



NEWSLETTER

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Issue No: 122
September
2013

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From The President,

It is a pleasure to be out in the garden at the moment as weeds are easy to pull from the damp soil and all the plants are looking fresh and glowing in the spring sun light.

Good winter rains mean that the sub soil is moist, our rain water tanks are full and so are the dams which supply Adelaide's water.

Rain, sunshine and Neutrog fertiliser should have all our gardens thriving.

In early September I took the opportunity to visit the inaugural Australian Garden Show which was held in Centennial Park in Sydney. The advertising for the show was compelling and promised a multitude of display gardens, informative talks and demonstrations and trade stalls. Centennial Park is a haven in the heart of Sydney with expansive lawns, stands and avenues of majestic trees and interesting sculptures and could have been the perfect setting for a Garden Show. I was a little disappointed as the site chosen was a dry, barren part of the park and the widely spaced displays were all set up out in the hot Sydney sun. There were some interesting feature gardens and I was particularly drawn to 'The Hive' which had a bee hive theme and was a-buzz with bees attracted to the lavenders, herbs and nepetas which filled the garden beds.

Many of the displays and talks were aimed at gardeners who were limited to court yards and balconies and it is heartening to know that their desire to garden can be satisfied. Indira Naidoo is quite an inspiration.

Happy gardening,
Norma Keily

Geraniums & Pelargoniums - Philippa Lamphee

It was a special treat having the President of the Geranium and Pelargonium Society, Philippa Lamphee as the guest speaker at the August meeting. Members of the society also attended bringing with them a beautiful display of plants which were available for purchase at the end of the meeting. Philippa suggested that the best way to learn about this wonderful and varied genus of plants is to join the society as there are so many varieties that it would take more than time permitted to cover them all. Although in the time allowed a lot of ground was covered and information imparted about the history of the plants and the development of the different cultivars.



Geraniums are categorised by their leaf shape and also by their growing habit. There are climbers, miniatures, scented leaf geraniums, zonal leafed, ivy

leafed, gold leafed and cupped leafed geraniums to name a few. However as yet there is no yellow geranium although breeders are working to create one. Mostly geraniums are very hardy although cross breeding tends to make them more delicate. Geraniums prefer a temperature between 18° and 26° and if the weather gets too hot they close down. In winter their growth slows.

Geraniums are very easy to propagate by taking cuttings as follows: The best time is March/April although

Spring is OK so long as it is not followed by a hot summer.

Use moist propagating sand in polystyrene cups with holes in the base.

Remove flowers, flower buds and excess leaves from the cuttings. Check for a growing tip. Cut to a node and remove the stipules (stalk where the leaf attaches to the stem) Firm into the sand and water. Label with name and date.

Cuttings can be affected by stem rot which shows up as wilted leaves and no sign of growth. Throw them out.

To re-pot cuttings put a small piece of charcoal in the bottom of the pot and half fill with good neutral potting soil. Add extra fertiliser. Spread the roots and cover with more soil. Add the label and water.

Pests and diseases of Geraniums include caterpillars which can be picked off. Mealy bugs which collect in the nodes of the plants and can be treated with pest oil or a cotton bud dipped in methylated spirits. Rust can be a problem if there is insufficient air circulation. Pull off the infected leaves and spray with a fungicide.

Leaf gall is a warty growth at the base of the plant causing odd shaped leaves to grow. Remove the infected growth.



STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
September 27th	Judy Cross	Angas Plains Wines
October 5th	Maria Maxwell's Garden Open	5 Haigh Court 10am - 4pm
October 12th	Cavalcade of Gardens	Strathalbyn
October 25th	Troy McKenzie	The potted garden
October 25th	BLOOM COMPETITION	
November 22nd	Christmas Lunch	Strathalbyn Bowling Club
December 27th	No Meeting	

Diary Dates

18th - 27th October

Renmark Rose Show - open gardens, displays, food, music, plant sales, art over 10 days.

Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th October

Iris Show Goodwood Community Centre
32 - 34 Rosa St Goodwood \$3 entry
Saturday 11am - 5pm, Sunday 10am - 4pm

Wednesday 23rd October 12 - 2pm

'Serenity' 775 Old Bull Creek Road will be open to members of the Strathalbyn Garden Club as we host a group of Tour Guides from the Adelaide Botanic Gardens (see details page 3)

Saturday 26th October

Glen Barr Highland Gathering
10am - 4pm Free Entry.

Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd November

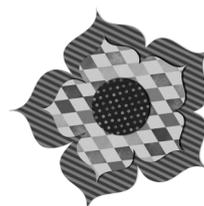
Vintage in the Hills - Strathalbyn Town Hall.
Memories of 1945! Get involved with 'Dig for Victory'.
Keith Bavestock will be asking for help with Dig for Victory at the September Garden Club meeting.

Bloom Competition

- The Bloom Competition is held at the October and May meetings of the Garden Club.
- There are three categories and members may enter one item in each category. All entries are displayed anonymously.
- Categories are Best Bloom, Best Native and Best Pot Plant.
- Judging, which takes place during morning tea, is by the members present on the day who may place one button in the bowl in front of one exhibit in each category.
- The committee provides all the display bottles and other equipment and help is always needed on the day to fill bottles and set up and then dismantle the display area as well as record exhibitors.
- Exhibitors bringing entries should have the plant names displayed where possible because members always ask.
- Exhibitors should allow time before the meeting so that the entry details can be recorded.

Cavalcade of Gardens - Saturday 12th October 2013

Keep the day free between 10am and 4pm to drive around with your family and friends for a feast of spring gardens. Refreshments will be available at some gardens and maps will be provided at the September Garden Club meeting.



Strathalbyn Garden Club End of Year Christmas Lunch

Friday 22nd November 12 noon.
Strathalbyn Bowling Club \$25 per person.
Traditional roast lunch.

Payment and numbers due by October 25th meeting.

Special dietary requirements catered for but please inform the committee when paying.

Open Gardens Australia 2013 –14

The annual Guide is now available at bookshops and news agencies for \$19.95

Most gardens are open 10am—4.30pm both days with an entry fee of \$7 (under 18 free)

September

- 28 - 29 Kyre House, 9 Bellevue Place Unley Park
Sunday 29 Beaumont House, 631 Glynburn Road, Beaumont
Cummins House, 23 Sheoak Ave, Novar Gardens

October

- 6 - 7 Plant fair at Al-Ru Farm, One Tree Hill
12 - 13 The Garden, 41 Wilpena St, Eden Hills
Waldheim, 49 Sheoak Rd, Crafers West
Tickletank, 24 Hill St, Mt Barker
Richwyn, 3 Linwood Ave, Aldgate
19 - 20 Garden on the Edge, 49 Morella Cres, Cape Jervis
Second Valley Farm, Finniss Vale Dve, Second Valley
Wyndbourne Park, 258 Mawson Rd, Forest Range
Sunday 20 Scary Gully Gardens, 282B Deviation Rd, Carey Gully
Rendezvous Experience, Lot 5 Uley Rd, One Tree Hill
26 - 27 Buccleuch, 28 Burnbank Way, Mt Barker
Evandale, 915 Keyneton Rd, Keyneton
Willowsporn, 210 Willows Rd, Light Pass
Boconnoc Park, Boconnoc Park, Road Clare
Carabella, 5 March Court, Clare
Phillip's Cottage Garden, 1 South Tce, Cleve

N.B.

Got a problem?

If you have a problem, something to share, need a cutting or seeds or scion wood then the newsletter is a good means of communication. Norma edits the newsletter and will gladly find space for your request.

Email strathalbyngardenclub@gmail.com or phone 85366276.

Contributions welcome

If you have been on holidays and have visited interesting gardens and don't mind putting pen to paper why not write a short article for our newsletter?

Photos of interesting gardens, birds, plants or wildlife (not the grand children) are also welcome. Send them to Norma.

Lucky Door Prize

Just a reminder that the lucky winner of the door prize has first pick from the raffle table this can be taken before the raffle draw so there is ample time to make a choice.

Donations Table

If you have excess produce, too many seedlings, an excess of cuttings that have grown, bulbs, pot plants or any garden related items to share why not offer them to our Donations Table. Plant items should be labelled for ease of identification. Funds raised support the Club.

