



NEWSLETTER

Website: www.strathgardenclub.com.au
Email: strathalbyngardenclub@gmail.com
Phone contact: 0416 173 573

Issue No: 169
August
2018

SELLER'S TABLE

To book a place at the Seller's Table contact Jackie Chapman 8536 8798. Items for sale should be relevant to the Club (i.e. garden related). Sellers should make a discretionary donation to the Club for the opportunity to sell and should be in attendance on the Table. A booking is best made in advance as there is a limit of two sellers per meeting.

DONATIONS TABLE

Items of a gardening or produce nature can be donated for sale on the Donations Table. Bring on the day although if large or unusual a phone call to Jackie Chapman 8536 8798 would be helpful.

RAFFLE TABLE

Raffle items should be well presented and desirable. Magazines should be reasonably current. Plants should be labelled, healthy and protected with a plastic bag if likely to drip or stain.

WHY NOT?



Instead of putting your donation on the raffle table why not offer it to the Donation Table where it can be snapped up by someone who really wants it while benefitting the club financially.

MORNING TEA

VOLUNTEER DISHWASHERS WANTED!

To limit congestion in the kitchen during morning tea we would like 2 or 3 members to volunteer to do all the washing up. This should eliminate queuing to access the sink and tea-towel tussles.

Volunteers should report to Carolyn Huxter in the kitchen before the meeting. A plan ahead roster can be developed but spontaneous offers at each meeting would work well. Rubber gloves and aprons supplied if required.



UNLEY GARDENERS PLANT RESCUE GROUP

ALICE MCCLEARY

The Unley Gardeners Plant Rescue Group is an unstructured organisation which meets fortnightly at the Fern Avenue Community Garden to prepare rescued plants for sale. Their aim is to reduce the number of viable but unwanted plants going to landfill. Plants to be rescued come from a number of sources including demolition and renovation sites, the homes of elderly gardeners going into care or from gardens undergoing a makeover. Some of the plants are ones that have fallen out of favour with modern gardeners or that are no longer available from plant nurseries.



Members will pick up unwanted plants providing they do not have to travel too far or that the plants are not too bulky. They will not dig plants up for removal. Spare pots for repotting are always available.

The group has some support from the Unley Council which provides water and the workspace at the Fern Avenue Community Garden

which is beneath a shady elm tree. The area is fenced for security.

The eventual sale of the rescued plants to the public provides the necessary funding to buy potting mix and any other resources required to maintain the plants.

The volunteer workers enjoy making their contribution and there is always strong demand for the rescued plants when they go on sale. At times their knowledge is challenged as they attempt to identify plants and when asked "What colour is the flower?" especially when the plants go on sale when not in flower. The most frequently requested plants are agapanthus and clivias.

Minimal gardening skills are required as the majority of the work is "tarting up" with a little pruning, removing dead and damaged parts, re-potting, fertilising and then regular watering.

Except for 'spectacular' plants the prices are kept quite low but despite this they have raised \$54000 for charity since the group began in 2003.

Members pay an annual subscription of \$10 to belong which covers insurance and there are currently just twelve people in the group.

To develop a plant rescue group all that is needed are some willing workers and a space with shade, secure fencing, and access to water and perhaps a secure store shed.

The basic equipment of garden tools, hose fittings and spare pots plus a small start-up fund could be sought through donations. Should we start one in our area?



STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

MEETING DATE	SPEAKER/ACTIVITY	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
August 24th	Paul Depuglia	Neutrog - the latest developments
August 25th & 26th	SA Garden Rally	Cornerstone College Mt Barker + local gardens
September 28th	Jan Forrest	Great Victoria Desert
October 6th	Cavalcade of Gardens	Organised by Jenny Thomas 8536 4275
October 19th	Paech Farm and Highcroft Garden Visit	Car pool, full day trip. (Maria Maxwell 8536 3731)
October 26th	Bloom Competition	Best blooms in 4 categories
October 26th	Margaret Jenkins	Water irises
November 23rd	End of Year Lunch	The Oval Function Centre

SNAILS IN THE GARDEN

Garden snails prefer cool, damp environments and are most active at night and after rainfall.

They are herbivorous and are able to digest most vegetation. Snail teeth or radula are tiny and attached to their ribbon-like tongues.

Garden snails can produce up to six batches of eggs in a single year and each batch may have up to 80 eggs.

Garden snails are a food source for some animals like lizards, frogs, and worms. Predatory insects and other species of snails will also eat garden snails.



SAVING THE GARDEN FROM SNAILS

POISON: Scatter pellets or apply a snail gel around plants, choosing an animal-friendly product to protect pets, native birds and lizards.

BAIT: Set traps baited with fresh lettuce, citrus rind or stale beer, check daily and squash the pests or drop them into a jar of salty water.

Slugs and snails are attracted to beer, wine and yeast products. Pour a small amount of one of these fluids into a plastic container buried in the soil up to the top of the container. Slugs and snails will crawl in and drown.

SHOCK: Use copper tape as a collar for young plants and pots, or as bed edging. Copper makes an effective barrier, as it gives snails and slugs a slight electric shock.

DETER: Clear away decaying vegetation and debris like rocks and leaf litter to eliminate daytime hiding places. Mulch also makes a good home for snails and slugs, so keep it less than 80mm thick.

BLOCK: Lay barriers around plants. Snails will turn away from a sharp or scratchy barrier. Surround plants with strips of coarse grit abrasive paper or broken eggshells. Coir also works, as the tiny fibres stick to snails and slugs, making it hard for them to move.

Diatomaceous earth is the sharp, jagged, skeletal remains of microscopic creatures. It lacerates soft-bodied pests, causing them to dehydrate. Sprinkle the powder around garden beds or individual plants. It is less effective when wet, so use during dry weather.

Coffee grounds scattered on top of the soil will deter slugs and snails and they are killed when sprayed with a very strong (double strength) solution of coffee. Strong garlic sprays will act as a deterrent.



DIARY DATES

Sunday, September 2

Australian Plant Society SA Friends of Nangawooka Flora Reserve Open Day and Plant Sale
10 am to 3 pm, Nangawooka Flora Reserve, Victor Harbor Road, Victor Harbor. Soil testing available.

Thursday, September 6

Curator Tour: Behind the Blooms
An exclusive curator tour of the Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens with a focus on camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons.

Tour guide, ABG Horticulture Supervisor, Rob Hatcher. 9.30 am to 12.00 pm Cost \$65.

SHEEP MANURE FOR SALE

\$5/ bag

\$20 collected in a trailer (6X4)

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!

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!

