

From The President,

All the wildlife in our gardens must be wondering what is happening with the weather as it fluctuates between cold and wet and hot and windy then back to cold and wet in the space of a day.

Despite the weather there were still a good number of entries for the blooms, produce and pot plant categories at the Strathalbyn Horticultural Show. Congratulations to everyone who submitted entries and a special well done to those who won awards. I am still waiting for my sweet peas to flower and each year my broad beans are just setting pods while those on display at the show are long and well developed. It is interesting how just a few kms of distance and few extra metres above sea level can make such a difference.

How fortunate we were to have a fine day for the Cavalcade of Gardens and judging by the turn out of members and their friends it was a popular way to spend the afternoon.

One advantage of inclement weather is it allows time indoors to knit and I have enjoyed the challenge of creating some blooms for the Knitted Garden. My knitting needles are sorted into size and colour and just for the moment the circular needles are all untangled. I have even found a pattern for a red admiral butterfly which I might attempt if the wet weather lasts much longer.

However, given the choice I would prefer to be out in the garden.

**Norma Keily**

## GIL HOLLAMBY - BUTTERFLIES IN YOUR GARDEN

Gil Hollamby shared his lifelong interest in butterflies by delivering a beautifully illustrated and informative talk.

In order to have butterflies we first have to have caterpillars and the plants on which they feed. Lovely butterflies can disappear when the caterpillar food plants are cleared, overgrazed or trampled by animals.

Butterfly eggs are usually hard shelled and of a different shape for each butterfly. They are usually laid near the preferred plant food source for the caterpillar. Laid in groups from about thirty up to hundreds at a time hatching occurs about four weeks later.

The newly emerged caterpillar eats its egg shell then moves on to its preferred plant source and commences to feed voraciously. As it grows it sheds its skin up to five times and eventually it is ready to enter the chrysalis stage in preparation for becoming a butterfly.

The chrysalis is often camouflaged with shapes and colours that mimic the plant they are on or as something natural like a bird dropping.

Eventually the adult butterfly emerges from the pupal stage and after its wings have hardened it can take flight. The larger the butterfly the longer its lifespan but varia-

bles include access to a suitable food source and the number of predators there are or the level of harmful chemicals in use in the environment.

Butterflies are nectar feeders and many have migratory patterns, moving south in spring and summer. A range of flowers in a variety of colours blooming from spring through to autumn is the best way to attract butterflies to the garden.

An ideal butterfly garden should avoid large expanses of paving and areas that require constant management, chemical applications, watering or insufficient protection from the elements. Leaf litter, resting areas (for the butterflies, but a seat to sit on while watching them is good) and protection from predators. Large areas of plantings are more beneficial to attracting butterflies. The warmth from the sun and protection from wind are also important.

SA has recorded 78 species of butterfly and if the practice of 'butterfly gardening' increases then their abundance and distribution will improve. Gardeners are encouraged to record and photograph their butterfly visitors to add to the pool of knowledge.

The shape, colour and special features of the various caterpillars are just as interesting as the adult butterflies and the shape and form of the chrysalis are each intriguingly different.

More information is available from the website [www.butterflygardening.net.au/](http://www.butterflygardening.net.au/) The book "Attracting butterflies to your garden - what to grow and conserve in the Adelaide region." and a DVD on butterfly gardening, plus posters of different butterflies can be ordered from the website.



Chequered Swallowtail



Caterpillar of the Australian Painted Lady



Black & White Sedge Skipper

# STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
October 28th	Bloom Competition	Flower arranging Demonstration
November 25th	Celebratory Lunch	"Oasis" Langhorne Creek Rd ,Belvidere
December 23rd	Almost Christmas	NO MEETING
2017 January 27th	George Thomson	The Life and Times of George
February 24th	Ulli Spranz	BD Farm
March 24th	Geoff Spear	Orchids
March 24th	Knitted Garden	Deadline for contributing knitted flowers
April 28th	Sharee Kelly	Native flowering plants
May 6th - 7th	Strathalbyn Craft Fair	Knitted Garden On Display Strathalbyn Town Hall
May 26th	Barb Field	Adelaide's Botanic Garden
June 23rd	Garden Club AGM	20th Birthday Celebration

## BE NICE TO OUR TREASURER PLEASE!

Help Mary and her assistants enjoy the meeting by not interrupting them during the proceedings..  
Before 10am is the time to pay up.



To save time and effort please plan ahead and have the correct change when paying for subs, excursions and lunches etc.



Finally, please keep your receipt as a reminder that you have paid.

### 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.

## MORNING TEA HELP

The Morning Tea break is an important part of our meeting but it does require a bit of organising.

- The necessities need to be purchased.
- Setting up takes about 30 minutes before the meeting - urns to be filled, mugs set out and milk jugs filled etc., it takes 2 people about 30 minutes.
- Washing up and tidying is a shared task with everyone taking a hand.

Can you spare the time to help? Tell Yvette - in the kitchen.