23rd October Garden Visit

A group of about 25 Tour Guides from the Adelaide Botanic Gardens will be visiting Strathalbyn and they will be lunching at 'Serenity' 775 Old Bull Creek Road Strathalbyn (Norma's). A few volunteers will be needed to help prepare a light lunch and any interested members of the Garden Club are welcome to join us. The tour group would like to visit two additional gardens in Strathalbyn so please consider volunteering your garden.

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.

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!

Poolmans Native Plant Nursery

44 Olivers Road McLaren Vale
Open Wednesday to Monday 10am - 4pm
(closed Tuesday)
EFTPOS available

Plant prices start from \$3.50
A wide variety of quality seedlings, conifers, succulents, natives and more.

Experimenting with Grafting

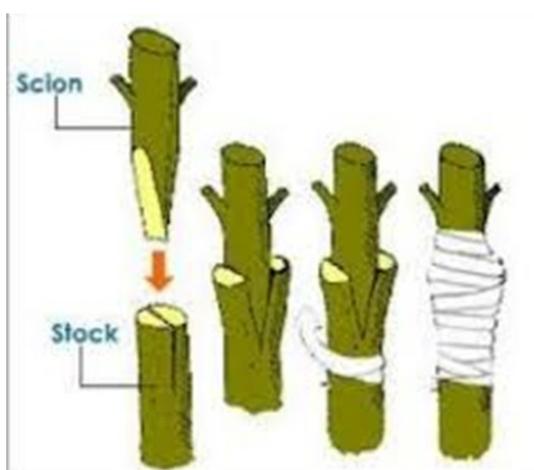
The idea of having more than one variety of fruit on a tree is tantalising and is a practical way of saving space and spreading the harvest in the orchard. A garden program on SBS TV once featured a citrus tree successfully bearing 13 different oranges, lemons, grapefruit and mandarins.

The best time to graft is in spring when the sap starts to flow so the scion wood which is harvested during winter pruning should be stored wrapped in a plastic bag in the crisper of the fridge but there should not be any other fruit or vegetables kept in the crisper.

While waiting for spring it is helpful to practise with the very sharp grafting knife and some pruning off cuts to develop skill in

making the grafts. Wrapping the grafts with tape is another skill to be mastered. Entire books and websites have been devoted

to the art of grafting but to keep it simple I just use a wedge graft as illustrated. Care should be taken to match up the cambium layers of the two pieces of wood and the join is tightly wrapped to keep it dry and in place. All growth that appears below the graft including leaves and flowers should be removed and the grafted



piece should not be permitted to flower for the first year. Remember to label the grafted branch and do not be in a hurry to unwrap the graft.

The Diggers Club has a very useful tool in their catalogue which makes neat matching

cuts in the branch and the scion wood and it eliminates the danger of cuts from the sharp grafting knife.

It is possible to graft many different varieties of apples on to an apple tree or plums onto a plum

tree and so long as the fruits are of the same variety the options are quite broad.

Budding is another method of adding variety to a fruit tree and this is less invasive on the tree and is carried out in early summer when the buds are fully developed and the bark is easy to lift. It is a useful technique to try on roses and most fruit trees .

A useful book on the subject is "The Plant Propagator's Bible" by Miranda Smith; Cameron House 2006.

The website "Grafting images" has a vast range of techniques and examples to illustrate the concepts.

If you would like some practical help with grafting your fruit trees speak to Norma Keily.

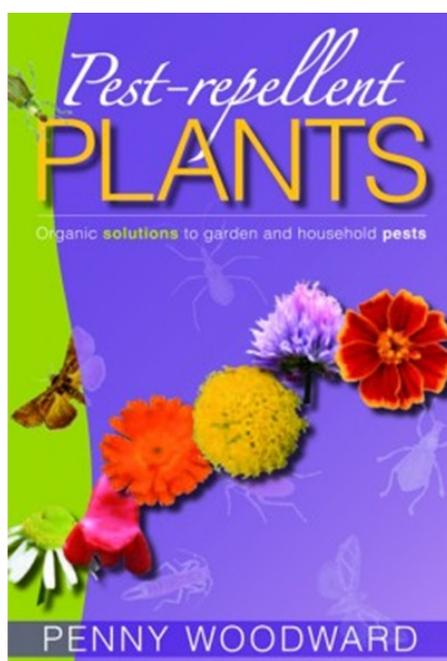


Book Review

Pest repellent Plants : Organic solutions to garden and household pests.

