter	8536 2215

STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB CAVALCADE OF GARDENS

This annual event is held early in October and has proved to be a popular activity for Club members and their family and friends. It is time to consider offering your garden as a venue for 2017. Perfection is not expected or required and the many compliments received are worth the effort.

The date is yet to be finalised but we are hoping for five gardens to offer to be open for an afternoon .

Tell a committee member if you are interested.



STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

The members of the Committee have been undertaking a review of the Club Constitution and have identified a few areas where it needs to be updated to reflect the changing times.

Copies of the original Constitution with the planned changes were circulated at the April meeting and members had until the May meeting to consider the changes.

Voting to make the changes will take place at a Special General Meeting which will take place on the morning of the May meeting.

THE KNITTED GARDEN



If you missed seeing this wonderful collaborative display at the recent Craft Fair, fear not, as it will be on show again at the Garden Club AGM in the Town Hall next month.

Following that it will appear again at the August Antique Fair in the St Andrews Church Hall. After that, who knows?

The Knitted Garden received many compliments and raised a lot of interest from attendees at the Craft Fair.

Thank you to everyone who helped create this exceptional work of art and to Denise Thomson and Barbara and Colin Colquhoun who set up the display at the fair.

Any suggestions of further opportunities to put it on show would be welcome so we can take maximum advantage of the work involved in making the garden.

THE WORD ON WEEDS

Simply, a weed is defined as a plant growing where you don't want it. If there's a bare spot in your garden, a weed seed will find it.

However, in reality it is a bit more complicated than that.

A weed is any plant that requires some form of action to reduce its effect on the economy, the environment, human health and amenity. Weeds are also known as invasive plants. Many plants introduced into Australia in the last 200 years are now weeds. There are noxious weeds, environmental weeds, agricultural weeds, Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) and National Environmental Alert List weeds.

Weeds typically produce large numbers of seeds, assisting their spread. They are often excellent at surviving and reproducing in disturbed environments.

A weed can be an exotic species or a native species that colonises and persists in an ecosystem in which it did not previously exist. Weeds can inhabit all environments; from our towns and cities through to our oceans, deserts and alpine areas.

Throughout Australia, weeds are spreading faster than they can be controlled and management of them is consuming an enormous amount of resources. Climate change poses an additional challenge to our ability to manage weeds.

NATIVE PLANTS AS WEEDS

Not all of Australia's weeds have come from other countries. Australian native plants can also become weeds when given the opportunity. This usually occurs when species move from within their natural habitat into new areas where they have a competitive advantage over indigenous plants, allowing them to establish naturalised populations. Native plants can also become weeds when characteristics within their natural habitat change, enabling them to better compete with other species and increase their population size and/or density. A common example of a native plant establishing itself outside its natural range is the Cootamundra Wattle *Acacia baileyana*

WEED PREVENTION IN YOUR BACKYARD

Plants from commercial nurseries, landscaping suppliers and gardening clubs can be pathways for the introduction and spread of weeds for example creeping oxalis which often appears in nursery pots. Another significant cause of weed spread is inappropriate use and disposal of garden waste.

There are a large number of potential weeds in Australian gardens. Private gardens contain over 4000 plant species with weed potential, while botanic gardens hold approximately 5000 species of plants with weed poten-

tial. The likelihood that any particular plant will become a weed is difficult to predict; however, the CSIRO has estimated that an average of 10 weed species establish in Australia each year.

- Dispose of garden waste carefully.
- Be careful not to spread weeds.
- Place mulch on soil surfaces in the garden to reduce weed growth.

HOW TO RECOGNISE IF A GARDEN PLANT IS WEEDY

Some plants can be weedy in some areas and not others. There are many common garden plants that fit this description (e.g. morning glory and agapanthus). For example a harmless garden plant from inland NSW may become weedy if grown in a garden on the coast. Therefore, care must be taken when bringing plants home to your garden from other areas, eg gazanias.

Generally, a plant has the ability to become weedy if they have any of the following traits:

- The ability to spread by vegetative means (e.g. bulbs, roots or stem fragments)
- Produce berries that can be eaten by birds (e.g. olives, camphor laurel)
- Produce large amounts of seeds
- The ability to survive under extreme conditions
- A history of weediness in similar climates.

ANNUAL VERSUS PERENNIAL WEEDS

Annual weeds spread throughout your garden by seed.

They may self-seed or they may be brought into the garden by birds, 4-legged animals or by sticking to your clothing as you walk by. Seeds can lie dormant in the soil for many years waiting for the best growing conditions.

Perennial weeds are the most difficult to get rid of. They spread by both seed and creeping roots and if you don't pull the entire root, the plant can actually repro-

duce from every little root piece left behind.

HINTS TO CONTROL WEEDS

- Don't let weeds go to seed.
- Plant closely so there is no room for weeds to grow
- Mulch heavily
- Try not to disturb the soil too much as it brings weed seeds to the surface.
- Pull when wet, hoe when dry .
- Don't water where the water is not needed.
- There are a multitude of chemical controls available but read the labels thoroughly
- Biological controls are available for environmental weeds such as bridal creeper and Salvation Jane.
- Ensure home-made compost reaches a high enough temperature to kill seeds.

Further information on weedy garden plants and a tool to help you identify a range of weeds can be found at Weeds in Australia.

