

STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER



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February 2024 - ISSUE 225

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY 23rd February 2024 - 9.30 FOR A 10am START

Well the weather continues to be a little bit different and some are starting to wonder when it will rain again. Certainly we have escaped day after day of 40 degrees which helps our gardens. An inspiring talk last month from the Quarmbys and this month we will be learning all about fuchsias from Chris Scrase. A few words below about our questionnaire which we hope you will all complete and return either this month or in March as we start planning for the future. I look forward to seeing you all on Friday.

David Thomas, President

*** It helps our kitchen crew if you bring your own cup for the morning break and, if you have surplus plants, garden produce or garden related items they can be given to either, or both, the trading and raffle tables. ***

TRADING TABLE:

Garden magazines are welcome on the Trading Table but please – no more hard cover books.

NO MORE DRIPS:

If you are bringing any plants in pots for the Raffle or Trading Tables please ensure that you wrap the pot in plastic wrap or a plastic bag to prevent leakage onto the tables or the floor of the Centre.

[SEP]

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February: Chris Scrase from Weald Nursery – Fuchsias (23rd February)

Guided Walk through Adelaide Botanic Garden, 25th February, Plane Tree Drive – see notice board

March: Paul di Puglia from Neutrog (22nd March)

April: Alan O'Leary (with Pat S & Marg J) - Autumn & Winter Bulbs (26th April)

Australian Plants Society – Plants sale, 13th April, Urrbrae Agricultural School

Nangawooka Flora Reserve - Open Day and Native Plants Sale, 28th April, Victor Harbor

May: Jim Barry – Pangarinda Botanic Garden (24th May)

Garden Affair, 5th May, Stangate House, Aldgate – see notice board

June: Ruth Creedy – The Art of Bonsai (28th June)

July: Barry Blucher – Vegetable Growing – My Way! (26th July)

August: TBA - (23rd August)

September: Kym Syrus – Horticultural Media Personality (27th September)

October: Bloom and Photo Competitions (25th October)

November: Christmas Lunch (22nd November)

SA OPEN GARDENS:

Frosty Flats, 9th/10th March, 2891 Onkaparinga Valley Rd, Birdwood (cnr Muellers Rd)

Still Water 'Quince Fair', 13th/14th April, 344 Krongart Road, Penola

Three Gums, 13th/14th April, 2 Seaforth Avenue, Hazelwood Park

Wyndbourne Park, 20th/21st April, 258 Mawson Road, Forest Range

QUESTIONNAIRE:

Your committee has prepared a questionnaire to help us plan for the future of our club. Please take a few minutes to complete it and return it to the box by the door at either this meeting or in March.

TREES FOR LIFE:

The last batch of around 350 seedlings was returned last week – grateful thanks from Trees for Life to all those members who have contributed their time to this invaluable cause over the past four years.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

The Law of Gravity - Any tool, nut, bolt or screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible place in the universe.

JOKES:

Firstly, our President's:

Q. Sherlock, what is your favourite *plant*?

A. Sherlock: A lemon tree, my dear Watson.

Someone has added more soil to my allotment - the plot thickens!

JOBS IN THE GARDEN:

Well, the Summer weather gods have continued to smile upon us with very few hot days to date though, as I'm sure Chris Bourne will remind us when he next does a report it's been a while since we were blessed with a good soaking rain!

Continue to keep the mulch topped up to reduce moisture loss and keep precious plants cool. We continue to battle an army of blackbirds, sparrows and now pigeons who are all intent in carrying off as much as possible for their nests, or whatever they're using it for.

Unfortunately, in our garden probably half of our all stone fruits succumbed to fungal diseases, rotting on the tree before fully ripening though we still had wonderful big crops. Sadly, our green bin continued to have a big workout with so much waste. However, we still have had plenty to give away and make jams as usual. Our roses, cucumbers and pumpkins are currently under attack from fungal diseases and require some eco-fungicide before they succumb.

Remember to feed your hard-working fruit trees once they've completed their harvest with a good all round fertiliser then water in well. This stands the trees in good stead for next Summer's crop.

Now is the time to start considering what Winter annuals you'll be planting such as Pansies, Violas, Polyanthus, Alyssum or Cinerarias or look for other varieties available at your local garden centres.

Jen Engelhardt



STRATHALBYN GARDEN CLUB MINUTES

General Meeting held Strath Neighbourhood Centre
Friday 19th January 2024

Meeting commenced: 10 am President David welcomed everyone back after the break. Good to see you all. Trust you have your name badges. It has been a strange summer period weatherwise. As usual please put your phones on silent and sign in the attendance book.

New Members: Ruth Anderson & Jeanette Keogh (both re-joining).

Welcome Visitors: Joan Leppinus, Carole Carter, Meegan Semple, Reinira Sadler, Robyn Copeland, Cheryl Gates.

Attendance: 72 Apologies: 13 Lucky Door Prize: Joy Bourne

Minutes of the last meeting: 27th Oct. – circulated Moved: Dawn Hill, Seconded: Jackie Chapman

Business Arising:

A very successful Christmas lunch – see the back page. Thanks Jen & committee for set-up and organising choices.

Correspondence: Nil

Announcements:

Pots - please wrap your pot plants

SA Open Gardens – Guided Walks, Garden Affair at Stangate - full details on board

Easter Lilies – they seem to be out early this year.

Committee positions and questionnaire – these will be decided at the AGM – information questionnaire will come out via e-mail and printed copies at next month's meeting.

Neighbourhood Centre - will have plants for sale outside during our tea break.

August meeting – we did have Kelvin Trimper from the rose society booked to talk about roses. Unfortunately he recently passed away and so we hope to get a replacement speaker from the Rose Society for this date.

Car parking – there is space for approximately 8 cars on the grassed area facing the road.

Member's talk: Chris Bourne – Spring rainfall. Sept. - 12.6mm average 52.5 El Nino prediction seemed right. Oct. - 16.4 mm average 43.0 El Nino prediction right again. Nov. - 58.6 mm average 29.0 Not El Nino conditions. Total Spring - 87.8 mm BOM average - 124.5. 2023 – total 487 mm BOM average since 1861 - 491mm.

Treasurer: Ced reported that all is good and we are doing very well financially.

Raffle: Full table of goodies to choose from today. **Morning Tea:** - Spent checking out the plants.

Guest Speaker: Mike and Gayle Quarmby – Native plants for Food – plants for sale and a most interesting talk.

Signed as a true and correct record.....

Next Meeting: 23rd February 2024