Penny Woodward ISBN 9781864471182 PB, full-colour, 160 pp \$27.95

This is the second edition of the book of the same title that sold more than 20,000 copies with three reprints. This edition is completely updated with new information and new photographs. It covers the philosophy of pest-repellent gardening, that the garden should be a haven for all creatures and plants, big and small, not a battle ground. That sprays that kill (even organic ones) should be a last resort. That gardeners need to concentrate on healthy soil and healthy plants, as well as a diversity of planting, including predator attracting plants. We also need to provide homes and food for frogs, birds, lizards and bats, all of which feed on pests. Then the book looks at masking, repelling and killing plants and their numerous uses. As well as other solutions such as traps, trickery, net-netting and barriers to keep pests away from our precious plants. Common household items that are organic can also be used against pests: soap, molasses, coffee, bicarbonate of soda, copper, sulphur and even water, to name but a few. The final section looks at the pests.



Strathalbyn Garden Club - September 2013

OBITUARY



**Winifred Mary
Buddle
nee Calder**

born
20th February 1934
died
12th August 2013

*Resting in
God's Garden*

Born Winifred Mary Calder on 20th February 1934, she was named after her Aunt Winifred, who was a nurse in the U.K. during World War I and who died in the influenza pandemic of 1919.

Win attended and did well at Westbourne Park Primary School where she was chosen to mentor an Aboriginal girl in her class - Win always had a caring nature - after three years at Unley Tech., at age 16, she commenced work at the Adelaide GPO as a telephonist.

Win and her husband Roy were married in 1959 and made their home in Strathalbyn and almost immediately after building their home, Roy started working on his vegetable garden and Win on her flower garden.

Win's flower garden featured trees, shrubs and flowers of various kinds dotted within and around the then manicured lawns of their new home.

Flowering almond, crab-apple, pittosporum, pine and a beautiful golden ash, which to this day still stands proud, a bird-bath centred on the front lawn, watered and attracted birds to her garden - orange, mandarin and lemon trees were also planted along with stone fruit trees further down the back-yard - trees which now, some 50 years on, still continue to dutifully produce.

Roses were a great love of Win's and photos of her back yard garden from the 60's and early 70's show lush lawns bordered by flowering roses along the side fence with climbing roses dividing off the back yard to the rear.

Her beloved Judas tree - grown from a cutting off a tree from her childhood home

in Westbourne Park, stands young, proud and in full flower in those same photos - honeysuckle, fuchsias, a beautiful flowering wattle tree and more roses filled the back yard.

Calla lillies and a Buddleja (named after The Reverend Adam Buddle - 1662 - 1715, a botanist and rector in Essex, England) surrounded the rainwater tank at the back of the house.

Pots and tubs - some made from car tyres, cut and fashioned into the shapes of swans - a sort of rubber origami - were positioned around the house, each one filled with colour and life.

Children came along in the late 60's - Win had a great love for children, and many would remember her from the years she spent teaching Sunday School and also her many years of service at the Strathalbyn Kindergarten.

Gardening took the 'back-seat' with children now her focus, but it remained a great passion throughout her life.

Win contributed and had many community commitments, her spare moments though were often spent in her garden, planting, pruning, watering and caring for her plants.

Win was not afraid to die and wanted to be thoroughly used up by doing good works as a devoted mother and grandmother, her works for 'Meals on Wheels' and as president of the 'Mother's Union' - she had a special courage to lay aside the world values and live a Godly life.

Her brother David remembers, Win was a healthy, happy child who spent much time climbing trees, riding bikes and going for walks - she was a star basketball player and also played tennis for her church.

Win worshipped regularly at All Saints Church, Colonel Light Gardens and became Superintendent of the Sunday School - she has left a legacy of four letter words - help, work, care, good, kind and love.

When we went on short holidays, my wife, Agnes always insisted that we invite Win to join us - we went to Broken Hill, Port Lincoln, Robe, Port Vincent, Mannum, Clare, Renmark and other places on about 20 occasions.

Bronwyn, Michael and Julie-Anne have lost a loving mother, Sean, Tom and Liam, a caring grandmother and Agnes and I, a devoted sister-in-law and sister.