



NEWSLETTER

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OPEN GARDENS SA

JANUARY

Aldgate Railway Cottage
Saturday 26 - January
1a Kemp Road, Aldgate

FEBRUARY

Churston
Saturday 2nd – Sunday 3rd
94 Day Terrace, West Croydon

Midway Park
Saturday 9th – Sunday 10th
2 Angove Court, Rosslyn Park

Semmens Interesting Garden
Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th
33 Torrens Street, Torrensville

Joe's Connected Garden
Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th
6 Argent Street, Elizabeth Grove

Flightpath
Saturday 16th – Sunday 17th
5 Wilton Terrace, Torrensville

MARCH

Highcroft
Saturday 9th – Sunday 10th
231 Mail Rd, Harrogate

Tropical Cooida
Saturday 16 Sunday 17
34 Cooida Crescent, Athelstone

The White House
Saturday 30th - Sunday 31st
27 Cross Road Kingswood.

All gardens open between 10am and 4.30pm.
Entry \$8 or \$6 members and concession. Children free.
Additional details about the gardens can be found on the website:
<https://opengardensa.org.au/current-season>

WATER IRIS - MARGARET JENKINS

Margaret was first introduced to iris in 1964 when her then neighbour shared some plants with her. Since then her interest has grown to the extent that she breeds them and shows the blooms.

Much of Margaret's back yard is devoted to the cultivation of iris and she has them growing in old washing machine tubs and bath tubs. Some iris are inclined to leap out of pots and spread into the garden and often they will split less robust plastic pots.

Growing ponds can be created out of a shallow hole lined with heavy plastic and filled with acid potting soil, mulch and coir. Preferably in a location with late afternoon shade. The pond should be allowed to dry out occasionally to reduce the breeding of mosquitos. Iris grow rapidly in spring and such a pond can be very attractive when the plants are blooming. Iris do not like salty water.

Iris may be grown in pots using a good quality, premium potting mix with some Kahoona (Neutrog product for acid loving plants) added in the bottom of the pot. Cut off the roots when potting up. The plants will accept full sun but the hot summer sun will damage the blooms.

When breeding iris each new bloom must be registered with the American Iris Society which is the International Cultivar Registration Authority.

Breeding iris is finicky and requires good eyesight and a steady hand. Pollen is collected from one iris flower and transferred to another flower. The resulting seeds are collected and when appropriate planted out. Details of parent plants should be added to the labels of the seedlings just in case a stunning new bloom has been created.

The world of iris has its own language to standardise how they are described.

BASIC PARTS OF AN IRIS PLANT

Falls: the lower three petals of the iris flower.

Fan of leaves: exactly that; each fan of leaves means there is one iris rhizome underneath that fan.

Increase: new plants which begin as white waxy looking pointed buds on the sides of the rhizome

(sometimes known in some regions as toes). Increases provide an exact clone of the original mother plant.

Rhizome: brownish, potato-looking, fleshy portion of the plant that grows at or just below the surface of the soil. The true roots that feed and nourish the plant grow downward from this part.

Standards: the upright top three petals of the iris flower.

Stem: also called the stalk, that which holds the flower upright.

May be straight or gently S-curved.

IRIS BLOOM PARTS

Standards (S) - The 3 upper petals.

Falls (F) - The 3 lower petals.

Beards - Fuzzy area at top of F of Bearded types.

Signals - Contrasting colour on Falls of Beardless types.

COLOUR PATTERNS

Self - Standards and falls are the same colour.

Bitone - Falls are a darker tone of the standard colour.

Bicolour - Standards and falls are different colours.

Amoena - A bicolour with white standards.

Variegata - A bicolour with yellow standards.

Blend - One colour blended into one or more others.

Plicata - Petals are edged in a different colour, usually on a white or yellow background.

Margaret believes that sharing your garden pays off as it creates both memories and renewal.



BLOOM COMPETITION 2018

THE Bloom Competition held during the October meeting was the biggest and brightest yet. Our two convenors, Sue Leers and Penny Fairweather, had trouble keeping up with the influx of entries and the enthusiasm of members to ensure that their bloom had the best position on the table. Some mix ups may have occurred as blooms were rearranged without their all important entry number staying with them.

The variety of flowers entered was quite inspirational, from strelitzia to fragrant cactus blooms, carnations to cream clivias and red Jacobean lilies, yellow phlomis and deep purple iris. It gives an insight into the wide range of skills and gardening interests of our Club members.



A pink carnation (Graeme Sandercock) and a lovely white guelder rose (Maria Maxwell) were joint winners of the Bloom category.

The Pot Plant category was very well represented with the prize taken by a magnificent African violet propagated by Helen Thredgold. The 2018 competition had the best range of pot plant entries ever which is a testament to the enthusiasm of members given that they can be quite heavy and difficult to move around.

The rose category was taken out by Maggie Minchin with a lovely spray of fragrant blooms and the Native prize went to Colin Colquhoun with a sprig of yellow flowering mallee.

Congratulations to all the entries, you made the 2018 competition one for the record books.

Jenny Thomas's decorated hat was a winner as well!

COMPOSTED PIG MANURE

\$9.00 per 27 litre bag

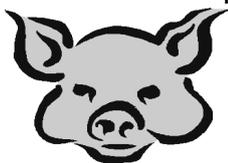
Free delivery in Strathalbyn

Phone 8536 2628

Ros 0428 362 628

Brian 0438 362 628

Practically odourless!



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.

PETUNIAS ON SHOW



Thank you to the Garden Club members who volunteered to adopt a punnet or two or more of petunias to nurture in preparation for the Tour Down Under coming to Strathalbyn.

Red and white petunias were chosen as they are the local sporting colours of Strathalbyn and Tracy Maxwell from the 'Potting Shed on Sunter' generously sourced and supplied the seedlings at cost.

Nurturing the petunias through the busy Christmas period and with the added trials of torrential rain and extreme heat did not make it an easy task. The stakes were high as the coveted "The Best Dressed Town" award was the reason for growing the pots of colour and with the eyes of the world literally on Strathalbyn we aimed to impress.

As a grower I enjoyed the daily, gentle task of shaping the growth by pinching out tips and taking off spent blooms, rotating the pots so they grew evenly on all sides and checking to make sure they had sufficient water and nutrition.



A great team effort, thank you.



GARDENAID

This volunteer support service for gardeners who need a bit of help is now being offered by the Strath Neighbourhood Centre "Garden Grubs" who meet weekly and are looking for gardening challenges.

Phone 8536 2856



STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB MEMBER'S TALK

Did you have a good holiday and more importantly did you visit an interesting garden or park?

Don't be shy, don't be nervous - we are all interested in what you have to say. Just five minutes (more or less) would be great.

Speak to any member of the committee!