## COMPOSTED PIG MANURE

\$9.00 per 27 litre bag

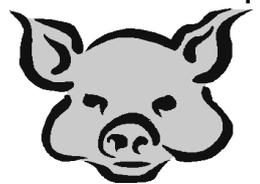
Free delivery in Strathalbyn

Phone 8536 2628

Ros 0428 362 628

Brian 0438 362 628

Practically odourless!



## GARDEN CLUB

### END OF YEAR CHRISTMAS LUNCH

### FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25TH.

Oasis Gardens & Function Centre  
Langhorne Creek Road Belvidere  
12 midday for 12.30pm  
2 course meal (main & sweets) \$36.00 pp  
The Menu choices sound scrumptious!  
Final payment by October 28th meeting.  
Partners and friends welcome.  
Mention dietary requirements at the time of booking.  
(No refund for late cancelation )

**Good Food! Good Friends! Good Fun!**



## PLEASE BE OUR GUEST

The Committee of the Strathalbyn Garden Club has a lunch meeting immediately following the regular 4th Friday of the month meeting.

It usually only lasts about an hour during which time we eat lunch and plan the activities of the club.

If you are curious as to how we operate, or would like to offer suggestions or are contemplating nominating for the committee in the future please invite yourself to be our guest for a committee meeting.

Speak to any member of the committee to make arrangements.

## A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS HOW LOVELY!

- \* Carefully remove all packaging from your flowers.
- \* Do not remove the string or elastic as this is holding the bouquet together in its arranged shape.
- \* Cut approx. 2-3cm at an angle with a sharp pair of scissors, secateurs or knife from the base of each stem. Cutting at an angle will result in a larger surface area from which your flowers can drink.
- \* Remove any leaves from the stems that will be below the waterline in the vase.
- \* Place the bouquet in a clean vase filled with fresh water preferably at room temperature. Add the flower food if supplied following the instructions on the sachet.
- \* Display somewhere away from draughts, direct sunlight, heat sources and ripening fruit – all of these factors affect how long your flowers will last.
- \* Re-cut the stems every 3 days and change the water. Top up the vase water when necessary.

## THE KNITTED GARDEN

- ◆ Patterns and wool will be available at all Club meetings until the deadline at the end of March.
- ◆ The **Strath Neighbourhood Centre** at 1 High Street will also have wool and patterns and are open every weekday between 9.30am and 3pm.
- ◆ Finished flowers may be delivered to the Club or the SNC.
- ◆ Apart from flowers we will need knitted leaves, paving stones, soil and grass.
- ◆ Knitted/crocheted butterflies, birds, vegetables in fact anything remotely garden oriented will be welcome.
- ◆ Donations of wool of any colour, thickness or fibre is welcome.
- ◆ Volunteers to help create the garden will be needed in April 2017.
- ◆ Contact Norma 8536 6276 with offers of help.



## AZALEAS

*Did you, like me, buy one of the colourful azaleas from Woolworths and now you are wondering what to do with it?*

After the completion of flowering trim behind the spent flower heads. In the case of misshapen plants and those with lanky branches, severe pruning may be needed to encourage branching and to produce a compact plant.

Gardeners who grow azaleas in alkaline soil conditions should apply sulphur powder to the soil area in order to provide a more acidic environment for these acid living plants. Be forewarned, however, the dosage should not be overdone – about 40 grams is sufficient for a mature bush and ten grams for a very small plant – nor is it necessary to apply every year otherwise an imbalance of the chemical elements could occur. Plants that have an iron deficiency, that is, green veins and yellow leaves can benefit from a dose of Iron Sulphate at the rate of 5 grams in 5 litres of water.

Azaleas have shallow, fine hair-like roots and they thrive in moist, well-drained soils high in organic matter. These roots do not tolerate water-saturated soil conditions. Aeration is important for healthy growth as beneficial microorganisms in soils require air for respiration and metabolism. Keeping it in a pot in a well lit, protected area might be the best solution.

## FOLIAR FEEDING

With **foliar feeding**, instead of watering your fertiliser into the soil, you spray it onto the leaves. The idea grew in the 1950s, when research found that "a leaf is a very efficient organ of absorption". The amounts used are relatively small, but the efficiency is high.

**Foliar feeding** is never an alternative to building up a good, healthy soil. Vegetables could never get enough of the major nutrients of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium if you purely fed them through their leaves.

**Foliar Feeding** is a fast way to supply micro-nutrients, such as iron and zinc, which your vegetables don't need in such quantities but which may not be so available in the soil and go a long way to keeping them

healthy. If your crops are under stress from drought, pest-attack or disease, it's definitely worth giving them a squirt of encouragement. An ailing plant can perk up quite visibly after spraying with, for example, compost tea.

Any of the home made liquid fertilisers (or teas) can be used as a **Foliar spray**. They need to be strained carefully to avoid the spray nozzle becoming blocked. Any of the commercially available products, diluted to the correct level are also excellent. More is not better with any fertiliser.

At this time of year bulbs which have finished flowering and are storing energy for next year's flowers will benefit greatly from a **Foliar Spray**.

